



# DCWC Newsclip

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Home afoot to ban corporal punishment in schools

Sex ratio dips to a new low in 'vibrant' Gujarat

2012

**Documentation Centre for Women and Children (DCWC)  
National Institute of Public Cooperation  
and Child Development (NIPCCD)**

5, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas  
New Delhi - 110016

## CONTENTS

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>Child Welfare and Development</b>	
Adoption	1
Children in Need of Care and Protection	3
- Abuse/ Sexual Abuse in Children	3
- Child Labour	4
- Child Marriage	6
- Child Trafficking	8
- Juveniles	9
- Missing Children	10
Child Rights	11
Schools-Education/ Education System	12
- Corporal Punishment	29
- Girl Education	35
- Infrastructure	37
- Right to Education (RTE)	38
- School Curriculum	41
- Special Needs Children	42
Girl Child/Sex Ratio/ Female Foeticide/ PCPNDT	43
Legislation	48
- JJ Act 2000	48
Policy	49
Situation of Children 2012	50
Substance Abuse/ Prevention	52
Miscellaneous	54
<b>Health and Nutrition</b>	
Child Health	59
- Birth Registration	61
- Cancer	63
- Immunization	64
- Infant Deaths / Infant Mortality Rate(IMR)	65
- Lungs of Children	69
- Mental Health for Children	69
- Polio	70
- Smoking by Parents	74
- Tuberculosis	75
- Vitamin D for a Child	76
Health/ Health Care	77
National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)	80

## Social Welfare and Development

Budget/ Funds/ Hike/ Spendings/ Investments	163
Census	185
Immigration of Maids Legally	186
Radical Transformation	187

### Schemes/Flagship Programmes Related to Women and Children

Government of Assam - ADARANI	188
Government of Delhi - Health Scheme	189
Government of Haryana - Indira Gandhi Marriage Scheme	189
Government of Rajasthan - Ballika Samridhi Yojana	190
Government of India - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)	190
- Bicycle for Girls	191
Ministry of Women and Child Development - Adoption	192

#### Source

<i>Amar Ujala</i>	<i>Hindu</i>	<i>Pioneer</i>
<i>Asian Age</i>	<i>Hindustan (H)</i>	<i>Punjab Kesari</i>
<i>Assam Tribune</i>	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	<i>Rajasthan Patrika</i>
<i>D.N.A</i>	<i>Indian Express</i>	<i>Rashtriya Sahara (H)</i>
<i>Dainik Jagran (H)</i>	<i>Jansatta (H)</i>	<i>Statesman</i>
<i>Deccan Chronicle</i>	<i>Lok Panchayat</i>	<i>Times of India</i>
<i>Deccan Herald</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Tribune (H)</i>
<i>Economic Times</i>	<i>Nav Bharat Times (H)</i>	
<i>Free Press Journal</i>	<i>New Indian Express</i>	



# CHILD WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

## ADOPTION

### 'Adoption not possible without CARA

New Delhi: Rebecca Morlock managed to adopt an Indian child and secured visa in five years without once involving Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)—an agency of ministry of women and child development for inter-country adoption. However, the government agency said inter-country adoption is not possible without its involvement. CARA's guidelines state that persons residing abroad can "adopt children only through CARA authorized agencies known as Authorized Foreign Adoption Agency (AFAA)". Otherwise

the person should register with an AFAA or a central authority nearest to their place of residence.

A CARA official said in every inter-country adoption case, the application has to go through them. He said, "A person, be it a foreign national or an NRI, has to go through CARA for adoption. There is an application, which can be downloaded from our website or it can be filed online by foreign nationals looking to adopt in India. No independent process can be initiated without involving CARA."

*Times of India, March 24, P.1*

## गोद लिए बच्चे को मिलेगा सगे का हक विवाह कानून में संशोधन की तैयारी में सरकार

नई दिल्ली

bhopal@patrika.com

केंद्र सरकार जल्द ही संशोधित विवाह कानून को मंजूरी दिलाने की तैयारी कर रही है। इस कानून के अमल में आने के बाद शादी के बाद खरीदी गई पति की संपत्ति में महिलाओं को हिस्सेदारी तथा गोद लिए गए बच्चे को सगे बच्चे के बराबर का अधिकार मिल जाएगा। दरअसल, सरकार ने संसदीय समिति की चार प्रमुख सिफारिशों को स्वीकार कर विवाह कानून पर विधेयक के प्रारूप को फिर से तैयार किया है। संशोधन विधेयक पर मंत्रिमंडल इस सप्ताह विचार कर सकता है। विवाह कानून (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2010 को दो साल पहले अगस्त में उच्च सदन राजसभा में पेश किया गया था। बाद में इसे कानून और न्याय एवं कार्मिक मामलों पर संसद की स्थाई समिति के पास भेज दिया गया। विधेयक में 'वैवाहिक जीवन व्यतीत न करने वाली स्थिति' को तलाक का नया

### सरकार का ये फैसला

समिति की सिफारिशों को आंशिक रूप से स्वीकार करते हुए सरकार ने अब फैसला किया है कि तलाक लेने से लड़कों के लिए दोनों पक्षों को दिए जाने वाले समय की अवधि के बारे में अब अदालत फैसला करेगी।

### ये हैं नई सिफारिशें

अगर वास्तविक तलाक पेश है तो गोद लिए गए बच्चों के पास उतना ही अधिकार होगा जितना कि सगे बच्चों का।

तलाक की स्थिति में महिला की पति की संपत्ति में हिस्सेदारी लेनी चाहिए। हालांकि हिस्सेदारी की मात्रा के बारे में प्रत्येक मामले के आधार पर अदालत निर्णय करेगी।

आधार मानने की बात कही गई है। समिति ने विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए पिछले वर्ष मार्च में तलाक लेने को लेकर मौजूदा प्रतीक्षा अवधि समाप्त करने का विरोध किया था।

(एजेंसी)

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 23, P.9*



## What a joy to adopt a child!

We had met Sr Aurelia in relation to adoption, when she shared with us how their congregation had included 'adoption' to their vocation. Several years ago, as part of their medical outreach programme, the convent had rented a small room in a village called Solur on the way to Mangalore. Two nuns were posted there to reach out medical aid to the villagers. One day, the nuns found an infant abandoned in the fields and took charge of the little one. They learnt from the villagers that this was not an uncommon incident.

Over a period of time, they were sad to discover the truth - every few days, another baby would be found abandoned in the fields, in bus stops, garbage bins etc. Some of the babies were physically or mentally deformed. Some had even been badly bruised by stray dogs before the rescue. The nuns thus took it upon themselves to find homes for these neglected lot; and were successful to a great extent.

In one of the gatherings for Adoptive Parents, we discov-

ered happy young children with their doting families. One of the amazing gifts these children received from their Maker, I would say, is that almost all of them took on the physical traits of their new families. Unless told, one would not have an inkling of the adoption. The bonding between these children and their parents did not go unnoticed either. We were informed how several adopted children were well settled in life and had grown into mature and responsible citizens.

### Touching experience

When my family was contemplating on adopting a child, I discussed this with my spiritual counsellor. What she shared with me was touching, a message I would never forget. The family of one of her good acquaintances had adopted a young boy, though they had already four children of their own. Days later, they discovered to their dismay that this young boy was a loner and unresponsive to the affection showered upon him, and he made no efforts to mingle with the other family members.

When the other children tried to pull him in to their games, he resisted and contin-

ued to sulk and remain aloof. No amount of coaxing and cajoling helped. Frustration made the couple give up on him, and they decided to return the child to the orphanage. They met the social worker with this intent, not expecting the reaction they got. She simply asked them a question, "If something had to go wrong with one of your biological children, would you choose to give the child away?" This touched the hearts of the couple, who profusely apologised for their hasty decision and returned home with a new resolution. Eventually, their dedication did pay off. This difficult child grew up into a handsome and confident young man and brought great pride to the family.

### No lesser or greater

Psychologists advise that parents must treat their adopted child no lesser or greater than if he had been a biological child. It is also advised that the child be informed from the very beginning of the fact of being adopted. Re-assurances of the family's love in word and action is just as important for the child to accept this reality

in the right spirit. With sufficient love; and care not to overdo it so as to spoil the child, he must be helped in realising that he is indeed a precious member of the family.

It is poignant that more and more couples are spending thousands of rupees in efforts to conceive and have their own child, while there are millions of abandoned babies waiting for a home, longing for a family to call their own.

The joy and sense of fulfillment that accompanies adopting a child cannot be fathomed, and is in no way inferior to that of having your own children. Being an adoptive parent myself, it is with personal experience and confidence that I exhort childless couples (and the 'already-parents' too) not to think twice about adoption. Most people tend to be apprehensive on this issue. If this be the case, one needs to talk to the adoption counselors. It is also important that before the final leap, both the partners as well as close members of the family have sittings with the counselors, which will provide them with the required guidance through the transition. We remain hopeful that someday every child will have a home.

*Deccan Herald, March 7, P-11*

# Bloggers to lay bare sex abuse stories

In a country where more than half the children, irrespective of gender, face sexual abuse in some form or the other, perpetrators get away with it more often than not - only because most parents refuse to take action. "There is a crying need to address the issue, create awareness and positive action, and at the same time, give survivors a platform to share their stories," says equal rights activist Harish Iyer, who is a child sexual abuse survivor himself.

April was designated as CSAA month in cyber space last year after Mumbai-based author and social activist Kiran Manral got into a discussion with fellow blogger and Bangalore resident Monika Manchanda. The duo realised that though a common problem in Indian homes, stories of child sexual abuse are taboo and are never shared.

After they started talking to friends and other bloggers, a lot of people started open-

## SHOCKED & AWED KIDS

The first-ever national study on child abuse in India was conducted by the women and child development ministry in April 2007. It covered 13 states across the country with a sample size of

**12,446**

children. It threw up shocking revelations

More than **53%** children face one or more forms of sexual abuse

**50%** of sexual offenders are known to the victim or are in positions of trust (family member, close relative, friend or neighbour)

Boys are equally at risk as girls

The **5-12** age group faces higher levels of abuse, which goes largely unreported

Severest form of sexual abuse happens in the age group of 11-16

**73%** of the sexual abuse victims are in the age group of 11-18



ing up their hearts and were willing to participate in spreading the message.

The initiative generated enough attention in the virtual world last year to encourage the organisers to make a comeback in 2012. "Through this concerted effort, we hope to bring child sexual abuse out of the closet and teach parents how to educate their children about predators, prevent their kids from being abused and know how to deal with such a situation should it occur," says Manral.

B.N.A, March 28, P.7



## 18 child labourers rescued

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 17 child labourers were rescued from a mobile parts manufacturing factory and a gutka unit in the Capital on Thursday, an NGO, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, said.

According to police, seven child labourers were rescued from a gutka factory and another 10 from a mobile parts factory in Naraina industrial area.

The rescued children, including a girl, were in the age group of 13-18 years, police said.

The raid was conducted by the Delhi Police, Labour department and activists of the child welfare group, Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

"Majority of these children were trafficked from villages in UP and Bihar. All the rescued children had been working at these units for the past two to six months. They were made to work for 12-14 hours a day," a representative of the NGO said. **PTI**

*Indian Express,  
March 23, P-1*

## NCPCR writes for ban on child labour

**New Delhi:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has written to the PMO and other Ministries to amend the Child Labour Act so that child labour is abolished in all sectors.

NCPCR chairperson Shanta Sinha on Wednesday said that if Right to Education (RTE) had to implemented then child labour in all industries should be abolished so that every child could go to school. "Basically the Child Labour Act prohibits child labour only in 60 or so hazardous industries. But if you want Right to Education implemented when every child has to go to school then child labour has to be abolished totally," Sinha said.

"It cannot stay in certain sectors and it has to be abolished in all sectors to enable every child to come to school," Sinha said. The NCPCR chairperson said that she had written to the PMO and Ministries concerned about the amendments and was expecting changes to be enacted in the law.

"We have already moved on it and we have written letters to the Law Ministry, the Labour Ministry, the Women and Child Development Ministry, to the PM's Office and the National Advisory Council and I think they are moving on the matter," Sinha said. He also said that she expected the UP Government to take action against police officials who had disclosed the identity of a teenaged rape victim in Noida.

"Certainly disciplinary action will have to be taken against the cops for disclosing details on the girl," he said. Sinha also said that in the recent times, the situation had improved and people were demanding more amenities and their rights from the States. "Now at least we are taking about rights, children as entitlement holders. There has been a shift happening, because then you can demand. It at least now puts the onus on the State to provide for the requirements," Sinha said. **PTI**

*Pioneer,  
March 1,  
P-5*



# Child labour at Goa's top medical facility?

**During a raid at Goa Medical College, an 11-year-old boy was rescued and three others were whisked away by unknown people**



Panaji

Goa's top state-run medical facility could have emerged as the end destination of a child trafficking racket, an official said on Friday.

Chairperson of the Goa state commission for protection of child rights Sameera Kazi also said a police investigation had been ordered by the commission after a raid led to the discovery of child workers at the Goa Medical College (GMC) canteen.

"Prima facie, it appears that the children were trafficked to work in the canteen from neighbouring

states," Kazi told IANS on Friday. She said that during a surprise raid conducted by the commission Thursday, they had rescued an 11-year-old boy, while three other boys who were seen working in the hospital's canteen for male doctors were whisked away by unknown people.

"It was shocking how they were taken away just as we stepped into the canteen. As if they were alerted about the raid. We have now asked police inspector Jivba Dalvi from Agacaim police station to probe the child trafficking angle," Kazi said, adding the canteen contractor had been summoned for questioning.

Kazi said government agencies like police and labour departments, which

are entrusted with the responsibility of keeping tabs on child labour in Goa, were turning a blind eye to the menace.

"Despite our repeated directions they simply do not file compliance reports in cases. But this time the commission will crack the whip on them," Kazi said.

This is not the first time the GMC canteens have been accused of hiring child labour. In April 2010, six children were rescued from another canteen on the premises by the Goa Crime Branch.

GMC authorities said they were informed about the raid by the Children's Commission's officials and would only give a written explanation to the authority - IANS

*Free Press Journal, March 31, P.3*

## - CHILD MARRIAGE

### 47% of those below 18 married off: Report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEB 29

IN India, 18 per cent of those below 15 years and 47 per cent of those below 18 years are married. Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Ethiopia are the only countries where a higher proportion of children are married off before 18 years.

Thirty percent of Indian girls aged between 15 and 19 are married. The countries with higher percentage are Bangladesh (46), Central African Republic (59) and Guinea (36).

Twenty-two per cent women in India aged between 20 and 24 years had become mothers before

the legal marriageable age of 18. Among 15 to 19 year olds, 57 per cent boys and 53 per cent girls believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances.

Unicef's State of the World's Children Report 2012, "Children in an Urban World", presented a grim picture of child marriage and marital rights awareness among adolescents in India. Speaking at the release of the report, Karin Hulshof, representative Unicef India said: "A child growing up in an urban poor environment has similar challenges as a child in rural India in terms of health, nutrition, education and protection."

*Indian Express,  
March 1, P.6*

### Three Child Marriages Stopped in Salem District

**Salem:** Pre-marriage rituals and other celebrations came to an abrupt end in three places at Salem on Saturday as officials stopped three child marriages that were scheduled to be solemnised on Sunday.

"Sunday being an auspicious marriage day our Integrated Girl Child Project (IGCP) team grew nosy and smelt for offences of child marriages about to happen, said P V Viswanthan, Project Officer of the IGCP.

In Saturday's cases, for the

first time a marriage between minors was stopped. The marriage was firmed between M Mahenderan, 19,

son of Murugan of Sukham-patti near Achangukuttapatti in Ayothipattinam block and Anbu Selvi, 16, a tenth standard dropout and daughter of Velu, a farmer in Thukampalayam in Valapadi Block.

Two teams comprising the block coordinators P S Ravikumar and R Sundara Pandian respectively along with VAOs and civic chiefs, went to the houses of the boy and the girl and initiated the

move to stop the marriage.

According to Ravikumar, the boy's father strongly objected to the idea of stopping the marriage and decided to

go ahead. However when police action was sought, he relented.

At Anbu Selvi's house, they responded to the counselling and did admit that they went

against the norm although they were aware of child marriage. In both the cases the team got a written statement from parents that they would not go ahead with the marriage proposal until their wards turned major.

At the same village, Thukiyampalayam Sucila, 16, daughter of Arunachalam, a flower decorator and a farmer was about to be married off on Sunday with Chinna-durai, 25, of Kakapalayam a

loom worker.

A team, led by R Sundrajan and Nehru, Veerapandi Block Coordinators, spoke to

the parents separately. They convinced to call off the marriage and were made to sign an assurance to this effect.

At Pedanickenpalayam block, a team led by block coordinator S Aranganayagam stopped the marriage to be solemnized between Sathya 16, daughter of a widow Dhanalakshmi, who makes a living on daily wage. The team intervened but they could not find any celebrations because the marriage was to be held secretly. However she was won over through counselling, the officials said.

*New Indian Express, March 4, P.8.*



# कार्ड पर छापनी होगी वर-वधू की जन्मतिथि

भरतपुर. शादी में वर-वधू की उम्र छिपाना अब आसान नहीं होगा। शादी के कार्ड पर अब उनकी जन्मतिथि भी छपवानी होगी। कार्ड पर 'बाल विवाह अपराध है' व 'विवाह के लिए लड़की की आयु 18 वर्ष व लड़के की आयु 21 वर्ष अनिवार्य है' भी छपवाना होगा। ये आदेश गुरुद्वार को भरतपुर के जिला कलक्टर एवं जिला मजिस्ट्रेट गौरव गोयल ने दिए। ये आदेश तत्काल प्रभाव से दो माह के लिए प्रभावी रहेगा।



## आदेश का उल्लंघन किया तो प्रिंटिंग प्रेस पर कार्रवाई

जिले में प्रिंटिंग प्रेस मालिकों को आदेश के पालन सुनिश्चित करने के निर्देश दिए हैं। प्रिंटिंग प्रेस मालिक को कार्ड पर वर-वधू की जन्म तिथि अंकित करनी होगी। इसके लिए उन्हें जन्मतिथि का प्रमाण भी लेना होगा।

इसकी अवहेलना मा.द.सं. के तहत दण्डनीय अपराध है। इसके तहत गिरफ्तारी, छह माह की सजा, एक हजार रुपये के जुर्माने का प्रावधान है। साथ ही प्रिंटिंग प्रेस को बंद करने की कार्रवाई भी की जा सकती है।

असुरातीज पर बाल विवाह रोकने की दिशा में प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। इसमें सभी का सहयोग जरूरी है। इसके लिए आवश्यक आदेश जारी किए हैं।

गौरव गोयल, जिला कलक्टर, भरतपुर

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 31, 2012*



# 'Show steps taken to curb child trafficking'

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

The Delhi high court on Tuesday asked the city government to file a status report on the steps taken by it to prevent the alleged trafficking of children for the illegal practice of child labour.

A bench of acting Chief Justice A.K. Sikri and Justice Rajiv S. Endlaw directed the labour department of the Delhi government to ensure that the

social evil of child labour is curbed by expeditiously enacting a law for the same.

The court gave the direction after the city government informed the court that it has prepared a draft legislation to regulate placement agencies in the wake of allegations that some of them were indulging in trafficking children. The legislation would come into effect within five months, the department told the court.

**The court was hearing a petition which said no law has been enacted to curb the trafficking of children to provide cheap labour**

The court was hearing a petition by NGO Bachpan

Bachao Andolan which has pointed out that so far no law has been enacted to curb the menace of trafficking of children to provide cheap labour.

The NGO, in its petition, has alleged that some placement agencies were involved in trafficking children. The city government, meanwhile, said many working children have been rescued from various places and have either been handed over to their families or sent to

rehabilitation centres.

The high court, during an earlier hearing of the PIL, had directed the labour department to regulate the functioning of placement agencies. It had also directed the city government to register all such agencies within a specified period. The registration would include recording of details of the persons running the placement agencies as well as their employees, as per the court directions.

*Asian Age,  
March 7, P.13*

# 'नाबालिगों को अलग रखा जाए'

## अदालत को बताया, तिहाड़ में बंद हैं 120 जूवनाइल

प्रमुख संवाददाता ॥ हाई कोर्ट

नैशनल कमीशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्ड राइट्स (एनसीपीसीआर) और दिल्ली लीगल सर्विस अथॉरिटी (डीएलएसए) ने तिहाड़ का दौरा करने के बाद दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट को बुधवार को बताया कि जेल में करीब 120 कैदी जूवनाइल हैं। इस पर हाई कोर्ट ने जेल प्रशासन को निर्देश दिये कि वे ऐसे नाबालिगों को जेल में अलग रखने के तत्काल इंतजाम करें। अदालत के आदेश पर ही एनसीपीसीआर और डीएलएसए ने जेल का दौरा कर रिपोर्ट पेश की है। रिपोर्ट में उम्र के बारे में हुई तहकीकात का जिक्र है। अदालत ने जेल अथॉरिटी से 21 मार्च तक यह रिपोर्ट पेश करने को कहा था।

इस मामले में दाखिल याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए एक्टिंग चीफ जस्टिस ए. के. सिंघो और जस्टिस राजीव लहाव एंडलॉ ने एनसीपीसीआर और तिहाड़ जेल अथॉरिटी से कहा कि वह बताएं कि कुल कितने कैदी जूवनाइल हैं। याचिका में कहा गया है कि कई



जूवनाइल को गिरफ्तारी के बाद जेल भेज दिया जाता है। इस मामले में रिपोर्ट दाखिल होने के बाद हाई कोर्ट ने सरकार से कहा कि ऐसे जूवनाइल को जेल में तुरंत अलग रखा जाए। जो भी जूवनाइल हैं, उन्हें जूवनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड के सामने पेश किया जाए। अदालत ने पुलिस को भी निर्देश दिया है कि वह जब भी किसी आरोपी को गिरफ्तार करे और वह संदिग्ध जूवनाइल हो तो यह भी लिखा जाए कि उसकी उम्र बताने के आधार क्या है।

### अदालती फरमान

हाई कोर्ट ने ही एनसीपीसीआर और डीएलएसए को जेल का दौरा करने को कहा था

अदालत ने कहा- जेल प्रशासन नाबालिग कैदियों को अलग कर जूवनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड में पेश करे

डीएलएसए से मैजिस्ट्रेट के लिए स्पेशल प्रोग्राम के सुझाव देने को भी कहा

अदालत ने डीएलएसए से कहा है कि वह दिल्ली जूडिशियल एकेडमी की ओर से एक स्पेशल प्रोग्राम तैयार करने के लिए सुझाव दे। स्पेशल प्रोग्राम के जरिये मैजिस्ट्रेट को ट्रेनिंग के दौरान बताया जा सकेगा कि संदिग्ध नाबालिग पेश होने पर उनकी क्या जिम्मेदारी बनती है। अदालत ने कहा कि मैजिस्ट्रेट की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह उम्र की जांच के निर्देश जारी करे। इस मामले में अगली सुनवाई के लिए हाई कोर्ट ने 2 अप्रैल की तारीख तय की है।

*Nav Bharat Times, March 22, P.9*



# Over 4.22 lakh Indians went missing from '09 to '11

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday said that more than 4.22 lakh people went missing from different parts of the country from 2009 to 2011.

MoS for home Jitendra Singh told the Rajya Sabha that as per inputs provided by the National Crime Control Bureau, the total number of

Delhi Police data shows a total of 5,111 children went missing last year of which 3,752 children were traced, while 1,359 are yet to be found

missing persons in the country was 1,79,545 (in 2009), 2,03,489 (2010) and 39,806

(2011). He said as per the inputs provided by the Delhi Police, a total of 5,111 children went missing last year of which 3,752 children were traced but another 1,359 are yet to be found.

*Times of India, March 15, 2011*

## Missing Children a Sad Commentary on Police

It is heartening that the Supreme Court has taken a serious view of the petition filed by an NGO that 1.7 lakh children went missing between 2008 and 2011. It has asked the Centre, the States and Union Territories to respond to the petition. What's worse, the NGO has complained that the police are extremely reluctant to register cases when the parents of missing children approach them. In other words, the authorities concerned are not worried about the alarming levels such cases have reached — every day 11 children are reported missing. Needless to say, this does not include a substantial number of cases which go unreported.

Children are the future of the country. A state is often judged by the manner in which it treats children. While other sections of society, like women and senior citizens, are able to draw the government's attention to their specific needs, children alone are unable to take up their causes. That is why a society, which is considerate, will go

out of the way to ensure that children are not denied any of their rights. In the instant case, it is no secret that children are kidnapped by human traffickers for such criminal acts as begging, prostitution and manual labour.

Laws to safeguard the interests of children like the right to education and ban on child labour are in place but there is general apathy when it comes to their implementation. In the national capital, for instance, there are thousands of children living on construction sites without any access to formal education. Similarly, it is not uncommon to find children employed as domestic help even by senior government officials. What this underscores is that enactment of laws alone is not sufficient to protect children. A system to regulate and monitor the implementation of laws should be in place. Equally important, police need to be sensitive in dealing with cases of missing children, many of whom can be rescued if authorities are quick in acting on such complaints.

*New Indian Express, March 19, 2011*



# Children lack safety net in Rajasthan, says NCPCLR

Special Correspondent

**JAIPUR:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCLR) on Wednesday pulled up the Rajasthan Government for slow progress in the care and protection of children and failure to control child labour in several parts of the State. The NCPCLR was dissatisfied with the general condition of child rights in the State.

The Commission Member, Yogesh Dube, accompanied by a team, visited Udaipur for two days earlier this week and met senior officers here on Wednesday to assess the situation of children. He asked the officers to handle the issues of child labour and children's protection with "more sensitivity and understand-

ing" and said he would shortly make recommendations in this regard.

Dr. Dube told reporters that he undertook the visit with a specific agenda to confirm the authenticity of adverse reports he had received about the Nari Niketan, Anganwadi centres, nutrition centres of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and child labourers in Udaipur district. In particular, he cited a report about opium being given to small children of women labourers at the work sites.

Dr. Dube said he rescued three child labourers from a brick kiln in Lakarwas area of Bichiwara block in Udaipur and got the owner of the kiln arrested after getting a first information report registered

against him. "It took two-and-a-half hours for us to get the proceedings against this person initiated. The brick kiln was illegal and the district administration was surprisingly unaware of it."

The NCPCLR team led by Dr. Dube rescued two more child labourers working near the Circuit House in Udaipur and instructed the Labour Department to take action for their rehabilitation. Taking cognisance of the complaints received about child labour rampant in mines, stone quarries and brick kilns, the team visited several places in the district.

Dr. Dube said he found a child suffering from high fever and lying unconscious on the roof of "Amvatta Home" in Udaipur during his visit to

the place. The child was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital on his instructions. The situation of children in the home was pathetic and there were no proper clothing and food for them, he said.

During the inspection of Nari Niketan in the city, the team found that children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection were kept on the same premises. They were locked in a specified area of the home. Girls below the age of 18 were kept there in violation of the Juvenile Justice Act and a few of them even had newborn babies without vaccination and without any special arrangement for infants.

Citing gross violation of law, Dr. Dube said male staff was deployed in Nari Niketan

and the inmates were not allowed to meet their parents. The team also interacted with the rag-pickers in Chitrakoot Nagar of the city and expressed concern about their pathetic condition.

In the ICDS nutrition centre and at the lone primary school at Shohagpura in the district, the team did not find any growth chart and attendance register. Toilets were locked and children were found unloading the bags containing ration meant for mid-day meals from vehicles. Dr. Dube also went to soapstone mines in Pal Dewal village of Kherwara block and the mines at Jemar Katra, Gogunda and Narainganj.

He noted that about one lakh children in Udaipur were malnourished, while 40 per

cent of all children in the State could be put in this category. Dr. Dube met Principal Labour Secretary Lalit Mehra, Principal Medical and Health Secretary B. N. Sharma, Women and Child Development Secretary Sarita Singh, State Commission for Child Protection Deputy Secretary K. N. Meena and representatives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and ICDS here to discuss the condition of children.

Mr. Mehra informed the NCPCLR team that a special squad would be sent to the brick kilns to rescue child labourers and the check-posts at the Rajasthan-Gujarat border would be activated to check trafficking of children to the neighbouring State for working in the Bt Cotton fields.

*Hindu, March 1, P-7*



# SCHOOL CHILDREN TOO ARE NOW VICTIMS OF ACIDITY

Schools across the city have kids complaining of stomach, chest pains more often

Puja Pednekar

If you thought acidity was something only grown-ups have to deal with, think again. Rising cases of rumbling stomachs, vomiting spells, chest pains and dizziness among students have become a cause for concern for schools in the city. School principals and experts say that they are seeing a shocking rise among children suffering from bouts of acidity.

For instance, Apeejay School at Kharghar has a child suffering from acidity almost every day. Indu Mathur, the school's principal, says, "We are forced to call parents of at least five to

## WHAT SCHOOLS ARE DOING

Counselling parents to make sure their children indulge in a healthy breakfast before leaving for school

Monitoring kids' tiffins, giving them diet plans and prescribing exercises

Introducing a break early during school hours, so that those kids who couldn't eat breakfast can get a snack

Kids develop acidity due to poor diet, lack of sleep, fever, intake of medicinal drugs, and too much exam or other stress.

—Dr Nitin Shah, pediatrician

six students suffering from acidity every week."

Experts say children skipping breakfast and coming to school on an empty stomach might be the reason. Mathur added, "We found out that most children don't have breakfast before coming to school. When we talk to the parents, they say that the child did not feel like having breakfast or that they were too busy to whip up a breakfast so early in the morning."

Dr Nitin Shah, consulting

pediatrician, PD Hinduja Hospital, Mahim says that due to bad eating habits - irregularity in meals, skipping breakfast, binging on junk food and exam stress - are to be blamed for children suffering from acidity. "Children develop acidity for a short duration due to poor diet, lack of sleep, fever, intake of medicinal drugs, and even too much exam or other stress. These days, some children starve for a long time and this has worsened the situation," he said.

He added that this acidity is unlike those in adults: it does not cause stomach ulcers and lasts only for a while, but prolonged bad eating habits can cause chronic acidity problems among children.

Schools, meanwhile, are worried by this dangerous trend and trying to make sure children get to eat right. Monitoring kids' tiffins, giving them diet plans, prescribing exercises, and counselling parents are some of the measures taken up.

Sudha Shanbag, principal of Children's Academy, ICSE section, Malad, says that her school has launched a nutrition programme to combat acidity amongst children, where they stress on importance of a good breakfast and eating healthy. Similarly, Bal Bharati Public School, Navi Mumbai has introduced a 10-minute-break at 9am in the morning so that children who have skipped breakfast can have a snack.

D.N.A, March 18, P.4

## हाईकोर्ट ने शिक्षा निदेशालय को भेजा अवमानना का नोटिस

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। हाईकोर्ट ने शिक्षा निदेशालय को राजधानी के 17 राजकीय प्रतिभा विद्यालयों में करीब 1400 छात्रों को दाखिला न देने के अदालती आदेश का पालन न करने पर अवमानना का नोटिस जारी किया है। पीठ ने अवमानना याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए कहा कि क्यों न इस बाबत अवमानना का मामला शुरू किया जाए। पीठ ने शिक्षा निदेशालय को दो हफ्ते में स्थिति रिपोर्ट व कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट पेश करने का निर्देश देते हुए सुनवाई के लिए 27 मार्च को तारीख तय की है। इस मामले में सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट संस्था की ओर से कहा गया कि 670 कक्षा में सत्र 2011-12 के लिए प्रतिभाशाली छात्रों का दाखिला न कर

शिक्षा के अधिकार के कानून का उल्लंघन किया गया है।

► 17 राजकीय प्रतिभा विद्यालयों में 1400 छात्रों को दाखिला न देने का मामला  
► हाईकोर्ट ने गत वर्ष दिसम्बर में दाखिले का निर्देश दिया था

न्यायमूर्ति विपिन सांची की पीठ के समक्ष सोशल ज्यूरिस्ट संस्था की ओर से एडवोकेट अशोक अग्रवाल ने कहा कि इस मामले में हाईकोर्ट ने गत वर्ष 14 दिसम्बर को 670 कक्षा के 1400 बच्चों को दाखिला देने का निर्देश दिया था। अभी तक इस मामले में आदेश के बावजूद कोई दाखिला नहीं दिया गया। यह कार्य शिक्षा निदेशालय ने जानबूझकर टालने के मकसद से किया है। एडवोकेट अग्रवाल ने कहा कि इस मामले में सत्र 2011-12 के लिए एक अपील से दाखिला किया जाना था लेकिन करीब 1400 बच्चों को अच्छी शिक्षा मिलने से वंचित कर दिया है।

Rashtriya Sahara, March 15, P.7



# After govt schools, hostels on the chopping block

M Mahesh

**DAVANGERE:** After the government's move to merge schools and anganwadis having less student strength with those having a higher student strength, it now seems to be the turn to merge hostels having student strength less than 20.

Lakhs of students are accommodated at these hostels run by the government.

For SC students - under the department of social welfare - there are 1,272 pre-matric hostels (936 for boys and 309 for girls) and 415 post-matric hostels (264 for boys and 149 for girls). Similarly for the ST stu-

dents there are 184 pre-matric and 50 post-matric hostels.

Under the department of backward classes, there are 1,277 pre-matric hostels as also 1,061 and 299 post-matric hostels. There are also 90 boarding schools run by the department. The commissioner to the department of social welfare has, in an order to the officials, stated that they should collect details about those hostels with a strength of less than 20 and merge them with hostels run by the department.

Students of such hostels may also be provided accommodation at the Morarji Desai or Kirtur Rani Chennamma residential schools. Sources told *Deccan Herald* that the officials

are already on the job of collecting details about hostels having a student strength of less than 20. It has been noticed that there are five to 10 such pre-matric hostels in each district. In many instances, parents are sending their children to the hostels as facilities like mid-day meals and free bicycles - provided by the government - are now available in the villages itself. This has resulted in the fall in student strength at the government-run hostels and the move to merge them.

## Better facilities

A department official said they were yet to get information about the number of hostels that may face the axe. The

move is aimed at providing the students better facilities at hostels with a bigger strength.

However, the efforts to merge the hostels may be met with stiff opposition. Critics of the move say that the hostels in rural areas were meant to provide poor students education at an affordable cost. At a time when hundreds of applications are being received, students are being denied admission at the hostels on one pretext or the other.

The move to merge the hostels with less strength is a retrograde step, say the critics. They say steps are being taken to increase the student strength of hostels in other states. But here, a negative step

is being taken, on the pretext of falling student strength.

In Davangere, however, there is no hostel that may be merged, for the minimum student strength is 25 in all the hostels, said the district social welfare officer Mahantesh.

State unit president of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), Ananth Naika, said that the dropping student strength may be because of the lack of facilities. Hostels with less student strength should be converted into residential schools or facilities increased there.

But, merging them is not the answer, Naika said. He has warned of an agitation to protest the move.

DH News Service

*Deccan Herald  
March 30, 86*

# अब एनसीईआरटी रेडियो एफएम पर

आज से एफएम ज्ञानवाणी पर शुरू हो रहा है साप्ताहिक कार्यक्रम

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। एनसीईआरटी ने रेडियो एफएम के जरिए पढ़ाई को आसान बनाने की तैयारी की है। अब इससे फिजिक्स के न्यूमेरिकल, गणित के फार्मूले भी सुनकर समझ सकेंगे। दरअसल एनसीईआरटी आज से एफएम ज्ञानवाणी (फ्रीक्वेंसी 105.6 मेगा हर्ट्ज) पर स्कूली शिक्षा पर इंटरैक्टिव कार्यक्रम शुरू करने जा रहा है। कार्यक्रम का प्रसारण प्रत्येक शनिवार शाम पांच से छह बजे के बीच होगा। इसमें एनसीईआरटी के विशेषज्ञ श्रोताओं के सवालों का जवाब देंगे। उद्घाटन एपिसोड पर पैनल में एनसीईआरटी की निदेशक प्रो. परवीन मिनक्लेयर श्रोताओं का जवाब देंगी।

श्रोताओं के सवालों के लिए एनसीईआरटी ने 011-



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12345 (टोल फ्री) नंबर जारी किया।

इससे श्रोता सीधे एक्सपर्ट से जुड़ सकते हैं। आज प्रसारित होने वाला एपिसोड मुफ्त एवं अनिवार्य शिक्षा कानून पर आधारित होगा। हर सप्ताह अलग-अलग मुद्दों पर श्रोताओं से बातचीत की जाएगी।

एनसीईआरटी प्रवक्ता हेमंत कुमार ने बताया कि स्कूली शिक्षा को लेकर खासकर मुफ्त एवं अनिवार्य शिक्षा कानून लागू होने के बाद हर किसी के मस्तिष्क में सवाल हैं जिनका जवाब दिया जाना चाहिए।

एनसीईआरटी का मानना है कि इससे न केवल शिक्षकों, एक्सपर्ट के साथ श्रोताओं का संवाद होगा बल्कि एनसीईआरटी को सीधे श्रोताओं से शिक्षा के स्तर को और बेहतर बनाने के लिए फीडबैक भी प्राप्त होगा।

*Amar  
Ujala,  
March 31,  
P.8*

## Ajab story: Online classes in Guj village

**Ajab (Junagadh):** It's a typical 6X6 classroom of a village school—dimly lit and dusty—with furniture crying for repairs. But, what catches one's attention is a big TV monitor, a wireless microphone enabling web-conferencing and internet connectivity.

At 7 am, students of Shri Krishna Vidya Mandir in Gujarat's Ajab village jostle for space in this room keenly waiting for Chiman Delwadia, who is about to log on from Birmingham in Alabama, US.

As soon as Delwadia appears on the TV monitor, students throw a volley of math problems at him. He patiently takes them and starts solving the problems. The class continues for 90 minutes where students of Classes VII, VIII and IX learn mathematics with fun. They have also started conversing in English.

The tri-weekly online classes have ensured that a subject most dreaded by students has become a fa-

*Times of India, March 19, P.7*



## NGO calls for two years of pre-primary schooling

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** Demanding that the Delhi Government provide two years of pre-primary education as part of formal schooling in all government and civic body-run schools under Section 11 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, NGO Social Jurist has written to Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.

"Pre-primary education will prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and provide early childhood care and education until they complete the age of six years. The Delhi Government should make necessary arrangements for the provision of free pre-school education for such children," said Social Jurist member Ashok Agarwal.

The letter also noted that every child has a right to quality education. "Even for ensuring that there are no drop-outs when formal learning begins, the continuum from pre-school to pre-primary and higher level be-

**"Pre-primary education will also provide early childhood care till the age of six"**

comes essential," said Mr. Aggarwal.

This will also bring in uniformity in the education system as most of the unaided private schools begin education at pre-school level where children at three-plus age are admitted. "At present, the schools run by the Delhi Government and the civic bodies do not have pre-school classes. Most of these schools do not have pre-primary classes either. It is submitted that opening of two years pre-primary classes in the all the State and civic body-run schools as a part and parcel of full-time formal schooling would not only be in compliance with the provisions of Section 11 of the RTE Act, 2009, but would greatly benefit the children as well," said Mr. Aggarwal.

Hindu, March 19, p.2

## पब्लिक स्कूलों को प्रति छात्र मिलेंगे 1190 रुपए

**नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)।** इंडियन एजुकेशन सोसिटी (एनपीएससी) के अध्यक्ष पलवी सहगल ने कहा कि यह राशि काफी कम है। यदि किसी स्कूल की फीस 2500 रुपए है, तो बाकी बाकी रुपया तो सामान्य वर्ग को देना होगा। सरकार ने यह हिसाब ठीक नहीं लगाया है। स्कूल प्राचार्यों का संगठन एनपीएससी जल्द ही बैठक करेगा। इंडियन एजुकेशन सोसिटी के विद्यार्थियों के लिए,

इस बाबत निदेशालय ने बुधवार को सर्कुलर जारी किया है। जिसके मुताबिक जिन स्कूलों को सरकार से रियायती दर पर जमीन मिली, लीज एग्जिमेंट के तहत जितने इंडियन एजुकेशन सोसिटी के बच्चों को पढ़ाना उनकी जिम्मेदारी है, उसके अतिरिक्त स्कूल इंडियन एजुकेशन सोसिटी वर्ग के जितने अधिक बच्चों को पढ़ाएंगे उन्हें प्रति बच्चे के हिसाब से शिक्षा निदेशालय इस धनराशि का भुगतान करेगा। बताया जात है कि सरकार से सस्ती दरों पर जमीन लेने वाले स्कूलों पर पहले से

ही 15 फीसद इंडियन एजुकेशन सोसिटी वर्ग के बच्चों को पढ़ाने जिम्मेदारी है। इस प्रकार सरकार से उन्हें 10 फीसद सीटों का ही भुगतान मिल सकेगा।

जबकि खुद की जमीन पर चल रहे गैर सहायता प्राप्त पब्लिक स्कूलों को पूरी 25 फीसद सीटों का भुगतान मिलेगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि निदेशालय द्वारा तय किए गए भुगतान को लेकर स्कूल संगठनों ने नाराजगी

जताई है, उनका कहना है कि पब्लिक स्कूल के खर्च व सुविधाओं की तुलना सरकारी स्कूल में बच्चों पर किए जाने वाले खर्च से करना न्यायसंगत नहीं है। इस मामले में स्कूल संगठन कोर्ट जाने के मूड में हैं। दिल्ली स्टेट पब्लिक स्कूल मैनेजमेंट एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष आरसी जैन ने सरकार द्वारा घोषित इस रूप को लेने से इनकार कर दिया है। जब हम 25 फीसद कोटे का ही विरोध कर रहे हैं तो रुपए लेने का कोई मतलब नहीं है। इस बाबत उन्होंने कहा कि पब्लिक स्कूल में हर

► सिर्फ गैर सहायता प्राप्त पब्लिक स्कूलों को ही मिलेगा खर्चा

► शिक्षा निदेशालय के शिक्षा, किताबें व यूनीफार्म के खर्च का भुगतान करने संबंधी फैसले के खिलाफ स्कूल कोर्ट जाने के मूड में

बच्चे पर कम से कम दो से डेढ़ हजार रुपए का खर्च आता है। इस संबंध में नेशनल प्रोग्रेसिव स्कूल कॉन्फ्रेंस (एनपीएससी) के अध्यक्ष पलवी सहगल ने कहा कि यह राशि काफी कम है। यदि किसी स्कूल की फीस 2500 रुपए है, तो बाकी बाकी रुपया तो सामान्य वर्ग को देना होगा। सरकार ने यह हिसाब ठीक नहीं लगाया है। स्कूल प्राचार्यों का संगठन एनपीएससी जल्द ही बैठक करेगा। इंडियन एजुकेशन सोसिटी के विद्यार्थियों के लिए,

Rashtriya Sahara, March 22, p.7



बीते साल से खर्च तय करने की कवायद के बाद शिक्षा निदेशालय ने फैसला लेने के बाद अपना सर्कुलर जारी कर दिया। सर्कुलर में गैर सहायता प्राप्त पब्लिक स्कूलों को जो खुद की जमीन पर स्कूल चला रहे हैं, उन्हें 25 फीसद ईडब्ल्यूएस कोटे का भुगतान दिया जाएगा। जबकि जिन्हें डीडीए या सरकार से रियायती दर पर जमीन मिली है और लीज या एलॉटमेंट लैटर में 15 फीसद ईडब्ल्यूएस कोटे को पहाने की जिम्मेदारी ली है, तो उन्हें बाकी बचे 10 फीसद ईडब्ल्यूएस कोटे के बच्चों को पहाने, किताने और वर्दी का खर्चा दिया जाएगा। निदेशालय ने स्कूलों को भुगतान देने के लिए जिला कार्यालय को जिम्मेदारी दी है। स्कूलों को ईडब्ल्यूएस

बच्चों का खर्च का भुगतान तभी मिलेगा जब व जिला में स्कूल में दाखिल किए गए ईडब्ल्यूएस बच्चों की संख्या, उन पर किए जाने वाले खर्च का ब्यौरा और इससे जुड़ा एक हलफनामा देना होगा। इसके बाद ही निदेशालय द्वारा स्कूल को धनराशि के भुगतान की स्वीकृति दी जाएगी। खर्चा मिलने के बाद स्कूलों को दो महीने के भीतर खर्च का ब्यौरा सर्टिफिकेट के तौर पर देना होगा। जिसमें उन्हें बताना होगा कि दिए गए खर्चों से उन्होंने ईडब्ल्यूएस व डिसेबल्ड ग्रुप के बच्चों को युनिफार्म दी है। यदि यह पाया गया कि दिए गए खर्चों के बाद स्कूल के पास धनराशि बची है, तो वह धनराशि अगले सेशन में समायोजित की जाएगी।

# India's education system belongs to the industrial age

With increasing frequency, both in private life and in political discourse in the country, people have begun to wonder: What were our policy-makers thinking? What

thought processes, what information and what decision models were used to arrive at a particular decision? The accusation is that of an intellectual vacuum in decision making. This leads to two questions: Who is responsible for this? How can this be filled?

The answer to the first is clear. We have failed to educate our students to become good decision makers. The purpose of education is to enable individuals to decide between the choices they create for themselves and society. And to then have the courage to stand by their decisions. The training for *babugiri* suited the industrial age, when employability depended on being able to slot into a task based role and repeat it reliably. Today, such functions are often outsourced to machines — and humans are expected to deliver more in terms of ideas, solutions and leadership.

This clearly cannot be done using our traditional views on education. Rote learning, leading to achievement in examinations with set patterns is clearly not learning. Assessments do have a role to play in the learning process, but it is a limited role. Assessment systems are about proof, and by definition can only test for memory, skills or aptitude. There is no test in the world that can declare a student 'learned' or 'educated'. They can also indicate that the candidate has acquired a certain degree of proficiency in managing the test. In a way, the only learning here is the ability to

recognise patterns in the assessment system and to adapt work processes to that pattern. Our schools and colleges have been allowed to degenerate to become such assessment machines. We go to school not to learn, but to pass exams and purchase entry into the next rung on the ladder.

To answer the second question, in educating our next generation we need to give them experience of skills that will help them generate value. They need to be able to identify opportunities, recognise problems, seek options, find resources, share responsibilities and design outcomes. It is the task of educationists to design curricula and standards to meet these needs. But, may be it is too much to ask of those who have only been trained to replicate the learning of the past. Learning today is about creating new futures based on enterprise, opportunity and innovation.

Nothing in our current school or higher education systems reflects these needs. We do not even deliver on basic employable skills required by current industries, let alone encourage our students to think for themselves and explore the world around them. If anything is included in the syllabus, it is memorised, regurgitated and forgotten — unlikely to be useful in the future, since application of the knowledge was rarely part of the assigned task.

Current education policies deliver neither quality nor relevance to its key constituency — the students. The attempt at creating a mass of literate and numerate citizens falls at the altar of poor design and thus poor implementation. The Right to Education Act, however well intentioned, may never deliver its lofty goals as it is impeded by its own loopholes and shortsightedness — thus almost an example of the intellectual vacuum we bemoan.

The Five Year Plans are supposed to

focus on education — throwing investments at creating infrastructure for 'massification' with scant regard for the quality of education. As the rise in education spend is tempered, the dialogue moves towards quality — with little concrete by way of an over arching view of what quality means. A number of patchy attempts, including sector skills councils, accreditation systems etc. have been mooted — but they too find little to anchor them to the nation's education policy framework.

We seek to increase participation in higher education, targeting a Gross Enrollment Ratio of 25 per cent, having reportedly increased it dramatically to 17 per cent this year. But what are we expecting students to gain from superficial engagement with poor quality content delivered by those whose reputations do not even make a mark in the world's rankings? The reputation of our universities, based on research and teaching and assessed by peer reviews is dismal. We do not figure anywhere in the top 100, according to the Times Higher Education Reputation rankings released a few days ago. The Indian Institute of Science, which was the lone representative of the nation was edged out by competition this year. With our institutions slipping, many having been damaged for years, where do we find this intellectual capital to fill the vacuum?

It is said, that when Pandora's box was opened, and chaos reigned — all that was left at the bottom of the box was hope. Our hope, though it still languishes unsupported at the margins, is through multiple private efforts to create innovative learning models that foster learning beyond fear.

*Pioneer, March 22, P.9*



## बच्चों को स्कूल जरूर भेजें मुसलमान : सिब्बल

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री कपिल सिब्बल ने कहा कि मुसलमानों को शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में आगे लाना सरकार की प्राथमिकताओं में शामिल है। सच्वर कमेटी की सिफारिशों के अनुसार मुसलमान शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में वेहद पिछड़े हैं। सरकार 2014 से पहले मुसलमानों के संदर्भ में बन चुकी इस अवधारणा को बदलेगी। सिब्बल रविवार को जाकिर हुसैन कॉलेज में सम्मेलन को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि मुसलमानों को अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजना चाहिए। इस मौके पर रोजनामा राष्ट्रीय सहाय के प्रमुख असद रजा व अन्य उर्दू पत्रकारों को पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।

'सच्वर कमेटी की सिफारिशों की रोशनी में उर्दू शिक्षा के अवसर' विषय पर आयोजित सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए

सिब्बल ने कहा कि विभिन्न कारणों से मुसलमानों के बच्चे प्राथमिक शिक्षा से वंचित रह जाते हैं। जो बच्चे स्कूल जाते भी हैं उन्हें शिक्षा बीच में ही छोड़नी पड़ती है। 15 फीसद से भी कम बच्चे उच्च शिक्षा ग्रहण कर पाते हैं। यह स्थिति चिंता का विषय है। उन्होंने मुस्लिम संगठनों से भी शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में कार्य करने की अपील की। उर्दू शिक्षकों को भी भर्ती के लिए प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

उर्दू अकादमी के वाइस चेयरमैन प्रो. अख्तरुल वासे ने कहा कि सच्वर कमेटी की रिपोर्ट एक अहम दस्तावेज है जिसने वास्तविकता को लोगों के सामने रख दिया। इस रिपोर्ट से मुसलमानों की तरक्की के लिए किए गए तमाम वायदों की पोल खुल गई। उन्होंने केंद्रीय मंत्री से उर्दू शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति, उर्दू पाठ्य पुस्तकों को उपलब्ध कराने की अपील की है।

Rashtriya  
Sahara,  
March 12, P.12

## प्राइमरी के बच्चे पढ़ेंगे न्यूज पेपर, सुनेंगे रेडियो

● अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन ने स्कूलों की प्राइमरी कक्षाओं में न्यूज पेपर पढ़ाने और रेडियो सुनाने की तैयारी शुरू की है। बच्चों के भाषाई ज्ञान को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से संगठन ने यह पहल की है।

केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन के असिस्टेंट कमिश्नर (एकेडमिक) पीवी साई रंगारव की ओर से सत्र 2012-13 के लिए पहलों से आठवीं तक की कक्षाओं के लिए गतिविधियों की गाइड

भाषा का ज्ञान बढ़ाने  
के लिए केंद्रीय  
विद्यालय की कवायद

लाइस जारी की गई है। इसमें स्पष्ट किया गया है कि स्कूलों की गतिविधियां किताबों के आसपास ही घूमती है। लिहाजा, गतिविधियों को स्ट्रेंट फ्रेंडली बनाया जाए ताकि उनका चहुमुखी विकास संभव हो।

स्कूलों को कहा गया है कि किताबी ज्ञान के अलावा जरूरी है कि बच्चे अन्य

माध्यमों से भी शैक्षणिक ज्ञान को प्राप्त करें। इसके लिए न्यूज पेपर, रेडियो, ऑडियो कैसेट, क्लास लाइब्रेरी एक बेहतर माध्यम हो सकते हैं। इसके अलावा स्कूलों को कहा गया है कि वह चाहें तो बोलने, सुनने, पढ़ने व लिखने के लिए अन्य गतिविधियों का भी प्रयोग कर सकते हैं। अलग-अलग कक्षाओं के स्तर के आधार पर स्कूलों को गतिविधियां सुझाई गई हैं। गणित के लिए कहा गया है कि जितना हो सके वह क्रियाकलापों पर आधारित होना चाहिए।

Amar Ujala,  
March 10, P.8

# 500 schools under PPP model set to come up

## Bids to decide private partners

Prakash Kumar

**NEW DELHI:** In a move to provide "high quality" education to children at the block level, the Centre has initiated efforts to set up 500 model schools in public-private-partnership framework across the country.

The schools, proposed to be opened under the Human Resource Development Ministry, will operate Classes VI to XII with minimum infrastructure and facilities of standards available in existing Kendriya Vidyalayas.

The ministry has invited applications from private entities including corporate houses to participate in the implementation of the programme. Selection of private partner will be done through bidding at each block to be identified for the opening of the schools.

As per the scheme, the schools will be affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). In exceptional circumstances, affiliation by other national boards may also be considered.

However, irrespective of whatever board the school is affiliated to, it will have to adhere to all the norms of the CBSE with reference to infrastructure, teaching resources and pedagogy, an HRD Ministry official told *Deccan Herald*



adding. The model schools were so far being opened through the state governments in the blocks, identified as educationally backward under the central scheme, launched in 2008. While the opening up of schools in 1,942 blocks covering 22 states have been approved since 2008, only 438 model schools have become functional, according to the ministry.

A total of 6,000 model schools are to be opened at block level with 3,500 in educationally backward district through state governments. The remaining 2,500 schools are to be set up under PPP mode in blocks which are not educationally backward.

As per the scheme, the private entity could either be a trust or a society or a not-for-profit company.

An entity running at least one CBSE school from where at least two consecutive batches have passed out from Class X will qualify for up to three

schools. Those who have not come up to the board examination level will qualify for one school.

A private entity, a track record of running educational institutions for five years, will also qualify for opening three schools if it has capacity to make an interest-bearing deposit of Rs 25 lakh for each school, which will be released in three annual installments after commissioning.

"A corporate entity would be eligible for one school for every 25 crore net worth, subject to interest-bearing deposit of Rs 50 lakh each of up to three schools and Rs 25 lakh per school thereafter," the ministry official said.

The land required for setting up the school and its infrastructure has to be provided by the private entity.

The government will contribute to recurring cost on per capita basis for the students sponsored by it. Besides, additional 25 per cent support will also be provided in respect of sponsored students towards capital cost.

"The initial period of the contract for such provision of quality education would be 10 years for each school, which is extendable as per mutual agreement," a ministry official said.

DH News Service

*Deccan Herald, March 11, P.13*



# KVs get a Nifty makeover

## Designer Uniforms To Mark Golden Jubilee Of Schools

M Ramya | TNN

**Chennai:** Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) students are set to get a makeover from the next academic year. The National Institute of Fashion Design (Nift) is designing uniforms to replace the navy blue-and-white dress that has been the trademark of the central government-run chain of schools for the past 50 years. There are more than 10.5 lakh students.

"The change is being made to mark the golden jubilee celebrations of KVs. All we know is that the design is getting ready," said KV Meenambakkam principal K Lakshmi pathi.

Schools have been told to make the change from July, so those admitted this year need not stitch the uniforms. Existing students can continue to wear the blue and white uniform till July and have the option of phasing out their old uniforms over the next two years.



FRESH START

Currently, girls in Classes 1 to 8 wear white shirts with navy blue skirts, while older students wear a blue kameez with a white salwar and a white dupatta. Boys in Classes 1 to 8 wear white shirts with blue shorts and older ones wear trousers. As the daytime climate in Tami Nadu is pretty much the same through the year, students wear the same uniform. In areas such as Delhi, students are giv-

en two different uniforms – one for summer and another for winter.

Before starting on the new design, resource persons from Nift, Delhi visited 10-15 KVs. "People from NIFT visited our school to interact with students, parents and teachers and get their feedback on what kind of a design they would prefer. My students are excited about the change," said principal of KV – Ashok Nagar Prasanna Kumari.

NIFT Chennai director S Devadoss said climatic conditions of the areas would play an important role while designing uniforms. "The uniforms are expected to be of contemporary design, reflecting the culture and ethos of the country. We have been promised that it will be convenient and that the functional requirements will also be taken into consideration," said Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan deputy commissioner (Chennai region) N R Murali.

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March 2  
P. 21*

# 2cr Indian kids study in English-medium schools

Surge Of 274%  
In Enrolment  
Since 2003-04

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

**New Delhi:** The last eight years have seen a staggering rise in the number of children studying in English-medium schools across the country. Data on school enrolment for 2010-11 shows that, for the first time, the number of children enrolled in English-medium schools from Classes I to VIII has crossed the two crore mark – a 274% rise since 2003-04.

For the fourth year in a row, English is the second-largest medium of instruction in India, ahead of both Bengali and Marathi, according to a yet-to-be released report on countrywide school enrolment by the National University of Education, Planning and Administration (NUEPA) under its District Informa-

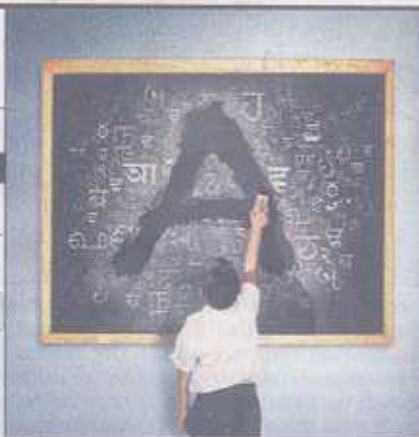
### MESSAGE IN THE MEDIUM

Total enrolments in classes I-VIII

Language	2009-10	2010-11
English	1.72	2.04
Hindi	8.60	9.09

Figures in crore

Growth Rate of English	Growth Rate of Hindi
<b>18.9%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>



tion System for Education.

"The collection of information under DISE has improved over the years, and now gives a true picture of

enrolments by medium of instruction across the country," says Professor Arun C Mehta of NUEPA.


While Hindi, Marathi, Bengali

and English have all seen a rise in enrolment in 2010-11 when compared with the previous year, the rate of increase is highest for English.

While there is an obvious demand for the English language in India, academicians and policy-makers believe state governments are handling this demand in an extremely unimaginative manner.

*Times of India  
March 2  
P. 9*

# Teachers in need of lessons on empathy

 Teachers need their share of lessons too it seems. A study recently revealed that over 80 per cent of students in schools across the country are humiliated by teachers who tell them that they are poor learners.

The study conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has again brought to the fore the fact that harsh and scathing remarks by teachers in classrooms can leave psychological and emotional scars on a child's mind, besides demotivating and lowering the self-esteem of the child.

Dr Geetanjali Kumar, counsellor and psychologist, says, "Teachers need to learn to empathise with students. Remarks like *isse to hoga nahi* (he can't do it), *yeh weak student hai* (he's a weak student) can be extremely discouraging for some kids. Children are naughty and it's their basic nature to defy rules but they have to be handled very carefully. The idea is to be sensi-

tive towards them."

Consultant psychologist and counsellor Ritu Dhingra points out that the reason behind this attitude could be bottled up frustration and an inferiority complex. She explains, "Many of us tend to take out the frustration of something that is lacking in us on a soft target, in this case the target

being the student. In today's times, kids are smarter, more knowledgeable and far more inquisitive about learning than previous generations. So often teachers are not able to answer their questions and this causes frustration, which leads them to make harsh comments which can be really hurtful for a child. Many students come to me complaining about teachers' attitudes in class. This needs to be checked seriously."

*Asian Age, March 6, P. 21*



# शिक्षा में जरूरी है नवाचार

पद्माकर त्रिपाठी

केंद्र सरकार ने आरटीई कानून को ज्यादा कारगर बनाने के लिए राज्यों से बच्चों को उनकी मातृभाषा में शिक्षा दिलाने के लिये कहा है। इसके अलावा तनावरहित-भयमुक्त माहौल बनाने, बस्ते का बोझ घटाने, बच्चों को स्कूलों की ओर आकर्षित करने के बावत कई दूसरे फैसले भी किए गए हैं। दौलत सिंह कोठारी आयोग ने 1964 में ही कहा था कि देश में बच्चों को मातृभाषा के साथ ही राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की किसी एक भाषा में शिक्षा देने का बंदोबस्त होना चाहिए। बाल मनोवैज्ञानिक मारिया मांटेसरी ने अपनी 'मांटेसरी पद्धति' और शिक्षा दार्शनिक फ्रैंसेल ने अपनी 'किंडर गार्टेन पद्धति' में भी बच्चों को खेल के जरिए सिखाने-पढ़ाने की बात कही है। इन पद्धतियों से शिक्षा अगर बच्चों की बोली में दी जाए तो वह अपेक्षाकृत ज्यादा प्रभावी होती है।

हालांकि देश के ज्यादातर सरकारी स्कूलों में व्यवहार में इस पर पहले से ही अमल होता रहा है। सर्वशिक्षा अभियान में पढ़ रहे 12 करोड़ से ज्यादा बच्चों को शिक्षक दूसरे विषयों के अलावा अंग्रेजी भी अधिक सरल बनाकर उनकी बोलचाल की मिश्रित बोली में ही पढ़ते हैं। भाषा विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक मातृभाषा में भी हर 14 मील पर बोली में बदल जाती है, शिक्षक भी इसका ध्यान रखते हैं। इसके पीछे यह भी कारण है कि सौ फीसद नाप्राकृत लक्ष्य हासिल करने में शिक्षकों की भी शत प्रतिशत जिम्मेदारी होती है। ऐसे में उन्हें नामांकित बच्चों के भले से ज्यादा उनके स्कूलों से पलायन कर जाने का डर होता है। सरकारी स्कूलों में मातृभाषा में पढ़ाई जरूरी इसलिए भी है क्योंकि जो बच्चे उन स्कूलों में पढ़ने आते हैं उनमें से ज्यादातर के अभिभावक कम पढ़े-लिखे होते हैं। वे सरकारी सुविधाओं से आकर्षित हो कर ही अपने बच्चों को स्कूल भेजते हैं। उन घरों का माहौल स्थानीय भाषा और बोली की प्रधानता वाला ही होता है। उसके उलट ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के निजी स्कूलों का माहौल सरकारी स्कूलों, उनमें पढ़ने वाले बच्चों और उनके घरों के माहौल से हट कर होता है। इन्हीं बातों को ध्यान में रख कर जिला शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों में भी प्रशिक्षक अपने शिक्षकों के प्रशिक्षण के दौरान मातृभाषा में ही शिक्षण करने की ट्रेनिंग देते हैं।

हाल ही में कई शोध और सर्वेक्षणों ने भी सरकारी

शिक्षा क्षेत्र में आ रही गिरावट और बदहाली का खुलासा किया है। गुणवत्ता में जमीनी सुधार न हो पाने के कारण लाजवाब केंद्र सरकार को आए दिन सुप्रीम कोर्ट की सख्त टिप्पणियों का शिकार होना पड़ता है। सर्वशिक्षा अभियान में लगातार प्रयोग के चलते देश की प्राथमिक और उच्च प्राथमिक शिक्षा रसातल में जा रही है। इस अभियान में भी किताबों के बेहतरीन कागज, पर्याप्त संख्या और आकर्षक छपाई से लगायत ट्रेस, बैग, छात्रवृत्ति, विद्यालय भवनों के निर्माण आदि सभी कामों में ऊपर से नीचे तक भ्रष्टाचार और लापरवाही फैली है। हकीकत यह है कि अभियान में



कार्यरत शिक्षकों, शिक्षामित्रों और विभागीय कार्मिकों की संख्या के अलावा हर चीज में गड़बड़झाले हैं। देश में 6 से 14 साल तक के बच्चों के लिये अनिवार्य शिक्षा का कानून बने भी सालों हो चले हैं। फिर भी अपेक्षित सुधार नैदाद है।

ताजा फरमान में विद्यालयी शिक्षा का माहौल तनाव और भयमुक्त बनाने को भी कहा गया है। लेकिन हकीकत यह है कि इन फैसलों से शिक्षा जगत का खास भला होने वाला नहीं है। दरअसल, सरकार अंदरखाने सत्र को शुरुआत में निजी क्षेत्र से मिल रही चुनौतियों से निपटने की बात करती है लेकिन सत्र के आगे बढ़ने के साथ ही हकीकत भी उलटने लगती है। बहरहाल, इन नए फैसलों का सरकार के नवोदय विद्यालयों, केंद्रीय विद्यालयों, कस्टर्बवा गांधी

बालिका विद्यालयों में भी अमल होने जा रहा है।

जहां तक बच्चों की जानकारी और समझ में बढ़ोतरी की बात है, सरकार ने प्राथमिक और उच्च प्राथमिक स्कूलों के शिक्षकों को बेहिसाब गैर-शिक्षणोत्तर काम सौंप रखा है। उनके शिक्षणोत्तर कार्य इतने बढ़ गए हैं कि उन्हें औसत मानक के आसपास भी कक्षाएं लगाने का अवसर नहीं मिल पाता है। स्कूल खुलने होने के बाद भी अनिर्धारित कक्षा शिक्षण के कारण बच्चे अनुपस्थित रहते हैं या मध्याह्न भोजन खाकर स्कूल से पलायन कर जाते हैं। आरटीई कानून के मुताबिक बच्चों की शत प्रतिशत शिक्षा के लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए उनका स्कूलों में उपस्थित रहना अनिवार्य है। लिहाजा, शिक्षकों को मजबूरन उनकी फर्जी उपस्थिति बनानी पड़ती है। इन हालातों में उनमें प्राथमिक स्तर पर ही नकल सिखाने और करने पर ज्यादा जोर दिया जाता है। बच्चों को परीक्षाओं में उसी के सहारे ब्लैकबोर्ड पर लिखे प्रश्नोत्तर अपनी उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं पर नकल करने की आदत भी डलवाई जाती है। इसी फार्मले पर बच्चे कक्षाएं और स्कूल तो पास करते जाते हैं, लेकिन प्रतियोगिता के मैदान में वे प्रतिभाशाली होते हुये भी असफल होने लगते हैं।

स्कूलों में बच्चों के मनमार्फिक माहौल तभी बनेगा जब शिक्षकों को शिक्षणोत्तर कार्यों से मुक्त किया जाए। बाल मनोवैज्ञानिक, शिक्षा मनोवैज्ञानिक और शैक्षिक तकनीक के विशेषज्ञों- सभी का यह मानना है कि शिक्षा में अनुशासन के लिये पुरस्कार और दंड दोनों बहुत जरूरी हैं। आसान शब्दों में बच्चे के सही करने पर 'बकअप' जबकि गलत करने पर 'शटअप' का शिक्षण सूत्र अपनाता भी जरूरी है। लेकिन बच्चों के अभिभावक पुरस्कार मिलने पर तो खुशी जताते हैं जबकि अनुशासन तोड़ने पर हल्का दंड देने पर भी वे शिक्षकों के खिलाफ लामबंद हो जाते हैं और शिक्षकों के साथ बदसलुकी भी कर गुजरते हैं। हालांकि स्कूलों में गुस्सैल स्वभाव के कुछ शिक्षक बच्चों को गंभीर और डरावनी सजाएं भी दे देते हैं, लेकिन ऐसा आमतौर पर नहीं होता है। इन्हीं हालात से बचने के लिये सरकारी स्कूलों में शिक्षक अब अनुशासन को तरजीह देना कम करने लगे हैं। आर्टोई कानून में भी अभी तक इस समस्या पर कोई ठोस फैसला नहीं हो पाया है। शिक्षा में सुधार के सिलसिले में ये नवाचार बहुत जरूरी है। लेकिन साथ ही बाकी समस्याओं का समाधान करना भी उतना ही जरूरी है।

*Rashtriya Sahara, March 8, P.10.*



# 'Can't bank on schools to master English'

EVERYONE'S FAV			
	2009-10	2010-11	
English	10.25L	11.14L	
Hindi	16.48L	15.18L	
English Increase	89,459	8.7%	
Hindi Decrease	1,29,950	7.8%	



Anahita Mukherji | TNN

**New Delhi:** "There is a wealth of research which shows that the best medium of instruction for a child to have a conceptual understanding of a subject is his mother-tongue. Just because people want their children to study English does not mean that they need to enroll them at an English-medium school. If Indian-language schools did a good job teaching English, parents would not need to send their children to English-medium schools," said R Govinda, vice-chancellor of NUEPA. He himself studied in a Kannada-medium school where he picked up good English, he pointed out.

"There has been extensive

research to show that the number of years for which children study a language does not necessarily translate into them being able to speak or read the language. It is seen that if you show mastery over your first language and can read and write it fluently you can learn a second language, such as English, a lot faster," says Professor Anita Rampal, dean of the faculty of education at Delhi University. She points to countless instances where textbooks are in English but children can't make sense of them.

"Several states have seen a spike in the number of private schools, many of which call themselves English medium, though they don't teach much English," says Govinda. But Vi-

nod Raina, an architect of India's Right to Education Bill, feels the recent NUEPA data should not be interpreted as a rise in enrolment in private English-medium schools alone, as several states, such as Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, are themselves adopting English medium for government schools.

Raina, who has studied the education system in J&K and Punjab, says that teachers in these states are bitter about being forced to teach in English without being equipped to do so, with disastrous consequences. "This is not simply a question of one teacher having to teach the English language, but about all teachers suddenly having to transact in English," he says. "That government

schools are turning English medium does not, in any way, mean that either teachers or students at these schools can speak a word of English," says Raina.

Rampal points to an urgent need for a well-deliberated national language policy, in the absence of which individual states have taken arbitrary decisions regarding English.

Many, like Shyam Menon, director of Ambedkar University, believe that the rise in the number of children at English-medium schools reflects the aspirations of India's middle class, which believes that an English education translates into greater upward mobility, irrespective of the quality of education delivered at many schools.

*Times of India, March 2, 09*

## यूपी के 85 स्कूलों में पानी 2000 में टॉयलेट नहीं

उत्तर प्रदेश में अभी भी 85 प्राथमिक और उच्च प्राथमिक स्कूलों में पीने के पानी और 2024 स्कूलों में टॉयलेट की सुविधा नहीं है। स्कूलों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं के बारे में राज्य सरकार की ओर से दिए गए हलफनामे में यह तथ्य उजागर हुआ है।

मालूम हो कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उत्तर प्रदेश सहित सभी राज्यों को स्कूलों में पेय जल और टॉयलेट सुविधा सुनिश्चित करने का आदेश दिया था। कोर्ट ने कहा था कि सर्वे रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक जिन स्कूलों में टॉयलेट नहीं है वहां माता-पिता अपने बच्चों, विशेषकर लड़कियों को स्कूल नहीं भेजते। ये शिक्षा के मौलिक अधिकार का उल्लंघन है। कोर्ट ने राज्यों को स्कूलों में ये सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के बारे में हलफनामा दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया था।

उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिव अनूप मिश्रा ने हलफनामा में कहा है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में सरकारी और निजी कुल मिलाकर 21,482 माध्यमिक स्कूल हैं। इन सभी स्कूलों में पीने का पानी तथा

टॉयलेट की सुविधा उपलब्ध है। इसके अलावा राज्य में 1,46,959 प्राथमिक और उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालय हैं। इनमें से 1,46,874 स्कूलों में पीने के पानी की सुविधा है, लेकिन 85 स्कूलों में अभी भी यह सुविधा नहीं है। यहां पीने के पानी का स्थायी इंतजाम नहीं हो पाया। क्योंकि कुछ जगह बोरिंग के बाद भी पानी नहीं निकला जबकि कुछ जगहों पर इसके दूसरे कारण थे। इन 85 स्कूलों में से 55 स्कूल गांवों में हैं और 30 स्कूल शहरी क्षेत्र में आते हैं। हालांकि इनमें अस्थायी तौर पर पीने के पानी की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है।

मुख्य सचिव ने कहा है कि राज्य सरकार स्कूलों में टॉयलेट सुविधा की उपलब्धता पर भी ध्यान दे रही है। जिलाधिकारियों से इस बाबत रिपोर्ट मांगी गई थी। जिसके जवाब में मिले आंकड़ों के मुताबिक राज्य में 1,46,959 प्राथमिक और उच्च प्राथमिक स्कूलों में से 2024 विद्यालयों में टॉयलेट की सुविधा नहीं है। राज्य सरकार ने कहा है कि शहरी क्षेत्र के टॉयलेट रहित स्कूलों में टॉयलेट बनवाने के लिए फंड का प्रस्ताव केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय को भेजा गया है।

*Dainik Jagaran, March 5, 03*



# अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिक्षा के गुर जानेंगे स्कूली शिक्षक

प्रीत विहार। भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में स्कूलों में पढ़ाने वाले शिक्षकों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर चलने वाली शिक्षा व्यवस्था को समझने का मौका मिलेगा। दरअसल अमेरिका में 2012 इंटरनेशनल लीडर्स इन एजुकेशन प्रोग्राम (आईएलईपी) में भारत के स्कूल शिक्षकों को भाग लेने का मिल रहा है। इसको ब्यूरो ऑफ एजुकेशनल एंड कल्चरल अफेयर्स (ईसीए), यूएस डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ स्टेट के अलावा आइरिक्स के सहयोग से

चलाया जाएगा। आईएलईपी जनवरी से मई 2013 तक चलाया जाएगा। इसमें भाग लेने के लिए आवेदन, टेस्ट और इंटरव्यू की प्रक्रिया को पूरा करना होगा। चयनित शिक्षकों को इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने का मौका मिलेगा।

प्रोग्राम में भाग लेने वाले शिक्षकों को विषय का विशेषज्ञ बनाने के अलावा पठन-पाठन की कला में बेहतर बनाया जाएगा। इसके

अलावा पढ़ाई की नई गतिविधियां, पाठ्यक्रम का विकास, लेसन प्लानिंग और टीचिंग स्ट्रेटजी को लेकर एक सेमिनार का आयोजन

किया जाएगा। सेमिनार में शिक्षा के विविध क्षेत्रों के विकास पर चर्चा होगी। प्रोग्राम में भाग लेने वाले शिक्षकों को एक ग्रुप में काम करना होगा। इसका मकसद एक यूनिक

टॉचर प्रोफेशनल डेवलपमेंट मॉड्यूल का विकास करना है। इन्हें वहां के स्कूलों में भी जाने का मौका मिलेगा। इस बारे में इंडियन प्रोग्राम मैनेजर युसिसेफ (यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स-

इंडिया एजुकेशनल फाउंडेशन) को ओर से शिक्षा निदेशक को पत्र के माध्यम से सूचित किया गया है।

## टाइम लाइन

- आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि-15 मार्च 2012
- चुने गए शिक्षकों का टेस्ट व इंटरव्यू-अप्रैल मध्य 2012
- चुने गए अभ्यर्थियों को सूचना-सितंबर 2012
- प्री-डिपार्टमेंट ऑरिएंटेशन-नवंबर 2012
- यूएस प्रोग्राम डेट्स-जनवरी-मई 2013

## शिक्षकों के लिए जरूरी जानकारी:

- प्रोग्राम में केवल नौवीं से बारहवीं कक्षा में पढ़ाने वाले सेकेंडरी लेवल शिक्षकों को मौका मिलेगा।
- इसमें अंग्रेजी, सामान्य अध्ययन, गणित और विज्ञान विषय के शिक्षक आवेदन कर सकते हैं।
- प्रोग्राम में शामिल होने के लिए दिल्ली, बिहार, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू और कश्मीर, पंजाब, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, चंडीगढ़ के स्कूलों में पढ़ाने वाले शिक्षक आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

Amar Ujala,  
March 10, P.7

## तिहाड़ में कैदियों के बच्चे सीख रहे हैं अंग्रेजी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। तिहाड़ जेल के क्रेच में रह रहे महिला कैदियों के बच्चे अंग्रेजी बोलना सीख रहे हैं। तिहाड़ प्रशासन ने इन बच्चों को कान्वेंट पैटर्न शिक्षा-दीक्षा देने के लिए जाहर से टीचरों को बुलाना शुरू कर दिया है।

गौरतलब है कि तिहाड़ जेल के नंबर छह में महिला कैदियों को रखा जाता है। इस समय महिला जेल में करीब 500 महिला कैदी हैं, जिनमें 41 विदेशी महिलाएं हैं। जिन महिला कैदियों के बच्चे छह साल से कम उम्र के हैं वे अपने बच्चों को साथ रख सकती हैं। तिहाड़ में महिला कैदियों के बच्चों को रखने के लिए क्रेच बनाया गया है, जहां पालन पोषण की व्यवस्था है। जेल अधिकारियों से मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक इस समय क्रेच में 48 बच्चे हैं, जिनमें 18 बालक व 30 बालिकाएं हैं। ये सभी

बच्चे छह साल से कम उम्र के हैं। क्रेच में बच्चों के मनोरंजन के लिए टैडी बॉयर के अलावा तमाम खेल सामग्री को रखा गया है। इन बच्चों के जन्मदिन पर जेल प्रशासन केक-गुब्बारे का इंतजाम करता है और सभी बच्चे मिलकर हैपी बर्थडे मनाते हैं। छह साल के बाद यदि अपने बच्चे को कैदी मां वर-परिवार में भेजकर पालन पोषण करना चाहती है तो इसकी इजाजत दे दी जाती है। यदि परिवार में कोई नहीं है तो उन बच्चों को बोर्डिंग स्कूल में रखकर पढ़ाने की व्यवस्था भी तिहाड़ जेल प्रशासन कर रहा है। छह साल के भीतर नर्सरी तक की पढ़ाई-लिखाई कान्वेंट पैटर्न पर दी जा रही है। विद्या दान करने के इच्छुक कुछ अभ्यापक व गौर गुरु दक्षिणा लिए इन बच्चों को पढ़ाने आ रहे हैं। कुछ बच्चे अंग्रेजी बोलना सीख गए हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara, March 12, P.5



# CCE a hit with Class 10 students

**cracking  
the  
boards**



**Shaswati Das**

shaswati.das@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Till two years ago, before the CBSE introduced the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation System (CCE) for Class 10 boards, exam centres witnessed heightened activity. But the centres wore a deserted look on Friday as students appeared for their mathematics paper.

With students giving up the idea of taking board exams for CCE, there were only a few takers for the former. Of the handful of children who took the exam, there were only 29 from Salwan Public School and three from DPS RK Puram.

"The paper was easy, but now very few students opt for exams as they have immense faith in the CCE system. So, there is little need for children to appear



■ Class 10 students after writing their maths exam at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Gurgaon on Thursday.

PARVEEN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

for the external exam," said Mala Gupta, centre supervisor, Springdales School, Pusa Road.

Anuradha Joshi, principal of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, said only one student appeared for the exam as he is taking admission in another school.

No student took the exam in Laxman Public School, Springdales School (Pusa Road) and DPS Mathura Road. "Not a single student from our school took the exam. Whether it is

internal or external — for Class 10 it's the same. You should take the exam if you are shifting your board or moving to some other state where the system is different," said Usha Ram, principal of Laxman Public School.

A few, who appeared for the exam, said it was a good practice to prepare for the Class 12 boards. "I encouraged my son to take the exam as it is a good practice for future," said Manvendra Sharma.

*Hindustan  
times  
March 3,  
P.4*

# स्कूल के बच्चे पढ़ेंगे मास मीडिया

नई दिल्ली | वरिष्ठ संवाददाता

## नया कोर्स

स्कूली स्तर पर ही अब बच्चों को बेहतर कम्युनिकेशन स्किल के साथ मीडिया की जानकारी दी जाएगी। इसके लिए केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई) के स्कूलों में मास मीडिया स्टडीज की पढ़ाई होगी। इस कोर्स को शैक्षणिक सत्र 2012-13 से लागू किया जाएगा।

सीबीएसई के चेयरमैन विनीत जोशी की ओर से जारी एक पत्र में कहा गया है कि आज के समय में मीडिया एक सशक्त माध्यम है। मीडिया जैसे उभरते महत्वपूर्ण उद्योग से छात्रों को रूबरू करने के लिए इस कोर्स के माध्यम से

- पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के आधार पर कुछ चुनिंदा स्कूलों में सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्तर लागू किया था
- जो स्कूल इस कोर्स को शुरू करना चाहते हैं। वे 2012-13 सत्र में इसे चुन सकते हैं।

अवसर उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे। इस कोर्स को शैक्षणिक सत्र 2011-12 में बोर्ड ने पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के आधार पर कुछ चुनिंदा स्कूलों में सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्तर लागू किया था। इसकी सफलता के बाद सीबीएसई ने अगले सत्र से सभी

स्कूलों में इस कोर्स को लागू करने का फैसला लिया है।

उन्होंने पत्र में कहा है कि जो स्कूल इस कोर्स को शुरू करना चाहते हैं। वे 2012-13 सत्र में इसे चुन सकते हैं। सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्तर के छात्र चार इलेक्टिव विषयों में से मास मीडिया स्टडीज को एक विषय के रूप में चुन सकते हैं। इसकी पढ़ाई अप्रैल 2012 से शुरू हो जाएगी। इस कोर्स की परीक्षा सीबीएसई की ओर से आयोजित बोर्ड 2014 में ली जाएगी। कोर्स की मान्यता के लिए स्कूल बोर्ड की वेबसाइट [www.cbse.nic.in](http://www.cbse.nic.in) पर आवेदन कर सकते हैं। बीएड के साथ एमए मास कॉम

करने वाले शिक्षक इस विषय को पढ़ाएंगे।

मालूम हो कि नेशनल काउंसिल ऑफ एजुकेशन रिसर्च एंड ट्रेनिंग (एनसीईआरटी) ने मास मीडिया का कोर्स तैयार किया है। मीडिया स्टडीज कोर्स को तैयार करने वाली टीम के संयोजक का कहना है एनसीईआरटी के विशेषज्ञों ने चार महीनों तक स्कूलों के शिक्षकों से मीडिया स्टडीज कोर्स पर फीड बैक लिया फिर इसे अंतिम रूप दिया गया है। कोर्स के चेप्टर में कम्युनिकेशन, अंडरस्टैंड टू मास कम्युनिकेशन, एडवर्टाइजिंग एंड पब्लिक रिलेशन और मीडिया रोल इन ग्लोबलाइजेशन आदि को शामिल किया गया है।

*Hindustan, March 5, P.5*



# कूड़ा बीनने वाले बच्चे सीख रहे अंग्रेजी

पश्चिमी दिल्ली, जागरण संवाददाता : आउटसोर्सिंग की बड़ी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी में अच्छी नौकरी थी। अच्छा वेतन मिल रहा था, लेकिन नौकरी छोड़कर क्षेत्र के युवा सौरव सिंह इन दिनों द्वारका में गरीब व जरूरतमंद बच्चों को तालीम दे रहे हैं। इन बच्चों को पढ़ाने से लेकर किताब कापी व एक समय का खाना भी मुफ्त उपलब्ध कराया जाता है। यह जरूरतमंद बच्चों के लिए उम्मीद की किरण से कम नहीं है।

सौरव ने बताया कि पढ़ाई-लिखाई में उनकी काफी रुचि है। उनके पिता बनारस

- एमएनसी की नौकरी छोड़ सुधार रहे बच्चों का भविष्य
- पढ़ाई से किताब व एक समय खाना तक की मुफ्त व्यवस्था

में डाक्टर थे। मल्टीनेशनल कंपनी की नौकरी तो थी पर वह अपने कार्य से संतुष्ट नहीं था।

इसलिए सोचा कि कुछ ऐसा करना चाहिए, जिससे समाज की भलाई हो। निरक्षरता दूर करने में सहायक बन सकूँ।

अक्सर गरीब बच्चों के बारे में पढ़ता-सुनता था। इसलिए सड़कों पर कूड़ा बीनने वालों व मजदूरों के बच्चों को पढ़ाने की सोची। इसलिए उन बच्चों के लिए सप्ताह में एक दिन का समय निकालना शुरू किया। यह प्रयास रंग लाया। अब हर रविवार को द्वारका के अंबरहाई गांव में करीब 55 बच्चे पढ़ने आते हैं। उन्हें मुफ्त में किताब, कापी, पेसिल व डिक्सनरी दी जाती है। उन बच्चों को अंग्रेजी वर्णमाला का ज्ञान भी दिया जा रहा है। सौरव ने वेस्टओवर चेरिटेबल फाउंडेशन नाम की संस्था भी बनाई है।

*Dainik  
Jaagan  
March 5*

## FIRE SAFETY MEASURES IN GOVT SCHOOLS

**35**  
schools will have fire safety measures

**₹70**  
crore the cost of the project

• The new school buildings will be constructed in B2 Vasant Kunj, Hari Nagar, Kidwai Nagar and Pushp Vihar

**₹37**

lakh is the cost of construction in Vasant Kunj

**₹1.28 cr**  
the cost of construction in Hari Nagar

**₹2.14 cr**  
the cost of construction in Kidwai Nagar

**₹27 cr**  
the cost of construction in Pushp Vihar

*Hindustan times,  
March 1, p.1*

## निजी शिक्षा नियंत्रण कानून इसी सत्र से

भोपाल. स्कूल शिक्षा मंत्री अर्चना चिटनीस ने बुधवार को विधानसभा में घोषणा की कि निजी शिक्षण संस्थाओं पर नियंत्रण करने के लिए निजी विद्यालय विनियमन अधिनियम शीघ्र बनाया जाएगा और इसे इसी शिक्षा सत्र से लागू किया जाएगा। इससे विद्यार्थियों और अभिभावकों द्वारा की जाने वाली शिकायतों पर रोक लग सकेगी। उनके जवाब में बाद स्कूल शिक्षा विभाग से जुड़ी 5 हजार 945 करोड़ 49 लाख 86 हजार रुपए की अनुदान मांगी पारित कर दी गई।

*Rajasthan Patrika,  
March 23, p.11*

## स्कूलों में 'हर बच्चा पहलवान'

दुर्गरपुर. बालिका शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राजस्थान प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा परिषद् की ओर से चलाई जा रही मीना-मंच योजना के तहत प्रदेश भर के नोडल विद्यालयों में नवीन वित्तीय वर्ष में 'मीना-किट' बंटेंगे। इस किट में 13 विशेष पुस्तकों का संग्रह है। इससे प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा और अधिक आनन्दायी होगी। परिषद् आयुक्त ने सर्व शिक्षा अभियान के जिला परियोजना समन्वयकों को पालना सुनिश्चित करने के निर्देश दिए हैं। मीना किट में 13 पुस्तकों के साथ एक सीडी भी है। यह सचित्र संदेश

परक पुस्तकें खाली कालाशों में विद्यार्थियों को पढ़ाई जाएगी। इन पुस्तकों में लड़कियों की चापसी, बादल और बत्तख, हर बच्चा पहलवान, अधेरे में देखना, हाथ की सफाई, मीना और दौलत, स्कूल चले हम, हमें किताबें पसंद हैं, मीना शहर में, बदल गया जीवन आदि अध्याय हैं।

मीना किट के प्रभावी उपयोग के लिए नोडल विद्यालयों की एक-एक महिला शिक्षक को दो-दो दिन का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। यह पुस्तकें केजीबीबी विद्यालयों में भी बंटेंगी।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 3,  
p.10*

## 5% quota for economically weak

circular said.

**MASS MEDIA IN SCHOOLS:** Meanwhile, the Central Board of Secondary Education has also announced introduction of Mass Media as an elective subject from Class XI from the academic year 2012-13 that begins in April.

In a circular sent out to all affiliated schools, CBSE chairman Vinit Joshi has underlined that media has become a very powerful tool in modern times and hence the board decided to encourage students in schools itself to opt for it.

The course was offered in some selected senior secondary schools in the 2011-12 session on a pilot basis and the response it received was quite encouraging to include it in all schools from the coming session, Joshi disclosed.

Students in Class XI can choose mass media studies as one of the four elective subjects. The first examination in the subject in class XII will be in 2014. The board has published the application form for schools on its website. Those teaching the subject will have to be MA in Mass Communication, besides having the compulsory qualification of Bed. Meanwhile, the Human Resource Ministry is pushing schools for starting free vocational courses for students in the secondary classes and suggested that those appearing in Class X can take admission in these courses even before their results are out.

*Free Press  
Journal,  
March 6, P.2*

## सभी राज्य करें बाल आयोग का गठन : कृष्णा तीरथ

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): केंद्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) कृष्णा तीरथ ने देश के उन सभी राज्यों से बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग गठित करने की अपील की है, जहां बच्चों के अधिकारों को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए ऐसी कोई संस्था अब तक गठित नहीं की गई है। राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग (एनसीसीआर) के स्थापना दिवस के मौके पर प्रायोजित समारोह में कृष्णा ने कहा, "बाल अधिकारों को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राज्य स्तर भी बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग बेहद जरूरी हैं। अभी कई राज्यों में ऐसी कोई संस्था नहीं है। मैं इन राज्य सरकारों से आग्रह करती हूँ कि वे जल्द आयोग गठित करें।"

*Punjab Kesari, March 6, P.2*



# The child and school in India

A recent op-ed in the *Financial Times* ran a scathing critique on the quality of India's primary education. It wrote: "India may be the world's fastest growing economy after China, but its primary education standards in the countryside rank alongside Papua New Guinea and crisis-torn Afghanistan and Yemen."

This depressing news has been confirmed in recent times by three reputed independent sources—the latest edition of the *Annual Status of Education Report* brought out by Pratham, the programme for international student assessment (PISA) survey of 15-year-olds, and the *Quality Education Study 2011* conducted by Wipro and Educational Initiatives.

For decades, India's abysmal social indicators attracted derision and condescension. Though they continue to remain a cause for concern, rapid economic growth of the recent past and resultant pace of socio-economic development have contributed towards considerable improvements. Now, however, the dismal student learning levels have emerged as arguably our worst development failure.

In this age of knowledge-based economic growth, India's massive human resource pool has the potential to drive sustained economic growth for decades. However, the poor quality of our primary education threatens to nullify this demographic dividend. Our economic future is being built on extremely shaky foundations.

So what's the way ahead?

The prevailing classroom instruction strategy in our primary schools revolves around teaching a uniform and common pedagogy for all children in the class. Teachers impart instruction in a rote manner, with their primary objective being syllabus coverage, irrespective of whether students comprehend or not. The widespread practice of multi-grade teaching—more than one class being run in the same room by the same teacher—exacerbates the problem.

Such one-size-fits-all classroom transactions fail to acknowledge the differential learning standards among students. Over time, as children move up the classes on "automatic" promotion, their cumulative learning deficiency becomes large enough to render them disinterested passengers in their classes. With time, they lose interest and often drop out.

Unfortunately, even when this problem is acknowledged, all attention tends to be focused on searching for the most optimal pedagogy. This exploration overlooks the reality that there are only marginal differences between all the widely accepted pedagogies and the debate on which is the best may never be settled. Far little attention is paid to the critical challenge of scaled-up field implementation of any preferred teaching strategy. It is here that public systems fail miserably. It is therefore, no surprise that even Tamil Nadu, which has been following the avowedly superior activity-based learning pedagogy for many years, came last in the PISA test.

In the circumstances, any meaningful attempt to improve student learning levels has to incorporate a multidimensional pedagogy. The classroom instruction strategy has to accept the reality of children being at multiple learning levels and with differential learning abilities. The achievement of grade-specific competencies for all children in each classroom will require dividing them into groups based on their abilities and current learning levels. Apart from teaching each group with an appropriate pedagogy and at varying speeds, the lag in learning levels should be covered with some form of remedial or catch-up instruction. If need be, those lagging far behind will have to be provided off-classroom hours instruction for a limited period till they catch up.

The successful implementation of this student-centred approach demands continuous and comprehensive assessment of student learning levels. This has to involve both quantitative testing and qualitative evaluation of the student's learning level at any point of time. This assessment data should then be rigorously analysed to provide decision-support for headmasters and supervisory officials and also help design need-based training programmes for teachers.

Many education experts strongly oppose any form of examination of students. But they fail to appreciate the subtle distinction between high-stakes testing, which overwhelms students, and assessments, which measure the student's current learning levels. In a recent interview with *Mint* (8 February), Harvard University Prof. of education Howard Gardner defined assessment to mean "what is

the person's understanding at this time, what is he or she not understanding, what can I do to help them understand better?" This is in accordance with the approach of the Right to Education Act, which assumes student assessment as a continuing process and advocates a continuous and comprehensive assessment framework.

However, such data-intensive

strategy for improving the quality of primary education requires a mechanism to manage the entire time series of a student's assessment information. In this context, the Aadhaar project offers exciting possibilities. The Aadhaar number can be the ideal anchor to capture the student's longitudinal assessment information and develop a national student database, similar to the district information system for education for schools.

The learning trajectory of the student for each subject can be tracked over his or her entire schooling tenure. Information related to the child's learning trajectory can be accessed by teachers even when students migrate or shift schools. It will ensure that the child's learning process is a continuum, where teachers build on the existing learning level for each student.

Needless to say, the successful implementation of any student-centred pedagogy will require considerable capacity-building support to teachers, headmasters and school supervisors. But in its absence, the sustainability of India's economic growth is questionable.

*Mint, March 8, p 23*



# Give your child a break, do not compare answers

**NEW DELHI:** It is time. All learning and practice will now be put to the test. As students appear for their first CBSE board examination on Thursday, the tension is palpable. But it is now for parents to take stock of post-exam situation and encourage the child to sail through the remaining exams.

## DO NOT COMPARE

It is a common practice for both parents and students to sit and dissect the exam after it is over. To make the exercise a little more tense, the yardstick of comparison is a class topper.

"When a student comes home after the exam, there is a natural curiosity about how he/she fared. But it is advisable for parents to let the child unwind at their own pace. If the child wants to discuss the paper, be a good

listener. If they don't want to, encourage them to stay focused for the next paper," said Jyoti Bose, principal, Springdales School (Dhaura Kuan).

## LET YOUR CHILD RECUPERATE

Taking a Board exam is not a cakewalk. It is a culmination of months of hard work, expecta-

tions and gruelling hours of study summed up across three hours per subject. Once the exam is over, make sure your child gets adequate sleep to get

## DOS AND DON'TS

### FOODS THAT SHOULD BE CONSUMED IN PLENTY

- Protein rich food including egg, boiled or cooked (they contain choline that improves mental performance).
- Iron: Found in gur chana, green leafy vegetables, cereal, pulses, lobia, soybean, meat and liver.
- Omega 3 fatty acids: Found in walnuts, almonds, fish
- Milk products: Low fat cottage cheese can be consumed, yogurt
- Complex carbohydrates are recommended: Daliya, whole wheat roti or cereal. These keep blood sugar levels steady and brain energy high for a prolonged period.
- Fruits and salads are loaded with anti-oxidants so should be taken in plenty.
- 8-10 glasses of water is essential to staying healthy and active.

### FOR INCREASED CONCENTRATION

- To avoid fatigue and tension due to lack of sleep, please make sure you get 6-8 hours of sound sleep.
- Avoid long periods without water and electrolytes (salt)
- TV/computer time should be restricted
- Go for a 30 minute walk or talk about your stress with your parents
- Don't rely on memory pills as they make keep you awake for long hours during study and tire you by the time you sit to write the exam.

over the exhaustion.

"Let your child study as per their own capacity now. You can learn nothing at the gate of the exam centre. If it is a demanding subject, help them. Make sure they get adequate rest because you can't learn anything if you're tired," added Bose.

## REGULATE YOUR CHILD'S DIET PATTERN

Every child loves a good meal after a stressful exam. While it is good to add colour to their diet, an excess of anything is not

advisable. At the same time, ensure that they sleep on time and sit upright while studying. "Have light but wholesome meals consisting of green leafy vegetables, fruits and whole

cereals. Keep your meals small and keep eating at intervals of two to three hours," said Dr. Anoop Misra, director of department of diabetes and metabolic diseases, Fortis Hospitals.

*Hindustan times,  
March 1, P 3*

## School bus fee hike illegal, say parents and activists

Parents and education activists have slammed the hike demanded by the school bus owners' association (SBOA) by Rs 250 to Rs 300 per child. They have also claimed the threat by SBOA to go on a strike as illegal. "It is totally unjustified on the part of bus operators to collect infrastructure cost from parents. Today the bus operators are hiking fees to carry out some modifications in the bus tomorrow they might even ask money to repair their bus after accident or even increase fee to purchase new bus," said education activist Jayant Jain.

According to the activist, "The hike in school bus fees as proposed by the association is totally illegal as they do not have any right to increase/revise it. As per the Government Resolution every school should have a transport committee headed by the principal with PTA members and one member of bus operator. The committee has been authorised to decide the fee structure of school bus."

Indicating strong action against the hike, Jain said, "We condemn the revengeful attitude of the bus operators alleging that they have to pay

'haffa' to the outside committees appointed by the government. We will certainly take up this issue during the hearing of our PIL scheduled in the month of June."

"As per the GR the bus should not be used for the purpose other than the school, whereas most of the bus operators use their buses for marriages, picnics, corporate travel etc during holidays, vacations and even after the school hours," Jain added.

The immediate hike of such a big amount has irked parents. "As such the bus fee varies from school to school, whereas some of the schools

are charging Rs 500 to Rs 2000. After the increase of Rs. 300 per month, in some schools, the bus fees will be more than the tuition fees," said Rakesh Manjrekar, a resident of Mund.

*Free Press Journal,  
March 24, P 7*



# Over 99% children thrashed in school

Study Covered 6,632 Students In 7 States

Himanshi Dhawan | TNN

**New Delhi:** Children across the country are being caned, slapped, hit and if they are lucky, let off with their ears boxed by teachers and school authorities, a study by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) has found.

The commission conducted a study on the practice of corporal punishment speaking to 6,632 children and respondents across seven states. The study to be made public next week, paints a bleak picture of India's schools. Of the people interviewed, only nine children denied having received any kind of punishment indicating that in 99.86% of the cases, children were subjected to either mental or physical punishment.

The study—conducted in 2009-2010—says that as many as 81.2% of the children were subject to outward rejection by being told that they were incapable of learning. Out of the total, 75% reported that they had been hit with a cane and 69% had been slapped on their cheeks. Shockingly, the study found that the practice of giving electric shocks was also being followed in some schools.

Among the most frequent punishments given to children was getting caned, being slapped on the cheeks, be-

## Corporal Punishment

▶ An NCPDR study found that as many as 81.2% of the students interviewed were subject to outward rejection by being told that they were incapable of learning

▶ Among the most frequent punishments given to children was getting caned, being slapped on the cheeks, being hit on the back and ears getting boxed

▶ The study found that the practice of giving electric shocks was also being followed in some schools

ing hit on the back and ears getting boxed. Sources said the child rights commission was concerned over the findings and had formulated guidelines for the elimination of corporal punishment in schools.

The commission, since 2009, has been writing to schools and state authorities advocating a violence-free environment in schools and homes.

It has also sent guidelines strongly condemning any kind of physical punishment. Sources said the guidelines were likely to be expanded further to include mental harassment like putting down the child in any way, shaming and name-calling them as well.

*Times of India  
March 2, p.13*

## ‘स्कूलों में न मिले सजा’

राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकारिता आयोग (एनसीपीसीआर) ने सोमवार को जारी अपनी गाइडलाइंस में स्कूली बच्चों को हर तरह की सजा से निजात दिलाने की सिफारिश की। स्कूली बच्चों को किसी भी तरह की सजा से बचाने के लिए एनसीपीसीआर ने अपनी गाइडलाइंस में हर स्कूल में 'कोरपोरल पनिसमेंट मॉनिटरिंग सेल' (सीपीएमसी) नाम से एक स्पेशल सेल बनाने की सिफारिश की।

आयोग का सुझाव है कि सेल स्कूलों में बच्चों को मिलने वाली सजा, बाल बौन

उत्पीड़न, भेदभाव व मानसिक प्रताड़ना जैसी शिकायतों की सुनवाई करेगा और उन पर उचित कार्रवाई करते हुए अगले 48 घंटों में मामले की रिपोर्ट आयोग के जिला स्तर के अधिकारियों को

सौंपेगा। आयोग द्वारा जारी गाइडलाइंस में स्कूलों में बच्चों को दी जाने वाली सजा को पूरी तरह से खत्म करने के लिए तमाम तरह के कड़े कदम उठाने की बात कही गई है।

एक ओर बच्चों को मिलने वाली सजा के

आधार पर स्कूलों की समीक्षा करने की बात कही गई है, वहीं यह भी सुझाव है कि हर स्कूल की समीक्षा रिपोर्ट उसका अगला ऐकडेमिक सेशन शुरू होने से पहले सार्वजनिक की जाए। आने वाले समय में इस रिपोर्ट को ही स्कूल की मान्यता का आधार बनाने का सुझाव भी दिया गया है।

**नहीं पड़ेगी मार**  
एनसीपीसीआर ने हर स्कूल में स्पेशल सेल बनाने की भी सिफारिश की  
सेल कार्रवाई के बाद 48 घंटों में रिपोर्ट अधिकारियों को सौंपेगा  
बच्चों को मिलने वाली सजा के आधार पर स्कूलों की समीक्षा

*Nandharat times,  
March 8, p.6.*

# 81% school kids humiliated by teachers: Survey

99.86% of children experience one or the other kind of punishment, says a report by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

**New Delhi:** Over 80% of students in schools across the country are humiliated by teachers who tell them that they are not capable of learning, a study conducted by national child rights body has said.

Even the "cruel practice" of giving electric shocks finds a mention in the yet-to-be released study on the practice of corporal punishment brought out by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR).

According to the survey conducted in 2009-10 academic year, only nine out of 6,632 students in seven states who were surveyed denied that they received any kind of punishment in schools.

NCPDR defines corporal punishment as physical punishment, mental harassment and discrimination of children causing both physical and mental harassment.

The survey was conducted to study the scale and magnitude of corporal punishment in the everyday school experiences of India's children, types of violent punishment prevailing in Indian schools and analyse by age the preva-



**NCPDR defines corporal punishment as physical punishment, mental harassment and discrimination causing both physical and mental harassment**

lence of different types of punishments among school children.

"99.86% of children reported experiencing one or the other kind of punishment. As

many as 81.2% of children were subject to outward rejection by being told that they are not capable of learning," it said.

Getting beaten by a cane, being slapped on the cheeks, being hit on the back and ears and getting boxed are the other four major punishments, it said.

"These four punishments do not lag behind much in terms of their occurrence. Out of the total, 75% reported that they had been hit by a cane and 69% had been slapped on their cheeks," the survey said.

A senior NCPDR official said they will be coming up with 'Guidelines for Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools' on Monday.

The guidelines include measures for affirmative action in schools towards positive development and positive engagement with children.

It will also discuss creating an environment conducive to learning and for mechanisms and processes to give children a voice and engage in the process of creating a positive environment as well as for accountability and multi-sectoral responsibility.—PTI

*D.N.A., March 5, P.9*



# शाँकिंग! स्कूलों में इलेक्ट्रिक शॉक की सजा

पीटीआई नई दिल्ली

देश भर के स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले 80 परसेंट से अधिक बच्चों को उनके टीचर्स शारीरिक सजा देते हैं। एक सर्वे के मुताबिक, बच्चों को मानसिक प्रताड़ना और भेदभाव का भी सामना करना पड़ता है। बच्चों को यह कहकर प्रताड़ित किया जाता है कि वे पढ़ाई-लिखाई के काबिल नहीं हैं। सर्वे में बिजली का झटका देने जैसी सजा का भी जिक्र है।

नेशनल कमिशन फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ चाइल्स राइट्स ने साल 2009 - 10 के दौरान सात राज्यों में सर्वे कराया। कुल 6632 स्टूडेंट्स में से महज 9 ने ही इस



**99.86%**

बच्चों को किसी न किसी किसम की सजा का सामना करना पड़ा।

**81.2%**

बच्चों को कहा गया कि उनमें पढ़ाई-लिखाई की क्षमता नहीं है।

बात से इनकार किया कि उन्हें स्कूलों में किसी तरह की सजा का सामना करना पड़ा। सजा देने के मुख्य चार तरीके हैं- छड़ी से पिटाई, गालों पर धप्पड़ मारना, कान और शरीर के पिछले हिस्से पर मारना और कैद करना।

इन चारों में किसी तरीके का इस्तेमाल एक दूसरे से ज्यादा पीछे नहीं है। बेंत से पिटाई के 75 परसेंट मामले सामने आए हैं तो गाल पर धप्पड़ मारने के 69 परसेंट मामले सामने आए हैं। कमिशन के एक अधिकारी के मुताबिक, स्कूलों में शारीरिक सजाओं को खत्म करने संबंधित गाइडलाइंस सोमवार को जारी करने को योजना है। गाइडलाइंस में बताया जाएगा कि स्कूल किस तरह से कदम उठाए कि वे बच्चों के साथ पॉजिटिव तरीके से जुड़ सकें। किस तरह से बच्चों के लिए पढ़ाई-लिखाई का अच्छा माहौल तैयार हो, जिसमें बच्चों को बात भी सुनी जाए।

*Narbharat times, March 5, P.1*

## 'Remark on HIV status of child's family corporal punishment'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 5

IN its guidelines for elimination of corporal punishment in schools, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has termed commenting on the health condition of a child's family, especially about HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, sarcasm, and discrimination as corporal punishment.

This is apart from the common forms of physical punishment such as slapping, caning, boxing ears etc. School boards have been asked to stipulate corporal punishment-free environment as one of the conditions for granting affiliation to

schools, which should have annual audits of corporal punishment and teachers should be asked to give a written undertaking that they will not resort to such action.

The guidelines, released on Monday at a function to mark the foundation day of the NCPCR, stated that in keeping with the provisions of the RTE Act 2009, physical punishment, mental harassment and discrimination constitute corporal punishment.

Physical punishment includes hitting, kicking, scratching, pinching, pulling the hair, giving electric shock, making children assume uncomfortable positions, and forced ingestion

of items like washing soap, mud and hot spices. Mental harassment constitutes ridiculing the child about his/her parents' profession, commenting about their health status, labelling the child as difficult or shaming him/her in a bid to improve performance, and belittling the child in the classroom.

"Discrimination is understood as prejudiced views and behaviour towards any child because of his/her caste/gender, occupation or region and non-payment of fees or for being a student admitted under the 25 per cent reservation to disadvantaged groups or weaker sections of society under RTE Act, 2009. It can be latent,

manifest, open or subtle," read the guidelines.

The guidelines say that several sections of the Indian Penal Code, including Section 305 (abetment of suicide committed by a child), Section 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) Section 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman), Section 506 (criminal intimidation) and Section 352 (assault or use of criminal force otherwise than a grave provocation), can be used to tackle offenders. It also invokes the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and the Juvenile Justice (care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 to brand corporal punishment as a criminal offence.

*Indian Express, March 6, P.2*



# Move afoot to ban corporal punishment in schools

Prakash Kumar

**NEW DELHI:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) has recommended setting up special monitoring cells in schools to take "prompt" actions on complaints of corporal punishment, sexual abuse, mental harassment and discrimination to students.

After hearing the complaints, such cells should forward their recommendations to the district level authorities concerned within 48 hours of the occurrence, a set of comprehensive guidelines issued

by the commission here said.

Releasing the guidelines, Women and Child Development Minister Krishna Tirath said it aimed at positive development of children. "These guidelines will serve as an important tool for sensitisation and creating awareness on the subject amongst various stakeholders."

The commission termed physical punishment, mental harassment and discrimination of children causing both physical and mental harassment "corporal punishment" and recommended that teachers undertake in writing that

## Recommendations

- NCPDR wants special cells in all schools to register complaints from students
- Cells must report incidents within 48 hours to district officials
- Panel terms physical punishment and mental harassment as corporal punishment
- Schools should conduct annual

social audits of punishment, harassment and discrimination

- Students must be informed that they have the right to speak against corporal punishment

- Teachers told to pay positive attention to children and appreciate good efforts while ignoring minor lapses

they would not engage in any such action.

All staff associated with

schools should be subjected to these guidelines and ensure that children enjoy their rights

as per the Right to Education (RTE) Act. An environment free of corporal punishment should be stipulated as one of the conditions for giving recognition to schools by the state governments, it sought while suggesting a series of affirmative action to be taken to "eliminating corporal punishment in schools."

Schools should conduct annual social audits of physical punishment, harassment and discrimination and the results of the auditing exercise be made public before start of every new academic session.

All children should be informed through campaigns and publicity drives that they have a right to speak against physical punishments, mental harassment and discrimination.

The NCPDR guidelines follow a detailed study conducted by it in 2009-10 involving 6,632 school children.

While 6,623 children out of the total 6,632 reported experiencing some kind of punishment, 81.2 per cent children were found to have been subject to "outward rejection" by being told that they were not

capable of learning or some other kind of verbal punishment, the study noted.

Of all the interviewed children, 75 per cent reported that they were hit by a cane while 69 per cent complained of slapping by teachers.

### Cruel practice

A cruel practice of giving electric shocks was also reported by 0.4 per cent of the interviewed children. The guidelines advise teachers to pay positive attention to children and appreciate good efforts while ignoring their minor lapses.

The commission suggested organising of workshops for teachers to make them learn from each others' experience.

*Ducan Herald,  
March 6, P.1*

## निजी स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ होती है अधिक क्रूरता

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): अमूमन यह माना जाता है कि देश के निजी स्कूल बच्चों के विकास और करियर को लेकर सरकारी स्कूलों से बेहतर होते हैं, लेकिन एक अध्ययन के अनुसार यह गलतफहमी है। इसमें कहा गया है कि निजी स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ सरकारी स्कूलों के मुकाबले ज्यादा क्रूर व्यवहार होता है।

राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग (एनसीपीसीआर) को ओर से आज 'स्कूलों में शारीरिक दंड' को लेकर एक विस्तृत अध्ययन रिपोर्ट जारी की गई। इसमें सरकारी

स्कूलों के साथ ही निजी स्कूलों के बारे में तलख टिप्पणी की गई है। 'स्कूलों में शारीरिक दंड' को लेकर आयोग की ओर से दिशा-निर्देश भी जारी किए गए हैं।

आयोग की ओर से जारी अध्ययन रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक देश के निजी स्कूलों में 83.6 फीसदी लड़कों और 84.8 फीसदी लड़कियों को किसी न किसी तरह से मानसिक उत्पीड़न का शिकार होना पड़ता है। वहीं, केंद्र सरकार के अधीनस्थ स्कूलों में यह आंकड़ा क्रमशः 70.5 और 72.6 फीसदी है। अन्य सरकारों की ओर से संचालित स्कूलों के 81.1

फीसदी लड़कों और 79.7 फीसदी लड़कियों को मानसिक रूप से प्रताड़ित करने वाले अपशब्दों को झेलना पड़ता है।

अध्ययन रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, "यह माना जाता है कि निजी तौर पर संचालित स्कूलों में योग्य शिक्षक-शिक्षिकाएं होती हैं और ऐसे में निजी स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ क्रूर व्यवहार की आशंका कम होती है। इस अध्ययन में यह मान्यता गलत साबित हुई है।" बाल आयोग की ओर से 2009-10 के दौरान सात राज्यों में सर्वेक्षण कराया गया। इस सर्वेक्षण में 6,632 छात्रों में से सिर्फ

नी ने ही कहा कि उन्हें उनके स्कूलों में किसी तरह की परेशानी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ा। इस रिपोर्ट में हेयन करने वाली बात यह है कि बच्चों के साथ पशुसूचक शब्दों का भी इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इस तरह का व्यवहार निजी स्कूलों के 38.5 फीसदी लड़कों और 30.4 फीसदी लड़कियों के साथ होता है। वहीं केंद्र सरकार के अधीनस्थ स्कूलों में यह आंकड़ा 14.1 और 19.2 फीसदी है। आयोग की ओर से कहा गया है, "बच्चों के साथ अपभ्र, व्यवहार को लेकर सरकारी और निजी स्कूलों में कोई अंतर नजर नहीं आता।"

*Punjab Kesari, March 6, P.5*



# स्कूली बच्चों को शारीरिक दंड से मिलेगी मुक्ति

● अमर उजाला व्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। बच्चों को स्कूलों में शारीरिक दंड से मुक्ति मिलने वाली है। राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार आयोग ने स्कूलों में बच्चों को शारीरिक रूप से दंडित किए जाने पर रोक लगाने के लिए सोमवार को एक विस्तृत दिशानिर्देश जारी किया। इस दिशानिर्देश के मुताबिक स्कूलों को अलग से विशेष निगरानी सेल का निर्माण करना होगा जो शारीरिक सजा या बच्चों के उत्पीड़न के मामले में शीघ्र कार्रवाई करेगा। सरकार के इस कदम से स्कूलों में बच्चों को शारीरिक दंड से मुक्ति मिल जाएगी। दिशानिर्देश के मुताबिक बच्चों को शारीरिक और मानसिक रूप से हानि पहुंचाने पर आईपीसी के तहत पहले से कई धाराएं मौजूद हैं पर स्कूलों में बच्चों को दंड की सामाजिक स्वीकार्यता के चलते इस पर प्रभावी रोक नहीं लग पा रही है।

आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार अब हर स्कूल को अपने

यहां एक कारपोरल पनिशमेंट मानिट्रिंग सेल (सीपीएमसी) की स्थापना करनी होगी। इस सेल में दो शिक्षक, दो अभिभावक, एक चिकित्सक, एक वकील, एक कार्टिसिलर, बाल अधिकार कार्यकर्ता तथा दो बच्चों को सदस्य के रूप में शामिल करना होगा। स्कूलों में बच्चों को किसी भी तरह के दंड की शिकायत होने पर यह सेल तत्काल सुनवाई करेगा। मामला गंभीर होने पर 48 घंटे के अंदर घटना की सूचना क्षेत्रीय एसडीएम को देनी होगी।

एसडीएम मामले की प्राथमिकता के आधार पर जांच कराकर कार्रवाई करेंगे। अब सभी शिक्षकों को अपने प्रबंधन तथा जिला स्तरीय विभागीय अधिकारियों को लिखित रूप में देना होगा कि वे बच्चों को न तो शारीरिक रूप से दंडित करेंगे और न ही मानसिक प्रताड़ना देंगे। बच्चों के साथ वे किसी प्रकार का भेदभाव भी नहीं करेंगे। बच्चों की गलतियों को दुरुस्त करने अथवा उन्हें समझाने



● स्कूलों को अलग से विशेष निगरानी सेल का निर्माण करना होगा

● यह सेल शारीरिक सजा या बच्चों के उत्पीड़न के मामले में शीघ्र कार्रवाई करेगा

के अलावा शिक्षक गंभीर मामला होने पर अपने प्रबंधन अथवा बच्चों के अभिभावकों को बुलाकर उन्हें समस्या से अवगत करा सकते हैं लेकिन शिक्षकों अथवा स्कूल स्टाफ को बच्चों को दंडित करने की सख्त मनाही होगी। आयोग ने दिशानिर्देश में बच्चों को कैसे कठिन परिस्थितियों में संभाले तथा क्या करें, इस बारे में भी विस्तार से जानकारी दी है। इस गाइड लाइन को लागू करने के लिए संबंधित शिक्षा बोर्डों को भी निर्देश दिए गए हैं। किसी भी स्कूल में बच्चों को शारीरिक रूप से दंडित करने की सूचना पर शिक्षा बोर्ड स्वतः संज्ञान लेकर मामले की जांच करा सकते हैं। जांच रिपोर्ट के आधार पर उन्हें भी स्कूल के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने का अधिकार होगा। दिशानिर्देश में कहा गया है कि गलती करने वाले बच्चे को शिक्षकों की मदद की जरूरत होती है न कि उन्हें दंडित किए जाने की।

Amar Ujala March 6, P.18

## निजी स्कूल बच्चों के लिए यातना घर

बच्चे कहते हैं

99% दंड मिलता ही है

81% कुछ नहीं आता

35% अपशब्द बोलते हैं टीचर

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसियां)। अमूमन यह माना जाता है कि देश के निजी स्कूल बच्चों के विकास और करियर को लेकर सरकारी स्कूलों से बेहतर होते हैं, लेकिन एक अध्ययन के अनुसार यह गलतफहमी है। इसमें कहा गया है कि निजी स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ सरकारी स्कूलों के मुकाबले ज्यादा क्रूर व्यवहार होता है।

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अध्ययन रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, 'यह माना जाता है कि निजी तौर पर संचालित स्कूलों में योग्य शिक्षक-शिक्षिकाएं होती हैं और ऐसे में निजी स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ क्रूर व्यवहार की आशंका कम होती है। इस

अध्ययन में यह मान्यता गलत साबित हुई है।' बाल आयोग की ओर से 2009-10 के दौरान सात राज्यों में सर्वेक्षण कराया गया। इस सर्वेक्षण में 6,632 छात्रों में से सिर्फ नौ ने ही कहा कि उन्हें उनके स्कूलों में किसी तरह की परेशानी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ा। बच्चों के साथ पशुसूचक शब्दों का भी इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इस तरह का व्यवहार निजी स्कूलों के 38.5 फीसदी लड़कों और 30.4 फीसदी लड़कियों के साथ होता है। वहीं केंद्र सरकार के अधीनस्थ स्कूलों में यह आंकड़ा 14.1 और 19.2 फीसद है। आयोग की ओर से कहा गया है, 'बच्चों के साथ अभद्र व्यवहार को लेकर सरकारी और निजी स्कूलों में कोई अंतर नजर नहीं आता।

दोनों तरह के स्कूलों में बड़े पैमाने पर बचपन की अनदेखी की जा रही है।' स्कूलों में बच्चों पर उनकी जाति एवं समुदाय पर आधारित अभद्र टिप्पणियां की जाती हैं। बच्चों को कई तरह के शारीरिक दंड के साथ भेदभाव का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिससे वे शारीरिक एवं मानसिक तौर पर परेशान रहते हैं। इस अध्ययन का मकसद यह पता करना था कि स्कूल में हर दिन बच्चों को किस तरह के शारीरिक एवं मानसिक दंड का सामना करना पड़ता है और इस समस्या को किस तरह से खत्म किया जा सकता है। इसमें कहा गया है, '99.86 बच्चों ने कहा कि उन्हें किसी न किसी तरह के दंड का सामना करना पड़ा है। 81.2 फीसद बच्चों ने कहा कि उन्हें कहा गया कि वे पढ़ने लिखने की क्षमता ही नहीं रखते।'

► स्कूलों में शारीरिक दंड पर एनसीपीसीआर ने जारी की रिपोर्ट

► निजी स्कूलों में बच्चों के साथ होती है अधिक क्रूरता  
► शारीरिक दंड पर दिशा निर्देश भी जारी किए आयोग ने

Rashtriya Sahara, March 6, P.11



# Strictures for schools

With an increasing number of incidents of schools practicing corporal punishment, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked schools to constitute special monitoring cells to take prompt action in cases of physical punishment or harassment of children.

The NCPCR guidelines on elimination of corporal punishment, unveiled here on Monday to mark the foundation day of the child rights panel, suggest that Corporal Punishment Monitoring Cells (CPMCs) should hear grievances related to corporal punishment, child sexual abuse, mental harassment and discrimination without any delay and should forward recommendations to district level authorities within 48 hours of the occurrence.

The panel has suggested that school boards should ask the schools affiliated to them to ensure a "corporal punishment-free environment". This would be one of the conditions for granting affiliation or recognition while practice of physical punishment or mental harassment should be one of the grounds for withdrawal of affiliation.

The guidelines suggest that school teachers should

provide a written undertaking that they would not engage in any action that could be construed as amounting to physical punishment, mental harassment or discrimination.

It also says that schools should have annual social

audits of physical punishment, harassment and discrimination. The guidelines suggest that results of the audit should be made public before start of every new academic year.

All school children should be informed through cam-

paigns and publicity drives that they have a right to speak against physical punishments, mental harassment and discrimination.

The NCPCR constituted comprehensive guidelines following a detailed study which was conducted in

2009-10 involving 6,632 children across seven States. The study showed that out of the 6,632 children, 6,623 children had reported experiencing some kind of punishment. As many as 81.2 per cent children had been subject to outward rejection by



should hold meetings with parent-teacher bodies on the guidelines and decide which procedures they should adopt to protect children and their rights in school.

Speaking on the occasion, the NCPCR chairperson, the NCPCR chairperson Shantha Sinha said that the "Commission has brought together some of the best minds and experts to draft its guidelines on corporal punishment."

*Hindee,  
March 7, P.6*

being told that they were not capable of learning or some other kind of verbal punishment.

Based on the findings of the report, NCPCR experts have formulated guidelines that stress on "positive engagement" with children.

The guidelines advise teachers to pay positive attention to children and appreciate good efforts while ignoring minor lapses. They also lay down that life skills education should be made a part of school curricula and should address issues of self esteem, aggression, drug abuse, decision making, coping with stress and others.

The guidelines also suggest that school authorities



## Uttar Pradesh: the end of status quo

If there is one enduring image from a road journey into the interiors of Uttar Pradesh, ignoring for a moment the visible poverty and bad roads, then it is that of the girl child going to school.

If you keep this image in mind while watching the electoral outcome being pronounced tomorrow, then the significance of the verdict will be of that much greater import.

The visible upswing of school-going girls—it is consistent with the 2011 census, which showed that female literacy jumped by 17.04 percentage points to 59.26% at the end of the last decade, and keeping with the younger demographic profile of the country—reflects the kind of structural change that the state, the most populous with 200 million people (more than Brazil, which is the fifth most populous country), is beginning to undergo. As Sikandre Azam, an assistant of the block resource committee based out of Tulsipur *tehsil* points out (see Page 4), it is partly a reflection of a mindset change.

Reading into the politics of the outcome runs the risk of reducing it to some simplistic conclusions—stinging defeat for Rahul Gandhi, Mayawati succumbing to an anti-incumbency wave, Akhilesh Yadav combining modern techniques to emerge as the youth leader, and so on. Actually, while these conclusions may or may not be off the mark, there is far more at stake. Instead, it should be viewed as another part of the process of transformation. And, that is the big message from the Uttar Pradesh electoral verdict: beginning of the end of status quo.

Uttar Pradesh is exactly where India was in the mid-1990s. Barring the faithful, no one believed India would realize its potential. The new millennium, however, saw a radical transformation of the Indian economy. According to the World Development Indicators published by the World Bank, the Indian economy nearly doubled from \$460 billion in 2000 to \$834 billion in 2005, and then yet again in the next five years to \$1.72 trillion in 2010—in short, it has grown nearly four times in the last decade.

It may sound very ambitious, but the transformation of Uttar Pradesh, albeit nascent, is visible in the tale of two villages, Ramwapur and Naikinya, in Balrampur district located in north Uttar Pradesh and bordering Nepal. Though similar in demography, they are both a study in contrast.

While Ramwapur represents hope, the latter represents the typical despair associated with a state that is often dismissively referred to as Bimaru (so called as they were considered the perennial laggard states—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh). The only thing common between them is aspiration, something they share with the rest of the country.

The transformation of Ramwapur was managed in the past 15 years, while Naikinya simply regressed over the same period. Consequently, the latter has seen an exodus of its younger demography, while the former has drawn 100 families from

other parts of the state as new residents. This is not an exception. Throughout the state *Mint's* reporters who have been on the election trail have returned with similar stories, suggesting that status quo is altering, albeit slowly.

Ramwapur's makeover began by rallying the entire village, which like everywhere else was divided along caste and communal lines. Consequently, they relied on using national milestones such as Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanti, instead of focusing on the religious festivals of the two dominant communities—Hindus and Muslims.

"It was not easy. We went about it progressively, used funds from the MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) to develop *bunds* (dams) and help the farmers. And also worked on developing community assets, including the creation of a water tank," says Mohammed Ayub Khan, an engineer at the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (state water supply) and whose wife, Rukhsana Khan, served as the head of the *panchayat* (village council) for two terms ending 2010.

Dr Mohammed Umar Khan, Rukhsana Khan's brother-in-law, was also active in the village's development activities. No doubt, the fact that the family is among the biggest land owners in the village, helped sustain the change. This included making the monitoring of the midday meal scheme more democratic through its monitoring by a village committee—ensuring not only attendance but also that teachers remained focused on the job of imparting education.

On the other hand, Naikinya, which is about 15km away, struggled over the same period as its livelihood was threatened. Progressive neglect of the Ganeshpur dam developed by the British nearly 80 years ago had led to silting and wear and tear, resulting in the tank unable to serve as a reservoir, lending a body blow to farmers spread out over 1,500 hectares, including those in Naikinya village, who were dependent upon it for irrigation water during winter.

An hour-long visit to the village revealed how the situation is so wretched, with residents focused only on themselves—making 18 written requests for BPL (below poverty line) cards, jobs, etc., in their cry for help—and ignoring the larger and more worrying collective problem of reviving the dam. Since the village falls in the vicinity of the Himalayan mountain

range, deep drilling of tubewells is also not possible, and hence, the farmers are totally dependent on

the monsoon, leaving them that much more vulnerable (another story as to how progressive administrations have ignored fixing the dam and gained political brownie points). Not surprisingly, the local government school, which has seen better times, is in utter neglect, and consequently suffering a very high dropout rate.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by Naikinya's story. But that would be ignoring the ability of Ramwapur to transcend similar challenges. These incremental stories are presumably contributing to the aggregate story, which has gone from abysmal to impressive. According to the state's Planning Commission data, the economy's growth rate is up from 2.2% in 2000-01 to 7.2% in 2008-09, higher than what is projected nationally for this fiscal.

It is this message of "Yes, we can" that holds out hope for the entire state and also the message the electorate is serving up to politicians. Business-as-usual is clearly unacceptable. Interpreting the verdict in this background is critical for this message not to be ignored. Any reductionist theories on the outcome would numb victor and vanquished. Uttar Pradesh is at a cusp where it needs both the government and a vibrant opposition to realize its potential.

Mint, March 5, p. 174



# After 350 yrs, school to admit girls

New Delhi: Winds of change are finally blowing through the corridors of historic Anglo Arabic Senior Secondary School at Ajmeri Gate in Old Delhi. After functioning as a boys' school for 350 years, it has decided to admit girls.

The managing committee of the school on Monday accepted a proposal to open the school to girls to make liberal education available to them. Started as madrasa Ghaziuddin, the school was converted into Anglo Arabic College by the British in 1828. Spread over nine acres, it currently provides education to 1,900 boys, mostly from the Walled City.

"The managing committee passed the proposal with an overwhelming majority. A committee has also been formed under Professor Azra Razzack to devise methodology of addressing concerns relevant to girl students," said M Atiyab Siddiqui, advocate and school manager. Vice-principal Isla-

muddin added, "The committee will look into setting up provision for safety and security of girl students as we have a large campus with other institutions also running from there." Though it's likely that girls will be admitted to the school from the coming session, the final decision depends on the report of the committee.

The school authorities had been debating for the past two to three years on whether it was time to start co-education in the school. Siddiqui remembered that it was with great difficulty that work in this direction could begin. One of the only three woman teachers in the school was asked to prepare a report on whether it is feasible to admit girl students. Faiza Nisar Ali, who teaches business studies in senior classes, spent three weeks talking to parents, teachers, educationists, psychologists and the existing students.

This report was tabled in the meeting held on Monday.

According to the Sacnar Committee report released in 2009, 68% Muslim girls went to school compared to 72% Dalit girls and 80% girls from other communities. Besides, 25% Muslim children

between 6 and 14 years had either never attended school or had dropped out.

"The school has necessary infrastructure in terms of buildings, classrooms and labs but the campus can be

organized well to ensure better discipline," Ali stated in the report, besides suggesting that a full-time principal should be appointed, CCTV cameras can be installed and to begin with, only 30-25% of

woman applicants should be admitted on merit basis. "Undoubtedly, the experiment will be quite successful and in the long-term interest of the school," the teacher's report said.

*Times of India, March 28, P.2*



# Toilets in Delhi Govt. schools in a mess, reveals survey

## “Dirty and insecure toilets force kids, especially girls, out of school”

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** A report on the condition of toilets in Delhi's government schools has painted a grim picture of neglect and apathy towards the lives and hygiene of lakhs of children.

The survey of the schools toilets was carried out by Alliance For People's Rights & its Associates, which has been working towards ground-level implementation of the newly-introduced Right to Education Act, 2009. The exercise was carried across 44 schools and 318 toilets were visited by the members of the group in January and February this year.

In its survey, carried out with support from Child Rights and You (CRY), the Alliance has noted with concern that in Delhi, the Capital of a "so-called fast-developing country", the government schools run with various dis-

crepancies and lack of basic amenities. It notes that in India education and school infrastructure have never been a major concern of the Government. As compared to other nations, India still lags behind on issues such as "in-school security, separate and clean toilets, supply of hygienic water and so on for its younger ones".

Open and insecure toilets, especially for the girl child, dirty toilets and absence of special toilets for disabled students often lead to many children remaining out of school, says the survey. Of the schools visited, 37 per cent did not have clean toilets and their toilets were spotted, ve-

ry dirty or in a condition which made them unusable for children. "Children of these schools have to urinate in the open. In such a situation, girl children have nowhere to go," the survey adds.

Fifteen per cent of the toilets covered were specially reserved for school staff and the students were prohibited from using them. As compared to toilets for the students, those for the staff were found to be cleaner. In the remaining 85 per cent schools, the staff and students shared common toilets.

Only in 39 per cent schools in the sample, the toilets were cleaned on a regular basis while a majority of 61 per cent

were either cleaned occasionally or twice or thrice a month. This despite most of them having a permanent cleaning staff.

The survey also revealed that around 24 per cent did not have a water supply in the washrooms while another 18 per cent received only unhygienic and dirty water. Likewise, in 21 per cent of the schools the toilets were found to possess infrastructural problems such as the sewerage lines being blocked, broken doors or cracked walls, all of which required immediate repairs. Many toilets did not even have mugs or buckets.

Noting that UN guidelines spell out that every child has the right to life and governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily, the report said the findings of the survey show that the dream of a "child-friendly state" is still distant.

- Of the schools covered, only in 39 per cent were the toilets cleaned on a regular basis
- 24 per cent did not have a water supply in washrooms, 18 per cent got dirty water

Hindu, March 30, P2

# निगम के 214 स्कूलों के पास भवन नहीं

नई दिल्ली, जागरण संवाददाता: राजधानी में प्राथमरी शिक्षा देने वाले निगम स्कूलों का बुरा हाल है। स्थिति यह है कि शौच, पोटा केबिन और अंधूरे भवनों में 214 स्कूल चल रहे हैं। भले ही निगम चलाने के लिए जनप्रतिनिधियों ने अरबों रुपये खर्च कर चमचमाता सिविक सेंटर तैयार कर लिया हो, लेकिन उन्होंने निगम स्कूलों की बदतर दशा को बेहतर बनाने में जरा भी दिलचस्पी नहीं ली। इसका नतीजा है कि अभी भी सैकड़ों स्कूल पूरी तरह से शौच, पोटा केबिन और अंधूरे भवन में संचालित किए जा रहे हैं। इसका खुलासा नगर निगम द्वारा आरटीआइ के तहत दिए गए जवाब से हुआ है। बता दें कि नगर निगम स्कूलों का यह हाल तब है, जब पिछले बजट में शिक्षा पर 1127 करोड़ रुपये खर्च

- सूचना के अधिकार का नून तहत मिले जवाब में नगम खुलासा
- शौच, पोटा केबिन और अंधूरे भवनों में भी चल रहे स्कूल

करने का प्रावधान किया गया था।

दिल्ली नगर निगम के पास जागरण संवाददाता ने आरटीआइ दाखिल किया। आरटीआइ में निगम से पूछा गया था कि उनके कितने स्कूल हैं और कितने स्कूल किस हालत में हैं। नगर निगम ने जो जवाब दिया वह देश की राजधानी में बेहतर सरकारी शिक्षा व्यवस्था पर सवालिया निशान लगा रहा है। निगम की ओर से उप निदेशक ने आरटीआइ का जवाब दिया।

उन्होंने बताया है कि निगम के पास कुल 1233 स्कूलों की जगह है। कुछ स्कूलों में दोनों पालियों में पढ़ाई होती है। दोनों पालियों में निगम के स्कूलों की वास्तविक संख्या 1729 है। 813 स्कूल पूर्ण रूप से पक्के भवन में चल रहे हैं। 81 स्कूल शौच और पोटा केबिन में संचालित किए जा रहे हैं। निगम के 133 स्कूल अंधूरे भवनों में चल रहे हैं।

जात हो कि दिल्ली नगर निगम के पास राजधानी की प्राथमरी शिक्षा (कक्षा-एक से कक्षा-पांच) की जिम्मेदारी है। बच्चों के लिए यह बर्ही समय होता है जब आगे की पढ़ाई के लिए उनकी नींव मजबूत की जाती है। लेकिन व्यवस्थाहीन स्कूलों में देश के नौनिहालों का क्या भविष्य सुरक्षित है, यह आज एक बड़ा प्रश्न है?

Jagaran City, March 20, PIV



## Several schools flout RTE Act, conduct screening tests for children below 14 years

**Shaswati Das**

shaswati.das@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The dust is yet to settle on the admission procedure and several schools have already begun to screen children — a violation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009.

As per the Act, children between the ages of six to 14 years cannot be subject to any form of screening.

Hassled parents, who wanted to change their children's school, have been forced to rethink their decision when their child's name did not figure in the list despite a screening procedure.

"We applied to Mother's International School for our son. They gave us a roll number and called us for an interaction on February 18. My son was tested on basic math, English, Hindi and story-telling," said Sapna Neghban, whose child will now go to class I.

The school authorities refuted such claims. "We do not con-



■ Many public schools are violating the RTE Act. SANJEEV VERMA/HT  
(PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

duct admission tests for children. There has been some miscommunication," said an official at the school.

But sources say that several other prominent public schools are conducting admission tests for children below 14 years.

"We will conduct a written test for all students seeking

admission from classes I to IX on March 18 for children of parents working in Defence Forces. We took this route as a lot of students have applied to the school and no one has suggested an alternative," said Brother Dominic Jacob, principal, Mount St Mary's school.

Principals and teachers have

reacted strongly to these schools conducting such tests.

"Schools have the option of conducting a lottery or following the system that was followed during the nursery admissions. But conducting tests is absolutely against the RTE Act," said Ameeta Watal, vice chairperson, National Progressive Schools Conference (NPSC).

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has received several complaints regarding such irregularities after parents took the matter to the Directorate of Education (DoE).

"Till November we had received close to 12,000 complaints and even now, complaints are pouring in. We will first assess the nature of the complaint and the action taken by the DoE and then take up the matter with the schools," said a DCPCR official.

However, before taking the matter to the DCPCR, parents must first approach the DoE.

*Hindustan times, March 12, P.2*



# Right to education fails to get pass marks, again

TEAM TOI

India's ambitious plan of seeing every child in school was short-changed in the Budget again.

While the finance minister set aside Rs 25,555 crore for implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, up by 21.7% from last year's Rs 21,000 crore, the allotment failed to enthuse experts. Describing the move as "disappointing", Vinod Raina—an architect of the RTE Act—said: "This year, there is once again a shortfall in funding a fundamental right. It shows how serious the government really is about the RTE (Act)."

March 2013 is the deadline for implementation of the first phase of the Act. "There is nothing in the Budget that says we are trying to rise to that," said Madhav Chavan, founder of Pratham, an NGO. The increase in funds for elementary education from Rs 29,000 crore to Rs 34,000 crore is thanks to an almost similar augmentation of the education cess, which is up from Rs 18,000 crore to Rs 21,670 crore.

There is, though, a silver lining for those pursuing higher education. A credit guarantee fund has been introduced for better access to education loans. According to bankers, a portion of their



SCHOOLS STILL OUT FOR MANY KIDS

interest earnings from education loans will go to the fund. If there is any default, they can recover their losses from the fund. SBI had reduced interest rates on education loans by one percentage point in February. Pratip Chaudhuri, chairman of SBI, had said banks had proposed such a fund that would encourage them to give education loans.

Low-profile agriculture universities and rural development schools benefited from some financial attention they got this year after premier institutions such as the IITs and IISc were bolstered by large one-time grant in previous Budgets.

Mukherjee gave Rs 25 crore to Institute of Rural

Management, Anand; Rs 50 crore each for a water quality centre with focus on arsenic contamination in Kolkata; University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad; Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar; and Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology. Besides, Rs 100 crore has been allocated to Kerala Agricultural University and Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad; Rs 15 crore to National Council for Applied Economic Research and Rs 10 crore each to Rajiv Gandhi University, Department of Economics, Itanagar, and Siddharth Vihar Trust, Gulbarga, for a Pali research centre.

*Times of India, March 17, P 8*

# West Bengal frames Right to Education rules

Two years after they were implemented in rest of India

Shiv Sahay Singh

**KOLKATA:** Nearly two years after the legislation was implemented in the rest of the country on April 1, 2010, the West Bengal Government has now framed rules for implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

In keeping with the provisions of the Act, the age of admissions to Class I across the State has been raised from the existing five years to six years.

"A Gazette notification on the legislation was issued on March 16," State School Education Department principal secretary Bikram Sen told *The Hindu* on Monday.

The notification specifies that the State Government will have to ensure the availability of a primary school (Classes I to IV) to a child within one km in rural areas and within half-a-km in the urban areas.

Similarly, every child in rural areas should have access to an upper primary school (Classes IV to VIII)

- Age of admissions to Class I raised from existing five years to six years as per Act's provisions

- "A Gazette notification on the legislation was issued on March 16"

within two km of his/her residence and one km in the urban areas.

The notification proposes to set up a Right to Education Protection Authority (REPA) in the State till the Government comes up with State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) to supervise the implementation of the Act in West Bengal.

The newly-framed rules also specify that the State Government, through local authorities like the panchayats and municipalities, will keep a record of all children from six years to 14 years to ensure that they are provided compulsory and free elementary education.

With the publication of the Gazette notification, the schools will have to ensure special training for children who have dropped out and are being admitted to a class

appropriate to their age.

Certain other provisions of the Act, like reimbursement of fees of children belonging to economically weaker sections to the school authorities by the State Government and withdrawal of recognition to schools if they do not abide by the Act, have also been incorporated in the newly-framed rules.

"Now that the rules have been framed, the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, have to be implemented and the State Government cannot run away from it," said National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) member Vinod Kumar Tiwari.

The NCPCR is the statutory body that monitors the implementation of the Act across the country.

*Hindu, March 27, P.7*



## भोजन की बर्बादी रोकने को बच्चों को पढ़ाया जाएगा पाठ

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। विवाह समारोह, पार्टियों में बने स्वादिष्ट व्यंजनों को बर्बादी से बचाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार देश भर के स्कूली बच्चों को एक नया पाठ पढ़ाएगी। प्राचीन काल से ही देश में अन्न की पूजा होती रही है। भारतीय पुराणों में खाद्य सामग्री को बर्बाद करना अन्न का अपमान माना गया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय प्राचीन धरोहर को नई पीढ़ी तक पहुंचाने के लिए खाद्यान्न की हिफाजत को पाठ्यक्रम का हिस्सा बनाएगी।

सूचना का अधिकार कानून के तहत दी गई जानकारी के मुताबिक मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय ने सभी राज्यों को खाद्य पदार्थों के सदुपयोग को पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने की हिदायत दी है। अनाज के भंडारण की कमी को लेकर दुनियाभर में भारत की प्रशासनिक क्षमता पर सवाल किए जा रहे हैं। एक तरफ देश के खलिहानों से निकला अनाज भंडारण की कमी के कारण खुले आसमान के नीचे बरसात में सड़ जाता है, वहीं गरीबी रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाले लाखों परिवारों को दो जून की रोटी मयस्सर नहीं हो पाती।

इस पृष्ठभूमि के साथ नौनिहालों के पाठ्यक्रम में इसे शामिल कर खाद्य पदार्थों के सही उपयोग की शिक्षा दी जाएगी। मंत्रालय के निर्देश पर एनसीईआरटी, सीबीएसई और राज्यों के शिक्षा बोर्ड इस विषय को पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने की कवायद में जुट गए हैं। सभी शिक्षा बोर्डों को माध्यमिक और उच्चतर माध्यमिक स्तर के स्कूलों की किताबों में शामिल करने की हिदायत दी गई है। सरकार का मानना है कि बाल्यकाल में दी गई शिक्षा का प्रभाव ज़िंदगी भर रहता है। अब यह राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यक्रम का हिस्सा होगी।

सरकारी और निजी कार्यक्रमों में डिनर या लंच के लिए बने भोजन को नुकसान से बचाने के लिए एनसीईआरटी और सीबीएसई ने कक्षा तीन

और चार में इसे पर्यावरण शिक्षा के पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने की सिफारिश की है।

कक्षा छह और नौ में विज्ञान की पाठ्य पुस्तकों में बच्चों को यह शिक्षा दी जाएगी। कक्षा दस और बारह में अनिवार्य विषय 'स्वास्थ्य एवं शारीरिक शिक्षा' में 'अन्न बचाओ' के नाम से पाठ पढ़ाया जाएगा। कई



► शादी-ब्याह और पार्टियों में बचा खाना गरीबों की मिटाएगा भूख

राज्यों ने पहले से ही खाद्य सामग्री के नुकसान के बचाव में नियम बनाए हैं। खाद्य मंत्रालय को एचआरडी ने इस संबंध में अभी तक उठाए गए कदमों की जानकारी देते हुए साफ किया है कि एनसीईआरटी, सीबीएसई इस मुद्दे को पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने के लिए रूपरेखा तैयार कर रहे हैं। जबकि कई राज्यों के बोर्ड इस मामले में केंद्र की योजना से इतेफाक नहीं रखते। भोजन एवं खाद्य की बर्बादी को रोकने के लिए शिक्षा मंत्रालय सभी राज्य सरकारों को माध्यमिक एवं उच्चतर माध्यमिक पाठ्यक्रम में शामिल करने के बारे में कदम उठाने को पहले ही कह चुका है। मिजोरम ने इस दिशा में पहल की है। इस राज्य ने मौजूदा शिक्षा सत्र से खाद्य बचाव के महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे को बच्चों की पुस्तकों में शामिल करने का निर्णय ले लिया है।

राष्ट्रीय हित में खाद्य मंत्रालय ने भी राज्य सरकारों से बच्चों को अनाज और भोजन को

नुकसान से बचाने का पाठ पढ़ाने की अपील की है। एक सर्वे के मुताबिक हर साल लगभग 40 प्रतिशत पका-पकाया भोजन देश में बर्बाद होता है। विवाह समारोह, पार्टियों और सरकारी कार्यक्रम सहित होटल- रेस्तरां आदि में बचे भोजन को खाली पेट तक पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था नहीं है। कुछ एनजीओ जरूर इस कल्याणकारी योजना को अंजाम दे रहे हैं। खाद्य मंत्रालय ने इसे अमलमें लाने के लिए एक 16 सदस्यीय अन्न स्तरीय समिति का गठन किया है।

*Rashtriya Sahara, March 18, P. 2*

# विशेष आवश्यकता वाले बच्चों को स्कूल पहुंचाएं : आशा हुड्डा

## ▶ राज्य स्तरीय सांस्कृतिक व खेल टूर्नामेंट

रोहतक, 30 मार्च (हप्र)। हरियाणा बाल कल्याण परिषद हरियाणा की उपाध्यक्षा एवं मुख्यमंत्री की धर्मपत्नी आशा हुड्डा ने अध्यापकों व आमजन का आह्वान किया है कि वे विशेष आवश्यकता वाले बच्चों की पहचान कर उन्हें स्कूलों में पहुंचाने का कार्य करें। वे शुक्रवार को स्थानीय छोटाराम स्टेडियम में जिला प्रशासन व सर्व शिक्षा अभियान द्वारा आयोजित दो दिवसीय राज्य स्तरीय सांस्कृतिक व खेल टूर्नामेंट के शुभारंभ अवसर पर मुख्यअतिथि के रूप में बोल रही थी।

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार द्वारा दी जाने वाली ऐसी सुविधाओं का लाभ हर बच्चे तक पहुंचाना चाहिए। उन्होंने विशेष आवश्यकता वाले बच्चों के शिक्षक

अध्यापकों को समझना कलें हुए कहा कि वे ऐसे बच्चों को अभिभावकों से भी ज्यादा सिखाते हैं और उन पर अधिक ध्यान देते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अभी भी काफी बच्चे स्कूलों से बाहर हैं। उन्होंने



रोहतक के छोटाराम स्टेडियम में जिला प्रशासन व सर्व शिक्षा अभियान द्वारा आयोजित दो दिवसीय राज्य स्तरीय सांस्कृतिक व खेल टूर्नामेंट के शुभारंभ अवसर पर बच्चों के बीच पहुंच उनका हालचाल पूछते हुए हरियाणा बाल कल्याण परिषद हरियाणा की उपाध्यक्षा आशा हुड्डा।

छाया : हप

आमजन से कहा कि वे ऐसे बच्चों की पहचान कर उन्हें स्कूल में पहुंचाने का संकल्प लें। उन्होंने अध्यापकों से भी कहा कि वे अध्यापन कार्य के साथ-साथ वर्क टाيم बनाकर ऐसे बच्चों की पहचान करे

और उनके माता-पिता को समझाकर बच्चों को स्कूलों में पहुंचाएं। सरकार द्वारा प्रदेश में शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने के साथ-साथ सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों व खेलों को भी बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। उन्होंने विशेष आवश्यकता वाले बच्चों से कहा कि वे अपने आप को कमजोर व असक्षम न समझें क्योंकि कोई भी व्यक्ति पूरी तरह सम्पूर्ण नहीं है हर व्यक्ति में कोई न कोई कमी है।

हरियाणा बाल कल्याण परिषद हरियाणा की उपाध्यक्षा इस राज्य स्तरीय प्रतियोगिता में विभिन्न जिलों से भाग लेने आए बच्चों से मिलकर उन्हें प्रोत्साहित व प्रेरित करते हुए आगे बढ़ने के लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं। उन्होंने विधिवत रूप से इस राज्य स्तरीय प्रतियोगिता का शुभारंभ किया। उनके समक्ष पानीपत व जौड़ की टीमों का मुक़ाबला करवाया गया। सर्व शिक्षा अभियान के निदेशक फंकज यादव ने मुख्यअतिथि का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि हर वर्ष स्कूल स्तर से राज्य स्तर पर यह प्रतियोगिता कराई जाती है।

*Dainik tribune, March 31, P.4*

## Appoint special teachers for disabled kids: HC

Harish V Nair

harish.nair@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** There's good news for private school students suffering from disabilities, especially auditory or visual impairment.

Making it must for all private schools to appoint at least two special educators to teach such kids, the Delhi High Court has asked the government to consider reimbursing the salaries that the schools and pay to teachers. The bench asked government lawyer Najmi Waziri to take instruction if the government was ready to reimburse the salary the schools would pay to teachers.

The court was hearing a PIL filed by NGO Social Jurist, which pointed out the lack of efforts by the government to bring such kids to the main-

There are over disabled two lakh kids in Delhi. Less than 1% are in school.

ASHOK AGGARWAL  
Lawyer, Social Jurist

stream system or provide them with proper educational environment. Its lawyer Ashok Aggarwal argued that despite the court order to appoint 3,000 special teachers two years ago, nothing much had been done and schools continued to turn away children with disabilities.

"There are over disabled two lakh children in Delhi. However, less than one per cent of these are in school. It is estimated, on the basis of the information collected, that hardly 1,000 such students study in 2,297 unaided and aided, private recognised schools," he said.

*Hindustan times, March 8, P.5*



# Give her a chance

Government of Maharashtra has stepped up its activities against the growing practice of female foeticide after the 2011 census threw up alarming data on the child sex ratio in the State. In association with UNFPA, it upped the frequency of raids and sealed several sonography centres. There is now a toll free helpline where complaints are registered and action initiated. But much more clearly needs to be done, says Dr Vibhuti Patel, Director, PGSR & Head, Dept of Economics, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.

"Both the rural and urban centres are not doing well. The bottom four districts are Beed, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar and Buldana," she says.

According to the 2011 census, Beed was the worst affected with a child sex ratio (CSR) of 801 as against 894 in the 2001 census. Jalna's

CSR was 847, a fall from 903 in 2001, whereas Aurangabad's was 848, a fall from 890 in the past decade. Similar to these three districts, 30 more districts out of the 35 in the State had registered a decline since the 2001 census of much more than the national average.

It has been admitted by the government that the cause of sharp decline in sex ratio was a rise in sex determination tests and sex-

lective abortions. They put sonography machine operators under a strict scanner. The campaign to 'Save the

Girl Child' was launched as a joint effort of the police, health and administrative officials.

A plan of action for the eight districts of Beed, Jalna, Aurangabad, Latur, Osmanabad, Nanded, Hingoli, and

Parbhani was chalked out in collaboration with voluntary organizations in the Marathwada region. Raids of diagnostic centres by the Implementation of Pre Natal and Pre conception diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act committee revealed large scale sex determination tests leading to selective abortion of female fetuses in Marathwada, Mumbai and Pune.

Although Beed is known for illegal sex-selective abortions, people from throughout the State went there, she says. People from western Maharashtra go to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Those who can afford it go abroad. There is a need for widespread vigilance and awareness, she adds.

*Hindu, March 8, P.6*

## Haryana plans tracking to curb female foeticide

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To check the menace of female foeticide in Haryana, infamous for its skewed sex ratio, the State Government has launched a tracking system in Sirsa district on a pilot basis.

All the 45 ultrasound centres would be equipped with tracking system in Sirsa, and a control room would be set up at a cost of ₹10 lakh to monitor this system and to check the killing of girl child, a Government spokesperson said.

Earlier the system was also adopted in Jhajjar district. "The system was first introduced in Kolhapur in Maharashtra and was thereafter successfully adopted in Jhajjar district of Haryana,"

spokesman of Sirsa district administration said.

The tracking system would maintain record of the ultrasound centres in addition to the health reports of the pregnant women. Owners of the ultrasound centres will have to get the tracking system installed within one month, he said.

The system would facilitate the concerned team of the district administration in keeping an eye on the ultrasound centres. The control of tracking system would be set up in the office of chief medical officer. The step was taken in Jhajjar after the last census figures (2010) showed the district to be having the worst sex ratio in the country with 774 girls per 1,000 boys in the 0-6 age group.

*Pioneer, March 16, P.4*



# आज भी उदास है बेटी!

► श्याम माथुर

महिलाओं की बेहतरी का दम भस्ने वाले लोगों को शायद यह रिपोर्ट परेशान करे कि हमारे देश में आज भी लड़कियों के साथ अच्छा बर्ताव नहीं किया जाता। हाल ही 'न्यूजवीक' पत्रिका ने 165 देशों में लड़कियों की स्थिति को लेकर एक सर्वे किया। इसमें भारत को काफी नीचे, 141 वें स्थान पर रखा गया है। 'न्यूजवीक' ने लड़कियों के लिए 'अच्छे और खराब स्थानों' को लेकर सर्वे किया। सर्वे में यह देखा गया कि किस देश में बेटियों को कैसे अधिकार दिए गए हैं और वहां महिलाओं के जीवन का स्तर कैसा है? आइसलैंड को लड़कियों के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त देश बताया गया है। कनाडा, डेनमार्क और फिनलैंड उसके बाद आते हैं।

एशियाई देशों में फिलीपींस एकमात्र ऐसा देश है जो टॉप 20 में है। भारत को काफी नीचे रखा गया है। 165 देशों की सूची में भारत 141 वें स्थान पर है। अफसोस की बात तो यह है कि बांग्लादेश, नेपाल, भूटान, म्यांमार, श्रीलंका और चीन जैसे देश महिला

अधिकारों और उनकी देखभाल के मामले में भारत से बेहतर आंके गए हैं।

सरकार ने लड़कियों की शिक्षा के लिए 'तमाम योजनाएँ बनाई हैं। जैसे—घरों के पास स्कूल खोलना, स्कॉलरशिप देना, मिड डे मिल चलायाना और समाज में जागरूकता बढ़ाना। इसके अलावा ग्रामीण और गरीब लड़कियों के लिए कई ब्रिज कोर्स चलाए गए हैं। बीते 3 सालों में प्राथमिक स्तर पर 2000 से अधिक आवासीय स्कूल मंजूर हुए हैं। राष्ट्रीय बालिका शिक्षा कार्यक्रम के तहत 31 हजार आदर्श स्कूल खुले जिसमें 2 लाख शिक्षकों को विशेष ट्रेनिंग दी गई। इन सबका मकसद शिक्षा व्यवस्था को लड़कियों के अनुकूल बनाना है। लेकिन बेहतर शिक्षा आज भी एक सपना ही है। ऐसी महत्त्वपूर्ण योजनाएँ सरकारी स्कूलों के भरोसे हैं। लड़कियों की बड़ी संख्या इन्हीं स्कूलों में है। इसलिए स्कूली व्यवस्था में सुधार से लड़कियों की

स्थितियाँ बदल सकती हैं।

चाहे पढ़ाई-लिखाई हो या खेल-कूद और अन्य सुविधाओं का मामला, दीवार के इस तरफ खड़ी भारतीय लड़कियाँ अपनी अलग पहचान के लिए लगातार जुड़ रही हैं। हमारा समाज भी उन्हें बेटी, बहन, पत्नी, अम्मा या अम्मी के दायरों से बाहर निकालकर नहीं देखना चाहता। दरअसल इस गैरबराबरी को लड़कियों की कमी नहीं,

बल्कि उनके खिलाफ मौजूद हालात के तौर पर देखना चाहिए। आज भी ज्यादातर लड़कियों के लिए शिक्षा का मतलब केवल साक्षर बनाने तक ही है। लड़कियों की शिक्षा को लेकर रचनात्मक तरीके से सोचना जरूरी है।

गांधीजी ने कहा था कि एक महिला को पढ़ाओगे, तो पूरा परिवार पढ़ेगा। उन्होंने 23 मई, 1929 को 'यंग इंडिया' में लिखा कि जरूरी

यह है कि शिक्षा प्रणाली को दुरुस्त किया जाए। उसे आम जनता को ध्यान में रखकर बनाया जाए। गांधीजी मानते थे कि ऐसी शिक्षा होनी चाहिए जो लड़के-लड़कियों को खुद के प्रति उत्तरदायी बनाए और एक-दूसरे के प्रति सम्मान की भावना पैदा करे। लड़कियों के भीतर अनुचित दबावों के खिलाफ विद्रोह पैदा हो। महिलाओं की अलग पहचान के लिए भारतीय शिक्षा पद्धति, शिक्षक और पाठ्यक्रमों को कार्यप्रणाली पर नए सिरे से सोचना भी जरूरी है।

हालांकि सरकार ने लड़कियों के हकों की खातिर सशक्तीकरण के लिए शिक्षा का नारा दिया है। लेकिन नारा जितना आसान है, लक्ष्य उतना ही मुश्किल हो रहा है। आज भी देश में 50 फीसदी लड़कियाँ स्कूल नहीं जाती। जनगणना रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत की 49.46 करोड़ महिलाओं में से सिर्फ 53.67 फीसदी साक्षर हैं।

मतलब 22.91 करोड़ महिलाएँ निरक्षर हैं। एशिया महाद्वीप में भारत को महिला साक्षरता दर सबसे कम है। फ्राई के मुताबिक भारत में 5 से 9 साल की 53 फीसदी लड़कियाँ पढ़ना नहीं जानतीं। इनमें से ज्यादातर रोटी के चक्कर में घर या बाहर काम करती हैं। यहां वह यौन-उत्पीड़न या दुर्व्यवहार की शिकार बनती हैं। 4 से 8 साल के बीच 19 फीसदी लड़कियों के साथ बुरा व्यवहार होता है। इसी तरह 8 से 12 साल की 28 फीसदी और 12 से 16 साल की 35 फीसदी लड़कियों के साथ भी ऐसा ही होता है। राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकार्ड ब्यूरो के अनुसार महिला शोषण, बलात्कार और दहेज प्रथा से जुड़े मुकदमों की तादाद देश में सालाना एक लाख से ऊपर है।

अमेरिका में यूनिवर्सल सोसाइटी ऑफ हिंदूज्म के अध्यक्ष राजन जेद के मुताबिक भारत आर्थिक रूप से वैश्विक ताकत बनने की राह पर है, लेकिन अधिकतर महिलाएँ इस बदलाव से अछूती हैं।

दुनियाभर में महिलाओं की स्थिति को लेकर हाल ही में संयुक्त राष्ट्र की भी एक रिपोर्ट आई। उस रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारत में महिलाओं की स्थिति बेहतर नहीं है। भारत में अब भी 39 फीसदी महिलाएँ और पुरुष पत्नी की पिटाई को सही ठहराते हैं। शारीरिक हिंसा का शिकार होने वाली महिलाओं में से सिर्फ 35 फीसदी ही पुलिस रिपोर्ट दर्ज कराती हैं।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के मुताबिक प्रसव के दौरान होने वाली मौतों को रोकने के लिए भारत कदम उठा रहा है, लेकिन वह बादा से काफी पीछे है। भारत में आम लोग स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के लिए सरकारी अस्पतालों पर निर्भर रहते हैं। गांवों और छोटे शहरों में प्रसव के दौरान महिलाएँ सरकारी अस्पतालों पर निर्भर रहती हैं। लेकिन कई जगहों पर अस्पताल नाम की चीज ही नहीं है। ज्यादातर सरकारी अस्पतालों में डॉक्टरों, कमरों और अत्याधुनिक मशीनों की कमी है। जंग खाई हुई मशीनें हर किसी की निगाह में आ ही जाती हैं। कुछ गैर सरकारी संगठन कहते हैं कि सरकार सरकार अस्पतालों के प्रति गंभीर नहीं है।

*Dainik tribune, March 17, P.8*



## महिलाओं ने भ्रूण हत्या के विरोध में आवाज बुलंद की

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 7 मार्च। जब तक भ्रूण हत्या का सिलसिला पूरी तरह खत्म नहीं हो जाता, तब तक महिलाओं की तरक्की का कोई मायने नहीं है। यह बात अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर बुधवार को इक राहत फाउंडेशन की ओर से पश्चिम विहार में आयोजित एक समारोह में भाटिया ग्लोबल अस्पताल की निदेशक डा इंदू भाटिया ने कही। उन्होंने महिलाओं को आश्वासन दिया कि ये भ्रूण हत्या के लिए परिवार और पति के दबाव में न आएँ और परिणाम की बगैर परवाह किए इसका डट कर मुकाबला करें।

इसके पहले फाउंडेशन की अध्यक्ष पूजा कालरा ने कहा कि स्त्रियों को केवल अपने परिवार में ही नहीं रमना चाहिए, उन्हें सार्वजनिक कार्यों के लिए भी समय निकालना चाहिए। कालरा ने कहा कि ऐसा करने से महिलाएं जहां शोषण से मुक्त हो सकेंगी, वहीं देश-दुनिया में हो रहे बदलावों से भी अवगत हो सकेंगी। महिला दिवस को हर एक महिलाओं के लिए आत्मसम्मान का दिवस बताते हुए मनोवैज्ञानिक उपचार के क्षेत्र में सक्रिय अनिता मिश्र ने महिलाओं को साइको थेरेपी का लाभ उठाने की जरूरत बताई। इनके अलावा डा पूनम पसरोचा, शालिनी मिश्र, माला वोहरा, दिव्या, गीता, किरण मिश्रा, शैलेश और भारतेश ने भी अपने विचार रखे। समारोह के आखिर में महिलाओं ने नृत्य और गाने के माहौल में अपनी स्वतंत्रता का उत्सव मनाया।

*Jansatta, March 8, P4*

## कन्या भ्रूण हत्या गोष्ठी में 55 शोध पत्र प्रस्तुत

गुडगांव, 29 मार्च (हप्र)। द्रोणाचार्य राजकीय महाविद्यालय गुडगांव में तीन दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय सेमीनार सम्पन्न हो गया। इस सेमीनार में 105 प्रतिभागियों ने विभिन्न महाविद्यालयों से भाग लिया व 55 शोध पत्र प्रस्तुत किये।

इस सेमीनार में प्रतिभागी उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय जामिया मिलिया विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली इंद्रप्रस्थ यूनिवर्सिटी दिल्ली, जेएनयू दिल्ली, डा. अम्बेडकर यूनिवर्सिटी दिल्ली, केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय लखनऊ, आईटीएम यूनिवर्सिटी, महर्षि दयानन्द यूनिवर्सिटी सहित अन्य महाविद्यालयों व विश्वविद्यालयों ने भाग लिया।

इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि मौलाना आजाद मैडिकल कालेज दिल्ली के डा. जुगल किशोर और कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता एसोसिएट प्रो. पुष्पा अंतिल ने की। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि डा. जुगल किशोर ने कहा कि पहले हम अपने न्याय को बदले तभी समाज बदल सकता है।

*Dainik Tribune, March 30, P4*

## महिलाएं बढ़ीं पर बच्चियां घटीं

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसियां)। वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना भले ही 2001 के मुकाबले पुरुष-महिला लिंग अनुपात के मामले में प्रति हजार पुरुष पर महिलाओं का आंकड़ा सात अंक सुधारकर 933 की बजाय 940 दर्शाता हो, लेकिन आने वाले एक दशक में इस संख्या में लगभग 13 अंक की गिरावट की आशंका भी है।

जनगणना 2011 के अस्थायी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक, 2001 में प्रति एक हजार पुरुष पर 933 महिलाएं थीं, जो 2011 में बढ़कर प्रति एक हजार पुरुष पर 940 महिला हो गईं यानी दस साल में सात अंक की बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई।

इसी तरह आंकड़े ये भी कहते हैं कि छह वर्ष तक के बच्चे बच्चियों के वर्ग में 2001 का आंकड़ा जहां प्रति हजार बच्चों पर 927 बच्चियों का था, वह 2011 में 13 अंक घटकर प्रति हजार बच्चों पर 914

बच्चियां रह गया। इसी गणना को आधार बनाए तो पुरुष और महिला लिंग अनुपात में 2011 में दर्ज किए गए सुधार के बाद उसके अगले एक दशक में वापस 2001 की स्थिति में लौटने की आशंका है।

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण राज्य मंत्री सुदीप बंदोपाध्याय ने सोमवार को लोकसभा में बताया कि बच्चियों की संख्या में कमी की वजह लोगों का पुत्र को तरजौह देना है। इसके अलावा सामाजिक एवं वित्तीय सुरक्षा के पहलू भी हैं। उन्होंने सैदुल हक, भूदेव चौधरी,

बोचा झांसी लक्ष्मी, जोस के मणि, ज्योति धुवे, एनएसवी चित्थन, रमाशंकर राजभर, सी राजेंद्रन, दत्ता मेघे, डी वी चंद्रगौडा, किरोट प्रेमजीभाई सोलंकी, स मनोप तिवारी, हरसिमरत कौर बादल, पीनम प्रभाकर, के सुभाकरन और मोना सिंह के सवालों के लिखित जवाब में यह जानकारी दी।

► बच्चियों की संख्या में कमी की वजह लोगों का पुत्र को तरजौह देना

*Rashtriya Sahara, March 27, P11*



# Right to life, not to be loved?

Siddhi Srivastava

According to Census 2011, the sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 has fallen alarmingly. There are only 914 girls for 1,000 boys now against 927 in 2001. Every year in the past decade, 60,000 girls did not see the light of day. Let's not oversimplify this complex issue by expecting a law like the PC and PNDT - Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection Act) - to instil morality in people.

The PNDT Act, if implemented strictly, might curb female foeticide but not female infanticide. It cannot stop parents from throwing their daughter in the dustbin or throttling or starving her to death. It cannot stop parents, especially in rural areas, from abandoning their daughters in crowded places like Kumbh Mela or at railway stations, only to be kidnapped by goons and then injected with hormones to attain adolescence faster and made into prostitutes.

Parents who are not as ghastly find other ways of making their daughters feel how unwanted they are. Manifestations of discrimination

**It is better to be the daughter of a pig or a cockroach or even an amoeba in the next birth than being the daughter of a killer dad.**

include sending their son to a convent school and daughter to the vernacular medium schools; or letting their son watch TV, listen to loud music or party during the daughter's exams, but not allowing her 'chattering' friends home to ensure a peaceful study environment for their *laadla* during his exams. A law can only make sure that the parents don't kill their daughter. It cannot force them to love her.

After all, weren't those six lakh-odd girls who did not take birth in the last decade lucky? If their parents did not even want them to be born, what kind of a life would they have had after birth?

It is believed in the Hindu mythology that the soul gets a human form after 84 crore births. But it is better to be the daughter of a pig or a cockroach or even an amoeba in the next birth than being the daughter of a killer dad. Such parents deserve to be kicked out of their own house

to an old-age home by their daughter-in-law who, by the way, might bring home her own parents, all with the consent of her 'loving and supporting husband.'

Nature gives a father an opportunity to pay back the debt he owes to womankind. He could do this by showering the same love and affection on his daughter, the way his mother (who was also somebody's daughter) treated him. But unfortunately, some men are so blind, ungrateful and undeserving that they turn their backs on this honour.

Sometimes, one wonders what is the purpose of such a hypocritical piece of legislation that begs for a girl's right to live. If people don't want their daughters, let them not have her, even if it means a deteriorating societal balance. Let society bear the brunt of its traditions and sick mindset, not the girl by being an unwanted child. So what if there are so fewer women left that there will be

need for polyandry? Let there be not five husbands but seven per woman. Let men pay dowry to marry women. Let men live a disorderly life and find their own files, pen-drives and spectacles; and even their peace of mind and purpose of life, for that matter.

But, then, are women so weak as not to make their way through such adversities and injustices and live successful and purposeful lives? After all, God gave woman the unique gift of creating a life in view of her ability to tolerate pain and suffering. Let society be as unjust as it can to women. They will find their way through, as they have always found.

It is the educated, enlightened women who have had an opportunity to carve a niche for themselves in their chosen field who will change the mindset of society, so that their parents are proud and envy-evoking. These women have an obligation to be a role model for the millions of less fortunate girls to fight their way to the top.

*Hindu, March 18, P. 11.*

## पुरुष-महिला लिंग अनुपात सुधरा मगर बच्चों में बिगड़ा

नई दिल्ली, 26 मार्च (भाषा)। 2011 की जनगणना भले ही 2001 के मुकाबले पुरुष-महिला लिंग अनुपात के मामले में प्रति हजार पुरुष पर महिलाओं का आंकड़ा सात अंक सुधर कर 933 की बजाय 940 दर्शाती हो लेकिन आने वाले एक दशक में इस संख्या में लगभग 13 अंक की गिरावट की आशंका भी है।

जनगणना 2011 (अस्थायी आंकड़े) के मुताबिक 2001 में प्रति एक हजार पुरुष पर 933 महिलाएं थीं, जो 2011 में बढ़ कर प्रति एक हजार पुरुष 940 महिला हो गईं यानी दस साल में सात अंक की

बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई।

इसी तरह आंकड़े ये भी बताते हैं कि छह वर्ष तक के बच्चे बच्चियों के वर्ग में 2001 का आंकड़ा जहां प्रति हजार बच्चों पर 927 बच्चियों का था, वह 2011 में 13 अंक घट कर प्रति हजार बच्चों पर 914 रह गया।

इसी गणना को आधार बनाए, तो पुरुष और महिला लिंग अनुपात में 2011 में दर्ज किए गए सुधार के अगले एक दशक में वापस 2001 की स्थिति में लौटने की आशंका है।

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण राज्य मंत्री

सुदीप बंदोपाध्याय ने सोमवार को लोकसभा को बताया कि बच्चियों की संख्या में कमी की वजह लोगों का पुत्र को तर्जौह देना है। इसके अलावा सामाजिक और वित्तीय सुरक्षा के पहलु भी हैं।

उन्होंने सैदुल हक, भूदेव चौधरी, बोचा झांसी लक्ष्मी, जोस के मणि, ज्योति धुवे, एनएसवी चित्थन, रमाशंकर राजभर, सी राजेंद्रन, दत्ता मेघे, डीवी चंद्रगौड़ा, किरोट प्रेमजी भाई सोलंकी, मनीष तिवारी, हरसिमरत कौर बादल, पोन्नम प्रनाकर, के सुधाकरन और मोना सिंह के सवालों के लिखित जवाब में यह जानकारी दी।

*Jansatta, March 27, P. 9*



# Sex ratio dips to a new low in 'vibrant' Gujarat

AVINASH NAIR

AHMEDABAD, MARCH 20

THE girl child seems to be disappearing from the progressive and urban areas of Gujarat. The urban centres of Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Surat, Kutch, Rajkot and Jamnagar districts — that account for 70% of the investments that flowed into Gujarat during the past one decade — have emerged as centres of female foeticide.

According to the Census 2011 figures, the sex ra-

tio is the most skewed against females in the top urban centres of the state. Among all the 26 districts, the ratio is the lowest in Surat, the diamond and textile hub where there are only 788 females to every 1,000 males. In 2001, it was 810.

In Surat, the urban population has grown by 65% since 2001. Today, 48 lakh of its 60 lakh population lives in urban areas. But the sex ratio in urban Surat is just 757, way below the national average of 940

females per 1,000 males.

The situation is no better in Kutch, one of the

rapidly industrialising districts of the state.

From 942 females per 1,000 males in 2001, the figure has come down to 907 in 2011 in this district, where urban population has grown by 52% in the last 10 years.

As a whole, Gujarat has seen its urban population grow by almost 35% between 2001-11, against the national average of 31% for the same period. However, urbanisation has not helped stem the falling sex ratio.

Apart from Kutch and Surat, the districts of Mehsana, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Amreli and Bhavnagar have all seen a drop in sex ratio, especially in their urban areas.

For instance, Rajkot registered a 25% growth in its urban population while its rural population grew only by 19% between 2001-11. However, the district has just 908 females

per 1,000 males in the urban areas, compared to 946 in its villages.

According to Associ-

ated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), some districts in Gujarat have been ahead in attracting investments to the state. In the past decade, a total of 1,445 projects, worth Rs 13.4 lakh crore, flowed into Gujarat.

Around 70% investments were cornered by six districts of Kutch, Jamnagar, Ahmedabad, Bharuch, Surat and Bhavnagar, according to an Assocham study conducted in 2011.

*Indian Express,  
March 21, p.6.*

## Enhancing institutional care

- Aarti Dhar

Concerned over the abuse and neglect of children living in child care institutes across the country, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has asked the States to conduct a survey of all such institutions, including orphanages at the district level to ensure that these are registered as mandated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The States have been asked to submit their report to the Ministry within a month.

The Centre has also proposed to amend the JJ Act to include strict penal provision for non-registration and repealing the older existing laws like the Women and Children Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956 and Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Act, 1960 under which child care institutions were licensed and have so far evaded registration under the JJ Act, 2000. The State has also been asked for their views on these issues.

In a letter sent to all State governments, the Union Women and Child Development Ministry has pointed out that differently-abled children were also living in such child care institutions, many of which are also run by religious and charitable institutions, and that this should also be reviewed.

Section 34(3) of the JJ Act provides for mandatory registration of child care institutions housing children in need of

care and protection with the intent of enforcing minimum standards of care for services provided to the children in these homes. The JJ Act also provides for stringent monitoring of the quality of services. "It is for this reason that this Ministry has been persistently urging the State governments and Union Territories to identify and register all child care institutions under the JJ Act. However, progress in this regard has been very slow," Women and Child Development Ministry said in its letter to the States.

To ensure that children in child care institutions receive the best of care, and are not subject to abuse and neglect, it is imperative that all the homes running in your States housing children in need of care and protection are identified and registered under the JJ Act, the letter said.

The Ministry has also asked the States to issue public advertisements to draw the attention of all organisations running facilities for children in need of care and protection towards their obligation to register under the JJ Act.

"Simultaneously, surveys may be conducted at the district level to identify such homes that are not registered and the organisation may be urged to register under the JJ Act failing which their registration, recognition or license issued under any other legislation may be withdrawn and the children shifted to any other residential homes under the JJ Act," the letter said.



*Hindu, March 23, p. 8*



# Early Childhood Care and Education Policy proposed

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** With the aim of providing integrated services for the holistic development of all children from the prenatal period to six years, the government has proposed a National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy that lays down the way forward for a comprehensive approach towards ensuring a sound foundation for every child. India has 158.7 million children in the 0-6 age group as per the 2011 Census.

Broadly, the policy focuses on re-structuring the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and integrating early childhood education with the Right to Education Act to ensure a smooth transition into formal schooling. All service providers will have to be registered with the State governments to ensure quality of services provided.

Early childhood is acknowledged as the most crucial period in a person's life, when the rate of development is very high and foundations are laid

for cumulative lifelong learning and human development. There is growing scientific evidence that the development of the brain in the early years is a pathway that affects physical and mental health, learning and behaviour throughout the life cycle.

Despite the existence of multiple service provisions, there is no reliable data available about the actual number of children attending the existing ECCE provisions and their break-up as per the delivery of services. Of the 158.7 million children in the below-six-years category, about 75.7 million children – 48 per cent – are reported to be covered under the ICDS scheme. Broad estimations indicate that a significant number is also covered by the private sector, besides some limited coverage by the NGO sector, for which there is no data available.

The quality of non-formal preschool or early childhood care and education imparted through these multiple channels is uneven, and varies from a minimalist approach to a mushrooming of accelerated

academic programmes. This is largely an outcome of an inadequate understanding of the concept of ECCE, its philosophy and its importance among all stakeholders. This – coupled with inadequate institutional capacity in the system and an absence of standards, regulatory norms and mechanisms as well as a lack of understanding of the basic premise of ECCE – has aggravated the problem, observes the draft policy put out by the Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry.

This ECCE policy will cover all early childhood care and education programmes and related services in public, private and voluntary sectors in all settings across regions. These services include anganwadis (AWC), crèches, play schools, preschools, nursery schools, kindergartens, preparatory schools, balwadis, and home-based care.

The policy seeks to universalise the provision of ECCE for all children, mainly through the ICDS scheme in the public sector and other service provisions across sys-

tems. The Anganwadi Centre would be repositioned as a "vibrant child-friendly Early Childhood Development Centre" with adequate infrastructure and resources for ensuring a continuum of the ECCE in a life-cycle approach and child-related outcomes. Conversion of AWCs into AWCs-cum-crèches with a planned early stimulation component and interactive environment for children below 3 years will be piloted. Young children with different abilities would be reached out to. Service-delivery models will be experimented for family, community, and NGOs.

To standardise the quality of ECCE available to children, basic quality standards and specifications will be laid down valid across public, private and voluntary sectors. A Regulatory Framework for the ECCE to ensure basic quality inputs and outcomes, across all service providers undertaking such services, will be progressively evolved at the national level and implemented by States in the next five years.

*Hindia, March 26, P.5*

# Poor kids in urban India not better off

**NEW DELHI:** The poor children in urban India are no better than their rural counterparts when it comes to health standards, education facilities and other essential parameters, suggests the latest Unicef report.

With 40 per cent of India's population projected to be living in urban areas by 2026, the Unicef suggested that poor children in cities and towns should be given utmost importance in urban planning.

People migrating from villages for a better living have been betrayed as their children continue to live in deprivation in urban slums, said Representative of Unicef to India, Karin Holsof, while releasing 'The state of the world's children 2012' report here.

"We now see how a child growing up in an urban poor environment has similar challenges as a child in rural India

when it comes to her or his health, nutrition, access to water and sanitation, education and protection," Holsof said.

Children born in urban slums faces similar hardships as those in rural India, be it dying young, being underweight or anaemic or being married off before turning 18, she said.

"Unfortunately, for the urban poor child, the situation is most of the time not as visible and gets diluted by a much rosier picture of urban life and opportunities. Great inequities are found within towns and cities, where great opportunity and great deprivation exist side by side," she added.

According to the Unicef report, out of the 377 million strong urban population, 97 million are poor. One in every three persons in urban areas is a migrant. 59 per cent of them have migrated from rural areas.

The country has 49,000 slums spread across cities and towns. 70 per cent of the total slums are concentrated in five states-Maharashtra (35%), Andhra Pradesh (11%), West Bengal (10%), Tamil Nadu and Gujarat (7%). People here live in diverse settlements, ranging from pavements to makeshift living spaces at construction sites, urban fringes, authorised and unauthorised slums.

To start with, the report insists that more focused and accurate data will be required to help identify disparities among children in urban areas and how to bridge them. The shortage of such data proves such issues are neglected.

"With the projected growth of urban population in India in the next 15 years to cross half a billion, we need to better understand the situation of children living in this rapidly growing urban environment," Holsof said.

Addressing the event, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Chairperson Shanta Sinha said that there was need to completely abolish child labour in India across all sectors and this would require amendment to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.

"We have already moved on it and we have written letters to Law, Labour and Women and Child Development ministries, to the Prime Minister's Office and the National Advisory Council (NAC). I think they are taking up the matter," she added.

**DH News Service**

*Deccan herald,  
March 1, 13*



# All is not well for kids in India

ANNAPURNA JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the high GDP growth and rapid development, the condition of children in India is still deplorable as 72 per cent of those living in rural areas suffer from anemia while 46 per cent are underweight, according to a UNICEF report.

The condition of children living in 50,000 urban slums is also not better as 71 per cent of them suffer from anemia and 46 per cent are underweight. India's record in Infant Mortality is also shameful as IMR 62 in rural areas while for urban slums it is 55, the 'The State of the World's Children 2012: Children in an Urban World' report released on Wednesday pointed out.

It also brings out stark reality that despite living in big cities, slum dwelling children have inadequate access to



**UNICEF REPORT SHOWS STARK DISPARITY IN WEALTH, HEALTH**

nutrition, health, water and sanitation facilities making them vulnerable.

Significantly, Mumbai — India's financial capital and one of the biggest and richest cities of the world — has the dubious distinction of having the highest proportion and absolute number of slum dwellers. Nearly 60 per cent of Mumbai's slum population lives in 8 per-

cent of land. The sanitation conditions, health facilities, infant mortality rate (IMR) is very dismal, said S. Parasuraman, director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai.

In fact, 70 per cent of slums in India is concentrated in five States of Maharashtra (35%), Andhra Pradesh (11%), West Bengal (10%), Tamil Nadu and Gujarat (7%). According to Census 2011, urban population in India is around 377 million (nearly 30 per cent) and by 2026, this will grow up to 40 per cent — totaling to an estimated 535 million people — who will be living in towns and cities.

At present approximately 93 million people are living in slums in the country and their number is increasing due to migration from rural to urban areas in search of jobs, but infrastructure and services are not-keeping with the needs of the urban growth.

"A child born in a slum in urban India is as likely to die before her or his first birthday, to become underweight or anemic or to be married before her 18th birthday, as a child in rural India," pointed out Karin Hulshof, UNICEF's India representative. Unfortunately for the urban poor child, the situation is most of the time not as visible and gets diluted by the much rosier picture of urban life and opportunities, she pointed out.

The report has also pointed out the disparity faced by girl child in India. It pointed out that 48 per cent of married women in age group of 20 to 24 years revealed that they were married before 18 years, the legal age for marriage. Also only 43 per cent women in rural areas have the safe delivery facilities which was 53 per cent for slum dwellers and 76 for urban women.

*Pioneer, March 1, P.5*

## Rural poor in India better off than urban poor, says Unicef study

**NEW DELHI:** Poor households of urban India are emerging hotspots for hunger and ill-health, and children there live in worse conditions than in rural areas, says a new UN report released on Wednesday.

The UNICEF report — State of the World's Children 2012 — says that like most parts of the world, children living in around 49,000 slums in India are "invisible". Half of these slums are in five states — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

"The notion that even 'poor' in urban areas is better is not correct," said Kanchan Dyuti Maiti, social policy planning and evaluation specialist at UNICEF's India office.

In India, around 377 million live in urban areas of which around 97 million are poor as per the Planning Commission's poverty estimate.

The report also quoted a 2005-06 survey of eight Indian cities to state that 54% of the poorest children were found to be stunted as compared to 33%

	URBAN POOR	RURAL POOR
Infant mortality rate	55 per 1,000 live births	62 per 1,000 live births
Anaemia in children	71%	72%
Anaemia in women	59%	57%
Malnutrition	47%	46%
Declining child sex ratio	high	low
Child marriage	48%	48%
Access to safe delivery	53%	43%
Open defecation	62%	66%

among the rest of the urban population.

Already, children in urban India face inequity because of hunger, ill-health, poor access to water and sanitation, insufficient education and child labour. Around 47% children of urban poor are malnourished and 48% of the girls are married as child brides.

Seven out of 10 children of less than five years and six out of 10 poor women in cities are anaemic. Almost half of the pregnant women in poor urban families don't have access to safe delivery of their children, resulting in high infant mortality rate,

the report said.

Although cities offer children schools, clinics and playgrounds, the report said that some of the richest cities in the world such as Mumbai also have the greatest disparity in children's health, education and opportunities.

"Cities will grow and more children will find themselves living in an urban world; a world that holds the promise, for many, of employment, development and economic growth," said UNICEF India representative Karin Hulshof.

*Hindustan Times, March 1, P.8*



# Schools to take stringent steps

**BANGALORE:** The BBMP raid on a bar in the City where several schoolchildren were caught smoking hookah has evoked cautious responses from various quarters.

Activists and psychologists suggest that elders should go easy on the students and look at the larger problem. For schools, on the other hand, the incident has sounded the alarm bell.

Teachers at the Bishop Cottons Boys' School confirmed that a few of the students belong to their school, but refused to comment. The Bishop Cottons Girls' School has decided to deal sternly with its students. School Principal Lydia Joshua said parents have been informed about the incident and the school will also write to the Palike urging them to shut down these bars. Action will be taken against students found in hookah bars again, the principal said. The school will also conduct workshops to educate children about the harmful effects of addiction to hookah.

As a precautionary measure, the Cathedral School has issued notification to parents. School teachers will personally escort students till the schoolgate after class hours and outgate passes will be issued for

PU students so that the school can monitor students' whereabouts, said principal Isabella Simon.

While the schools are looking at stricter regulations, psychologists and child rights' activists say the problem is much larger.



Nandana Reddy, Director, Development of the Concerned for Working Children, is of the view that not all children going to hookah bars are necessarily addicts. There may be other reasons such as wanting to es-

cape the drudgery of the classroom or because it is the 'in' thing to do or may be peer pressure. Also, it could be to act out a fantasy seen on TV.

In the absence of strong family support, the problem can escalate out of proportion, says Nandana, who believes: "We need an aggressive campaign to combat the problem and alternative healthy outlets where children can get together. Most importantly, parents must invest more time in their children."

Dr B R Madhukar and Dr Srinivas Reddy, consultant psychiatrists at Cadabam's Mind

Talk, say very few teenagers come with addiction problems. They feel that students tend to frequent bars out of curiosity or peer pressure.

"I am not surprised to hear this news at all. Children are likely to make mistakes. How could the owner allow students into the bar? It is his mistake," says Madhukar.

He suggested that restricting access to such places could be a solution to this. "These are places where many adults visit. Students may be abused in such places. They have to be educated about it," says Srinivas Reddy.

They further said that students are bound to experiment. Instead of branding them bad, they must be sensitised about the harmful effects of it. Besides, they should be helped to exercise self-control.

*Deccan herald, March 7, P 3*



# Need to enhance school-based tobacco control programmes

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Public health researchers from India and the US have in a recent study found that school-based smoking prevention programmes in India are cost-effective, thus strengthening a case for introducing tobacco control as a school programme across the country.

The study, carried out to economically analyse tobacco prevention school programmes, revealed that such programmes provide large benefits in terms of health per rupee invested in comparison to alternative investments in health. This cost effectiveness analysis makes the case for up-scaling such interventions in Indian schools by policy-makers in the health and education field, noted a release issued by Health Promotion and Tobacco Control (HRIDAY), a non-government organisation working in the area of tobacco abuse control.

The study, titled "The cost-

effectiveness of a school-based smoking prevention programme in India", is based on Project MYTRI (Mobilizing Youth for Tobacco-Related Initiatives) which was implemented in 32 schools of Delhi and Chennai during 2004-06 in which 14,000 students between 14 and 16 years of grades VI to IX participated. The programme was implemented jointly by HRIDAY in collaboration with the University of Texas, School of Public Health, US.

The study showed that Project MYTRI resulted in several people averting tobacco use by the age of 26 years, translating to 2.88 life-years added per averted tobacco user.

"A detailed analysis stated that an improved quality-adjusted life-year under our programme costs only Rs.1.25 lakh, which is far less than what a quality-adjusted life-year costs under traditional medical procedures like surgery. This emphasises

the necessity for introducing multi-component interventions. The study reveals that the cost per life year added due to averted smoking was nearly Rs.1.8 lakh. So if the project has been able to add 54 life years, it would cost about a crore rupees, which is a bargain in comparison to alternative investments in health, such as end of life surgery," said Prof. Shelton Brown, Associate Professor of Health Economics at the School of Public Health, University of Texas, and the lead investigator of the study.

Dr. Monika Arora of HRIDAY says: "The evidence from this study has further underscored the need to expand such interventions to larger scale."

In India, high prevalence of tobacco consumption is one of the major challenges to health and well-being of the citizens. About 2,700 Indians die every day from tobacco use. Research shows that 5,500 youth in India start using tobacco daily.

*Hindu, March 13, P.2*



# मां-बाप की लड़ाई में हार रहा बचपन

जागरण विशेष

■ पवन कुमार, नई दिल्ली

मासूम सोनू (काल्पनिक नाम) इस बात से अनजान है कि उसका बचपन माता-पिता के बीच कानूनी लड़ाई में उलझ गया है। उसे नहीं पता कि उसके मम्मी-पापा तलाक लेकर जीवन की अलग-अलग राह पर आगे बढ़ चुके हैं। अदालत ने जब उसकी कस्टडी को लेकर फैसला सुनाते हुए कहा कि उसे अपनी मां के साथ रहना पड़ेगा तो उस मासूम के मुंह से एक ही बात निकली, पापा हमारे साथ क्यों नहीं रहेंगे मम्मी। इस मासूम को समझाने के लिए किसी के पास जवाब नहीं था।

सोनू का मामला तो एक बानगी भर है। राजधानी की विभिन्न जिला अदालतों में ऐसे मामलों की कमी नहीं, जहां माता-पिता के बीच

## जिला अदालतों में तलाक व बच्चों की कस्टडी के लंबित मामले

मामले	संख्या
तलाक	3894
जिला अदालतों में बच्चों की कस्टडी के मामले	272
निचली अदालतों में बच्चों की कस्टडी के मामले	224

बच्चे की कस्टडी को लेकर विवाद है। इन बच्चों को यह नहीं मालूम कि वे पिता के साथ रहेंगे या मां के साथ। कानूनी लड़ाई में जीत मां की हो या पिता की, लेकिन बचपन जरूर हार रहा है।

राजधानी की तीस हजारी, पटियाला हाउस, कड़कड़डूमा, रोहिणी, साकेत और द्वारका कोर्ट के आंकड़ों पर नजर डालें तो पता चलता है कि अदालतों में बच्चों की कस्टडी से संबंधित 496 मामले लंबित हैं। इसका सबसे बड़ा कारण पति-पत्नी के बीच तालमेल न बैठ पाने के कारण आए दिन होने वाले तलाक के मामले हैं। मां-बाप तो तलाक लेने का फैसला कर लेते हैं, लेकिन वे इस

ओर ध्यान नहीं दे रहे कि इससे उनके बच्चों पर क्या असर पड़ेगा। बच्चे की कस्टडी का फैसला भले ही किसी के भी पक्ष में हो, मगर बच्चा माता-पिता के संपूर्ण प्रेम से वंचित जरूर हो जाता है। ऐसे में बच्चों के बचपन पर न चाहते हुए भी कुठाराघात होता है।

अधिवक्ता अवनीश शुक्ला का कहना है कि पति-पत्नी में इन दिनों एकल हित की भावना अधिक बढ़ रही है। इस कारण वे मतभेद होने पर अपने बारे में अधिक सोचते हैं और दूसरों के बारे में कम। इसी वजह से तलाक के मामले बढ़ रहे हैं।

*Dainik Jagaran, March 19, P.2*

## Parents, NGOs want better child protection at institutes

Taking the case into cognisance, representatives of 26 NGOs along with affected families and ex-staff members of the Arya Orphanage Vidyalaya gathered at Jantar Mantar on Monday. Their demand: Increased child protection mechanisms in institutional care facilities.

"We want to mobilise the public, government and management of the orphanage into taking some action. The best way to spread the word is through the voice of civil society. People need to know how the children were abused in the orphanage and how this still happens at several places," said Bharti Sharma, former chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

These organisations are demanding a mechanism to check the lax administrative

response to such cases, along with a mandatory child protection policy at the registration level of institutional care facilities.

"This case should be a wake-up call for the government. We are going to submit a memorandum, which will press for a CBI enquiry into the matter, with immediate criminal prosecution whenever such an incident comes to light," added Sharma.

**We want to mobilise the public, management of the orphanage and govt into taking some action. The best way to spread the word is through civil society.**

BHARTI SHARMA  
former chairperson, CWC

The memorandum will also seek an immediate dissolution of the management of the orphanage, demand a criminal liability on it as well as the removal of the accused staff members.

It is also looking at pressing for an alternative management committee in consultation with civil society organisations for the appropriate functioning of the orphanage.

However, Viresh Pratap Chaudhry, president of the managing committee of Arya Orphanage, claimed that the demonstration held against the orphanage — led by HAQ: Centre for Child Rights — was uncalled for. He also termed the protest a deliberate attempt at destabilising the developmental work that these institutions have undertaken.

*Hindustan Times, March 13, P.2*



# Delhi Daredevils to bat for the country's adolescent girls

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Premier League (IPL) team Delhi Daredevils, in association with UNICEF, announced a new initiative on Friday to support adolescent girls across the country.

The initiative, 'Dare to Care', will see the two organisations work towards sensitising the public on the important role girls play in society and the necessity of education and protection for them.

Extending his support for the initiative, Delhi Daredevils skipper Virender Sehwag said it was important to impart education to girls as it would help develop society. "They should also have the right to say no to certain things and they should be allowed to participate and give their opinion in family matters," Sehwag said at a Press conference here. "It is not a good sign for India that so many girls do not get education. When we go out (to developed countries) we see women educated enough to do all sorts of work in the corporate sector, the media, etc.

Our responsibility is to give Indian women the chance to do that."

According to facts released by UNICEF, almost 40 per cent of the adolescent girls in India do not attend school and an identical percentage of them get married before the legal age of 18 years. Around 56 per cent of the girls (between 15 and 19 years) are anaemic and vulnerable to poor maternal health.

Karin Hulshof, UNICEF

representative in India, listed the benefits of educating girls. "If a girl is educated, she tends to marry later and have children later. Her children are more likely to survive, be better nourished and better educated. To transform a developing country like India, it is important that boys and girls alike go to school," she said.

The most marginalised adolescent girls, according to UNICEF, can be categorised as those affected by harmful traditional practices, belonging to socially ex-

cluded and vulnerable groups, living in areas that are not secure, who do not have family protection and are excluded from education due to various reasons.

Daredevils coach Eric Simons promised all help from his team to promote this ini-

tiative. "This is about real life and it can make such a difference. If our association does anything, we are winners."

Ajit Agarkar, another senior Daredevils player, added: "This is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Cricket is very popular in India, so it will be a good medium to spread awareness."

Kiran K. Grandhi, chairman of Daredevils' owner GMR Sports, described his team's involvement in the activity as "much more fulfilling than winning a match or a cup".

Daredevils' players will wear blue ribbons during their IPL matches to symbolise their support to the cause. The team will also donate a part of its ticket and merchandise sales and a percentage of auctioned collectible items.

*Hindu, March 31, P.2*

# Babies building abs

As the toddlers prance about, their moms, comfortably perched on couches, gossip with other mothers, watching their kids have some fun and getting an early education.

Hopping and playing is integral to the kids' three-hour long exercise session. "It's a half an hour long warm-up for toddlers. After this, we will indulge kids in educational activities like writing letters using coloured blocks," says Vidya Kalra, owner of 'Small Wonder' — a kids crèche-cum-gymnasium in Model Town.

Small Wonder's bright walls, with their pink-cheeked chubby babies and bratty kiddie motifs resembles a mini Disney world. Some of the children are busy climbing up the foam stairs, tunnels. Others are reciting and reading.

Kids Zone in Ashok Vihar

encourages kids to build their abs. They have trained instructors and nutritionists to assist. "When I had my children, I realised very few day-care centres provided the kind of hygiene and security that was expected," says Amit Bansal, the founder of gym.

*Pioneer,  
March 16, 112*



He explains, "Kids Zone organises a total of 30 classes on music, dance and art. We also have a gymnasium for children as young as six months, which is equipped with tunnels for them to crawl. Music class encourages them to sing, dance and form their own bands."

Jyoti Sharma, owner of Kids Ville in Rajouri Garden informs, "Apart from exercising and playing, kids also get involved in outdoor activities, to familiarise themselves with nature and surroundings."

She concludes, saying they often make kids dance to action songs. So they learn about aspects of the body and its movement. "Child's mental and physical well-being is vital."





# TROUBLED TODDLERS



## HOME ALONE

Squabbling parents can scar children in more ways than one, and as the Norway case highlights, the signs of hurt can be spotted even in children too young to understand what's happening around them. "A child needs emotional security to thrive academically and socially and as parents are the centre of a young child's world, they have to create this sense of security and safety. When there is conflict, arguments and tension between them, a

child's safety net gets shattered," says Dr Sumeer Malhotra, head, division of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Fortis Hospital.

At times, children may even blame themselves for the fights. "For a child, the world revolves around what they think and do. When they hear their parents arguing, they think it's somehow their fault even if it has nothing to do with them, which makes them guilty and unhappy," says Dr Jitendra Nagpal, consultant psychiatrist, Moolchand Hospital. If the arguments are about them, children feel guiltier.

## REACHING OUT

How a child respond to parental conflict depends on personality traits and varies widely among children, even between siblings. Some may become withdrawn, unmotivated and develop problems such as insomnia, bedwetting

and stammering. Others may react by acting out. "Sometimes children misbehave to draw attention to themselves and force the parents to get together to deal with them," says Dr Malhotra.

In most cases, parents notice a change only when children choose defiance to seek attention. "It's only when grades fall or complaints start coming from school that parents realise there's something wrong," says Dr Nagpal.

Most kids cannot consciously identify what is troubling them and find it impossible to put the trauma in words. "Artwork and play therapy helps children express themselves. Among my patients, an eighth-year-old boy drew a tree with no leaves and a nest with a single bird, while another drew a child locked out of his home," says Dr Malhotra.

## REALITY BITES

Staying together in a bad marriage just for the sake of the children doesn't work

either: Kids of couples who fight are more likely to do badly at school and start smoking and drinking in their teens than those living with single parents or step-

parents, found a US study of almost 2,000 teens from 1,963 homes. The study, funded by the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in 2010, tracked the academic and behavioural performance of teens from troubled families and compared it with that of children from single-parent households. It found that compared with children in

low-conflict families, kids from troubled homes were more likely to drop out of school, have poor grades, smoke, drink, use marijuana, have early sex, be young and unmarried when they have a child, and then experience the breakup of that relationship.

Of course, children from stable two-couple homes do the best. "In every marriage, a little conflict is natural but parents must learn to control and manage their conflict for the well-being of their child," says Dr Nagpal. In fact, it's healthy for children to watch parents communicate with each other to settle an argument, assuming that it's done in a caring and effective way. "Parents should keep disagreements away from children as much as possible. If the conflict is over a non-negotiable issue, such as parenting style, communicate using 'I' messages instead of pointing fingers by using the word 'you,'" says Dr Nagpal.

And if a breakdown is inevitable, parents must ensure their children know that they will always come first.

*Hindustan times,  
March 25, P 16*



## MOOD MONITOR FOR TODDLERS AND TEENS

Signs that a child may be internalising conflict

- Listlessness
- Boredom, lack of interest in playing
- Change in appetite or body weight
- Sleeplessness, oversleeping
- Agitation, anger or hostility
- Persistent irritability
- Unexplained guilt
- Becoming weepy and clingy
- Over-sensitivity to rejection
- Social isolation and withdrawal
- Reckless behaviour
- Difficulty concentrating
- Frequent headache, stomachache or tiredness
- Bullying others or becoming a victim of bullying

# Let's hear it for more play!

'The origin of the word 'play' is not known. Yet, it stands to represent a light-hearted, recreational activity for diversion or amusement. In simple terms, the word means: to occupy or amuse oneself pleasantly with some recreation, game or exercise. In the last two decades, the real importance of play in childhood has been researched and studied and these studies have revealed that play activities, besides giving enjoyment, are an excellent source for varied learning. Play serves as a stimulant for the healthy growth and development of the body and mind.

Just like food is a basic need, so is play, especially during the early years (0-6 years). It prepares the individual for the later years of childhood and adulthood. Activities should be in the form of amusement, or a physical activity. Many a times, play

helps to express feelings and emotions far earlier, even before the child can express verbally. Play has been associated with creativity, problem-solving, language learning and development of social roles. Play facilitates the development of social skills, emotional quotient, psychological skills and physiological growth.

### Social skills

- The child learns to make adjustments, become adaptive, accommodating and disciplined.
- Builds a sense of self-worth, and brings forth endurance and resilience.

- Strengthens values of sharing, caring and concern
- Helps in understanding rules, systems and moral values.
- Learns to cooperate, have a sense of oneness and non-discrimination.
- Promotes understanding of the world around.

### Emotional & psychological skills

- Enables to overcome jealousy and express affection.
- Helps to control and regulate anger, aggressiveness, crying and tantrums.

- Makes them assertive when necessary and understand what is acceptable behaviour.
- Prepares a child to face and accept failures.
- Picks up natural ways of exploring, expressing ideas and feelings.
- Develops self-confidence and self-esteem.

### Physiological changes

- Enhances anthropometric growth and motor development.
- Enhances intellectual, cognitive and

learning abilities.

- Develops increasingly-complex adaptive responses to physical and social change.

There is no toy or game that does not add value to the child. Toys help create imaginary worlds. Children will create patterns with colours and shapes and will make miniature models of their own homes. By far, the most enjoyable and beneficial games are those that don't need too much supervision from parents.

Toys must be safe to use and non-flammable. There are several guidelines to fol-

low when it comes to selecting play material for children. It should depend on: age, aptitude and interest, and to some extent, on the gender. Play materials must offer multiple possibilities for a child's imagination and interests. Instead of buying sophisticated and expensive play equipment, it is wiser to go for sturdy and easily-replaceable items.

Parents should encourage and see that physical activities are part of a child's daily routine. Allow them to choose the activity of interest. Be it a sport, athletics, swimming, gymming, etc. /

*Deccan Herald, March 22, P.2*



### गर्भावस्था से ही बच्चों के दांतों की करें देखभाल

बच्चे के दांत उसी समय से बनने शुरू हो जाते हैं, जब वह 6 हफ्ते का भ्रूण होता है। यह सिलसिला पक्के दांतों के बनने तक चलता रहता है। पक्के दांत लगभग 2 साल तक बनते हैं। अतः 45 दिन से लेकर 21 साल काफी लंबा दूरी होती है, इसलिए गर्भावस्था से बच्चों के दांतों की देखभाल के लिए जरूरी होता है कि मां को उचित पोषण मिले। यदि पोषण सही नहीं होगा तो बच्चों के दांतों में हाइपोप्लेजिया हो जाता है, जिसमें दांत विकार-युक्त तथा बदरंग हो जाते हैं। इसी के साथ कैल्शियम, विटामिन की कमी होने से हाइपो-कैल्सिफिकेशन हो जाता है। दूध के दांत दो साल तक आते हैं। जब दूध के

दांत बनते हैं, तभी पक्के दांतों की कलिका भी बननी शुरू हो जाती है। ऐसी अवस्था में बच्चों के भी उचित पोषण की आवश्यकता बढ़ जाती है। पहला दूध का दांत सात महीने में आता है तथा इनकी संख्या 20 होती है। इसके बाद पक्के दांत आते हैं, जिनकी संख्या 32 हो सकती है।

अक्सर धारणा होती है कि यदि दूध के दांत खराब होते हैं, तो चिन्ता की कोई बात नहीं क्योंकि पक्के दांत ठीक आ जाएंगे। लेकिन दूध के दांत में विकार होने पर पक्के दांत में भी समस्या हो जाती है। पक्के दांत खुरदरे, बेडाल और बदरंग आते हैं। जब बच्चे का पहला दांत आ जाए तथा जब तक पूरे दांत न निकल जाए, ऐसी अवस्था में मां को बच्चे के दांतों

का ध्यान रखना चाहिए। सड़े के फ्राह से दांत का सफाई करें। रुई या उंगली से बड़ी नमी से मसूड़ों की मालिश करें। चूंकि दूध मीठा होता है, अतः हर बार दूध पिलाने के बाद मुंह साफ करें।

जब बच्चा बड़ा हो जाए तो बेबी ब्रश से सफाई की आदत डालें। यदि बार-बार मीठा दूध पीने पर ब्रश न करवाए तो कुल्ला जरूर करवाएं, जिससे मीठा तथा दांत पर चिपकने वाला पदार्थ निकल जाए।

दांत निकलते समय भी बच्चे परेशान होते हैं। मसूड़े सूज जाते हैं जिससे बच्चों को दर्द होता है। उनमें विडचिडपन और संवेदनशीलता बढ़ जाती है। ऐसे में, हल्के हाथ से मसूड़ों की मालिश की जा सकती है क्योंकि दांत निकलने के बाद बच्चे को स्वतः ही आराम आ जाता है। दांत निकलने के दौरान लार भी टपकने की समस्या होती है, अतः सफाई का ध्यान रखें। मसूड़ों में सूजन और दर्द के कारण बच्चे सबको चाटने/चबाने लगते हैं। ऐसे में, ध्यान रखें कि कोई तेज धार वाली वस्तु, अस्वच्छ चीज बच्चा न चबावें। इससे मसूड़े छिल सकते हैं तथा संक्रमण की संभावना होती है।

गर्भावस्था के दौरान गर्भवती महिला को संतुलित भोज्य पदार्थ जरूरी होता है। इसमें प्रोटीन, वसा, मिनरल, हरी सब्जी, अंकुरित भोजन, विटामिन्स और कैल्शियम का संतुलित मात्रा में प्रयोग करना चाहिए। स्तनपान के दौरान भी मां डॉक्टर की सलाह से संतुलित भोजन करें। इसी प्रकार, जब बच्चे दूध के साथ कुछ ठोस भोजन करने लगे तो उनके भोजन में प्रोटीन, कैल्शियम, हरी सब्जियां तथा फल इत्यादि का ध्यान रखें ताकि उसके दूध के तथा पक्के दांत सुंदर और स्वच्छ रहें।

Rashtriya Sahara,  
March 28, P.2

# अब 'मुफ्त' नहीं नवजात का इलाज

फुस्स हुआ जननी शिशु सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम, चुनिंदा दवाएं ही है निःशुल्क

तरुश्री शर्मा @ उदायपुर

उदायपुर@patrika.com  
शिशु मृत्यु दर घटाने के लिए शुरू किया गया राज्य सरकार का अति महत्वाकांक्षी जननी शिशु सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम फुस्स होता नजर आ रहा है। इसके तहत प्रसूता और नवजात को शुरूआती दिनों में केशलेस इलाज देने की पहल दम तोड़ रही है। सम्भाग के सबसे बड़े एमबी चिकित्सालय में तो नवजात उपचार के लिए दवाएं बाहर से लानी पड़ रही है।

सरकार के गत सप्ताह जारी हुए आदेश के अनुसार शिशुओं को सामान्य उपयोग की 14 सूचीबद्ध दवाएं निःशुल्क उपलब्ध हो सकेंगी।

इनमें डेक्सटोज, फ्ल्यूड, नॉर्मल सलाइन, पीटेसियम क्लोराइड, जेंटामाइसिन, डोपामिन, एडिनलिन

आदि शामिल हैं, जबकि महंगी हाई एंटीबायोटिक व जीवनरक्षक दवाएं अब सूची में नहीं हैं।

प्रो-मेच्योर शिशुओं के लिए उपयोगी महंगे इंजेक्शन सर्फैक्टेंट सहित रेजिस्टेंट संक्रमण में उपयोगी सेफिपेडिम, कोएमोक्सिक्लोव, वेंकोमाइसीन आदि दवाएं निःशुल्क श्रेणी से बाहर आ गई हैं, जिन्हें लाइफलाइन से उपलब्ध कराने के निर्देश दिए हैं।

भारी बजट हुआ खर्च

अब तक तो चिकित्सालय प्रशासन ने स्थानीय स्तर पर दवाओं की खरीद कर आवश्यक व जीवनदायी महंगी दवाएं उपलब्ध करा रखी थीं। खर्च की अधिकता और आरएमआरएस कोष पर पड़ रहे भार

के चलते आरएमटी मेडिकल कॉलेज से सम्बद्ध चिकित्सालय रेफरल व टर्शरी स्तर के होने का हवाला देते हुए सामान्य से अतिरिक्त दवाओं की आवश्यकता के लिए सरकार को पत्र लिखा गया था।

जबाब में सरकार ने अतिरिक्त दवाएं लाइफलाइन से उपलब्ध कराने के निर्देश दे दिए।

Rajasthan  
Patrika, March 14, 1/10

## जल्दी लम्बे हो रहे हैं बच्चे : अध्ययन

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। अगर आजकल आप अपने आसपास के बच्चों को कुछ जल्दी ही लंबा होता सा रहे हैं तो चौंकिए नहीं। इस बात की पुष्टि एक स्टडी में की गई है कि भारत के बच्चों की औसत हाइट बढ़ रही है।

अखिल भारतीय अयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स) की एक स्टडी से पता चला है कि अपर इनकम ग्रुप के 18 साल के बच्चों की लंबाई में पिछले 10 साल के मुकाबले और 2 इंच का इजाफा हुआ है। इस स्टडी में पूरे भारत से 5 से 18 साल के एक लाख 6 हजार बच्चों को शामिल किया गया है। इस स्टडी को देश के 19 राज्यों में कराया गया है। स्टडी में पाया गया है कि जहाँ 1992 में 12 साल के लड़कों की औसत लंबाई 4 फुट 9 इंच होती थी वह 2011 में बढ़ कर 4 फुट 11 इंच हो गई है। कुछ इसी तरह का इजाफा 18 साल की लड़कियों का हाइट में भी देखा गया है। 1992 तक 18 साल की लड़कियों की औसत हाइट 5 फुट 2.5 इंच हो गई है। इस तरह लड़कों की हाइट में औसतन 2 इंच और लड़कियों में 0.5 का इजाफा देखा गया है। इस स्टडी से इस बात का पता भी चला है कि यह हाइट यकीनन इस ग्रुप के बच्चों में पोषण सुधारने के कारण ही हुई है। लेकिन इस स्टडी में एक

विज्ञानिक बात यह समाने आई है कि हाइट के साथ ही इन बच्चों का वजन भी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। 12 साल के लड़कों का वजन 10 साल में औसतन 6 किलो और लड़कियों का 7 किलो तक बढ़ गया है। लंबाई और वजन के अनुपात से निकाला जाने वाले बीडी मास इंडेक्स को देखने से पता चलता है कि इस स्टडी में 13 और 15 साल की लड़कियां और 14 और 16 सालके लड़के भारतीय मानकों के अनुसार मोटापे के शिकार हैं।

एम्स में कम्युनिटी मेडिसिन विभाग के प्रो. डा. एके राव के अनुसार बच्चों का हाइट बढ़ना यह दर्शाता है कि उनमें न्यूट्रीशन के लेवल बढ़ा है जो कि अच्छी बात है। उनका यह भी कहना है कि लंबाई बढ़ना तो अच्छा है लेकिन चौड़ाई यानी मोटापे से निपटना भी जरूरी है। उनका कहना है कि लंबाई बढ़ने से काम करने की क्षमता भी बढ़ जाती है जो लांग टर्म में मददगार साबित होती है।

आई 7 नेत्र संस्थान के निदेशक डा. संजय चौधरी ने कहा कि पोषित आहार बच्चों के बहुमुखी विकास में व्यापक प्रभाव डालता है। जब महिला गर्भवती होती है उस दौरान उसके हीमोग्लोबिन को जांच जरूरी है। यह स्तर 11 से अधिक होना चाहिए। कोख में पड़ने वाले भ्रूण को आक्सीजन व अन्य प्रकार के प्रोटीन प्रचुर मात्रा में मिलते हैं। उसकी आंखों का विजन भी सामान्य होता है।

Rashtriya  
Sahara, March 22,  
P.9



# Birth certificates in few minutes

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 29

Citizens can now obtain birth certificates in just a couple of minutes, as the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has made available digitally signed birth and death certificates to e-Seva centres in the city. Citizens can just walk into any e-Seva centre and obtain these certificates after giving details. However, this facility is currently confined to births and deaths that occurred in the city between 2007 and 2012.

The birth and death records from 1995 to 2006, along with digitally signed

## Focus on hospitals, nursing homes



- Greater Hyderabad has 800 hospitals and nursing homes, where deliveries take place every day.
- There are 28 hospitals and nursing homes where nearly 100 deliveries take place a day.
- On average, 15,000 births and about 3,500 deaths are registered with the GHMC per month.
- "Our target is to ensure that all births and deaths are registered online on the same day or within 24 hours," said a GHMC official.

certificates are being made available online in a phased manner.

"Though the GHMC has

records of births and deaths from 1957 onwards, its first target is to digitise all information up to 1995.

Trial runs to issue digitally signed birth certificates are being conducted. Till date, 76 digitally signed certificates have been issued," GHMC special commissioner Navin Mittal said.

The corporation has issued a diktat to all hospitals and nursing homes to register online the births and deaths on a daily basis.

"Our focus is on hospitals and nursing homes where more than 100 deliveries take place every day. We are giving a password to each hospital so that the authorities can update birth and death records on a daily basis on the GHMC website," a senior GHMC official explained.

*Deccan Chronicle, March 30, P.3*

# Lowest birth registration in UP, Bihar

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: A Registrar General Office (RGI) official said, "The birth certificate is the first identity of a child and is vital for any country to record 100% of these two vital events of birth and death. India's birth registration stood at 54.5% in 1996. In 2007, it increased to 74.5%, a 20% increase."

"Death registration in 1996 stood at 47.7% that increased to about 70% in 2007. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the two worst performing states since they have the highest population and low registration levels. If these two states are taken off, national average of birth registration will increase to about 88%," the official added.

In 2007, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Naga-



UNDOCUMENTED?

land, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry recorded 100% birth registration. Maharashtra recorded nearly 92% of births, Goa 97.9%, Gujarat 97.8%, West Bengal 97%, Sikkim 93.9%, Karnataka 92% and Haryana 91.6%.

In 1996, only eight states had recorded 100% birth registration that dipped to seven

states in 2000 and then rose to 11 states in 2007.

Some states have improved their tally due to the RGTs birth registration camps. Rajasthan that registered 22.6% births in 1996 recorded over 83% births in 2007, while in Manipur it rose from around 16% to over 77% during the same period. Birth registration increased from around 45% (1996) to 73% (2007) in MP, from 35.7% (1996) to over 77% (2007) in AP. In Assam, it increased from 27% (1996) to over 74% (2007).

Goa, Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry recorded 100% death registration. Arunachal Pradesh (26.6%), Assam (30.9%), Bihar (25.3%), Jharkhand (46%), Manipur (48.2%) and Uttarakhand (44.8%) lagged behind in death registration.

Some estimates say globally about 40 million children

are born annually without being registered. Around six out of 10 unregistered newborns are in south and south-east Asia. Quoting Article 7 of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, the RGI says, "The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and as far as possible the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents."

Beyond that, birth registration certificate is a vital requirement for a child to get admission to school, right to vote, obtain a driving licence and passport and the right to marry after attaining marriageable age. The advantage of registration of death is to relieve the individual from social, legal and official obligations and establish the claim on property, insurance and social security benefits.

*Times of India, March 2, P.12*



# जच्चा-बच्चा केंद्रों में होगा ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण : पायलट

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। नवजात मृत्युदर एवं प्रसूताओं को एनिमिया से बचाने पर जोर देते हुए सोमवार को केंद्रीय सूचना एवं संचार मंत्री सचिन पायलट ने कहा कि सरकारी जच्चा-बच्चा केंद्रों पर ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण किया जाएगा। इस महत्वपूर्ण योजना की शुरुआत राजधानी के श्रीमती सुचेता कृपलानी व कलावती सरन बाल चिकित्सालय से की जा सकती है। इसके तहत गर्भवती महिलाओं का पंजीकरण होगा। पंजीकरण के बाद से ही उन्हें डिलीवरी होने के बाद तक पोष्टिक आहार देने, प्रसव पूर्व नैदानिक जांच व सभी जरूरी टीके मुफ्त में उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे। वे सोमवार को जीएचएसआई द्वारा आयोजित त्रिक्स स्वास्थ्य सम्मेलन में बोल रहे थे।

ग्लोबल हेल्थ स्ट्रेटेजीज इनीशिएटिव द्वारा तैयार एक रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए पायलट ने कहा कि नवजात मृत्यु दर के मामले में दुनिया के 192 देशों में भारत का 49वां नंबर है यानी 48 देशों में नवजात मृत्यु दर भारत से अधिक है जबकि 143 देशों का प्रदर्शन भारत से

अच्छा है। जननी सुरक्षा योजना, कुपोषण दूर करने के कार्यक्रम, भूमंडलीय टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम इसी का हिस्सा हैं। सरकार इस मुद्दे पर भी गंभीरता से विचार कर रही है कि किस तरह से दवाएं आम लोगों तक पहुंचें। इसके लिए भारतीय औषधि व्यवसायियों से बातचीत का दौरा जारी है। हमें उम्मीद है कि जीवनशैली, मेनिनजाइटिस, एचआईवी/एड्स, हेपेटाइटिस जैसे रोगों के निदान में प्रयुक्त होने वाली दवाएं सस्ती दर पर लोगों को मिलेगी।

एमएस में बाल रोग विभाग के अध्यक्ष डॉ. विनोद पॉल ने जच्चा-बच्चा केंद्रों की

स्थिति सुधारने के लिए अधिक राशि खर्च करने पर बल दिया। जीएचएसआई के सह संस्थापक डेविड गोल्ड ने स्वास्थ्य उपाय व प्रौद्योगिकियां मुहैया कराने पर बल दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि विकासशील देशों में स्वास्थ्य की स्थिति में सुधार लाने के लिए काम किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि 28-29 मार्च को राजधानी में त्रिक्स सम्मेलन आयोजित किया जाएगा।

*Rashtriya Sahara, March 27, 17*



# कैंसर को आसानी से हरा देते हैं बच्चे

आपके बच्चे का जीवन अनमोल है, जिसे बीमारियों से सुरक्षित रखना आपकी जिम्मेदारी है, लेकिन कैंसर के बढ़ते खतरों से बचपन भी सुरक्षित नहीं है। अकेले अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान के वीआरसी कैंसर सेंटर में हर साल कैंसर के शिकार 800 बच्चों को धरेपी दी जाती है।

खतरा बढ़ा है, लेकिन बचाव भी है। बड़ों की तुलना में बच्चों में कैंसर के ठीक होने की संभावना 86 प्रतिशत है। ब्लड कैंसर, ल्यूकेमिया, लिम्फोसाइट और आंखों के कैंसर के शिकार ऐसे ही कई बच्चों ने बीमारी से जंग जीती है। बचपन को कैंसर से बचाने के लिए जागरूकता भी जरूरी है।

इंटरनेशनल चाइल्डहुड कैंसर दिवस के अवसर पर दिल्ली सहित 13 शहर के बच्चों को बचाव की जानकारी दी जाएगी। केवल ब्लड कैंसर ही नहीं हालिया हुए शोध में यह भी सामने आया है कि कीमोथेरेपी की मदद से बच्चों की आंख और हड्डी के कैंसर को भी इलाज किया जा सकता है।

## बढ़ा है बच्चों में स्वस्थ होने का प्रतिशत

86%	हॉडकिंस लियूकोमा	62%	ट्यूमर
80%	आंखों का कैंसर	82%	ब्लड कैंसर



### कारगर है स्टेम सेल्स थेरेपी

बड़ों की अपेक्षा बच्चों में स्वस्थ सेल्स बनने की प्रक्रिया 60 गुना अधिक होती है। इससे नई व स्वस्थ सेल्स कैंसर युक्त सेल्स की जगह ले लेती है। स्टेम सेल्स थेरेपी का भी बच्चों पर बेहतर प्रयोग देखा गया है। एम्स में पीडियाट्रिक ऑनकोलॉजी में बीते छह साल में ब्लड कैंसर के शिकार छह बच्चों पर स्टेम सेल थेरेपी का सफल प्रयोग किया जा चुका है।

बीमारी से बचने के लिए समय पर जांच जरूरी है, इसके लिए डॉक्टर के संपर्क में रहना चाहिए। संस्थान में कैंसर के शिकार बच्चों के ठीक होने का प्रतिशत बीते पांच साल में चार गुना बढ़ा है, जिसकी प्रमुख वजह बीमारी को लेकर जागरूकता का बढ़ना है।

डॉ. जीके रथ, निभागाध्यक्ष, डॉ. वीआरए रोटररी कैंसर इंस्टीट्यूट, एम्स

### दिल्ली के 6000 बच्चे हुए ठीक

किंगडिड स्वयंसेवी संगठन के सहयोग से वर्ष 2004 से शुरू किए गए कैंसर केयर प्रोग्राम से अब तक दिल्ली के 6000 बच्चे जुड़ चुके हैं, जो बीमारी से जंग जीतकर अब दूसरों के लिए रोल मॉडल बन गए हैं। संगठन के संस्थापक पुनम बघई ने बताया कि अभियान का लक्ष्य है कि कैंसर के शिकार किसी भी बच्चे का जीवन खत्म न हो पाए, इसलिए सही समय पर इलाज जरूरी है।

Hindustan, March 29/4

## बच्चे आ रहे हैं कैंसर की गिरफ्त में

नई दिल्ली। बदल रही जीवनशैली से कम उम्र के बच्चे भी कैंसर की गिरफ्त में आ रहे हैं। हाल यह है कि अब डेढ़ माह या इससे कम उम्र के बच्चों में भी कैंसर देखा जा रहा है। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि कम उम्र के बच्चों में डीएनए चेंज होना भी कैंसर होने का एक कारण होता है। जिसकी शुरुआती पहचान के बाद इसका शत प्रतिशत इलाज संभव है। उनका कहना है कि बड़ों की अपेक्षा 10 साल तक की उम्र के बच्चों में कैंसर का इलाज ज्यादा असरदार तरीके से किया जा सकता है। इस समय बोन मैरो ट्रांसप्लांट, टारगेटिड कीमोथेरेपी, ओटीएस दवाओं का असर तेजी से होता है। आईसीएमआर नेशनल कैंसर स्टडी के अनुसार कैंसर के कुल मरीजों में से करीब आठ फीसद बच्चे हैं। यह आंकड़ा साल दर साल बढ़ रहा है। कैंसर पीड़ित बच्चों में करीब 80 फीसद मामले ब्लड कैंसर के होते हैं जबकि अन्य मामले आंख में ट्यूमर, बोन कैंसर, फेफड़े, गुदा व यकृत के होते हैं। एनीमिया, अल्ट्रावायलेट, अरली एज में डीएनए की चेंजिंग और रेडिएशन इसके प्रमुख कारण बन रहे हैं।

बीआरए इंस्टीट्यूट रोटररी कैंसर

हॉस्पिटल के निदेशक डा. जीके रथ ने कहा कि तीन दिसम्बर को डेढ़ माह के बच्चे के पेट से आठ किलो वजनो ट्यूमर निकाला गया। वह उड़ीसा का रहने वाला है। उसके पिता मोहित दास किसान हैं। बच्चे की सर्जरी कीमो व रेडिएशन देने के बाद की गई जांच में कैंसर सेल्स पूरी तरह से समाप्त पाए गए। आधुनिक जांच की सुविधा उपलब्ध होने से अब कैंसर के प्रति लोगों में जागरूकता आ रही है। उन्होंने

कहा कि शरीर में गांठ बनना, रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता कमजोर होना, पेशाब से खून आना, सांस लेने में दिक्कत, अक्सर बुखार रहना, पीठ में दर्द जैसे कैंसर के शुरुआती लक्षण हो सकते हैं। ऐसी अवस्था में तुरंत एक्सरे व खून की जांच करानी चाहिए।

उन्होंने बताया कि शरीर में गांठ पड़ना इसके शुरुआती लक्षण हैं, इनमें भी करीब 50 फीसद को ल्यूकेमिया या लिम्फोमा कैंसर होता है। ये भी ब्लड कैंसर का ही रूप है। एमपीसीडीएस कार्यक्रम के तहत अब तक 55 हजार से अधिक बच्चों की स्क्रीनिंग की जा चुकी है। जिसमें से तीन फीसद बच्चों में कैंसर का पहले चरण में पता लगाया गया। दरअसल, बच्चों में होने वाले कैंसर में से 10 फीसद

अनुवांशकीय पाए गए। 80 फीसद बच्चों में रक्त में सक्रिय लिम्फोमा का पता ही नहीं चल

पाता है। जब बच्चे को लंबे समय तक बुखार, खांसी, उल्टी-दस्त रहता है तब उसे अस्पताल लाया जाता है, जांच में जब कैंसर की पुष्टि होती है तब ज्यादातर मामलों में कैंसर की सक्रियता तीसरे व चौथे चरण में होती है।

एमपीसीडीएस कार्यक्रम के तहत जागरूकता लाई जा रही है। एम्स में मेडिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी विभाग के एसेसिएट प्रोफेसर डा. समीर बक्शी ने कहा कि एम्स में हर महीने 10 से 12 रोगियों का बोन मैरो प्रत्यारोपित करते हैं। जिसकी सफलता दर 80 फीसद तक है। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल रोगियों में कैंसर का इलाज युवा व बुजुर्गों की अपेक्षा ज्यादा असरदार होता है। दरअसल, बच्चे को यह पता नहीं होता है कि उसे कैंसर है, उसके माता-पिता जरूर तनाव झेलते हैं, इसलिए दवाएं उन पर ज्यादा असरदार साबित होती हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara, March 3, P.5



## आम बच्चों को नहीं लग पाते महंगे टीके

नई दिल्ली, 25 मार्च (भाषा)। विश्व में टीकाकरण अभियान वेशक सफलता की ओर बढ़ रहा है। लेकिन अपने देश में स्थिति यह है कि बीमारियों के टीके काफी महंगे होने के कारण ये आम आदमी की पहुँच से दूर हैं। छोटी चेचक, दिमागी बुखार, हेपेटाइटिस ए, बी, सी और डीपीटी के दर्दरहित टीके, पैटावेलेंट और ट्राईवैलेंट जैसे टीके काफी महंगे हैं।

वैसे तो बीसीजी और डीपीटी जैसे टीके सरकारी अस्पतालों में मुफ्त लगाए जाते हैं। लेकिन महंगे टीके मुफ्त मुहैया कराने के लिए सरकार की ओर से अब तक कोई इंतजाम नहीं किए गए हैं। दिल्ली स्वास्थ्य विभाग में टीकाकरण अभियान के कार्यक्रम अधिकारी रह चुके एके गुप्ता ने बताया कि कई टीके बहुत महंगे हैं जो सरकार की ओर से मुफ्त मुहैया नहीं कराए जाते। छोटी चेचक (चिकन पॉक्स) के टीके की कीमत

भारत में 1500 से 1700 रुपए है। वहीं, डीपीटी हिब आईपीवी (इनर पोलियो वैक्सीन) के दर्दरहित संयुक्त टीके की कीमत 2000 रुपए है।

गुप्ता के मुताबिक, निजी अस्पताल में डीपीटी के एकल टीके की कीमत 250 रुपए पड़ती है। लेकिन इस टीके के दुष्प्रभाव के कारण बच्चे को करीब 24 घंटे तक बुखार रहता है। शरीर के जिस स्थान पर टीका लगाया जाता है, वह जगह सूज जाती है। उन्होंने बताया कि डीपीटी के दर्दरहित एकल टीके की कीमत 950 से 1150 रुपए तक पड़ती है। उन्होंने कहा कि टीकाकरण के कारण बहुत सी बीमारियों पर रोक लगाने में सफलता मिल रही है। लेकिन ऊँचे दामों के कारण सभी टीके लगवाना मुश्किल हो रहा है।

पोलियो के खिलाफ सफल टीकाकरण के कारण ही हाल में भारत पोलियो ग्रस्त

देशों की सूची से बाहर हो गया है। पूरी तरह पोलियो मुक्त देश का दर्जा पाने के लिए भारत को अभी दो साल तक और यह साबित करना होगा कि इस दौरान देश में पोलियो का कोई नया मामला सामने नहीं आया। पोलियो का टीका दो स्वरूपों ओपीवी (ओरल पोलियो वैक्सीन) और आईपीवी (इनर पोलियो वैक्सीन) यानी कि इंजेक्शन के रूप में मौजूद है। सरकार की ओर से चलाए जाने वाले पल्स पोलियो अभियान में इसके ओपीवी स्वरूप का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स) के पूर्व बाल रोग विशेषज्ञ के.आर. सिंह के मुताबिक, बड़ी चेचक और पोलियो पर जीत टीकाकरण की सफलता का सबूत है। उन्होंने कहा कि आज की जीवनशैली में जिस तरह बीमारियाँ बढ़ रही हैं, वैसी स्थिति में वर्तमान में मौजूद सभी टीके बेहद जरूरी हैं।

*Jansatta, March 16, P.5*

**अब डोर टू डोर  
पहुँचेगा टीका**

नई दिल्ली

bhopal@patrika.com

डोर टू डोर पहुँचने वाले पल्स पोलियो अभियान की सफलता से उत्साहित केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय अब गंभीर बीमारियों से बचाव के लिए गांव-गांव प्रतिरक्षी टीका पहुँचाने के लिए टीका एक्सप्रेस शुरू करने जा रहा है। देश में ऐसा कोई भी राज्य नहीं है जहाँ 100 प्रतिशत टीकाकरण किया गया हो। देश में औसत टीकाकरण 60 प्रतिशत है।

टीका एक्सप्रेस पहले चरण में देश के 50 जिलों में शुरू होगी। एक्सप्रेस में राष्ट्रीय प्रतिरक्षण कार्यक्रम में शामिल सभी टीके उपलब्ध होंगे। इसके लिए यूनिसैफ़ ने विशेष तौर पर वैन डिजाइन की है। वैन टीके लगाने के साथ-साथ प्रतिरक्षण से जुड़े आंकड़ों को भी एकत्रित करेगी। प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

### मनाएंगे टीका वर्ष

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय वर्ष 2012 को तीव्रगति से टीकाकरण वर्ष घोषित करने की योजना बना रहा है। योजना के तहत प्राथमिक केन्द्रों से पैरेंटल लेकर तीन से छह घंटों के अंदर लक्षित गाँवों में पहुंचाया जाएगा। जिससे पैरेंटल के खाली यंत्राकरण से प्रभावित होने की

स्वास्थ्य योजना के लिए प्रतिरक्षण आंकड़ों की कमी को सीमा बताने के बाद योजना में तेजी आई है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के लिए भारत सरकार के अंतरराष्ट्रीय सलाहकार पैनल के प्रमुख अर्थशास्त्री जेफ़री सैच की अध्यक्षता में हाल में हुई बैठक में भी बिना सही प्रतिरक्षण आंकड़ों के स्वास्थ्य योजना के मूर्तरूप लेने में

आरंभ कराने से रूक रहे। एक अधिकारी का कहना है कि टीका एक्सप्रेस को देखते ही लोग समझ जाएंगे कि आज टीकाकरण दिन है। योजना के पहले चरण में 1800 विशेष वाहनों की जरूरत होगी। वाहन में रेफ़रेंसरेटल की व्यवस्था की जाएगी।

संदेह व्यक्त किया गया। यूएन चाइल्ड फंड के स्वास्थ्य विशेषज्ञ डॉ. एस के गुप्ता ने बताया टीकाकरण में पिछड़े 200 जिलों में से 50 में तीव्र गति से अभियान चलाने का फैसला किया गया है। राज्यों से भी योजना के तहत आने वाले जिलों में सड़क संपर्क और नक्सलवादियों की गतिविधियों के बारे में जानकारी देने को कहा गया है।

*Rajas than Patrika, March 1, P.2*



# In Assam hospital, 42 children dead in 2 months

AS MANY as 42 children — aged between one and 12 — have died in Assam's Karimganj district after being admitted to the district hospital there in a span of two months.

Confirming this, Karimganj Deputy Commissioner Jiten Borgoyari said these 42 deaths occurred in December and January, and that most of the cases were referral cases from the primary health centres of the district. The civil hospital in Karimganj town was the only referral hospital for a population of 12.5 lakh, he added.

The state UNICEF office has described the deaths as "alarming", with Jeero Master, state representative for Assam, saying a team of

UNICEF experts would be dispatched to Karimganj in the next few days.

"It is definitely a matter of concern. Luckily the victims are not neo-natal cases or infants. But something must be wrong somewhere in the district, which even otherwise figures at the bottom of the human development chart among all the districts of the state," Master said.

State Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma, who is away in Manipur as Congress party in-charge for the assembly elections, said he had already called for a detailed report on the deaths. "We have to find out two things; the reasons of death and whether the mortality rate in the 1-12 age group was abnormally high in comparison to earlier months," Sharma told The Indian Ex-

press over the telephone.

Deputy Commissioner Borgoyari, however, said preliminary reports had indicated that most of the 42 children were referred to the Karimganj Civil Hospital only after their condition had worsened. "Almost each child was sent to the civil hospital only when their condition had turned worse. Preliminary reports said most were cases of diarrhea, malnutrition and anaemia," he said. An Additional Deputy Commissioner has been already asked to conduct an inquiry.

Sharma admitted that the health infrastructure in Karimganj was bad in terms of qualified doctors and specialists.

"The district civil hospital does not have a pediatrician. Several PHCs are running with ayurvedic doctors be-

cause we do not have enough (MBBS) doctors. But only a detailed report can ascertain whether the mortality rate is normal or abnormally high," he said.

That all is not well with the only civil hospital in Karimganj — a district that shares a porous boundary with Bangladesh and has acute shortage of safe drinking water — can be gauged from the fact that while the hospital requires 50 doctors, it currently has only 18. "Till the other day it did not have an anesthetic," admitted Sharma.

Assam has the fourth highest infant mortality rate in the country with the latest SRS bulletin of the Registrar-General of India putting it at 61 per 1,000 live births against the national average of 50. In rural Assam, the IMR is as high as 64.

## 'India's infant mortality rate worst in South Asia'

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** In a shocking revelation, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday informed the Rajya Sabha that India's infant mortality rate of 47 per thousand live births was worse than those of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

"In India, the infant mortality rate (IMR) is 47 per thousand live births which translates into 12.5 lakh infant deaths per year," the minister said during the Question Hour. The IMR in West Bengal is

32 per thousand live births, which amounts to 47,000 infant deaths per year.

"Unfortunately, IMR and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in India is very bad. As bad that it cannot be compared with our neighbouring countries of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Pakistan is the only country that India can be compared with," Azad said. Replying to another question, Azad said that a new scheme to provide free medicine through public health facilities had been proposed under the NRHM.

*Indian Express, March 12, p. 6*

*Deccan Herald, March 21, p. 13*

# More new-borns die in Mumbai slums

Mumbai may be the City of Gold but life in some of its slumpockets is so wretched that in compari-

son impoverished nations such as Ethiopia seem better off.

For instance, the infant mortality rate in Deonar's Rafique Nagar is 100 per 1000 live births, which

means in every 10 babies one bay dies before turning one because of lack of food. In Ethiopia, the corresponding figure is 68 deaths per 1000 babies.

The Rafique Nagar figures come from a 2010-2011 study conducted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). "These appalling figures emerge from an ongoing survey of 20,000 households in M East area of Mumbai under TISS's M-ward project," said Leena Joshi, who heads the project.

On Saturday, TISS and other agencies held a public meeting on the issue of malnutrition in Rafique Nagar. One of the speakers, Jahan Ara (28) recounted how she lost her seven-

month-old baby to pneumonia in 2010. Public health authorities might dismiss it as another case of infection, but on digging in deeper, a dismal picture of children dying due to hunger in city's sprawling slums surfaces. "We didn't have food in family to eat or feed the child well. The night when my baby died, it was biting cold," recounted Jahan Ara.

Even as in 2010, 20 children in close to 800 households died due to lack of

food availability in slumpockets of Rafique nagar. One year later the scenario remains as bleak as ever. "Subsequent data collected in 2011 revealed that 16 children had died amongst 200 families in communities of Rafique-nagar and Bainganwadi alone," said Dyaneshwar Tarwade of Apnalaya, a non-profit group that works in Govandi's slums.

Tarwade attributes the rising malnutrition problem to insufficient and

poor functioning of aanganwadis in Mumbai slums. "Central Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) norms of having one aanganwadi for thousand people to check weight and provide supplementary nutrition to babies. A norm, which is not followed in slums of Mumbai. Moreover, 90 per cent of aanganwadis function out of 10 x 15 square feet slumdwellers' houses as government has cited lack of space to build aangan-

wadis in city," said Tarwade. "Mumbai does need close to thousand-odd aanganwadis more in the 33 ICDS projects functioning around the city. Proposals for additional construction have been put up for clearance to the central government. Currently, in desperate measures, lack of space in the city has forced us to rent slumdwellers' houses to run our centres," affirmed Mahinder Gaikwad, Child Development Project Officer, ICDS.

*Free Press Journal, March 27, P-7*



## UNICEF ALERT

### Over crib deaths in Bengal

It is a measure of the travesty of child rights and the enormity of a public health tragedy that Unicef has placed the West Bengal government on alert over the spate of crib deaths, most particularly in Kolkata and Malda. It should serve to check the government's tendency to obfuscate the upward curve in the rate of infant mortality. The report titled "State of the World's Children, 2012" has bluntly informed the West Bengal administration that the "issue of equity in terms of access of the poor urban children to (health) services should be addressed by the government". For far too long, the state authorities have been incredibly impervious to the decrepit infrastructure in paediatric hospitals. And it is decrepit in terms of human resources as well. The negligence, almost criminal, has been uniform in town and country. After every crib death, the overriding anxiety of the health department has been to give the hospital authorities — whether in Kolkata's Narkeldanga or Malda — a clean chit. Is this the *choto ghatana* (minor incident) syndrome that extends from the crib to the campus? The mortalities have invariably been attributed to poor "services" in the villages from where the parents bring their children to the city. The fingerprint of the Unicef report makes it pretty obvious that "services" are no less decrepit in the city itself.

The state's refrain that mother and child are malnourished can be acceptable with a modified "yes". Malnourishment, as official data would indicate and as the Prime Minister has had occasion to reaffirm, is a problem that afflicts the one-to-five-year age-group. There is as yet no explanation from the health department as to how a five-day-old child can suffer from such fatal malnourishment. Even if the baby displays such symptoms, it is the hospital's duty to care — a task in which it has been found wanting and repeatedly so. The infant mortality certificate is by and large unconvincing, crafted to cover the government's tracks. In effect, Unicef has alerted the government against a grotesque violation of child rights at birth. Health, like Home, cries out for a fulltime minister. To appoint an MoS under the Chief Minister is sheer ad hocism.

*Statesman  
March 10, 18*

## भारत में शिशु मृत्यु दर काफी ज्यादा : आजाद

नई दिल्ली, 20 मार्च (भाषा)। सरकार ने माना कि देश में शिशु मृत्यु दर दुनिया के विभिन्न देशों की तुलना में बहुत ज्यादा है और जन्म लेने वाले प्रति 1000 शिशुओं में से औसतन 45 की मौत हो जाती है।

स्वास्थ्य व परिवार कल्याण मंत्री गुलाम नबी आजाद ने राज्यसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान कहा कि देश में शिशु मृत्यु दर 12.5 लाख शिशु सालाना है और इस मामले में नेपाल, श्रीलंका व बांग्लादेश की स्थिति भी भारत से अच्छी है। उन्होंने वैष्णव परीडा के पूरक सवाल के जवाब में कहा कि शिशु मृत्युदर में सुधार के लिए राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के तहत कई कदम उठाए गए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि मातृ मृत्यु दर में 17 फीसद की कमी आई है।

आजाद ने कहा कि भारत में शिशु मृत्यु दर दुनिया में सबसे ज्यादा खराब है और इस मामले में नेपाल, श्रीलंका व

बांग्लादेश से भी तुलना नहीं की जा सकती। केवल पाकिस्तान एकमात्र ऐसा देश है जिससे इस मामले में भारत अपनी तुलना कर सकता है।

स्वास्थ्य व परिवार कल्याण मंत्री ने बताया कि पश्चिम बंगाल में जन्म लेने वाले

प्रति 1000 शिशुओं में से औसतन 32 बच्चों की मौत हो जाती है। इस तरह वहाँ सालाना शिशु मृत्यु दर 47000 है।

आजाद ने बताया कि पश्चिम बंगाल में मुर्शिदाबाद के जिला अस्पताल में जुलाई, 2011 में 12 शिशुओं और मालदा मेडिकल कालेज में जनवरी, 2012 के दौरान 15 शिशुओं की मौत की खबर थी। राज्य सरकार की जांच में पता चला कि ज्यादातर बच्चों को गंभीर स्थिति में इन अस्पतालों में रेफर किया गया था। इनमें से ज्यादातर नवजात थे। इनकी मौत के मुख्य कारणों में समय से पहले जन्म, वजन कम होना, न्यमोनिया, सेप्टीसेमिया और जन्मजात

श्वास अवरोध से पीड़ित होना था।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने बताया कि शिशु मृत्यु दर में कमी के लिए तीन साल में कई योजनाएं शुरू की गई हैं और इनके लिए केंद्र से अलग-अलग पैसा भी दिया गया। इसी के तहत अस्पतालों में नवजात शिशु देखभाल यूनिटें शुरू की जा रही हैं। हर यूनिट में चार डॉक्टर और दस प्रशिक्षित नर्स होंगी। उन्होंने बताया कि जननी सुरक्षा योजना के तहत गर्भवती महिलाओं को गांवों के सरकारी

अस्पताल में 1400 रुपए और शहर के सरकारी अस्पताल में 1000 रुपए दिए जाते हैं। कई महिलाओं ने इस योजना का लाभ उठाया। इससे मातृ मृत्यु दर घटाने में मदद मिली है।

आजाद ने बताया कि एक और योजना शुरू की जा रही है जिसके तहत गर्भवती महिला के सरकारी अस्पताल में आने के

*Tandatta, March 21, P.5*



बाद से उसकी देखभाल, प्रसव, दवा और उसके आहार का खर्च सरकार देगी।

भाजपा की स्मृति ईरानी के पूरक सवाल के जवाब में आजाद ने बताया कि राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के तहत देश भर में कुल 8722 डाक्टरों, 2014 विशेषज्ञों, 14529 पराचिकित्सकों और 33413 स्टाफ नर्सों की नियुक्ति की गई है। डी ब्रह्मोपाध्याय के पूरक सवाल के जवाब

में आजाद ने कहा कि शिशु मृत्यु दर ज्यादा होने के कई कारण हैं जिनमें अस्पताल दूर होना, परिवहन की समस्या और डाक्टरों की कमी और खासतौर पर हर स्तर पर मानव संसाधन की कमी भी शामिल हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इस समस्या के हल के लिए बुनियादी ढांचे और दक्षता के उन्नयन की जरूरत है।

## Under-five mortality rate falling, says Unicef

**CHENNAI: Amidst increasing urbanisation and poor nutrition levels, many children in the country have managed to survive in the first decade of the new millennium with under-five mortality (U5MR) rate, a critical indicator to measure children's wellbeing, dropping.**

This disturbing paradoxical achievement marker in child welfare in India has come to light in the Unicef's latest 'State of the World's Children Report-2012', released here on Monday by the global body. The report was released by the Tamil Nadu Planning Commission's Vice-Chairperson, Santha Sheila Nair.

While the basic thrust of Unicef's latest report sub-titled

'Children in an Urban World', is on siblings of poor parents, living in cities and towns "are excluded from vital services like health, safe water, sanitation, education and nutrition".

In the global ranking of some 193 countries in the descending order of their respective U5MR rates (the probability of children dying between birth and exactly five years of age which is expressed per 1000 live births), India ranks 46th, thus indicating that the country still has a long way to go in slashing U5MR in its urban areas.

Though India's annual average reduction rate in U5MR is up by 2 per cent in 2000-2010 amounting to 3.1 per cent against 2.9 per cent achieved in the previous decade (1990-2000), country's current status

in this vital parameter of child welfare is woefully behind economically smaller neighbouring countries like Nepal (ranked 59th) and Bangladesh (ranked 61st). Only Pakistan has a higher U5MR rate with 87 of that country's children dying for every 1000 live births.

Despite prolonged ethnic strife Sri Lanka is miles ahead of India's U5MR rate at just 17 kids in that age-group dying, even beating China whose U5MR is 18 children dying for every 1000 live births, according to the UNICEF report. Somalia tops the global list. The country's mortality among kids under the age group of five years is the highest at 180 per 1000 births.

In India, the level of under-nutrition in urban areas "con-

tinue to be very high". "At least quarter of urban children under five years were stunted, indicating that they had been under-nourished for some time. Income was a significant factor," finds the report. Among the urban residents in eight Indian cities surveyed, 54 per cent of its poorest children are "stunted" and 47 per cent remain "underweight".

Calling for building partnerships with official agencies "in ways that enable young people to play a part in influencing planning, finance and management of urban infrastructure", the report commended the work of a Bangalore-based NGO, Kilikili, which has encouraged children to be part of the projects to improve cities and make them child-friendly.

**DH News Service**

*Deccan herald, March 13, P.8*



## आबोहवा ने कमजोर किए बच्चों के फेफड़े

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

दिल्ली की आबोहवा में घुल रहा जहर दिल्ली के स्कूली बच्चों के फेफड़े खराब कर रहा है। सीएनसीआई, कोलकाता द्वारा दिल्ली में मानव स्वास्थ्य पर किए गए अध्ययन में ये सामने आया है।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक स्कूली बच्चों के थूक में एलविओलर मैक्रोफेजिन (एएम) बैक्टीरिया की मात्रा अधिक है। यह मात्रा सामान्य की तुलना में तीन गुना अधिक है। अमेटी विश्वविद्यालय के डाइरेक्टर जनरल डा. श्याम

सुंदर अग्रवाल का कहना है कि एलविओलर मैक्रोफेजिन की मात्रा अधिक होने से फेफड़ों पर बुरा असर पड़ता है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसका दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव काफी बुरा होता है। वायु प्रदूषण से ये सबसे अधिक होता है। ऐसे में ये जरूरी है कि अगर बच्चे को सांस संबंधी समस्या हो रही है तो उसका उपचार जल्द कराएं। रिपोर्ट में ये भी सामने आया कि दिल्ली के निवासियों के फेफड़ों की कार्यक्षमता अन्य लोगों की तुलना में 20.1 प्रतिशत कम है। वहीं नहीं दिल्ली के लोगों को वायु प्रदूषण

रिपोर्ट और भी

सेंटर फॉर साइप एंड एनवायरमेंट ने हाल ही में दिल्ली के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रदूषण के स्तर पर एक रिपोर्ट जारी की थी। रिपोर्ट में शहरी क्षेत्र के 32 प्रतिशत बच्चों में सांस संबंधी परेशानी उजागर की गई थी। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में यह स्तर मात्र 18.2 प्रतिशत था। रिपोर्ट में सीएनसी के अधिक इस्तेमाल पर जोर दिया गया था। नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर ऑक्युपेशन हेल्थ द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन में रोड साइड बनने वाले स्कूलों को बच्चों की सेहत के लिए सही नहीं बताया

गया था।

की वजह से सांस की बीमारियां हो रही हैं। राज्यसभा में एक प्रश्न के जवाब में जयंती नटराजन ने बताया कि नाइट्रोजन डाइऑक्साइड का स्तर दिल्ली और कोलकाता में तेजी से बढ़ा है साथ ही पीएम 10 का स्तर भी इन नगरों में काफी बढ़ा है। इसमें सुधार के लिए दो स्टोक और तिपहिया वाहनों के लिए टू टी पूर्व मिश्रित पेट्रोल का विकल्प शुरू किया गया है साथ ही जेनरेटर सेटों के लिए कड़े नियम बनाए गए हैं।

*Hindustan, March 20, 12*

## -MENTAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN

### बच्चों में बढ़ा दिमागी दौरा

चंडीगढ़ - चंडीगढ़ में दिमागी दौरा पीड़ित बच्चों की संख्या प्रति एक हजार में 6.24 के स्तर तक पहुंच गई है। यह खुलासा पीजीआई चंडीगढ़ के पीडिएटिक मेडिसिन विभाग में हाल ही दाखिल की गई एमडी की रिसर्च थोसिस में किया गया है। आधिकारिक जानकारी के अनुसार इस रिसर्च में शहर के करीब साठे तीन हजार स्कूली बच्चों को शामिल किया गया। एक साल से 18 साल उम्र के शहरी और ग्रामीण बच्चों को सर्वे में बराबर संख्या में शामिल किया गया। हालांकि शहर में ऐसे पीड़ित बच्चों की संख्या के बारे में इससे पूर्व के किसी सर्वे की जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं है। इसलिए यह आंकलन नहीं किया जा सकता कि बाल रोगियों की संख्या में यह इजाफा

किस दर से हो रहा है। रिसर्च थोसिस पर एक साल तक काम किया गया था। पीजीआई ने इससे पहले रिपोर्ट दी गई थी कि शहर में तीस फीसदी बच्चे मानसिक तनाव के शिकार हैं।

राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी मिर्गी और दौरा पीड़ित बच्चों का कोई रिकॉर्ड उपलब्ध नहीं है लेकिन बच्चों में मिर्गी का राष्ट्रीय औसत 5.4 के करीब आंका जा रहा है। इस हिसाब से चंडीगढ़ का औसत राष्ट्रीय औसत से अधिक है। थोसिस में इस दिमागी रोग फैलने के कारण स्पष्ट नहीं किए गए लेकिन गंदे पानी के इस्तेमाल और सफाई की कमी का कारण अनुमानित किया गया है। इसके अलावा जेनेटिक कारण, सिर में चोट लगना और दिमागी इन्फेक्शन भी इसका कारण माने जा रहे हैं। ऐसे दौर बुखार के दौरान आते हैं।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 22, 12*



# Paralytic polio returns to dent India's pride

**NEW DELHI:** Paralytic polio—derived from oral polio vaccine (OPV)—used for vaccinating millions of children—has struck India to cripple a child in West Bengal within a week of the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring the country free from the wild polio virus.

A case of vaccine derived polio virus (VDPV) type 2 has been confirmed in a five-month-old child in the Lalbagh block of Murshidabad district, reminding the health policy planner that the battle with polio is yet to be won.

However, there is a basic difference between the polio that struck the Bengal block and the virus that did not raise its ugly head in the country

over the last one year. While the WHO recognition comes due to the effort to keep the country free from wild polio virus, the incident that occurred in West Bengal is a case of vaccine derived polio, which is rare but with the real danger of continuing with the oral polio vaccine for years without improving the overall immunisation scenario.

Even though the country was free from wild polio virus in 2011, there were seven cases of VDPV last year in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. While one child had congenital immune deficiency in Dhamtari district in Chhattisgarh, others lived in areas with low routine im-

munization coverage, according to the national polio surveillance being run by the Union Health Ministry and the WHO.

The classification, however, means little for the victims as both wild and vaccine-derived virus cause the same crippling paralysis in children.

In VDPV, the virus was derived from OPV due to prolonged intestinal infection and removal of certain beneficial genetic changes, veteran virologist T Jacob John said, adding that VDPV was similar to wild polio virus as it was neuro-virulent and could be transmitted easily.

It happens because OPV is made from live but weakened polio virus, a few which can

come back as disease-causing agent. In India most of the VDPV cases are P-2 variety, which was eliminated from the wild way back in 1999.

"Circulating VDPV is wild-like and if allowed to survive in humans, it will replace the niche vacated by wild viruses. So it is indeed a threat to erad-

ication," John who retired as professor at Christian Medical College in Vellore and advises the Union Health Ministry on polio told *Deccan Herald*.

The NPSP claimed that none of the VDPVs detected in India in the last two years showed evidence of circulation. None of the VDPV strains detected in India during 2010 and 2011 are genetically linked to each other.

VDPV is risk, long recognised in the OPV campaign. "VDPVs may already be in silent transmission. If so they will flare up into outbreaks, epidemics and exportation. So we must stop OPV but we cannot simply stop OPV. Its a Catch 22 situation," John commented. **DH News Service**

*Deccan Herald,  
March 18, P1*

## 2 लाख ने गटकी पोलियो की खुराक

भरतपुर जिलेभर में रविवार को पल्स पोलियो अभियान के तहत 2 लाख 816 बच्चों ने पोलियो की खुराक गटकी। मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी डॉ. बी.एम.बैरवा के अनुसार कुम्हेर ब्लॉक में सर्वाधिक 64 प्रतिशत बच्चों ने पोलियो की खुराक पी। जबकि कामा में सबसे कम 35.56 प्रतिशत ही खुराक पिलाई जा सकी है। शहर में स्वामी विवेकानंद पीजी कॉलेज के छात्र संघ अध्यक्ष सुनील एवं छात्र संघ महासचिव प्रशांत जोशी के नेतृत्व में छात्र-छात्राओं ने पल्स पोलियो को लेकर जन-जागृति रैली शहर के मुख्य चौराहों से निकाली। रैली निकालते हुए

छात्र-छात्राओं ने बच्चों को पल्स पोलियो की खुराक पिलाने का संदेश दिया। इस अवसर पर गौरव चाहर, रामप्रकाश, रविकान्त जोशी, नूतन, धर्मेन्द्र चौधरी सहित कई लोग उपस्थित थे। भुसावर, पल्स पोलियो अभियान के तहत रविवार को 0 से 5 वर्ष के बच्चों को पल्स पोलियो की खुराक पिलाई गई। बीसीएमओ डॉ.बी.एल.मीणा ने बताया कि ब्लॉक में 265 बूथों पर तैतालीस हजार दौ सी नब्बे बच्चों को खुराक पिलाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया था। डॉ.मीणा ने नई सब्जी मंडी पर छह माह के भूमिपुत्र को दवा पिलाकर शुभारम्भ किया।

हलैना, अतिराम सागर किनारे आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्र प्रथम पर कुसुमलता अग्रवाल के सानिध्य में दवा पिलाई गई। इस केन्द्र पर गायत्री महिला प्रज्ञा मण्डल संयोजक मनीषा गुप्ता व उप-संयोजक प्रियका ने दवा पीने आए बच्चों का मिठाई की गोली बांटी और उनकी माता को गुलाब के पुष्प भेंट किए। एलएचवी निर्मला चौधरी ने बताया कि बूथ से दवा पीने से वंचित रहे बच्चों को लगातार दो दिन तक घर-घर जाकर दवा पिलाई जाएगी। छौंकरवाड़ा कला पर कमला अग्रवाल, कामिनी देवी के सानिध्य में दवा पिलाई गई।

पैघोर, पल्स पोलियो अभियान के तहत बूथों पर पांच साल तक के बच्चों को पोलियो की खुराक पिलाई। गुनसार पुलिस चौकी पर तालफर डिपेंसरी के अरबसिंह ने यूपी व राजस्थान रोडवेज से जाने वाले वाहनों को रोक कर बच्चों को पोलियो की खुराक पिलाई।

बाबूला, डेहरा सेक्टर के सुपरवाइजर मोरफ्ज ने बताया कि यहां सात बूथों पर कुल 507 बच्चों को पोलियो की खुराक पिलाई गई। अवार सेक्टर सुपरवाइजर के अनुसार 530, बेलांग कला में 473, उबार-सोगर में 942 बच्चों को पोलियो की खुराक पिलाई गई।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 19, P.6*



# Japan gives 120m yen to fight polio

In a major boost in India's fight against polio, the government of Japan on Monday granted 120 million Yen (₹7.2 crores) to Unicef for purchase of vaccines, supplies, equipment and services for 2012 to ensure that India remains free of polio virus.

His excellency ambassador Akitaka Saiki and Unicef India Representative Karin Hulshof signed the exchange of note at a ceremony at the Japanese embassy.

Mr Saiki lauded the concerted efforts of the government of India, states and international partner agencies, spearheaded by Unicef

and WHO, for India's progress against polio.

India completed a year without reporting any case of polio in January this year and was removed from the list of polio endemic countries by the World Health Organisation last month.

"we salute this grand achievement," the ambassador said.

The grant assistance would further contribute to

our friendship with India, he added.

Thanking the government of Japan, Ms Hulshof said the "unwavering support and confidence evinced by the government and the people of Japan in India's polio eradication efforts has been extremely encouraging and reassuring in the country's long drawn fight against polio."

*Asian Age,  
March 27, P.1*

## पोलियो कार्यक्रम में नहीं बरतेंगे ढिलाई

नई दिल्ली। फरवरी में विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) ने एक साल से अधिक समय तक पोलियो मुक्त रहे भारत का नाम पोलियो प्रभावित देशों की सूची से हटा दिया है। इसकी खुशी का असर संसद में बजट पेश करने के दौरान भी देखा गया। केंद्र सरकार ने इस कार्यक्रम में किसी तरह की लापरवाही न बरतने का सबूत बजट में दिखाया है। पोलियो कार्यक्रम को सुचारु रूप में चलाने के लिए न सिर्फ 395.06 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया गया है, बल्कि चेन्नई के आसपास एक वैक्सीन बनाने की कंपनी स्थापित करने का प्रावधान किया गया है।

पोलियो के लगातार सामने आ रहे मामले को देखते हुए केंद्र

सरकार ने पोलियो प्रांतरक्षण क लिए वर्ष 2011 में 300.34 लाख रुपये आवंटित किए थे। लेकिन वर्ष 2012 के बजट में इसे बढ़ाकर 395.06 करोड़ रुपये कर देने का प्रस्ताव है। इससे जाहिर होता है कि केंद्र सरकार पोलियो उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम में किसी तरह की लापरवाही बरतना नहीं चाहती है। बजट पेश करते हुए वित्त मंत्री प्रणब मुखर्जी ने पोलियो कार्यक्रम की सफलता का जिक्र किया और कहा कि एक साल से ज्यादा समय गुजरने के बावजूद पोलियो का एक भी मामला सामने नहीं आया। वैक्सीन उत्पादन के लिए नई कंपनी स्थापित की जाएगी। साथ ही, पुरानी कंपनियों का आधुनिकीकरण भी किया जाएगा, ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा वैक्सीन का उत्पादन हो सके। वर्तमान में पोलियो वैक्सीन चीन से आयात की जाती है। ध्रुव

*Amar Ujala,  
March 17, P.2*

# Many drops made this an ocean

The story of a polio-free India is also that of a massive public health initiative that worked

KumKum Dasgupta

Despite recent improvements, India's public health structure is still in a shambles. But astonishingly, the same structure managed to recently score the greatest public health achievement in its history by making India polio-free. No case has been reported since January 13, 2011. Thanks to this record, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has taken the country off the polio endemic list — and if India does not report any more cases in the next two years, it will be officially 'polio free'.

To understand the extent of this achievement, consider this: Just three years ago, India recorded 741 cases of polio, nearly half the number of global cases.

India has been one of the developing world's largest polio-endemic countries along with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Before the introduction of the National Immunisation Days (NID) in 1994-95, as many as 500 children were reportedly infected with the virus every day. A noted scientist once remarked that for the world to be polio-free, India had to be polio-free; for India to be free of polio, Uttar Pradesh had to be free of the virus; and for UP to be polio-free, Moradabad district had to be polio-free.

Polio is an acute, viral, infectious disease that spreads from person to person primarily via the faecal-oral route. It managed to spread so quickly and extensively in India because of certain reasons (unfortunately, these reasons still exist): high density habitation, poor sanitation, poor access to clean water and toilets, poor breastfeeding rates, poor nutrition and high number of



• A safety net: At a Pulse Polio booth in Moradabad

enteric diseases among children, making it impossible for their bodies to retain polio vaccine drops.

The reasons for the success of the anti-polio campaign in India are many: a humongous immunisation programme and a strong and sustained political-bureaucratic-religious advocacy. One of the key reasons for the accomplishment was the successful coordination among the State, Rotary International and the WHO. While the government stepped up its immunisation programmes, Rotary chipped in with additional funds, advocacy efforts and manpower to supplement the State's efforts. It was thanks to the sustained advocacy of Rotary India's National PolioPlus Committee that the government started the NID. In India, Rotarians has contributed ₹744 crore to fund eradication activities.

Deepak Kapur, chairman, India National Polio Plus Committee, Rotary International, says the biggest challenge was UP and the Muslim community that was against the vaccine because of rumours that it had

pig fat in it and that the immunisation programme was a device to control the Muslim population.

To get around this problem, Rotary approached the Muslim Ulema Committee in 2004. "After some discussion, they started announcing the immunisation dates after the Friday prayers and some even held camps inside the mosques," says Kapur. "That gave a great push to the campaign."

While this was a major victory, there were many smaller — but equally important — efforts that kept the seamless immunisation process intact. The organisation helped the state governments to meet their immunisation targets and also chipped in with vaccine carriers, marker pens, cold boxes and free general health camps in affected districts.

The scale of the challenge can perhaps be understood by the case of Dharavi in Mumbai, a mega-slum that is home to a million people in a 3 sq kms space. Here the immunisation teams followed carefully developed micro-plan maps, walked in single files in tiny, winding lanes, scrambled up rickety ladders to reach children living in corrugated iron homes stacked one on the top of other, three or four storeys high.

The success of the anti-polio drives demonstrates that it is possible to ensure equity in the availability of health services in even the poorest, most densely-populated environments. Hopefully, the success of the campaign can also help eliminate, as the health minister said recently, measles-related child deaths and neo-natal tetanus from India.

• kumkum.dasgupta@hindustantimes.com

*Hindustan Times, March 15, P. 14*



## POLIO-FREE

### But still far from eradication

**DESPITE** the reassuring piece of news, it would be dangerous to be complacent. The World Health Organisation has deleted India from the list of countries where polio is endemic. There has been no fresh detection of the wild polio virus since the last case was diagnosed in Bengal's Howrah district in January 2011. WHO is justifiably proud of India's achievement — "this the first time in history we're able to put up a map like this one." That said, the public health authorities must realise that there is a crucial difference between "no fresh detection" and "eradication". For that consummation, India will have to sustain its record till January 2014. With no fresh cases for a year, the country has performed better than Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. The defence, therefore, must be up and running.

Chiefly, the immunisation process must continue despite the \$1.09 billion shortfall that might impede the world's polio eradication effort. For India, the strategy will call for a sharper focus on child health not least in the context of WHO's caveat: "India has to reach all its children through routine immunisation." And on that will hinge the fulfilment of the Prime Minister's hope that "we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the Earth". The country is still a long way away from "full immunisation" of children. While the programme is widely publicised in the urban areas, the task has often been hobbled by superstition and ignorance in rural India. Which precisely forms the context of Dr Manmohan Singh's directive that "every Indian child, rich or poor, whether living in Ladakh or in Delhi, must have equal access to the best immunisation". In terms of coverage, the public health sector can't afford a partial exercise. It would be a tragedy should the virus strike again over the next two years. Complacency with the polio immunisation programme could well lead to a relapse of this crippling ailment that has defied a cure. Governments both at the Centre and in the states owe the anti-polio vaccine to every child, as crucially as they owe children a minimum level of nutrition. Just as kids below five are vulnerable to malnourishment, so too can they be susceptible to polio. India needs to ensure and enhance its prominence in the world's polio-free map... by figuring in the eradication zone.

*Statesman  
March 1, p. 8*

## 'पोलियो से मुक्ति के लिए अभी दो साल तक करना होगा संघर्ष'

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन द्वारा देश को पोलियो मुक्त देश घोषित किए जाने पर दिल्ली नगर निगम के पूर्व महापौर डा. कंवर सेन के सानिध्य में आईटीजे मिश्र इंडियन मेडिकल एसोसिएशन के सभागार में समारोह आयोजित किया गया। जिसमें देश को पोलियो मुक्त बनाने पर पूर्व स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डा. हर्ष वर्धन का अभिनंदन किया गया। इस मौके पर डा. सेन ने कहा कि डा. हर्ष वर्धन 18 साल पहले, 2 अक्टूबर, 1994 को भाजपा के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री बने थे। उनके निरंतर संघर्ष का फल अब देश ही दुनिया भर के लोगों को मिल रहा है। इस अवसर पर डा. हर्ष वर्धन ने कहा कि भारत को पोलियो मुक्त बनाने पर सभी एजेंसियों, स्वास्थ्य वर्कर्स एवं पैरेंट्स को बधाई दी जिन्होंने आयोजित होने वाले पोलियो दिवस के दिन केंद्रों पर अपने 0-5 साल तक उम्र के बच्चों को बड़बड़कर दवा की खुराक पिलाने में दिलचस्पी दिखाई थी। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने भले ही वर्तमान में भारत को पोलियो मुक्त देश घोषित कर दिया है, लेकिन हमें अपने अभियान को अभी भी अगले कई वर्षों तक चालू रखना होगा। हमारे लिए अगले दो साल अत्यंत संघर्ष पूर्ण होंगे। इस मौके पर डा. सेन ने उन्हें स्मृति चिह्न, शाल, पुष्प गुच्छ भेंट किए।

*Rashtriya Sahara, March 4, p. 8*

## -SMOKING BY PARENTS

# Say no to second-hand smoke

Staff Reporter

**NEW DELHI:** In India, about 40 per cent of all children are regularly exposed to second-hand smoke at home and 31 per cent of deaths attributable to second-hand smoke occur in children. Exposure to second-hand smoke also causes six lakh premature deaths per year.

More such facts have been brought to the fore to warn people about the deadly effects of second-hand smoke exposure on children by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's newly launched "Tobacco is Eating Your Baby Alive" campaign. The World Lung Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies are providing technical and financial support to this campaign that graphically depicts how exposure to tobacco smoke that can cause Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), crippling asthma, painful ear infection, pneumonia and low birth weight among newborns.

Besides being a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, low birth weight and chronic lung ailments, tobacco

smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, of which at least 250 are known to be harmful and more than 50 are known to cause cancer, says a report by the World Health Organisation.

Babies of expectant mothers and newborn children exposed to second-hand smoke are more prone to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children, adds the report.

"Every exposure to the cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco smoke can cause grave diseases, and children are particularly vulnerable. The latest mass media campaign launched by the Ministry of Health, "Tobacco is Eating Your Baby Alive", was rigorously message-tested with various audiences in India and portrays the specific illnesses caused by exposure to second-hand smoke, including ear infections, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome. We hope this sends a strong message to those who smoke: to stop exposing children to their toxins and better yet, to stop using tobacco entirely," says

Dr. Nandita Murukutla, country director (India) and director (global), Research and Evaluation, World Lung Foundation.

The WHO studies also found that young children who are exposed to second-hand smoke at home are twice as likely to start smoking as those who are not exposed. Also children who have been affected by second-hand smoking are more likely to have positive thoughts about the smoking habit.

Guidelines of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, an international health treaty signed and ratified by India, state that there is no "safe level of exposure" to second-hand smoke. The only effective way to protect people from harmful exposure to second-hand smoke is ensuring a 100 per cent smoke-free environment.

The nationwide campaign is being aired on all major television and radio channels in the North East region and across the rest of the country. The campaign is being aired in 16 regional Indian languages, complemented by a national outdoor campaign.

*Hindu, March 19, P.2*



# Children bear brunt as TB goes undetected

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Failure to detect tuberculosis in time claims a shocking 70,000 children all over the world. Health experts say the situation in India is no better off than the rest of world when it comes to protecting its children from the curable disease.

Experts estimate that of the total TB cases reported, 8% to 10% are pediatric cases. According to the Health Ministry's TB Control India statistics, the disease kills two people every three minutes, and accounts for over 3 lakh deaths every year.

"Of the total TB cases that we get every year, ten per cent are among babies and children. This is because diagnosing the disease in them is difficult as the symptoms are not very specific," said Ashok Kumar, deputy director general of the central TB control division.

He explained that unlike adults who often cough incessantly when infected with the

**INCESSANT COUGHING, ONE OF THE KEY SYMPTOMS OF TB, IS OFTEN NOT PRESENT IN CHILDREN. YOUNGER CHILDREN ALSO DO NOT PRODUCE ENOUGH SPUTUM THAT CAN BE SAMPLED FOR DIAGNOSIS**

disease, children may not even cough. Moreover, young children are unable to produce enough sputum which can be used as a sample to check for the bacteria that cause TB.

TB most commonly affects the lungs, but it also can affect other parts of the body. Infants and young children are at special risk of having severe, often fatal forms of TB, such as TB meningitis, which can leave them blind, deaf, paralysed or mentally disabled. Children are just as vulnerable as adults to developing — or becoming infected with — drug-resistant

forms of TB that require a lengthy, costly treatment with often severe side effects.

Similar to adults, pulmonary TB is most common, with extrapulmonary disease occurring in 20% of the children. Cutaneous TB accounts for about 1.5% of extrapulmonary cases.

D Behera from IIRS Institute of Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases, noted that the treatment regimen for children is difficult in view of several factors such as age and weight as it is not easy to bring them under a common band. "Every child need to have an individual drug regimen depending on their individual need so as to ensure that the drugs do not have side affects on them," he said.

Recognising the problem, UN health agency WHO has already called for ensuring that all children in households with infected adults be screened for TB, which would help detect cases early.

*Pioneer, March 23, PS*

-VITAMIN D FOR A CHILD

# Does your child get enough of Vitamin D?

Are you one of those who believe plain milk is enough for your child's nutritional needs? Have you ever thought about your child's Vitamin D levels? These findings are an eye-opener

Mithila Mehta

Mark 'yes' if these situations are relevant to your child:

1. Your child barely plays out in the sun.

2. Off late your child tends to get tired easily & seems listless at times.

3. Your child complains of pain in his joints without reason.

If your answers are predominantly 'yes', then this recent 11-city survey conducted by Ipsos Research will be an eye-opener for you. The purpose

was to understand the level of awareness about Vitamin D among mothers - whether they considered it important enough for their child, the misconceptions about it and the harm that would befall the child if they are found to be Vitamin D deficient. The response from the 2000 mothers who were spoken to for the survey, threw up some compelling insights.

First the good news. General awareness levels among the mothers were high: most of them correctly mentioned sunlight as a source of Vitamin D. They were aware that lack of this vitamin would result in weak bones in children. The good news however, ended there!

More worrisome were several startling disclosures, viz:

This is the first of a 10-part series that will focus on the importance of Vitamin D for children. Keep watching this space for more

- Only 50 per cent of the mothers were aware of the crucial nutritional link between calcium and Vitamin D.

- Only 14 per cent mothers felt their children were calcium-deficient. The majority of them believed the milk they were providing their children was enough to store up Vitamin D levels in the body.

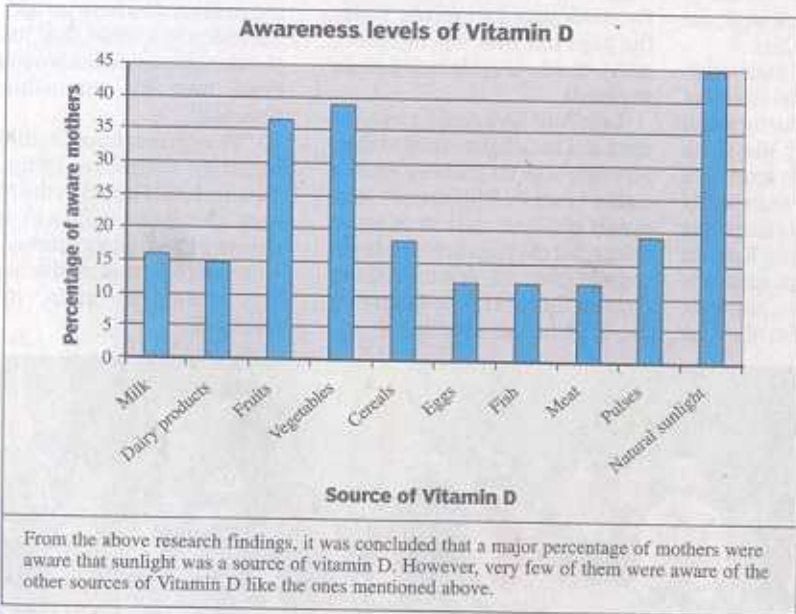
- Their awareness about other sources of Vitamin D (fish, fish liver oils, egg yolk, fortified dairy and grain products) was also very low.

- They didn't know that apart from weak bones, lack of Vitamin D also results in skin-related issues, tooth cavities and poor concentration levels.

- Majority said they give milk daily to their children and in addition also provide them fruits, milk food drinks (MFDs) and interesting homemade food. Most mothers preferred MFDs over plain milk and also felt the quantity of milk their child was consuming was sufficient for calcium absorption.

So what lessons and questions does this insightful survey throw up? For starters, there is an urgent need to shore up awareness levels among mothers because most of them feel that the source of Vitamin D is restricted largely to absorption of natural sunlight. The truth is that this vitamin can be and needs to be made available to children in many other ways as well, given the kind of lifestyles many of them lead. Mothers also need to be educated about the health hazards that calcium deficiency leads to, and the right quantity of milk that needs to be consumed everyday for calcium absorption in the body.

The findings of the survey should prompt you to stop, take note and become more aware. After all, it is awareness that leads to empowerment.



Credit: Ipsos Research

*Times of India, March 11, P.3*



## Empower the health-care consumer with knowledge

A couple of years ago, two incidents made me realise that the importance of health education – as an invaluable tool, key to preventive and diagnostic health care – is poorly understood. The first was when a group of women instigated by higher officials in their *beedi* company made a representation to me that they were against the government's idea of a logo with a skull stating "smoking is injurious to health" on the *beedi* packets they produce, as that would be detrimental to their livelihood. The second was during the Assembly session when an elected member requested the then transport minister to go easy on government drivers reprimanded for drunken or rash driving.

These two case scenarios are not straightforward livelihood issues but are rather complex with a negative impact on the health, economic, and social well-being of our country. Health education is very often construed to be within the realms of sanitation, hygiene, maternal and childcare, yet even in these areas the impact of health education is incomplete and patchy. In developed countries, health education is a key component of the healthcare system and the budget. Empowering the health-care consumer with the knowledge to understand the health-care system and to question health-care providers should be the goal of health literacy programmes.

Inadequate sanitation, sub-optimal reproductive health and prevalence of life-threatening infectious diseases were all global phenomena a few hundred

years ago. Industrialisation and affluence alone did not contribute to optimal human development indicators in developed nations but intensive social engineering through vigorous health education programmes contributed to these positive changes. India with its inherent diversity, paradoxes and its recently acquired economic prosperity, has to battle with communicable, non-communicable illnesses and psychosocial disorders. A rise in road traffic accidents, illnesses related to alcohol, tobacco consumption and psychosocial disorders are increasingly affecting the most productive age group of our country. The long-term repercussions of these preventable deaths can become a huge burden to the nation's economy. Hence there is an urgent need not to restrict health education to primary pre-

vention but expand it to create awareness of secondary prevention, the working of the health-care system, the importance of health insurance, etc.

### For positive behavioural changes

To combat these public health problems with our limited health resources and to obtain maximum gain it is essential to create an innovative health education policy that would lead to intrinsic positive behavioural changes amid our general populace. Health education leads to empowerment and emancipation of health-care consumers resulting in a standardised quality health-care system.

Postgraduate, graduate and diploma courses on health education with adequate job opportunities should be created for health educators. Research

suggests that an improvement in health literacy has a positive effect on the nation's economy. A World Bank report indicates that the economic impact of inadequate sanitation in India in 2006 was Rs.1.7 trillion, and in 2010, Rs.2.4 trillion. The Planning Commission of India states that India accounts for 9.5 per cent of the total 1.2 million deaths from road traffic accidents, incurring an annual loss of Rs.550 billion. If just these public health problems alone can result in a loss of several trillion rupees, the amount of both direct and indirect losses to the exchequer will be an unimaginable sum when the remaining diseases are calculated.

Undoubtedly the economic reforms have uplifted millions from poverty, but one major illness, an unexpected death or severe injury from a road traffic accident will push them back to their below the poverty (starting) line. Cost-benefit analysis, cost-effective analysis and cost utility analysis are useful and powerful tools for decision making.

To enjoy the fruits of economic reforms holistically, it is mandatory for India to focus on health education, as the huge savings will enable us to achieve the millennium development goals that would in turn lead to the creation of an effective social security system on a par or even superior to what is there in the developed nations. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "it is health that is real wealth, and not pieces of gold or silver."

Hindu, March 28, P.11



# Novel study in TN to know gestational diabetes effects

R. PRASAD

**F**or the first time in the country, 14,000 pregnant women will be screened for gestational diabetes (GDM), and equal number of women with and without gestational diabetes and children born to such mothers would be followed up for 15 years.

The screening programme was started two months ago by Dr. V. Seshiah Diabetes Research Institute and Dr. Balaji Diabetes Care Centre in Chennai, together with the Tamil Nadu government. It is being done at three centres representing rural, semi-urban and urban populations. The three centres are at Thiruvallur, Siadapet and at Dr. V. Seshiah Diabetes Research Institute and Dr. Balaji Diabetes Care Centre. The World Diabetes Foundation is funding the programme.

## Screening

"Screening of 14,000 women will be at random and those with gestational diabetes and equal number of women without GDM will be included in the programme," said Dr. V. Balaji, Senior Diabetologist and Director of Dr. Balaji Diabetes Care Centre and Dr. V. Seshiah Diabetes



**TESTING:** Screening of pregnant women for gestational diabetes will be done immaterial of the gestation period. - PHOTO: M. SRINATH

Research Institute.

During the first year 7,000 women will be screened and another 7,000 women will be screened next year, bringing the total number of women who would be screened to 14,000.

## 15-year study

The programme will follow-up GDM mothers and children born to them for a period of 15 years (study group). During the same period, equal number of non-GDM mothers and their children will be followed up as controls. For instance, if 2,000 women with GDM are

found during the screening, 2,000 non-GDM women will be enrolled as controls.

Gestational diabetes hovers at around 16 per cent in India. Studies have shown that children born to women with uncontrolled gestational diabetes are more prone to suffer from childhood obesity and have a higher risk of developing a metabolic syndrome like diabetes during their adulthood. Similarly, women with uncontrolled gestational diabetes also stand to suffer from diabetes at a later point in their life.

In this programme, the glucose level of all women with

gestational diabetes will be controlled either through diet manipulation or insulin. Though some studies show that children born to mothers with gestational diabetes are more prone to developing diabetes, there is no hard data to support this. According to Dr. Balaji, this study will be the first to provide long term data of factors that cause diabetes in children even when they are born to women whose gestational diabetes has been controlled.

"Screening of pregnant women for gestational diabetes will be done immaterial of the gestation period," said Dr. Balaji.

This becomes essential as gestational diabetes can be detected as early as at 16 weeks of gestation and even in those who have normal glucose level in the first and second trimester can turn up positive for gestational diabetes during the third trimester.

The pilot study conducted by Dr. Balaji, Dr. Seshiah and Dr. Madhuri Balaji together with the State government has been rolled out throughout the Tamil Nadu. Controlling gestational diabetes has now become a national programme and has been implemented in four States, including Bihar.

Hindu, March 8, P.16



# Swine flu

Despite the deaths in quick succession, Pune, too, appears to have come to treat swine flu as just another flu. There is no panic stocking of face masks or queuing up for vaccines and schools have stayed open but for issuing some general guidelines.

It is the suddenness with which the virus turned active that the medical practitioners find "unusual" and that they are closely looking at.

Many believe it has been brought on by weather fluctuations in the city — cold in the early mornings and nights, with hot day temperatures.

At the National Institute of Virology, experts are assessing the genetic make-up of the virus to see if there is a newer strain. So far there are no significant changes, assures Dr A C Mishra, NIV director. However, studies are underway. Mishra believes that as the temperatures rise with the coming summer, this could just be a short spurt — similar to what has been recorded in Mexico and countries in Asia and Central America. "Last year globally, swine flu was at an ebb. While short spurts are being recorded in other countries this year, it could well be a short spell where the virus will surge and then die down," says Mishra.

In fact, considering the drastic fall in numbers last year, the

state had decided to withdraw the Epidemic Diseases Act invoked in 2009 to prevent the disease from spreading. State officials say they may let the Act continue for now.

The government has held hectic meetings to work out preventive measures, led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. One of the moves discussed was to ensure adequate stock of oseltamivir tablets in Pune. Private practitioners have also been told to keep an eye out for patients

with suspect symptoms.

However, the city is taking the deaths in its stride. Chemists who had faced a shortage of face masks three years ago stock only a few now because of lack of demand. Gone are the queues outside government hospitals or centres for screening. While schools have not issued any advisories, parents have been urged not to send their children if unwell.

It's only patients with severe symptoms such as fever lasting a few days, throat pain and breathlessness who are being admitted to isolation wards by hospitals.

Throat swabs are taken of patients who have strong clinical presentations for swine flu. Oseltamivir tablets are administered immediately. The others are being handled by the outpatient departments.

Dr Mohan K T, the consultant pulmonologist at Aditya Birla Hospital, finds a difference among patients' reaction to the virus as well.

"A pregnant woman who was infected with swine flu in the seventh month had a premature delivery and has been on the ventilator for over 20 days now. But she

is pulling along," he points out, adding that three years ago, among those at highest risk of the virus were pregnant women, apart from diabetics, and persons with congestive heart failure and other ailments.

Most of the patients to have died this month had a medical problem, district civil surgeon Dr Vinayak More pointed out.

Serum Institute of India is also unlikely to go ahead with production of the intranasal vaccine against swine flu. Serum was the first in the country to manufacture such an indigenous vaccine. However, sales had not been high and a million doses had to be destroyed. Dr Rajeev Dhere, senior director at Serum Institute of India Ltd, believes that due to the vaccination and exposure to the virus the past few years, a herd immunity has developed. Serum's efforts are now concentrated towards a trivalent seasonal flu vaccine that can effectively combat H1N1 virus, Influenza 'B' and H3N2 virus.

Dr D B Kadam, head of Department of Medicine at B J Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital, sums it up: "Swine flu is more of a seasonal flu now."

## FALLING NUMBERS

**IN 2009**, WHO declared swine flu the first global flu pandemic in 40 years, after the outbreak of cases in Mexico followed by other countries.

**IN 2009-10**, Pune district saw 3,236 H1N1-positive patients and 211 deaths. Pune city itself, says Dr ST Pardeshi, chief medical officer, Pune Municipal Corporation, saw 1,989 swine flu patients, of which 80 died.

**IN 2010-11**, the district saw 2,020 cases and 221 deaths. In Pune city, the number of patients testing positive was 1,183, of which 51 died.

**IN COMPARISON**, the total Maharashtra figures were 415 deaths in

2009-10 and 525 deaths in 2010-11.

**FROM APRIL 2011** till March this year the tally of those affected so far has reached 100 in Pune district, says state surveillance Officer Dr Pradip Awate; 80 out of the 100 were detected with swine flu.

**STUDYING THE** burden of influenza for the first time in the country, the NIV estimates it to be quite high among the hospitalised patients. The WHO estimates that flu causes 3-5 million cases of severe illnesses worldwide every year, with about 250,000 to 500,000 deaths.

*Indian Express, March 22, 19*



## NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM)

### NRHM to soon become National Health Mission

**NEW DELHI:** The government proposes to convert the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) into a National Health Mission to provide health care to the urban poor also, in the course of the 12th Plan.

Universal access to free generic essential medicines in public health institutions in a phased and time-bound manner will be ensured.

Announcing major initiatives to provide universal healthcare, President Pratib-

ha Patil on Monday said the government would endeavour to increase both Plan and Non-Plan public expenditure in the Centre and the States taken together to 2.5 per cent of the gross domestic product by the end of the 12th Plan.

"People need to be healthy if they have to learn, earn and lead a productive and fulfilling life. Our National Rural Health Mission has started making a difference as reflected in the health indicators," Ms. Patil said in her speech to the joint session of the first day of the Budget ses-

sion of Parliament, as she recounted the achievements of this ambitious programme.

The Infant Mortality Rate declined from 58 per thousand live births in 2005 to 47 in 2010 and Maternal Mortality Ratio from 254 per one lakh deliveries in 2004-2006 to 212 in 2007-2009. The Janani Suraksha Yojana registered impressive gains with 1.13 crore women benefiting during 2010-11. Polio has been almost eradicated from the country. The World Health Organisation has decided to take India off the list of coun-

tries with active endemic wild poliovirus transmission.

Pointing out that in spite of increased investment in the health sector over the last 7 years, public expenditure on healthcare continues to be low, the President said the government would strengthen district hospitals to provide advanced level secondary care under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke and The National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly.

*Hindu, March 13, P10*

## Amid increasing deficit, NRHM gets little boost

### SOME RELIEF Six life-saving drugs and vaccines receive excise duty exemption

**HT Correspondent**

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** With the fiscal deficit spiralling out of control, health outlay for 2012-13 went up marginally to ₹30,477 crore, from ₹26,750 in 2011-12.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) funding got a modest boost, going up to ₹20,822 crore in 2012-13 from ₹18,115 crore in 2011-12.

The government also announced the launch of the National Urban Health Mission this year to provide primary healthcare needs to the urban poor.

The exemption of excise duty on specified life-saving drugs and raw materials for low-cost medical devices will offer some relief to the healthcare sector,

which remained largely unaffected by Union finance minister Pranab Mukherjee's budgetary proposals.

Apart from giving six specified life-saving drugs and vaccines concessional customs duty of 5% with full exemption from excise duty/CVD (counter vailing duty), Mukherjee gave low-cost medical device production a boost by lowering customs duty on components and raw materials for medical disposables and instruments to 2.5% with the concessional CVD of 6%.

Specified raw materials for manufacturing stents and valves used to treat heart disease will get full exemption from excise duty and counter vailing duty.

Preventive health check-ups



■ The exemption of excise duty on raw materials for low-cost medical devices will offer some relief to the healthcare sector. HT

get a deduction of up to ₹5,000 within the existing deduction limit for health insurance.

The finance minister also announced that AIIMS-like institutions will be set up in six

cities — Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur and Rishikesh — and seven medical colleges will be upgraded by 2014 under the Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

*Hindustan Times, March 17, P17*



# सब्जियों में घटा 'आयरन'

सिरोही

pali@patrika.com

पत्ते वाली हरी सब्जियां खाकर शारीरिक दुर्बलता को दूर करना अब मुश्किल हो गया है। जमीनों में लगातार घट रहे आयरन (लोह तत्व) के कारण अब इसका असर सब्जियों में भी दिखाई देने लगा है। विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) के एक प्रोजेक्ट के तहत सिरोही स्थित राजकीय स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय की रसायन शास्त्र की व्याख्याता डॉ. सीमा वाण्येय की ओर से किए गए शोध में सब्जियों में 90 फीसदी आयरन की गिरावट होने के तथ्य सामने आए हैं।

## शरीर पर प्रभाव

जिले के विभिन्न स्थानों में हरे पत्ते वाली सब्जियां जैसे सरसों, पालक, मेथी व चंदलिया पर शोध किया गया। इन सब्जियों में सामान्य रूप से 250 से 300 पीपीएम के बीच आयरन पाया जाता है, लेकिन किए गए शोध में पाया कि सामान्य की तुलना में से जिले के विभिन्न हिस्सों में बुवाई की गई इन सब्जियों में महज 10 फीसदी ही आयरन उपलब्ध हो पा रहा है। ऐसे में मनुष्य का भोजन प्रभावित हो रहा है। लिहाजा, मानव शरीर में आयरन के जरिए बनने वाले हिमोग्लोबिन की कमी से रक्त निर्माण में भी कमी आने आशंका बनी हुई है। डॉ. वाण्येय की ओर से सितम्बर, 2010 से फरवरी, 2012 की अवधि में इन सब्जियों के

नमूनों की उदयपुर स्थित महाराणा प्रताप कृषि एवं तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय में 'एटोमिक अबजोर्प्शन स्पेक्ट्रोफोटोमेट्रिक' तरीके से की गई जांच में यह स्थिति उजागर हुई है।

## जमीनों से गायब हो रहा आयरन

जमीनों में औसतन 4.5 पीपीएम आयरन की उपलब्धता पाई जाती है। इससे सब्जियों में भी आयरन की मात्रा बढ़ती है, लेकिन जिले के समस्त ब्लॉकों की जमीनों में आयरन की मात्रा लगातार घट रही है। कृषि

विभाग के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक रेवदर ब्लॉक की जमीनों में 0.70 पीपीएम ही आयरन की उपलब्धता है। जबकि, सिरोही में 1.06 पीपीएम, शिवगंज में 2.45 पीपीएम, पिण्डवाड़ा में 3.26 पीपीएम व आबूरोड ब्लॉक की जमीनों में 3.94

पीपीएम आयरन की उपलब्धता है। इस कारण भोजन में आयरन की उपलब्धता कम हो रही है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक जिले के 90 फीसदी गांवों की जमीनों में आयरन की भयंकर गिरावट आ रही है।

कास

Rajasthan Patrika,  
March 29, 2011

# बच्चे को भूख लगाने पर ही कराएं स्तनपान

लंदन | एजेसियां

यह बात तमाम शोध में साबित हो चुकी है कि मां का दूध बच्चों के लिए अमृत होता है। यह न सिर्फ उनके मस्तिष्क के विकास के लिए अच्छा होता है बल्कि उन्हें सेहतमंद और बीमारियों के खिलाफ उनकी प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को भी बढ़ाता है। मगर एक नए अध्ययन के मुताबिक मां अपने बच्चे को किस समय दूध पिलाती है, इससे उनका बौद्धिक विकास प्रभावित होता है। अध्ययन के मुताबिक तयशुदा वक्त के बजाय बच्चों को भूख लगने पर स्तनपान कराने से उनका आईक्यू बेहतर होता है।

एसेक्स व ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी के शोधकर्ताओं ने 1990 के दौरान जन्मे 10,419 बच्चों पर शोध किया। उन्होंने बच्चों के पांचवें, सातवें, ग्यारहवें और चौदहवें साल में कुछ टेस्ट लिए। साथ ही बच्चों की पारिवारिक पृष्ठभूमि, माता-पिता की शिक्षा का स्तर, कुल आय और उनके परवरिश करने के तरीके की भी जांच की। प्रमुख शोधकर्ता डॉक्टर मारिया लुईकोवु ने बताया, 'हमने पाया कि जिन बच्चों को भूख लगने पर स्तनपान

## कैंसर का खतरा घटता है

मां का दूध बच्चों के लिए तो अच्छा है ही, मांओं को भी इसका लाभ होता है। एक नए अध्ययन के मुताबिक, एक साल तक बच्चे को दूध पिलाने वाली मांओं में स्तन कैंसर का खतरा एक तिहाई तक कम हो जाता है। इतना ही

नहीं, किसी महिला को आनुवांशिक गड़बड़ी के चलते इसका खतरा है तो वह भी घट जाता है। शोधकर्ताओं ने कहा कि आनुवांशिक गड़बड़ियों के कारण हर चार में तीन महिलाओं में इसका खतरा ज्यादा बढ़ जाता है।

## अध्ययन

- भूख होने पर मां का दूध पीने वाले बच्चों का आईक्यू होता है ज्यादा बेहतर
- तयशुदा वक्त पर स्तनपान करने वाले बच्चे होते हैं अपेक्षाकृत ज्यादा सेहतमंद
- एसेक्स व ऑक्सफोर्ड यूनिवर्सिटी के शोधकर्ताओं ने अध्ययन कर निकाला निष्कर्ष

कराया गया, आठ साल की उम्र तक उनका आईक्यू चार से पांच प्वाइंट बढ़ गया था। इसके इसके खिपरीत जिन मांओं ने बच्चों को तयशुदा वक्त पर स्तनपान कराया था, उनका आईक्यू कम पाया गया। हालांकि शोधकर्ताओं ने यह भी बताया कि तयशुदा वक्त पर स्तनपान करने वाले बच्चों की सेहत, अपेक्षाकृत ज्यादा अच्छी थी।

उन्होंने कहा, 'स्तनपान को लेकर तरह-तरह के शोध सामने आते रहे हैं,

लेकिन इस मुद्दे पर किया गया यह पहला अध्ययन है।' विशेषज्ञों का यह भी कहना था कि जो माएं अपने बच्चों को तयशुदा वक्त पर स्तनपान कराना चाहती हैं, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं कर पाती, उनके बच्चों का आईक्यू भी काफी अच्छा होता है।

इसका कारण यह है कि नियमित तौर पर दूध न मिलने के कारण उनके बच्चों को ज्यादा भूख महसूस होती है। बाद में वे भरपूर स्तनपान करते हैं।

*Hindustan, March 15, P.18*



# Violations galore

Tightening the noose around baby food manufacturing companies promoting their products by unfair means, the Centre has asked the States to prohibit all educational and health institutions from availing any offers from these companies.

Further, strict action may be taken against the organisers of such programmes as well those attending these functions, according to a directive issued to the State governments by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, asking them to take immediate steps to ensure that the practice of breastfeeding is protected in the interest of the healthy growth of the children.

According to Section 9 (2) of the Infant Milk Substitute, Feeding Bottles and Infants Foods (Regulation of production, supply and distribution) Act, 1992 "no producer, supplier or distributor shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conferences, educational courses, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship.

"As per this section, an order could also be issued to authorise Class-I officer of your State to monitor the compliance of IMS Act in each district who can make a complaint in writing to the court. Food and Drug Control Authority could also be involved in the process. The health, agriculture, and education departments may be directed to regularly monitor such conferences to examine if these violate the spirit IMS Act," the directive said. It



would be a real step in protecting and promoting breastfeeding which is crucial for healthy growth and development of infants in the country.

"We have received communications from various organisations like Indian Academy of Paediatrics and Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India regarding companies like Nestle have been flouting the IMS Act directly or indirectly by creating research institutes and foundations which organise scientific seminars and arrange all-expenses paid trips for medical practitioners to their factories and also for conferences abroad," the letter said, adding that it was neces-

sary to comply to this provision in spirit.

The letter said that the Ministry had recently come across several instances of violation of the IMS Act by Nestle India Ltd through its front organisation named Nestle Nutrition Institute organising seminars and workshops with participation of paediatricians, medical practitioners and agriculture universities in various cities of India. Organisation of seminars and sponsoring trips by infant food manufacturing companies contravenes Section 9 (2) of the IMS Act, it says. Way back in August 2010, Union Secretaries for Women and Child Development and Health

and Family Welfare had sent a similar directive to the States drawing their attention to the instances of baby food manufacturers through their own research/education or other front organisations indulging in sponsoring doctors, meetings or even hosting these meetings. One

manufacturer had even set up a library in a medical college, while another had approached paediatricians and provided gifts and distributed infant feeding booklets with misleading information on infant feeding. These booklets were also printed in regional languages and distributed in hospitals in West Bengal.

*Hindu,  
March 18,  
P. 6*

# First 1,000 days shape health for life

The nutrition available in the first 1,000-day period also predisposes children to chronic disease in adulthood. India at present suffers from the vicious cycle of malnourished pregnant women who most often give birth to underweight children. Of the 2.6-crore births in India annually, 23% babies are low weight (below 2.5 kg). Infant deaths and illnesses increase sharply as birth weight declines. Many of these children who survive become stunted or wasted by the time they are five.

Pediatrician Meharban Singh says stunted children have smaller head size, impaired neuromotor coordination, sub-optimal learning skills and mental capabilities. Stunted children have around 11 points lower IQ compared to normal children. Maternal and child health expert professor Zulfiqar Bhutta from the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi told TOI that low birth weight among Indian children is mainly due to the effects of malnutrition during the 1,000-day period. "Consequences of malnutrition are permanent and often passed down from mother to child. Steady decline has been noted in maternal and child mortality in India. Prevalence of severe nutritional deficiencies has also dipped but the pace has been slow. This is mainly be-

cause enough importance has not been accorded to the first two years of a child's life that are critical," professor Bhutta said. Experts even add that the seed of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, schizophrenia and obesity are laid in the womb itself.

Dr Swaroop Sampat Raval, chief of the Early Childhood Association says during pregnancy, the foetus is solely dependent on maternal intake and nutritional stores, mostly fat, for its energy. "Poor maternal nutrition during pregnancy in turn implies a risk of poor nutritional availability to the fetus. Diet intake of a pregnant woman should look

at being healthy overall rather than high calorie intake," Dr Raval said.

Experts say the last three months of pregnancy and first three years of post-natal life are most crucial for a

child's brain development. The size of a baby's brain at birth is almost 70% of the adult size but his body weight is only 5% of an adult. During the first year of life,

15% brain growth occurs. The remaining 10% of brain growth occurs during preschool years.

Dr Sanjeev Ganguly, an expert on pediatric nutrition said "what a mother eats decides how the genes of the child will express itself. Culturally in India, a woman eats last, even when she is pregnant. A socio cultural change therefore needs to come about which recognizes that a pregnant woman needs the maximum amount of nutrition. It's not about how much she eats as it is about the quality of food she consumes. Pregnant Indian women are concerned about calorie intake rather than protein intake which is essential for an unborn child."

Proper intake of folic acid and vitamin B12 during this crucial 1,000 days by mothers can ensure the overall growth and well being of the child, added Prof. Kalhan.

Professor Jatinder Bhati, paediatrician at Medical College of Georgia School of Graduate Studies says underweight childhood, micronutrient deficiencies and poor breastfeeding combined cause 7% of deaths and 10% of the global disease burden.

*Times of India  
March 21, 15*



# Breastfeeding can save 22% of newborns

## STATE OF THE NATION

Births recorded every year <b>2.6 CRORE</b>	Every <b>5<sup>TH</sup></b> child in the world lives in India	Babies born low-weight (below 2.5 kg) <b>23%</b>	Children under-5 'stunted' <b>48%</b>
			Children under-5 'wasted' <b>20%</b>

Category	Prevalence of Anaemia	
	NFHS II (%) (1998-99)	NFHS III (%) (2005-06)
Children (6-35 months)	74	79
Married women	52	55
Pregnant women	50	59

India in world's five countries that account for more than half the world's **3.3mn** newborn deaths

**7lakh** new-borns die within first week & almost **9lakh** within 28 days of birth

## MOTHER'S HEALTH

**22%** women in India now aged between 20 and 24 years gave birth to a child before they turned 18

Almost **45** in every 1,000 births are born to mothers aged between 15 and 19

One woman dies every **8 mins** due to pregnancy-related complications



India contributes to

**54%** of the total births worldwide and

**66%** or 1.8mn of all stillbirths globally

## MATERNAL DEATHS

India sees the highest number of women dying during childbirth

INDIA

NIGERIA

CONGO

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN & ETHIOPIA

BANGLADESH

19,000

18,000

14,000

12,000

## MOTHER'S MILK

Exclusive breast-feeding (0-6 months) in India

**46%**

TOP 5 STATES (%)

Chattisgarh | **82**  
Assam | **63**

Andhra Pradesh | **63**

Manipur | **62**

Arunachal Pradesh | **60**

WORST 5 STATES (%)

Bihar | **28**

Himachal Pradesh | **27**

MP | **22**

Goa | **18**

Haryana | **17**

New Delhi: Dramatic health benefits have been proven to pass from a mother to her newborn through breast feeding. Experts say breast milk is packed with nutrients, vitamins and minerals and carries antibodies from the mother to help the baby combat life-threatening disease. The WHO and Union health ministry recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. They say breastfeeding should begin within an hour of birth and should be on demand, as often as the child wants day and night. However, fewer than 50% mothers in India follow this.

Swati Popat Vats, president of Early Childhood Association says when a baby is born, the only organ that

is ready but not developed is the brain. Vats said "A baby is born with trillions of neurons which are not connected. The neurons require covering of a particular kind of fat which is essential for the child's brain to develop. This fat is available in right amounts in the mother's breast milk. Breast milk also help build the child's immune system." Experts say nearly two-third of the brain weight is phospholipids and long-chain fatty acids. Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and arachidonic acid (AA) are key fatty acids. Human milk contains 30 times

more DHA than cow's milk. According to WHO, infants should get 20 mg DHA/kg every day. Breast-fed babies have at least eight points higher IQ in later life as compared to formula-fed babies.

Dr Arun Gupta, chair of the Global Breastfeeding Initiative for Child Survival said starting to breast-feed immediately after birth increases chances of survival of babies. "If mothers start breastfeeding within an hour of birth, 22% babies who die in the first 28 days (about one million newborns each year) could be saved. Likelihood of death increases significantly each day the start of breastfeeding is further delayed," Dr Gupta added.

Breast milk is also economical as the baby requires no other food or liquid, even water in the first six months. "Exclusive breastfeeding is an important part of building optimal child nutrition during a baby's first 1,000 days failing which the damage is irreversible," Dr Gupta added. The milk produced in the first few days after childbirth, called colostrum, is rich in protective antibodies. It helps increase the baby's immunity, protects his intestines and strengthens his respiratory system.

*Hindu, March 6, P.4*



# डिब्बा बंद खाने के पैकेट पर लिखी मात्राओं में गड़बड़ियां

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 30 मार्च। अधिकांश जंक फूड (तुरंता भोजन) में खतरनाक स्तर के ट्रांसफैट, नमक और चीनी पाया गया। चिंताजनक बात यह भी है कि यह पैकेट पर दर्शाई गई मात्रा से भी कई गुना अधिक है। यह खुलासा विज्ञान और पर्यावरण केंद्र (सीएसई) की ओर से 'जंक फूड एंड न्यूट्रीशन' पर हुए अध्ययन रपट में हुआ। एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में महानिदेशक सुनीता नारायण ने रपट जारी की।

रपट में बताया गया कि देश के शहर से लेकर गांवों तक पहुंचे तुरंता भोजन (जंक फूड) के बड़े ब्रांडों के उत्पाद जांचे गए। करीब 16 प्रमुख ब्रांडों के उत्पाद मैगी, नूडल मैक डोनाल्ड के भोजन व केएफसी के खाने का (चिकन) परीक्षण किया गया। जिन और उत्पादों के नमूनों की सीएसई की प्रयोगशाला में जांच की गई उनमें हल्दीराम की आलू भुजिया, बर्गर, पिज्जा व अन्य खाद्य पदार्थ शामिल हैं। हैरत की बात है कि जिन उत्पादों के पैकेट पर जीरो (शून्य) ट्रांस फैट लिखा है उनमें भी काफी अधिक मात्रा में ट्रांस फैट व अन्य नुकसानदेह पदार्थ पाया गया। यह हमारी सेहत

को भारी नुकसान पहुंचा रहा है। यहां तक कि इससे होने वाली घातक बीमारियों से मौत तक हो सकती है। चिंताजनक पहलू यह भी है कि जंक फूड का सबसे अधिक सेवन बच्चे व युवा करते हैं जो कम उम्र में ही मोटापे व हृदय रोग जैसी बीमारियों की चपेट में आ रहे हैं।

सीएसई के उपमहानिदेशक चंद्रभूषण ने कहा कि हमारे यहां के लचीले कानून का फायदा उठाकर कंपनियां उपभोक्ताओं को गुमराह कर रही हैं। क्योंकि माना जाता है कि दैनिक सेवन (सर्विंग साइज 10 ग्राम) की मात्रा में अगर 0.2 ग्राम ट्रांस वसा है तो उसे वसा रहित माना जाएगा।

इस आधार पर अगर कोई 10 ग्राम आलू की भुजिया खाए तो उसके शरीर में 0.2 ग्राम ट्रांस फैट जाएगा। जबकि एक बार में लोग यहां काफी अधिक आलू भुजिया खा लेते हैं। लेकिन सर्विंग साइज की आड़ में कंपनियां अपने उत्पादों को वसा रहित बताती हैं। जबकि कुल वसा की मात्रा कहीं अधिक होती है। चंद्रभूषण ने इस अध्ययन की अगुआई की और पाया कि मैगी नूडल्स के 80 ग्राम के पैकेट में लगभग चार ग्राम नमक होता है। जो हमारे दैनिक आहार का लगभग 60 फीसद होता है। जबकि एक व्यक्ति के पूरे दिन के नमक से भी ज्यादा ट्रांसफैट नुकसानदेह होता है। जिसकी मात्रा एक संतुलित आहार में एक वयस्क पुरुष को रोज 206 ग्राम की छूट है।

एक वयस्क महिला को इसकी मात्रा 201 ग्राम तय की गई है। 10 से 12 साल के बच्चों के लिए 203 ग्राम ट्रांस फैट के प्रयोग की अनुमति है। लेकिन जंक फूड के जरिए इससे कहीं अधिक वसा शरीर में जाता है। कोई बच्चा मैकडोनाल्ड का हैप्पी मील खाता है तो 90 फीसद वसा शरीर में पहुंच जाता है। पेप्सी को लेज का दावा 100 ग्राम में शून्य फैट का है। जबकि इतने में 307 ग्राम वसा पाया गया। हल्दीराम के 100 ग्राम आलू भुजिया में 205 ग्राम ट्रांसफैट था। ताप रमन सुपर नूडल व अन्य ब्रांड भी ट्रांसवसा के उत्पाद बेचते हैं। अमेरिका में पैकेट पर सही जानकारी दी जाती है, जबकि भारत में ऐसा नहीं। बर्गर वगैरह में ट्रांसवसा की मात्रा लिखी भी नहीं होती जबकि घातक स्तर तक होता है। 2005 में भारत में हुई मौतों में 50 फीसद मौत इनसे होने वाली बीमारियों से हुई। सुनीता नारायण ने और भूषण ने जागरूकता बढ़ाने तय करने व उस पर कड़ाई से पालन करवाने की मांग उठाई।

Jansatta, March 3, P.4



# Health consequences in adults with low birth weight studied

A unique study has found that male adults born more than 20 years ago with low birth weight (LBW) show differences in muscle mass, fat content and diastolic blood pressure compared with those born with normal body weight.

The study was done on adults from a rural area (Kaniyambadi) near Vellore, Tamil Nadu. The results were published recently in the *European Journal of Endocrinology*.

In total, 117 adults born at the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, Tamil Nadu between 1986 and 1990 were recruited. Of these, 61 belonged to the low birth-weight category (less than 2.45 kg), while the rest had normal birth weight (between 3.1 kg and 3.5 kg). Low birth weight refers to individuals who weighed less for a given gestational age at birth.

The study gains importance as nearly 30 per cent of infants born in India are underweight (less than 2.5 kg). The primary reason for this is the under-nutrition in women before and during pregnancy.

This study, which looked at people who are more than 20 years old, provides vital information on what the long-term health effects are when born with low birth weight.

The study has a limitation — there is no information on growth parameters collected at regular intervals during the last 20 years, particularly during childhood.

Babies who are underweight preserve their body fat at the cost of muscle mass even at the foetal stage. As a

result, the muscle mass... these individuals is less than those with normal birth weight.

“Those adults born with

low birth weight had reduced lean body mass than those with normal birth weight,” said Dr. Nihal Thomas, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, CMC, Vellore. He is the first author of the paper. Lean body mass refers to muscle mass. Muscles play an important role in glucose uptake and hence reduced muscle mass may probably increase the possibility of these individuals developing

insulin resistance at a later stage.

“There is more risk of developing diabetes at a later stage when the muscle mass is less,” Dr. Thomas said. “So reduced lean body mass is an early marker for diabetes.”

Apart from reduced lean body mass, adults with low birth weight had decreased total mineral content.

Males belonging to both groups showed normal insulin sensitivity. However, five

males (nearly 10 per) who had low birth weight had impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), an early stage of diabetes. However, the study has no information on physical activity of the individuals. According to him, unpublished data shows that there was no difference in physical activity between the two groups.

## Blood pressure

They also found that adults with low birth weight had higher diastolic blood pressure (2 mm Hg) than the con-

trol group. According to him, even this small difference is significant.

“Even though the difference is only 2 mm Hg, this difference is seen at an early age and in those with low Body mass index (BMI),” Dr. Thomas said. “As they grow this difference would probably become even more significant.”

Explaining the reason behind the increased blood pressure seen in the LBW group, he said, “the nephrons in the kidneys appear to be lower and their ability to excrete sodium [salt] is lower. Hence the retention of salt increases blood pressure.”

The adults who belonged to the low birth weight group were also relatively shorter than the control group. However, the parents of these people were also shorter than the control group. Hence a strong link between weight and height cannot be established.

Hindu, March 6, P4



# 22% of moms under 18: Study

## 43% Of Kids Under 5 Yrs Malnourished, Finds Unicef Study

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Modern India continues to be plagued by social and health ills like child marriage, early motherhood and domestic violence. Latest data in the "State of the World's Children report 2012" released by Unicef on Wednesday shows that almost 22% women in India now aged between 20 and 24 years gave birth to a child before they turned 18.

Almost 45 among every 1,000 children are born to mothers in the 15-19 age bracket. Shockingly, around 57% of male adolescents (aged 15-19) and 53% of female adolescents thought a husband was justified in beating up their wives under certain circumstances.

Only 35% adolescent males (aged 15-19) and 19% adolescent females have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV. Almost 33% of chil-



NUMBERS SHAME

dren under five years in urban India and 46% in rural India are underweight.

Around two in four people in urban India and one in five in rural settings use improved sanitation facilities. India (46) also figures among the 50 worst nations with the highest under-five mortality rate. Almost one in three

newborns is born with a low birth weight, with less than 50% children being breast-fed by their mothers.

Around 43% of children under five years are underweight, with 16% being severely undernourished and 48% children stunted. Only half the households are consuming iodized salt.

Contrary to popular belief, Karin Hulshof, Unicef representative to India, said the report shows how a child in an urban poor environment has similar challenges as a child in rural areas.

"A child born in a slum in urban India is as likely to die before the first birthday, to become underweight or anaemic or to be married off before the 18th birthday as a child in rural India. Unfortunately for the urban poor child, the situation is not as visible and gets diluted by a much rosier picture of urban life. Great inequities are

found within towns and cities, where great opportunity and great deprivation exist side by side," Hulshof said.

According to Unicef, more than 40% of the world's child marriages still occur in India. Worldwide, more than 60 million women between 20 and 24 years were married before they turned 18. The issue was also taken up recently at the World Health Organization's executive board meeting in Geneva.

According to the National Family Health Survey, about 10 million girls are married each year before the age of 18 worldwide — one-third of them live in India. Child marriage is prohibited by law in India. However, the latest available government survey found 48% of women (aged 20-24) were married or are in union before the age of 18, and almost one in five was married or in union before she turned 15.

*Times of India,  
March 1, 2012*

## 42 pc children below five malnourished: Govt

NEW DELHI, March 25 — More than 42 per cent of children below five years in the country are malnourished, a "complex and multi-dimensional" problem which cannot be tackled by a single sector intervention, the government said today.

"As per the NFHS-3 Survey (National Family Health Survey conducted in 2005-06), the level of malnutrition amongst children below five years is 42.5 per cent," Minister of State for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

"However, the level of malnutrition amongst children below three years has declined from 42.7 per cent in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4 per cent in



2005-06," Tirath said.

The minister also noted that the problem of malnutrition is a very "complex, multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature" which cannot be tackled by a single sector or programme.

The determinants of malnutrition, she said, include household food insecurity, illiteracy,

poor access to health services, lack of safe drinking water, poor sanitation and other environmental conditions.

"Since there are multiple determinants of malnutrition, this cannot be addressed by single sector scheme or intervention alone. This requires multi sectoral, direct and indirect interventions," Tirath said. — PTI

*Assam Tribune  
March 26, 2010*



# Harvesters of nutrition

It is precisely practices like these that Dr C. Gopalan, one of India's best known nutrition scientists, had advocated for a post-Independent India that was looking to put its tragic legacy of famines and

hunger behind it. Today, well into his nineties and still involved in his work, the former director-general of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) never misses a chance to reiterate his views emphatically. In a 2010 article for 'World Nutrition', a journal of the World Public Health Nutrition, Gopalan argued that "the most holistic and the most sustainable and therefore the best physiological approach to ensuring the nutritional well-being of women" is the food-based approach to nutrition, adding that "this calls for a clear understanding of locally available foods and cooking practices and the nutritive value of these foods... We must look to our farms, not our pharmacies, to solve our nutrition-related problems."

The focus, according to Gopalan, should always be on the local and the affordable. His former colleague and present director of the Delhi-based Nutrition Foundation of India, Dr Prema Ramachandran puts it this way, "India has a wealth of local vegetables. Take the 'greens' family, innumerable varieties abound depending on the region - the 'palak' of Punjab or 'ponnakerai keera' of Tamil Nadu, to name just two - and we always advocate eating vegetables that are regionally grown."

According to Ramachandran, an obstetrician by training who embraced nutrition when she realised that "nutrition is half of health", common sense should guide all

decisions about the selection and preparation of food. Says she, "The same food, in different portions, can be assigned to every member of the family, from the toddler to the elderly grandparent. But here quantities matter - for instance, a person who is doing hard labour in the field would obviously need more calories; an adolescent child going through a second growth spurt in his or her life, requires nutritional care; an expectant mother would benefit from adequate nutrition at frequent intervals."

Explains Dr Saramma Thomas Mathai, regional team coordinator, Maternal Health, in UNFPA's Bangkok office, "Good food is the foundation of life. Ideally, a woman who is expecting baby should be over 18, at least 40 kilos in weight and over 4.9 feet in height. She will also have to gain at least 10 kilos over the period of her pregnancy to give birth to a healthy baby. That is why ensuring that right from infancy women's daily diet should be nutritious, becomes so crucial - none of this 'I will eat last and least' stuff."

In fact, according to recent recommendations of the ICMR, a reference woman is aged 18-29 years, non-pregnant, non-lactating and weighed 55 kilos with a height of 1.61 m, or 5.3 feet. The earlier recommendation was 50 kilos. Most Indian women, of course, fail this grade.

Mathai also argues that because the prices of food are rising by the day, it becomes

important to maximise the use of available fare. "Unfortunately, the poor believe they cannot afford to eat 'good food', but good food can also be cheap food if people understand better the nutri-

tional values of the common items they routinely access. For instance, the green leaves of beetroots or carrots are invariably discarded, when they are literally packed with goodness. A handful of pumpkin leaves - never usually used - can add valuable calcium and other minerals to a meal. In the north, drumstick (*Moringa oleifera*) trees are never harvested, because no one ever eats this vegetable here, while it is deeply valued in the south and west," says Mathai.

Dr M.S. Bamji, who was once a scientist with the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and now works for the Dangoria Charitable Trust in the same city, puts it this way, "Indian diets, especially of the poor, are generally deficient in micronutrients."

To explore ways to address this, Dr Bamji, along with, P.V.V.S. Murty, of the same trust, M. Vishnuvardhan Rao of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, and G. Satyanarayana of ANGR Agriculture University, Hyderabad, undertook a study in 2010, entitled 'Diversification from Agriculture to Nutritionally and Environmentally Promotive Horticulture in a Dry-land Area', involving 222 small and marginal farmers with an average holding of

two to three acres in Andhra Pradesh's Medak district. Bamji delineates the approach, "We asked these farmers, who cultivated mostly rice and sugar cane, to put aside a quarter of an acre of their land for a vegetable and fruit patch. We provided seeds and encouraged them to cultivate drumstick trees, curry leaf bushes, papayas apart from vegetables like creeper spinach (*Basilla alba*) and lentils using organic

methods of farming."

At the end of this exercise, it was found that about a quarter to half the vegetables grown in these plots were sold in the market, and the rest was consumed at home. It was also found that while the families who maintained these kitchen gardens were perhaps not eating more vegetables than they had earlier, they were at least consuming the same amounts, while other families in the region had cut down on their consumption of vegetables because they had become prohibitively expensive in the market. "We concluded from this that homestead gardening can indeed have a positive impact on the consumption of nutritious vegetables, legumes and fruits, but to be sustainable it would need to be supplemented with additional income-generating activities, because for poor and marginal farmers, income security rather than nutritional security was the priority," says Bamji.

It is now well-established that adequate nutrition is dependent on what have come to be termed as the three crucial 'A's: Availability, or sufficient supplies of food; Accessibility, or the capacity of people to get or buy food; and Absorbability, or the capacity of the body to actually benefit from this food, a process that is often disrupted by recurring illnesses. Crucial insights, from studies such as Bamji's, that call for a better understanding of the nutritive value of foods, which are relatively inexpensive and locally available should go towards informing policy.

At a time when the nutritional profile of India's poor, especially children, has rung alarm bells in the corridors of power, we need to re-capture that old urgency, commitment to and vision for nutritional security - not just food security - for all, that experts like Dr Gopalan had displayed over half a century ago.

*Hindu, March 27, 1-8*



# Sick children must be fed more: Study

SYED AKBAR | DC  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Busting the popular myth, a recent medical research advocates healthy and adequate food for quick recovery of children who are ill.

"Disease consumes calories. Food restriction during illness leads to calorie deprivation and malnutrition.

Malnutrition causes mucosal damage and lowers immunity, leading to a vicious cycle of infection and malnutrition," clarifies senior researcher Dr Asha D. Benakappa, who led a research study on the myths associated with diet during childhood illness.

The department of paediatrics, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, collected data on the food myths among child caregivers belonging to dif-

**Rise in body temperature means consumption of more calories. The disease consumes calories and the child is deprived of the required calories**

ferent religious communities and social strata. The researchers from the Institute led by Dr Asha found that even educated parents and doctors followed food myths and deprived the ill child of the much-needed nutrition to recover from illness and boost the immunity. The

concept of "hot" and "cold" food is a popular myth.

"Fifty to 70 per cent of the burden of childhood diarrhoea and respiratory infections is attributable to lack of nutrition. It is compounded by food restriction during illness due to false beliefs. In the long run, it decreases the child's productivity," she told this correspondent. The research suggested that when a child is recovering, an extra meal for two weeks is needed. A child's illness is a crucial moment for counselling of child feeding.

In case of diarrhoea, a child needs more animal protein. It is a myth that non-vegetarian food should not be given to ill children, particularly when they are suffering from diarrhoea.

The animal protein is relatively better than protein from vegetable sources.

*Duccion Chronicle, March 21, P. 2*



# Feed mom extra for a healthy baby

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

**W**omen in Surinder Sharma's family always eat last. The rule did not even change for Rashi — his 25 year-old daughter-in-law even when she was three months pregnant. Burdened with domestic duties, Rashi hardly found time to have a wholesome meal. The result was that she went into labour prematurely and gave birth to a small, low weight baby.

A million infants die every year as they are born too early, accounting for 28% of total newborn deaths. A recent report by the March of Dimes Foundation (MODF) said 10% of all births worldwide, 13 million babies, are premature. And a major cause of premature and undernourished babies are their malnourished mothers.

There's clear evidence that what mothers eat from the time they get pregnant to the time of delivery greatly decides how healthy the child will be: even as an adult. In India, of the 2.6-crore births annually, 23% of babies are low weight (below 2.5 kg). According to the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), "pregnancy is physiologically and nutritionally a highly demanding period." Extra food is required to meet the foetus's requirements as a woman prepares herself to meet the nutritional demands by increasing her own body fat deposits during pregnancy.

A child's under-nourishment occurs in a window that spans the 1000 days from conception to its second year. Poor nutrition during pregnancy has critical consequences throughout the child's life. "Optimal nutrition during the first 1000 days after conception is critical both for the mother and child. During this period good nutrition not only helps

fight common childhood diseases but also ensures proper mental development of the child as he grows up," said Dr Sunita Mittal, gynecologist at Delhi's AIIMS.

Such evidence prompted The Times of India and Nestle to jointly launch an initiative to promote healthy nutrition in the crucial first 1,000 days.

A lactating mother requires extra food to secrete adequate quantity/ quality of milk. Dr D Raghunatha Rao, member of India's dietary guidelines committee says a normal adult woman requires 2200 calories per day. But when pregnant, she requires an additional 350 calories. Some micronutrients are required in extra amounts, like folic acid, which if taken throughout pregnancy, reduces the risk of congenital malformations and increases birth weight. "The mother as well as the growing foetus needs iron to meet

the high demands of red blood cell formation. Calcium is essential, both during pregnancy and lactation, for proper formation of bones and teeth, for secretion of breast-milk rich in calcium and

to prevent the mother's osteoporosis," NIN's guidelines say.

Dr Kaushiki Dwivedee, gynecologist at Max hospital suggests a sample diet. "A normal pregnancy diet should include 6-11 servings of grains, 3-5 servings of vegetables, 2-4 servings of fruit, 3-4 servings of dairy, 2-3 servings of meats, beans or nuts and a serving of sweet." Dr Veena Bhat, director, obstetrics and gynecology, Artemis Health Institute cautions pregnant women from popping random pills as drugs can cross the placenta and enter fetal circulation adversely affecting the growing baby.

For the baby, pediatrician Dr Anjali Saxena says the ideal situation is 'exclusive breastfeeding for first 6 months of life'. "Thereafter, solid foods can be introduced in a step wise manner. Complementary foods are an important source of

## POWER SNACKS

► **Sprouts salad** | Mix green grams, bengal grams, chick peas, finely chopped cucumber, capsicum, tomatoes, green chillies. Mix with lemon juice, chaat masala and salt to taste, garnish with fresh coriander leaves. Eat within 2-3 hours of preparation

► **Steamed corn and spinach sandwich** | Steam corn and keep to cool. Put finely chopped spinach and corn in between slices of multigrain bread. Add cottage cheese (paneer) with salt as per taste and eat with mint chutney

► **Veggie poha with sprouts** | Add seasonal vegetables like beans, peas or carrot to poha and eat with sprouts



nutrients after six months in breastfed infants," she said, adding that home-made cereal preparations may be used. "Seasonal fruits can be mashed or stewed. The preferred order to start foods is rice cereal, followed by fruits and vegetables. Lean meat and eggs are next and lastly red meat. Water should be initiated during this period," Dr Saxena added.

Zulfiqar A Bhutta, professor and head of women and child health division at Aga Khan University says preconception care during adolescence and before and between pregnancies can impact 136 million women who give birth each year and ensure that newborns receive the healthiest start possible. Preconception care is any intervention provided to women and couples of childbearing age. "Preconception care also means women's education and empowerment and more targeted health-care interventions such as vaccination and micronutrient supplementation," Dr Bhutta said.

*Times of India, March 23, P.2*



## BABY'S DIET

Infants can't eat large quantities of food in one sitting and should be fed small quantities at frequent intervals. Food should be of semi-solid consistency for easy swallowing. When semi-solid foods are offered initially, the infant tends to spit it out. Don't think this is dislike for the food. The infant can't achieve full coordination needed for the act of swallowing and brings out the food by its tongue's movements. Physiological maturity of swallowing semi-solids develops when food is regularly given every day

**1** Exclusive breast-feeding 1st 6 months is essential. Then gradual but definite introduction of solids while breast-feeding continues

**2** The solid food introduced should be rich in protein, iron, zinc and be coarse so child learns to chew

**3** Avoiding extra salt and sugar also leads to food preferences for low salt and sugar in older age

**4** Each meal should last 30 mins max

**5** No forced feeding



**6** A gap of about 4 hours between meals recommended

**7** No distractions like watching TV during feeding

**8** Size of the child's stomach is the size of his fist. So his portion sizes are also small

**9** Avoid whole nuts till age 2 for fear of choking

**10** Accept that a child will gain about 2 kilos in the second year and so his intake may appear lesser than during infancy when child has to gain much more weight

## FOR MOTHER & CHILD

A pregnant woman who eats healthy can expect an optimal weight-gain of 10 kg during the pregnancy. An expecting woman requires an additional 300 kcal/day of nutrition and her diet should include grain, vegetables, fruits, milk and meat, fish

### MOM'S DIET



**1** Choose foods rich in fibre (around 25 g/1000 kcal) like whole grain cereals, pulses & vegetables

**2** Drink plenty fluids including 8-12 glasses of water daily. This also helps control nausea

**3** Salt intake should not be restricted

**4** Avoid excess coffee and tea as they adversely affect foetal growth. Not more than 300mg a day of caffeine

**5** Avoid smoking in any form (passive or active), chewing tobacco and alcohol consumption of alcohol

**6** Take small and frequent meals

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION



### MOM STOP

**1** Don't consume canned food as preservatives harm the baby

**2** Stop eating raw or undercooked eggs, veggies, un-pasteurized milk and soft mould-ripened cheese. All these have a risk of passing on salmonella and listeria infections

**3** Don't eat papaya. It is proved that the enzyme papain induces labour contractions

**4** Avoid working late; ensure you sleep eight to nine hours

**5** Stay away from junk food

### ALSO EAT FOLATE RICH FOODS

**1** Folic acid essential for haemoglobin synthesis

**2** Pregnant women need more folic acid

**3** Folic acid supplements increase birth weight and reduce congenital anomalies

**4** Green leafy vegetables, legumes, nuts and liver are good sources of folic acid

### PUMP IRON, MOM

**Eat foods rich in iron** | Green leafy vegetables, legumes and dry fruits. Also, meat, fish & poultry products. Iron availability is poor in plant foods but good in animal foods. Fruits rich in vitamin C like gooseberry (amla), guava and citrus fruits improve iron absorption. Remember, tea binds dietary iron, making it unavailable. So avoid tea before, during or soon after a meal

**Why iron is must** | Iron is needed to make haemoglobin, develop mental function and immunity. Iron deficiency leads to anaemia. Iron deficiency during pregnancy increases maternal mortality & results in low birth weight in infants





# Vit-M improves healthcare complexion

TEAM TOI

Increased public spending on health seems to be finally yielding results with accessible, affordable and equitable healthcare gradually becoming a reality for the country's most backward and rural population.

According to the Economic Survey presented by finance minister Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday, the combined revenue and capital expenditure on medical and public health, sanitation and family welfare increased from Rs 53,058 crore in 2006-07 to Rs 96,673 crore in 2010-11. However, the survey admits that the expenditure of the government on public health as a percentage of GDP is low.

India's flagship National Rural Health Mission, launched in 2005, has started to make large strides by ramping up the human resource strength. Despite many doctors refusing to practise in rural settings, the ministry of health added nearly 1.4 lakh health officials up to last September—11,712 doctors/specialists, 10,851 specialists practising Indian systems of medicine, 66,784 auxiliary nurse midwives, 32,860 staff nurses and 14,434 paramedics.

More than 8.55 lakh accredited social health activists (ASHAs) have

been selected till date. As many as 8,330 primary health centres (PHCs) have started providing round-the-clock medical service, while 442 districts have been equipped with mobile medical units.

There has also been a steady improvement in healthcare infrastructure. Till March 2010, 1.47 lakh sub-centres, 23,673 PHCs and 4,535 community health centres (CHCs) were functioning in the country. The

major problems plaguing these centres is poor upkeep and maintenance and high absenteeism of manpower.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, launched last June to provide free entitlements to pregnant women and sick newborns for cashless delivery, C-section, drugs and consumables and diagnostics, received a financial boost of Rs 1,437 crore during 2011-12. The pro-

gramme has been rolled out in 264 high-focus districts across 21 states.

The ministry has also been pushing for integrating ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy (AYUSH) into the national healthcare delivery system. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura are being assisted to set up

50-bed hospitals, and Sikkim and Assam for 10-bed AYUSH hospitals.

In order to develop and promote the Indian system of medicines in an organized and scientific manner, over Rs 900 crore was allocated in 2011-12.

The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke was allocated Rs 125 crore in 2011-12, while another Rs 1,700 crore was earmarked for the National Aids Control Programme with the objective of halting and reversing the HIV epidemic in the country by integrating programmes for prevention, care, support and treatment.

Geriatric care has also received a major push with the introduction of the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly under which 30-bed departments of geriatrics in eight identified regional medical institutions have been sanctioned.

## But Poor Growth In Kids Still Weighs Heavy

### FINDINGS FROM 100 HIGH-FOCUS DISTRICTS

- ▶ Prevalence of **underweight children** has decreased from **53%** to **42%**— a 20.3% decrease over a 7-year period with an average annual rate of reduction of **2.9%**
- ▶ **42%** of children **under five** are underweight and **59%** are stunted
- ▶ Prevalence of underweight children born with a weight below 2.5 kg is **50%** while that among children born with a weight above 2.5 kg is **34%**
- ▶ Prevalence of **underweight children** among **mothers** who cannot read is **45%** while that among mothers with 10 or more years of education is **27%**



#### Healthcare Infrastructure

- ▶ PHC and CHC: **1.75 lakh**
- ▶ Government hospitals: **12,760**
- ▶ AYUSH hospitals & dispensaries: **24,943**
- ▶ Nurses: **1.7 lakh**
- ▶ Doctors (modern system): **8.16 lakh**

*Times of India, March 16, P. 15*

# WOMEN & GENDER ISSUES

## EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

### व्यावहारिक बदलाव जरूरी

आज भारत में ना तो महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाने वाली सरकारी योजनाओं की कमी है और ना ही स्त्री-विमर्श करने वालों की। ये लोग आये दिन यह निष्कर्ष निकालते हैं कि इस विषय में हम कितना आगे बढ़े हैं? साथ ही, अब तक क्या हासिल हुआ है और आगे क्या मिलने वाला है? पर लगता है कि जो कुछ भी हो रहा है वह व्यावहारिक जीवन में, हमारे आसपास के परिवेश में नजर नहीं आ रहा।

कुछ योजनाएं और लोगों को जागरूक करने वाले विज्ञापन समाज में महिलाओं की स्थिति ना तो बदल पाए हैं और ना ही बदल पाएंगे। हां, अगर सामाजिक, पारिवारिक और वैचारिक बदलाव आए तो शायद औरतों की समस्याएं कुछ कम हों। साथ ही, विचारों के इस परिवर्तन को व्यवहार में भी लाया जाए। महिलाएं पंच-सरपंच बन भी जाएं तो क्या? अगर उन्हें निर्णय लेने का अधिकार ही ना मिले या फिर उनके इन अधिकारों पर घर के लोग ही अतिक्रमण कर लें! दुखद है कि हो भी यही रहा है। ऐसे में

सरकारी नीतियां  
कहां तक सफल  
हो पाएंगी?  
सरकार महिलाओं  
को हक तो दे  
सकती है पर जब  
तक उनके अपनों  
की सोच में  
परिवर्तन नहीं  
आता, उनका  
चौखट से चौपाल  
तक आने का  
सफर आसान नहीं  
है।



पढ़ी-लिखी आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर महिला को हर तरह से सशक्त और सफल मान लेते हैं। पर क्या महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण का पक्ष मात्र आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त होना ही है? धन उपार्जन तो यों भी महिलाएं हमेशा से ही करती आई हैं। आज भी गांवों में खेतीबाड़ी के कार्यों में महिलाएं पुरुषों से कहीं ज्यादा श्रम करती हैं जिसके चलते प्रत्यक्ष या परोक्ष रूप से अर्थोपार्जन में उनकी भागीदारी है और सदा से ही रही है।

दरअसल, हमारे सामाजिक ढांचे में महिलाओं की मुश्किलें बड़ी व्यावहारिक हैं जिनका समाधान सिर्फ आर्थिक आत्मनिर्भरता या प्रशासनिक कार्ययोजनाओं के माध्यम से नहीं ढूंढा जा सकता। इसलिए महिला सशक्तिकरण कुछ मिटाने या बनाने का नहीं बल्कि अस्मिता और सामाजिक सरोकारों के संघर्ष का है। सुरक्षित और सम्मानजनक जीवन जीने की लड़ाई भी यही है।

कभी-कभी लगता है कि हमारे आसपास बहुत कुछ बदल तो रहा है पर ये बदलाव सतही ज्यादा हैं। महिलाएं कामकाजी तो बन रही हैं पर सुरक्षित घर लौट आने की गारंटी नहीं है। एक पढ़ी-लिखी मां भी बेटों को जन्म देने का निर्णय स्वयं नहीं कर सकती। आज हमारे परिवारों और समाज में दोगलापन ज्यादा दिखता है। थोड़ी सोच-समझ बढ़ी तो हमने कथनी और करनी में अंतर करना सीख लिया। यही वजह है कि जो बदलाव आये हैं, वे भी पूरी तरह से महिलाओं के पक्ष में ही हों ऐसा नहीं है। इसलिए वैचारिक बदलाव जब तक हमारे व्यवहार का हिस्सा नहीं बनने, महिला सशक्तिकरण का नारा बस खेत ही बन कर रह जाएगा।

*Rashtriya Sahara, March 28, P.2*



## महिलाओं को सेना में स्थायी कमीशन का रास्ता खुला

नई दिल्ली। मेजर लीना गौरव के बहने सेना में महिलाओं के स्थायी कमीशन हासिल करने का रास्ता सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने साफ कर दिया है। सैन्य बल न्यायाधिकरण के फैसले के खिलाफ अपील दायर करने पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार को फटकारा। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि महिलाएं हर क्षेत्र में अपना परचम लहरा रही हैं फिर उन्हें सेना में आगे बढ़ने में क्यों बाधा डाली जा रही है। कोर्ट के फैसले के बाद मेजर लीना सेना की गिनी चुनी स्थायी कमीशन प्राप्त अफसर हो जाएंगी।

जस्टिस अररएम लोढा और एचएल गोखले की बेंच ने केंद्र सरकार से कहा कि आखिर महिलाओं के साथ भेदभाव क्यों किया जा रहा है। उन्हें स्थायी कमीशन (परमार्नेंट कमीशन) देने में रोड़े क्यों अटकाए जा रहे हैं। सरकार सेना में महिला अफसरों को प्रोत्साहित क्यों नहीं करती। महिलाएं हर क्षेत्र में आगे बढ़ रही हैं।

*Rashtriya Sahara,  
March 27, P-1*

उनका उत्साहवर्धन करना चाहिए लेकिन सरकार उन्हें उत्साहित करने के बजाए बाधाएं पड़ा कर रहा है। मेजर लीना गौरव को 14 साल के शॉर्ट सर्विस कमीशन (एसएससी) के बाद स्थायी कमीशन मिलेगा। वह सेना की उन गिनी चुनी महिला अफसरों में हैं जिन्हें स्थायी कमीशन मिल सका है। सशस्त्र सैन्य बल न्यायाधिकरण की लखनऊ बेंच ने 18 अप्रैल, 2011 को मेजर लीना गौरव को स्थायी कमीशन देकर उन्हें लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल के रूप में पदोन्नत करने का आदेश दिया था लेकिन पदोन्नति देने के बजाए केंद्र सरकार और रक्षा मंत्रालय ने न्यायाधिकरण के फैसले को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दी। सरकार का कहना था कि मेजर लीना को जज एडवोकेट जनरल (जेएजी) शाखा की विभागीय परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करना जरूरी है।

मेजर लीना का कहना था कि सरकार जिस परीक्षा की बात कर रही है उससे अधिक महत्व की जेएजी की इंटरनल परीक्षा वह पहले से पास कर चुकी हैं। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट के 12 मार्च, 2010 के फैसले के बाद महिलाओं को स्थायी कमीशन देने का रास्ता साफ हुआ था। हाईकोर्ट ने महिलाओं को स्थायी कमीशन नहीं देने के सेना के नियम को असंवैधानिक करार दिया था। उसके बाद सरकार ने जेएजी, आर्मी एजुकेशन कॉर्प (ईसी) तथा उसके समकक्ष नौसेना और वायुसेना के विभागों में महिला अफसरों को स्थायी कमीशन देने की अधिसूचना जारी की थी। इससे पहले एसएससी महिला अफसरों को स्थायी कमीशन नहीं मिल पाता था। हाईकोर्ट ने लीना गौरव की याचिका पर ही यह फैसला दिया था। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सरकार के इस तर्क को सिरे से नकार दिया कि मेजर लीना को जेएजी की विभागीय परीक्षा के बिना स्थायी कमीशन नहीं दिया जा सकता। महिला अफसर का कहना था कि विभागीय परीक्षा से उच्च स्तर का इम्तहान (पदोन्नति परीक्षा) वह पहले ही पास कर चुकी हैं। दोनों परीक्षाओं के पाठ्यक्रम के आधार पर उन्होंने यह साबित किया कि विभागीय परीक्षा पदोन्नति परीक्षा से निम्नवत है। जब वह उच्च स्तर की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण कर चुकी हैं तो सरकार उन्हें निचले स्तर की परीक्षा में बैठने के लिए कैसे बाध्य कर सकती है।

## 'Go for women empowerment like a mission, says Hooda

Special Correspondent

**CHANDIGARH:** Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Tuesday said that the empowerment of women was not just a responsibility but should be adopted and implemented like a mission.

Inaugurating the two-day Northern Regional Conference of Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Haryana on "Convergence for Empowerment of Women" here, he said that the National Mission for Empowerment of Women should be carried out with a missionary zeal as the objectives could not be

achieved without public involvement and participation.

"The people, belonging to both the sexes, must change their mind set towards wom-

en to ensure empowerment of the fairer sex in its true perspective. Social evils like female foeticide should be condemned by all as the desired results cannot be achieved by only enacting laws and formulating schemes," he added. He further said that education of women should be the top-most priority.

Women and Child Development Minister Geeta Bhukkal said that the endeavour was to ensure that the benefit of the schemes reached the real beneficiaries.

About 200 representatives from six Northern States are participating in the conference.

*Hindu, March 21, P-7*



# Brazenly buttonholed

The garment industry in Bangalore — which employs over five lakh women — is a classic example of how a feminised workforce that is largely unorganised is exploited at several levels. Garment workers have long been fighting against low wages, lack of social security, poor working conditions and sexual exploitation.

A labour department team, which inspected a garment unit on Bannerghatta Road recently, found wage discrepancies to the tune of Rs. 28 lakh, which the department is now collecting and disburs-

ing among the workers.

Similar anomalies were detected in three other factories in the course of the inspection drive. "At some places, a part of the workforce was not officially on the rolls," said a department official. "Those not on official rolls were paid lower than the minimum wages."

Though gender-based wage discrimination here is not as obvious as it is in other sectors, simply because the workforce is largely women, the inspection team of the State Labour Department also found violation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

"There were instances of women and men tailors and maintenance staff being paid on different wage scales," said the official.

R. Pratibha of the Garment

and Textile Workers' Union said that while the workforce was mostly women, the better-paying supervisory positions were invariably occupied by men. "Barely 10

per cent of women are in supervisory posts because men are considered more capable of controlling women!" she says.

Though this does not amount to denial of equal wages for equal work, women here are denied even an opportunity to access equal work. The fact that most of the women workers are migrants from the neighbouring districts of Bangalore, not aware of their rights as workers, makes them prone to exploitation.

Following the inspections, the labour department held a meeting with the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India and told them to ensure that labour standards are complied with by all their members within a time-frame. "Failing this, we will crack down on erring units," said Labour Commissioner S.R. Umashankar.

*Hindu, March 20,  
P.14*

# Companies woo women staff with work incentives

Realising the potential of women as a stable and productive workforce, most corporates are keen to alter policies to keep their female staff happy. Apart from taking special care to have a fair representation of women on their corporate boards, companies are readily rolling out schemes such as flexi-timing, extended childcare facilities, etc for their female staff.

While flexi-timing and telecommuting options are most common in IT firms such as Wipro, HCL etc., even manufacturing majors such as Cummins India and GE India are ready to adopt the flexible work timings.

Lending credence to the move is a recent Accenture report on 'Women Employees' Habits' that

said about 80 per cent of women stayed at a job longer because of flexible work arrangements that enables them to balance family responsibilities.

"Our survey indicates that women tend to stay in a particular job for longer duration if they are given flexible options," says Ms Rekha Menon, executive director, Accenture India.

The survey also revealed that about 40 per cent of Indian women are satisfied with their current job and are not looking for new job opportunities as compared to 28 per cent of men. This is a key revelation for HR managers as it makes women a stable workforce, says Ms Menon.

The Accenture survey also brought to light the fact that women viewed lack of opportunities as a major barrier in their career advancement.

*Asian Age,  
March 8, P.17*



# Less jobs on offer, fewer women in the workforce

TEAM TOI

Labour growth has slowed down in both public and private organized sectors, the Economic Survey has revealed. Just 15% of the total labour force has regular salaried jobs. While employment in the public sector grew at just 0.4% between 2010 and 2009 as compared to 0.7% between 2009-2008, private sector employment grew at 4.5% as compared to 5.1%.

Job creation remains a massive problem. The government aims to create 5.8 crore jobs between 2007 and 2012, but in the five-year period between 2004-5 and 2009-10, only 1.8 crore jobs were created. Moreover, the labour force expanded by just 1.2 crore in that period, possibly because more young people stayed on in education, the Survey estimates.

At 1.79 crore jobs, public sector employment in India is now down to 1975 levels, with manufacturing and construction taking the biggest hits. Most of this decline was absorbed by the male labour force, which has lost over 20 lakh jobs since 1991. Female employment in the public sector has risen slightly over the same period to 32 lakh. However, female participa-

## 'Contracts drive economy'

According to the Economic Survey, "The central driver of a modern economy is the contract." It goes on to explain that being able to get into a contract quickly and get fast redress in case one party reneges "together...describe the ethos for 'doing business' in a nation."

With this, it makes a strong pitch for changes in Indian labour laws to allow for more, and more flexible, contractual employment.

The survey also asks for firms to be allowed to wind up more easily in order to free up land and reduce transaction and administrative costs.

tion in the labour force as a whole has declined.

Meanwhile, the organised private sector now employs 1.08 crore persons. While manufacturing is responsible for almost half these jobs, the fastest growing sector in private employment is financial services.

In organised manufacturing, the ratio of wages to output has declined even as the ratio of profit to output has increased, reflecting a steady squeeze on workers' wages. Profit is now over eight times the total output, and wages less than four times; an exact inversion of the situation 20 years ago. With reduced bargaining power, the number of strikes and lockouts has plummeted.

Overall in the organised and unorganised economy

together, agriculture continues to be the biggest employer, but the services sector is the biggest employer of urban Indians: for every 1,000 people employed in rural India, 679 work in agriculture, while for every 1,000 employed in urban India, 582 work in services.

The industrial sector now employs over 10 crore persons and the share of industry in total employment has risen to 22%, an increase of close to 6% over the last ten years. This rise is mainly in construction, which now employs 4.4 crore people, while fewer jobs are now available in manufacturing. Yet the National Manufacturing Policy envisages that high growth in manufacturing will absorb 10 crore more people than today by 2022.

*Times of India, March 16, p 28*



# कागजों तक ही न रहे सशक्तिकरण

ता हिला सशक्तिकरण के नाम पर हर वर्ष आठ मार्च को मनाया जाने वाला महिला दिवस सही मायने में अन्तरराष्ट्रीय समाजवादी श्रमिक महिला दिवस है, जिसे सर्वप्रथम कम्युनिस्ट नेता क्लारा जेटकिन ने प्रस्तावित किया था? कितनों को मालूम होगा कि महिला दिवस पूंजीवाद द्वारा महिला मजदूरों के शोषण के विरुद्ध समाजवाद की स्थापना के लिए समर्पित था। परंतु 1970 के दशक में संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने महिला दिवस के संदर्भ को बदला और उसके वर्गीय चरित्र को खत्म कर अन्तरराष्ट्रीय स्वरूप प्रदान किया। विश्व भर की सम्पन्न महिलाओं के लिए महिला दिवस का लक्ष्य अलग था। वे अपने वर्ग के पुरुषों के साथ बराबरी चाह रही थीं। वे बराबर अवसरों, बराबर हक और बराबर के सम्मान की लड़ाई में पुरुष को अपने दुश्मन के रूप में देखने लगी थीं। वह पितृसत्ता का मूर्त रूप था, जो उन्हें घर की चाहरदीवारी में कैद रख गृहस्थी चलाने व प्रजनन की जिम्मेदारी तक सीमित रखना चाहता था।

आज भी महिला दिवस को विभिन्न स्थानों में मनाया जाता है। समाजवादी खेमे के लिए यह पूंजीवादी शोषण के विरुद्ध एक ऐसी लड़ाई है, जिसमें पुरुष भी सहभागी होंगे। दूसरी ओर सम्पन्न महिलाएं पुरुषों के साथ प्रतियोगिता में उतरने लगीं क्योंकि वे अपने को जेयम दर्जे पर रखने के लिए तैयार नहीं थीं। उन्होंने समाज की तमाम संस्थाओं को चुनौती दी, यहाँ तक कि विवाह और प्रजनन को भी। सरकारें और कॉर्पोरेट क्षेत्र भी महिला दिवस मनाते हैं क्योंकि औरतें और उनके सख्त पल रहे बच्चे आबादी का 70 प्रतिशत हिस्सा हैं। इनसे सीधा सरोकार बनाए बगैर विकास की बात बेमानी है। महिलाएं समाज की सक्रिय हिस्सेदार हैं। वे कामकाज में लगी हैं, घर चलाती हैं, बच्चों की परवरिश करती हैं, उपभोक्ता हैं और निर्माता भी। उनके सरोकार पूरे समाज को प्रभावित

करते हैं- अर्थव्यवस्था और राजनीति को भी।

2012 के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने विषय चुना है- 'महिला को सशक्त बनाओ- भूख और गरीबी का अन्त करो।' नारे से स्पष्ट है कि भूख और गरीबी पर विजय पाने के लिए महिलाओं की स्थिति में आमूल बदलाव की जरूरत है। भारत में यह महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है, क्योंकि

महिलाओं के बीच गरीबी बढ़ रही है, जिसे हम 'फेमिनाइजेशन ऑफ पॉवर्टी' के नाम से जानते हैं। आखिर ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है और इसकी वजह से समाज का क्या नुकसान है?

भारत में श्रमजीवी महिलाओं का लगभग 80 प्रतिशत कृषि में कार्यरत है। कृषि से जुड़ा 60 प्रतिशत कार्य औरतों के जिम्मे आता है। पर उनकी मजदूरी दर पुरुषों के मुकाबले 60-70 प्रतिशत ही रह जाती है। खेती में 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक महिलाएं अवैतनिक पारिवारिक श्रमिक

हैं और इनके पास जमीन पर न तो मालिकाना हक है और न परिसम्पत्ति पर नियंत्रण। बैंकिंग व्यवस्था भी महिलाओं की पहुँच से बाहर है। यह स्थिति उन्हें गरीबी से उबरने नहीं देती। पर इन बहुसंख्यक महिलाओं को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए कुछ सोचा नहीं गया। महिलाओं को व्याज-रहित आसान ऋण, जमीन पर बराबर का

हक, सस्ते बीज, खाद-बिजली और अन्य कृषि उपकरण नहीं मिलेंगे तो वे कृषि व उससे जुड़े कामों में हाशिये की ताकत बनी रहेंगी, जबकि काम की तलाश में पुरुषों का विस्थापन महिलाओं पर कृषि का बोझ बढ़ाता रहेगा।

स्वयं सहायता समूह और माइक्रोफाइनेंस से औरतों की गरीबी दूर नहीं हो सकती है, यह मिलफोर्ड ब्रेटमैन, डीन कारलैन और जॉनाथन वेस्टर्न जैसे विशेषज्ञों के अध्ययन से साबित हो चुका है। भ्रष्टाचार, ऊँची ब्याज दर और बचत

तथा छोटे कारोबार को बढ़ावा न मिलना, साथ ही संपूर्ण बैंक क्रेडिट का एक प्रतिशत से कम होना माइक्रोफाइनेंस को गरीबी हटाने की दृष्टि से नाकामयाब बनाती है।

2007 से 'जेन्डर ब्रैजेटिंग' की बात आ रही है और अब 12वीं योजना में 'जेन्डर मेनस्ट्रीमिंग' की, पर यूरोप में इस प्रक्रिया के अध्ययन से पाया गया कि इसके बावजूद महिलाएं निर्णय लेने के मामले में बहुत पीछे रहतीं। उच्च पदों पर उन्हें रखा ही नहीं गया, दूसरे, कबनी-करनी में काफी फासला रहा, क्योंकि इस प्रक्रिया की जांच नहीं होती और महिलाओं के जीवन पर इसके असर का पता भी नहीं लगता। तीसरे, महिलाओं के पक्ष में जो सकारात्मक कदम उठाए जा चुके हैं, मेनस्ट्रीमिंग को उनका पूरा फल न बनाकर उनके विरुद्ध खड़ा कर दिया जाता है। क्या मनरेगा, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन, सर्व शिक्षा अभियान, मिड डे मील, जेएनयूआरएम, बच्चों के पोषण आदि के मामले में लिंगभेद या महिलाएं अत्यव की उपलब्धि की दृष्टि से कोई लेखा परीक्षण किया गया है? नहीं! बल्कि तमाम योजनाओं के कन्वर्जेंस यानी अभिसरण की बात की जा रही है। एनएसएसओ के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि भारत

में महिलाओं की कार्य सहभागिता दर 2004-05 से 2009-10 के बीच घट गई है। निश्चित ही इसका महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव होगा।

2011 में विश्व आर्थिक फोरम के अनुसार भारत का 'जेन्डर गैप' के मामले में 135 देशों में 113 वां स्थान रहा। जेन्डर गैप सूचकांक आर्थिक सहभागिता व अवसर, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण आदि के आधार पर बनता है। हम जानते हैं कि 90 प्रतिशत महिला श्रमिक अनियमित या इन्फॉर्मल रोजगार में हैं, जहाँ तनख्वाह कम है, लेबर कानून नहीं है, काम की स्थितियाँ बदलती हैं और

काम का सुरक्षा भी नहीं है। काम का अवसर यदि बढ़े है तो निर्माण क्षेत्र और अनौपचारिक कार्य में। कानून होने के बावजूद औरतों को बराबर काम के लिए बराबर वेतन नहीं मिलता। मातृत्व अवकाश का प्रावधान इस क्षेत्र में नहीं है

और कार्यस्थल पर सुरक्षा की कोई गारंटी नहीं।

जब औरतों की आर्थिक व सामाजिक स्थिति में बदलाव नहीं है और वे परिवार में सम्पत्तिहीन, अवैतनिक बंधुआ मजदूर के रूप में खटने को मजबूर हैं तो उन पर हिंसा तो होगी ही। अब महिला सशक्तिकरण के लिए राष्ट्रीय मिशन भी बन गया है और पुराने कानूनों को मजबूत करने व नए कानून बनाने के बारे में सोचा जा रहा है, मसलन किसी लड़की का पीछा करने संबंधी कानून, पुलिस की तहकीकात में कार्यविधि संबंधी सुधार, बलात्कार की परिभाषा में परिवर्तन, ऑनर किलिंग के मामले में सख्त कानून और वैवाहिक संघर्ष पर हक के लिए कानून पर कान्फ्लिक्ट दर क्यों कम है, इस बारे में कुछ नहीं सोचा गया। समाज में व्याप्त पितृसत्तात्मक मूल्यों को बढ़ावा देना और महिलाओं के साथ अपराध यदि देश के शीर्षक नेता अपना अधिकार समझते हैं और इन्हे ही कानून बनाने व उसकी रक्षा का ठेका मिला हुआ है, तो हम क्या अपेक्षा रखें? इन्हे सजा दिलाना लगभग नामुमकिन होता है। हाल के महानों में ऐसे कई मामले सामने आए हैं। मीडिया में भी महिला पक्षधर सोच का अभाव दिखता है। ऐसे में महिलाओं की सुरक्षा संबंधित एक समग्र कानून की जरूरत है, और पुलिस तहकीकात को विश्वसनीय और सरल बनाना जरूरी है।

महिलाओं के राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरण बिना उनकी निर्णायक भूमिका कैसे होगी? पर महिला आरक्षण विधेयक पारित नहीं हो पाया है। पंचायती राज में भी महिलाओं के, खासकर दलित व अदिवामी व अल्पसंख्यक औरतों को सबसे अधिक दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ता है। इसलिए 12वीं योजना में ग्रामीण महिलाओं में जागरूकता बढ़ाने हेतु 200 करोड़ रुपये और शोध, मूल्यांकन, प्रशोधन व प्रचार के लिए 20 करोड़ रुपये का प्रयोग कैसे किया जाएगा, यह महत्वपूर्ण है। मूल्यांकन करना होगा कि औरतों को सशक्त बनाने के जो औपचारिक उपाय सुझाए जा रहे हैं, लागू हो भी जाएं तो किस हद तक औरतों के जीवन को बदल सकेंगे। वरना पुराने लक्ष्यों से नए लक्ष्यों तक की यात्रा केवल कागज पर रह जाएगी।

*Tansatta, March 8, 14*



# Work woes

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) came with the promise of not just providing work, but work on equal footing to men and women.

However, while there are complaints about gender disparity in payment at several places, the bigger problem is of the failure to stress on women-friendly work and delay in clearing wages.

This, in turn, is pushing women back to work in agricultural fields with discriminatory wages.

### Not suitable

"We are not provided suitable employment. The available work of digging hard soil for laying roads, construction of check-dams and other such works are best suited for men," says Kallamma Ijeri, a mother of four of Ijeri village in Jewargi taluk, Gulbarga district. "The authorities have little interest to invest MNREGA funds in opening nurseries to cultivate plants for forest, horticulture and sericulture departments."

Initially, when MNREGA was launched, more stress was given to women-friendly works such as cultivating nurseries and watering plants in watershed areas. But the nature of works taken up under MNREGA has changed with the Union and State governments insisting on creating assets rather



**HARD TIMES:** Women are moving away from MNREGA jobs.

than providing employment to the needy.

Another problem which is driving away women from MNREGA was the inordinate delay in payment of wages. "In districts such as Gulbarga, the delay in settling wag-

es ranges from a minimum one month to three years," says president of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha Maruti Manpade. Women were now being forced to work in agricultural fields where wages are discriminatory.

*Hindu, March 15, P. 6.*

## - SELF HELP GROUPS (SHG)

# Harvest of hope

**N**otwithstanding the pain and the stark realities of life, there are men and women who keep trying and ultimately emerge as winners. Maghuapara is just a small village located on the outskirts of Guwahati. Though very nondescript, this place is soon going to witness an emulative change on account of the women here who, despite the troubles in life, are receptive towards new ideas and work very hard to give concrete shape to these ideas that promise to improve their living standards.

So when a group of indigenous women daily wage labourers took to mushroom cultivation in response to Eco Concept, a non-government organisation that is transferring the requisite expertise for an economic resurgence here in Maghuapara, no one had doubts about their success. What one notices in Maghuapara and the areas surrounding it is that while the men laze around or keep enjoying their drinks, the women struggle to make both ends meet. Dominated by members of the

Karbi community, Maghuapara - like any other place - spares no opportunity to exploit the women. Despite working as hard as men, women do not get equal wages. On top of that, the entire burden of running the household is toothily rests on the shoulders of these women.

Many others decided to come together under the banner of Jeuti Self Help Group (SHG) and do something that will contribute towards their daily income. So, when Neelipa Das of Eco Concept introduced the idea of mushroom cultivation to them, they accepted it and took it up as a challenge.

Now no one is as happy as the members of this SHG - because their mushroom firm has started production and sale.

The other members of Jeuti SHG, too, are hopeful that life is going to change for the better in the coming days. Most of them work at the quarries around their village.

*Assam Tribune, March 18, P 7*

## - WOMEN RESERVATION

### *Women reservation in Nagaland may be delayed*

**CORRESPONDENT**

DIMAPUR, March 21 - The proposed 33 per cent women reservation in the civic bodies in Nagaland appears all set to witness another upheaval while the proposed municipal elections may be further delayed as the State Government today moved a resolution in the Assembly seeking at least six months time to review and re-examine the amended Nagaland Municipal and Town Council Act 2006 which guaranteed reservation of seats for women.

Apparently conceding to the demands of the apex tribal organisations in the State to reconsider the women reservation issue during the ongoing budget session, Urban Development Minister Dr Shürhozelie moved a three-part resolution with reference to the Nagaland Municipal Act 2001.

Moving the first resolution, he called for the Act to be referred to a Select Committee of the House to be nominated by the Speaker for reviewing the entire Act under the established rules of the Nagaland Assembly with instruction to report to the House within six months.

The second resolution sought for Part IX A of the Constitution of India, which deals with municipalities and panchayati raj system, to be referred to the Assembly Committee to examine whether Nagaland should be exempted from the application of Part IX A, report of which is also to be submitted within six months.

The third resolution proposed that the smooth conduct of the civic body elections in the State would be impeded and all statutory processes towards conduct of the said elec-

tions be suspended forthwith to be resumed only after appropriate decisions have been taken by the Government in the light of the reports of the said Assembly Committees.

The resolutions were moved after a short duration discussion in the House. Earlier, initiating the discussion, Shürhozelie explained the circumstances leading to the present situation under which, he said, it would be difficult to conduct the proposed elections to municipal and town councils smoothly when various tribal hohos and major NGOs are opposing the reservation provision.

The discussion was moved following the submission of a representation by the Naga Hoho, ENPO and other tribal organisations requesting the State Government to deliberate the matter in the ongoing budget session.

The Minister further informed the House that a delegation of the Naga Mothers Association (NMA) had also submitted a representation to the Chief Minister yesterday and put forward their arguments favouring conduct of elections with 33 per cent reservation of seats for women.

In this connection, Shürhozelie said the government does not subscribe to the NMA's assertion that the 74th Constitution Amendment supersedes Article 371 A. He pointed out that Article 371 (A) categorically mentions that no Act of Parliament is applicable to Nagaland unless and until Nagaland Assembly unanimously passes it.

He also maintained that the Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001 had been amended by the House without sufficient discussions with the Naga civil society.

*Assam Tribune, March 22, P.7*



## Govt to create 10pc quota for women

**GUWAHATI, March 26** – The State Government is introducing a 10 per cent reservation for women in the Police Department. It also taking steps to prevent incidents of bomb blast, said Minister Rockybul Hussain. He was replying to the debate on the demand for grant for the modernization of the Police Department, on behalf of the Chief Minister who is holding the Home portfolio.

The Minister claimed that the State Government has been able to move in the right

direction and attract most of the militant groups to settle their issues through dialogues.

He further claimed that the overall law-and-order situation under the present regime has improved considerably and urged the Opposition members not to generalize the cases of corruption and misdemeanour of some police officials. "Blaming the entire police force for such practices of a section of the police officials has demoralizing effects," he said, adding, the good name of the police has not diminished, rather it has increased.

The Minister condemned the bids of some political forces to incite violence, as was done in 2010 in the name of opposing the pilot project on updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the incidents of road blockade staged by some organisations.

The State Government is trying to bring in transparency in the functioning of the police force, he said.

The Minister claimed that the number of civilians killed in insurgency-related violence has come down to 22 under the present State Government. Between May 15, 1996 and 2001, the number of civilians killed in such incidents was 1538 and since 2001, 924 civilians were killed in such incidents.

*Assam Tribune, March 27, 04*

## Only 55 women elected from 690 seats in 2012 state polls

TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

**New Delhi:** A record 61 million women voted in the recent assembly elections, but there will be only 55 women MLAs in the five new assemblies, which between them have 690 seats. Punjab is the best performer, with 15% of new MLAs women, while Goa is the worst with no women in its new 40-member House.

On an average, state assemblies have less than 8% female candidates. Uttar Pradesh has 33 new women MLAs, up from the 27 it had in its outgoing house, but this is still just 8% of its 403-member House.

Uttarakhand, with 70% female literacy and a better adult sex ratio than many others, has just five female

MLAs in its 70-member House, up from 4. Manipur, home to Irom Sharmila, the renowned anti-AFSPA activist, now has three women MLAs, up from none.

The problem starts right at the level of giving tickets. Only UP had an average of one woman contesting every seat, even though in several constituencies no women contested. A two-year old bill guaranteeing 33% of seats in Parliament and state assemblies be reserved for women is yet to be passed by the Lok Sabha.

*Times of India, March 8, 09*

**महिलाओं को 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण देने वाला दिल्ली अंतिम राज्य**

नई दिल्ली, (मेट्रो): महापौर प्रो. रजनी अग्नी ने आज एक बार फिर मुख्यमंत्री शोला दीक्षित पर बरसते हुए उनके उस बयान का कड़े शब्दों में खंडन किया, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली नगर निगम में जब से भाजपा ने कार्यभार संभाला है तब से निगम में कार्य कुशलता तथा कार्य संस्कृति की शुरु दिन से ही कमी है। महापौर ने कहा कि शायद मुख्यमंत्री इस बात से अनभिज्ञ हैं कि 2007 में जब भाजपा ने निगम

का कार्यभार संभाला तब निगम का दशा बहुत ही दयनीय थी भाजपा ने फिर भी निगम का शासन भार संभाला तथा निगम को कार्यप्रणाली को बेहतर की ओर ले जाना प्रारम्भ किया।

उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा महिलाओं को 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण देने के लिए दिल्ली को प्रथम कहने के बयान को पूरी तरह से खारिज करते हुए कहा कि मुख्यमंत्री को शायद यह ज्ञात नहीं कि देश के लगभग सभी राज्य स्थानीय

निकायों/पंचायतों में महिलाओं को 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण दे चुके हैं। दिल्ली इसका कार्यान्वयन करने में अंतिम है। जो कोई बड़ाई की बात नहीं है। महापौर ने बताया कि ये व्यक्तव्य संभवतः मुख्यमंत्री की राजनीतिक मानसिकता का परिणाम हो, परन्तु उनका ये बयान वास्तविकता से बहुत परे है।

*Punjab Kesari, March 6, P.7*



## - WOMEN WORKING IN PUBS

# Pubs flouting norms, using women to lure revellers

**COMPETITION** Clubs employ them to attract stags, whose entry has been banned by police

Sanjeev K Ahuja

■ sanjeev.ahuja@hindustantimes.com

**GURGAON:** It's an era of cut-throat competition where safety of women does not count. What does matter is making money. And this is why several discotheques and pubs employ women to lure stag revellers.

Gurgaon Police has banned the stag entries in the city's pubs and discotheques. And to keep the money going, most pubs resort to these tactics. Most of the women they use as 'tools' are hired on a monthly basis. This, despite the fact that the Haryana Excise Act does not allow employment of women in drinking places.

These women often come from poor backgrounds. They

### WHO ARE THESE WOMEN?

- Most of these women come from poor families of JJ clusters around Badarpur and Khanpur.
- Pubs 'engage' them for a monthly remuneration of ₹10,000-12,000. The women charge ₹500 for

helping youths get stag entry and around ₹1,000 for dancing with them.

- On an average, these girls earn between ₹3,000-4,000. This can go up to ₹8,000-10,000, especially on weekends.

leave for home between 2am and 4am at their own risk. And this is why they encounter drunken vagabonds on roads, where police presence is largely nil. Most bars also flout Punjab Shops and Establishment Act that makes it mandatory for employers to provide necessary security cover to women employees.

JP Mann, deputy labour com-

missioner, Gurgaon, said no discotheque or pub owner has ever applied for special permission to employ girls after 8pm as the BPOs did.

Labour department officials confirmed that the victim's name did not figure on the attendance register of Last Chance, the pub where she allegedly worked. They also said the pub had not

applied for permission to employ women in evenings.

"We showed our attendance register to a labour department team on Tuesday. There was no mention of the victim. We did see her roaming around the pub but we can't keep a check on such girls," said Rajesh Mehta, the pub's co-owner.

Police officials lament that bar owners easily shrug off their responsibility by saying that these women are freelance companions of their customers.

Haryana happens to be one of the four states of the country where its Excise and Taxation Act does not allow women to work in bars, though Delhi did allow women bartenders to work there three years back by amending its laws.

*Hindustan Times, March 14, P.3*

## - WOMEN VOTERS

# With 60% vote, UP silences critics

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**LUCKNOW:** Pundits have always got the pulse of the electorate wrong. By turning out in droves at the 2012 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the people of the state have not only silenced the critics, but also made any prediction of a clear winner a risky proposition.

In the 2007 elections, the voter turnout was an abysmal 46.36%. Chief election commissioner SY Qureshi in January had even taunted voters saying the low turnout was "shameful for a state that is considered politically conscious and vibrant".

This year, all roads led to polling booths on voting days resulting in an all time high turnout of around 60%. The 13.7 percentage point increase over the 2007 turnout has translated into a 30% increase in the

### EXPERTS ATTRIBUTE THE TURNAROUND TO POLL PANEL'S FOCUS ON GETTING NEW VOTERS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN

number of voters.

The highest turnout so far in the state was in 1993 when 57.13% voters cast their ballots.

So how was the turnaround achieved?

UP chief electoral officer Umesh Sinha said their focus was on enrolling new voters, especially women. "The Election Commission organised voter enrollment drives in universities and colleges. Teachers and non-voluntary organisations were roped in to woo the students," Sinha said.

Voter registration centres were opened at 400 tehsil head-

quarters and booth level officers organised door-to-door campaigns to enroll voters.

The EC strategy also included making Election 2012 a voter-friendly affair by launching new initiatives such as search engines, call centres and help lines.

"Public life was not disturbed during the polls as the EC imposed ban on the use of loud-speakers and wall writings. Movement of vehicles was also regulated," he said.

The EC had also roped in popular folk singer Malmi Awasthi as its brand ambassador to attract women voters.

Sinha said district magistrates also played an important role in creating awareness and motivating voters by organising human chains and competitions.

The seven-phase UP assembly elections were held on February 8, 11, 15, 19, 23, 28 and March 3.

### CHANGING FACE



■ A woman in UP holds up her voter's ID card. PH

**46.36%** was the voter turnout in 2007

**57.13%** turnout was recorded in 1993, which was highest till assembly polls 2012

**30%** increase in the number of voters since 2007.

*Hindustan Times, March 5, P.9*



## CRIME BY WOMEN

**In last two years  
133 women held  
for outraging  
modesty of  
women in J&K**

A total number of 133 women were arrested in Jammu & Kashmir for outraging the modesty of same sex while 405 were booked for rioting in the last two years.

The Minister incharge of the State Home Department on Monday informed the Lower House, "Out of 2,177 women arrested under different substantive offences during the last two years, 1,430 (65 per cent) fall in the age group of 26-45 years.

"In all 72 women were arrested in year 2011 while 61 were arrested in 2010 for outraging the modesty of same sex," the Minister said.

In response to a question of PDP MLA Shafi Ahmad Wani the Minister also informed the House that out of a total number of 2,177 women arrested in the State, 769 fall in the age group of 36-45 while 661 fall in the age group between 26-35.

In comparison to Kashmir more women from the Jammu region were put behind the bars.

"Of them, 633 women were arrested from Kashmir province while 1,544 from Jammu province were booked under different offences in the last two years.

During the same period, 48 women were arrested for abetment to kidnapping/abduction, 55 under charges of murder, 62 for attempt to murder, 122 for stabbings, 90 for cruelty to husbands and other relatives, 15 under charges of obscene act in public, 84 for abetment to suicide and 15 under charges of abetment to rape, the Minister said.

A small number of three women, including two foreign nationals and one Indian, were detained under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) 1978 during the same period.

The Minister incharge of the State Home Department also informed the House that 273 foreign nationals are lodged across different jails in the State while 16 women were booked under Explosives Act.

*Pioneer, March 27, P. 6.*

## GENDER EQUALITY/ INEQUALITY

# Face of inequality

Every morning, hundreds of women pack up their scanty belongings and line up at bus stops, markets and designated "pick-up" points, hoping to be picked up for work by a contractor.

In most cases, there's little room for haggling, and in any case it is more or less known how much each contractor 'type' pays: between Rs. 150-175 for women 'helpers', and Rs. 200-270 for men. So when Malar, a migrant labourer from Tamil Nadu signed up for a two-week stint at a construction site near Hennur, she knew that she will be paid a third less than her husband.

At most construction sites, wages are different for men and women, workers confirm. Women are just about paid the minimum wage (fixed at Rs. 160.89 for Karnataka, for eight working hours). A ready excuse that contractors use to dodge liability is that women are doing the "soft jobs" — such as headload work, sifting sand, stone crushing or cleaning — while men undertake the heavier tasks, and are eligible for more.

### Tasks gendered

Women, typically, work in "assistant" jobs. Indeed, the division of tasks too is gendered, leaving women at the bottom



*Hindu, March 20, 14*

of this industry, working for years in tasks that require lesser skills. Men perpetuate the belief that women are not capable of doing the "heavier jobs", leaving no room for women to be trained or pick up skills such as masonry that help men move upwards in the sector.

### 'Low skilled' jobs

Workers say that at large construction sites machines have replaced several tasks (concrete mixing, for example) that were traditionally earmarked for women, or "low-skilled" labour. This has led to a decline in jobs for women in this booming industry. As early as 2005, a National Commission for Women report on 'women in construction industry' had pointed to this decline, and a sharp plunge in the demand for unskilled workers. It had recommended that women workers be organised and imparted skills training.

Though an estimated 10 lakh construction workers move in and out of Karnataka, only 1.7 lakh workers are registered. Being unorganised, women cannot assert themselves and wages continue to be unequal, says N.

Veeraswamy, secretary of the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Federation.

## THE INCREDIBLE GENDER GAP

While the developed world and richer Indians are worried about obesity and related diseases, one of the puzzles in the phenomenon of world hunger is the "downward drift" in nutrition in India, where an estimated 350 million people remain undernourished. With its tremendous economic growth in the past decade—second fastest GDP increase in the world from 2000 until the 2008 financial crisis—how can this be true in India?

In various international comparisons India ranks 67th among the 81 ranked in the Global Hunger Index (GHI), constructed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and others. The GHI report in 2011 called levels of hunger in India "alarming", improved from "very alarming" in 2010. In a comparison of the 2009 GHI with the 2008 Global Gender Gap Index IFPRI

concluded that higher levels of hunger are associated with lower literacy rates and poor access to education of women as well as to health and survival inequalities between men and women.

On various gender-related international comparisons, India places in the bottom 20th percentile among the major "gender gap" indexes. It is 129th out of 145 countries in the UN's Gender Inequality Index; 113rd among 135 in the World Economic Forum's Global

Gender Gap Index (lowest among the BRICs); 84th among 113 in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Women's Economic Opportunity Index.

The authors of the 2011 Global Gender Gap Index report note: "The most important determinant of a country's competitiveness is its

human talent...(therefore) countries and companies will thrive if women are educated and engaged as fundamental pillars of the economy."

Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist, observed in 1976 why previous such efforts, e.g. the UN decade for women did not achieve results. Impetus for change must come from within developing countries. She noted that the "euro-American tendency" was to consider pre-harvest agricultural tasks as men's work and post-agricultural tasks as women's work ("food preservation, nutrition, child rearing, and home management"). This tendency was spread around the world to consequences that Mead called disastrous. Men grew in believing their own outside-the-home activities including agricultural research and service delivery to male farmers were



more important than women's work.

India's commitment to women's development is increasing.

Policymakers are allocating more resources to women's development programmes. Ensuring that those

expenditures and programmes achieve results on the ground is the challenge. To that end India is hosting leading actors and funders of global agricultural research and development in New Delhi in mid-March to reverse these statistics and chart a new course, different from that described by Mead. The Global Conference on Women in Agriculture aims to come with the tools to empower women and to lift them out of their abominable living conditions. The conference should lead to transformative initiatives, identify technologies and innovations in delivery systems from around the world that reduce drudgery and increase women's access to knowledge, assets and inputs giving them the confidence to significantly improve their living conditions. The dramatic decline in poverty rates in East and South-East Asia show what can be achieved with the necessary political commitment.

One step forward is for countries to develop data for making policy decisions which help women overcome obstacles and constraints,

something that Indian civil society organizations are increasingly demanding. The soon-to-be released Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index is intended to do precisely that. It will measure the empowerment, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector directly in five areas including: (1) decision making in agricultural production; (2) access to and decision making power over productive resources; (3) control over the use of income; (4) leadership in the community; and (5) time use. It will also measure women's empowerment relative to men within their households.

Applying it to women's reality will help change the reality of their world. But to achieve results rapidly, countries must demonstrate strong, consistent political commitment to gender equality in areas of education, health and agriculture.

The global financial crisis and the subsequent decline in foreign aid has spurred the search for successful examples from around the world that include much more than a traditional north-south transfer. A global partnership programme for women in agriculture can foster the search for local, national, regional and international policies that keep the well-being of rural women and children at centre stage, in India and the world.

*Mint, March 8, 2012*

## 'Inequality has gone up, notwithstanding dip in poverty'

**NEW DELHI:** Though the incidence of poverty has come down over five years from 2004-05 to 2009-10, it is a startling fact that inequality has increased, with fewer people controlling income.

Union Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia admitted on Tuesday that income distribution was not at the desired level and inequality increased in both rural and urban areas.

He denied any political motive behind the release of the data when Parliament was in session, or with an eye on the 2014 Lok Sabha polls or changing the number of beneficiaries of the proposed food security legislation.

Admitting that the poverty line fixed by the Tendulkar

Committee was criticised on the ground that it underestimated the scale of population that needed special assistance, Mr. Ahluwalia said he was willing to revise it on the basis of expert opinion.

Under the Gini Coefficient used, there was a marginal increase in inequality in rural areas from 0.27 per cent during 2004-05 to 0.28 per cent during 2009-10. This meant money was concentrated in a few hands. In urban areas,

where money had already been with fewer people, the situation deteriorated more sharply, from 0.35 to 0.37.

As per the index ranged on a scale from zero to 1, the ideal situation is zero, indicating perfect equality. But 1 means maximal inequality

Inequality rose sharply in rural areas of even a well-off State like Punjab (0.26 to 0.29), Kerala (0.29 to 0.35), Bihar (0.19 to 0.22) and Madhya Pradesh (0.24 to 0.28) and Assam (0.18 to 0.22). There was no change in Odisha, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Inequality came down in the rural areas of Goa, Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Haryana and Chhattisgarh.

Unlike the mixed trend in rural areas, the picture in the urban areas was more horrific. Except in Chhattisgarh, Goa and Tamil Nadu, inequality rose in all other States: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala,

Madhya Pradesh, Manarashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Inequality rose rather sharply in urban Kerala (0.35

to 0.40), Uttar Pradesh (0.34 to 0.40), Himachal Pradesh (0.26 to 0.35), Odisha (0.33 to 0.38), Punjab (0.32 to 0.36), Delhi (0.32 to 0.35) and Jammu and Kashmir (0.24 to 0.31).

Mr. Ahluwalia said the da-

ta did not reveal the causes for the increase; it would have to be studied separately. Nor would it be proper to say that the government programmes had failed because the conditions had to be studied. But he admitted to

*Hindu, March 8, p.16*



the need for tweaking the programmes and working out ways of reversing the trend.

He pointed out that inequality had risen more sharply in Brazil and China.

As for the impact of the current poverty estimates on deciding the beneficiaries of government programmes, he said the objective was not to influence the number of beneficiaries to be covered by the proposed legislation for food entitlement.

Stressing that the government did not limit the numbers to the below poverty line (BPL) and pegged it at 46 per cent of the priority sector, Mr. Ahluwalia stressed the need to appreciate the progress made. But it was very unlikely that the government would change the number in the wake of the new poverty estimates based on the Tendulkar Committee's recommendations.

Asked why the Planning Commission sought to divide poverty into various categories, including religion, Mr. Ahluwalia explained that it was for a better understanding of the impact of government programmes on each group.

Holding 2009 as a drought year, which normally tends to increase poverty, the Plan-

ning Commission has called for another larger survey for 2011-12. Half the data has been collected, and the task will be completed by June and the report released next year.

The Planning Commission has projected the cut-off poverty line on a monthly expen-

diture of Rs.760 in rural areas, against Rs.672.8 estimated in the 2009-10 survey. On a daily basis, this will mean an expenditure of Rs. 25.33 against Rs. 22.42. And in urban areas, it is Rs. 968.5 in 2011-12 as against Rs. 859.6, which means a per-day expense of Rs. 32.25 will keep

one out of the BPL list against the current Rs.28.6.

Mr. Ahluwalia said the figures were almost the same as Rs. 32 and Rs. 26 furnished in the Planning Commission's affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on the beneficiaries under the food entitlement legislation.

## Poverty figures unacceptable, says AIDWA

Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** The Planning Commission's claim in its March 19 report that poverty has declined in the country by 7.3 per cent is totally unacceptable, the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has said.

In a statement here on Tuesday, the AIDWA condemned the repeated efforts by the Planning Commission to obfuscate data so as to justify the exclusion of a large number of the poor and deny them the benefits of anti-poverty and welfare schemes. Women from the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society were being particularly affected

because their poverty was being deliberately made invisible, as a result of which they were unable to access many schemes meant for them, it said.

"It is shocking that despite widespread protests from all quarters about the absolutely unrealistic poverty lines being used for poverty estimation, the Planning Commission has once again used such faulty data to argue that poverty has declined. It is also not clear how the poverty lines, which, according to the affidavit filed by the government in the Supreme Court in September 2011 were around Rs. 26 per person per day [rural] and Rs. 32 per person per day [urban] have now suddenly been brought down to Rs.

22 and Rs. 28 [estimated from the monthly per capita poverty line mentioned in the recent note]. While some explanation has been put forth, it appears to be nothing but sheer statistical jugglery to show a significant decrease in poverty," the statement said.

"We reiterate that all these lines are actually "destitution" lines and do not reflect the reality of people's daily lives," the AIDWA said while demanding the 'fraudulent' figures released by the Commission be retracted, and called on the Centre to ensure that the rights of the impoverished sections were safeguarded, rather than undermined by it.



# Women treated similarly, then & now

**Chennai:** Even as India has progressed much since Independence, there still remain similarities in the way women are treated today, said Indian historian Professor Romila Thapar, here on Wednesday.

Delivering the annual IWA (International Women's Association) Endowment Lecture at a packed Museum Theatre, the eminent historian spoke on the topic of women in the societies of early India.

"Historical writings depicting Indian society were written to portray it in the best way possible. Since it was written mostly by the upper castes, they tended to overlook a lot of things," said Professor Thapar.

Women were treated as a single category and there was little difference between women of general social strata, she said. Citing examples of Gargi the philosopher, and various other female figures from history,

Professor Thapar said that they did not represent the large part of the women.

"The ideal woman as described in the *shastras* was one who was an impeccable housewife and submissive to the will of her husband. In contrast were the *dasis*, women who were treated as property to be gifted and sold and listed as part of family wealth. They were of the lowest status but did the hardest work," said Professor Thapar.

She also said that the texts on women from early Indian writers circa 1000 BC ranged from adulation to outright contempt. "Patriarchy controls our society to this day, even though it is seemingly lessened," she said. In relation to today's society, the ideas of maintaining caste purity is reflected through the numerous honour killings that are reported throughout the country. Dowry deaths are also a part of this continuing trend, she said.

*City Express, March 1, P. 1.*



# महिलाएं पहचानें अपनी शक्ति- रितु

गुडगांव। हरियाणा के खेल मंत्री सुखबीर कटारिया की धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती रितु कटारिया ने कहा कि महिलाओं को अपनी शक्ति पहचानते हुए समाज को जोड़ने का काम करना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाएं आज घर के अंदर ही नहीं बल्कि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में अपनी प्रतिभा के बल पर उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन कर रही हैं।

श्रीमती कटारिया स्थानीय सेक्टर-7 एक्सपॉजिशन के दशहरा मैदान में आयोजित महिला दिवस व होली मिलन समारोह में बतौर मुख्य अतिथि बोल रही थीं। समारोह गुडगांव नगर

निगम वार्ड 11 की पार्षद सीमा पाहुजा, पूनम भटनागर, पुष्पा धनखड़ तथा प्रिया द्वारा आयोजित किया गया था। समारोह में गुडगांव से भारी संख्या में महिलाओं ने भाग लिया।

श्रीमती कटारिया ने कहा कि आज महिलाएं सभी क्षेत्रों में अपना बहुमूल्य योगदान दे रही हैं। महिलाओं को चाहिए कि वे अपनी बेटियों को अवश्य शिक्षा दिलवाएं ताकि वे बड़ी होकर कामयाबी के शिखर तक पहुंच सकें। महिलाओं से कन्या भ्रूण हत्या की बुराई को समाज से मिटाने का संकल्प लेने का भी आह्वान किया।

## धूमधाम से मनाया महिला दिवस उत्सव

बीएसएफ वॉल्स क्लेफेयर एसोशियेशन (बाबा) ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस उत्सव छत्रवा परिसर में बड़े धूमधाम से मनाया। इसका आयोजन श्रीमती शेफाली बंसल बाबा अध्यक्ष के मार्गदर्शन किया गया। उत्सव स्वोच के यश एवं कौर्ति के भेंट स्वरूप सम्पन्न हुआ। बाबा परिवार के बच्चों द्वारा गन्नावा ध्वज पर लिखी गई कविताएं सुनाई गईं। महिलाओं द्वारा अनेक व्यवसायिक प्रशिक्षण

सफलतापूर्वक उद्योग होने पर उन्हें प्रमाण पत्र अध्यक्ष बाबा द्वारा वितरित किया गया। एक फोटो गैलरी का भी उद्घाटन किया गया। इस मौके पर श्रीमती शेफाली बंसल ने बाबा सदस्यों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि महिलाओं को निज महत्व और गरिमापूर्ण जीवन के लिए दृढ़तापूर्वक सामने आना चाहिए। अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पूरी दुनिया की महिलाओं के लिए सार्वभौमिक दिवस है, वे उनको आदर, गरिमा और आत्म सम्मान की भावना मुहैया कराती है जो कि एक महिला होने के नाते होना-स्वामिनी है। (पस)

## बेटियों को बचाने आगे आएं: तीरथ

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 7 मार्च। केंद्रीय समाज कल्याण बोर्ड ने बालिकाओं के संरक्षण की आवश्यकता पर जन चेतना जागृत करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के मौके पर बुधवार को दिल्ली हाट आईएनए में एक कवि सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया। महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ इस मौके पर मुख्य अतिथि थीं।

इस मौके पर मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ ने बेटियों की तारीफ करते हुए कहा कि बेटियां हमारे घर आंगन का ऐसा फूल हैं जो हमारे जीवन में रंग ही नहीं बल्कि उमंग और सुगंध भी बिखेरती हैं। केंद्रीय समाज कल्याण बोर्ड की अध्यक्ष प्रेमा करियप्पा ने कहा कि बोर्ड में हमारा यह प्रयास रहता है कि हम महिला अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूकता लाने और बालिकाओं के जन्म लेने और जीवन जीने के अधिकार की रक्षा करने हेतु विभिन्न तरीकों के साथ सामने आएं। समाज में महिलाओं की महत्ता को बताने के लिए जनता की मानसिकता में बदलाव लाने के लिए हम कार्यरत हैं।

*Jansatta,  
March 8,  
13*

*Rajasthan  
Patrika, March 7,  
P.9*

## International Women's Day 2012

Every year, 8 March is celebrated around the world as International Women's Day.

The theme of International Women's Day 2012 is "Empower Rural Women - End Hunger and Poverty" in recognition of the critical role and contribution of rural women..

Key contributors to global economies, rural women play a critical role in both developed and developing nations — they enhance agricultural and rural development, improve food security and can help reduce poverty levels in their communities. In some parts of the world, women represent 70 percent of the agricultural workforce, comprising 43 percent of agricultural workers worldwide.

Estimates reveal that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30 percent, lifting 100-150 million out of hunger.

Healthcare, education, gender inequality and limited access to credit, however, have posed a number of challenges for rural women. Further, the global food and economic crisis and climate change have ag-

gravated the situation. It is estimated that 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women and girls.

Yet, the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates reveal that productivity gains from ensuring equal access to fertilizers, seeds and tools for women could reduce the number of hungry people by between 100 million and 150 million.

*Free Press Journal, March 7, P.22*



## Women demand dignity and equality on International Women's Day

Staff Reporter

**MUMBAI:** Holding a placard that read "You Don't See What We Can Do, Who's Disabled - We or You?" over a hundred women on wheelchairs celebrated International Women's Day by demanding the right to be treated with dignity and equality.

Mumbai's iconic Marine Drive saw an influx of differently-abled women, NGOs and hundreds of supporters who paid a unique tribute to the spirit of womanhood on the eve of the day. "Women's Day is not just to cheer our achievements but to introspect what we lack. And as women with disability, we seek lot more from the system that we are a part of so that we can live our life to our full potential," said a teenager on a wheelchair holding a banner that read, "you see a wheelchair, We see a person."

Supporting the cause of women with disability who bear the brunt of discrimination in the society the women with disability on wheelchair were joined by

common people, socialites, celebrities and activists in a solidarity protest organised by the ADAPT (Able Disable All People) Rights Group. "There can be no true independence for woman as long as people don't have the right to travel. Jeeja Ghosh's case clearly shows the pathetic, apartheid like condition women with disability face in India. How can we celebrate Woman's Day when this is happening to almost 15 per cent Indians who have some or the other form of disability," said Malini Chib, Chairman ADAPT. The idea of the protest sparked by the offloading of a teacher and disability activist from Kolkata, Jeeja Ghosh on the 20th of February, when she was on her way to a conference on inclusion of people with disability into mainstream society from a SpiceJet flight.

"It is shocking that women with disability - be they with hearing, visual or physical impairment - are left out of almost everything, in-

cluding women's movements. Hence, a lot of violence goes on with them without anything ever being done against it. So we decided to come out and tell the public directly how women with disability have been left out." Dr. Mithu Alur, Founder-Chairperson - ADAPT said.

She said despite legislations there are cases where women on wheelchairs are 'thrown out of a flights' "What is the point of legislation if there is no enforcement? There are many such cases of violation that have been noted in the country. Unless punitive action is taken against the airlines or anyone else discriminating against people based on disability, there won't be any change. We also hope to get the aviation ministry's notice by this protest."

Filmmaker Shyam Benegal said, "Everyone has some or the other disability, visible or hidden. Yet why is it that we consider people with a visible disability to be so different from us?"

*Hindu, March 8, P.5*



# Stree Shakti

## Celebrating International Women's Day

### STRENGTHENING WOMEN THROUGH GENDER JUSTICE

- » Protection of women against sexual harassment in the workplace
- » Protection of Women Against Domestic Violence Act, 2005
  - » Upholding a girl's right to be born
  - » Mahila Adalats and Mahila Thanas ensuring rights for women

### HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN

- » Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women
- » Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls or SABLA
- » Restructured Integrated Child Development Services for pregnant and lactating mothers
- » Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana
- » Guaranteed right to work for women under MGNREGA

### EQUALITY OF WOMEN IN EVERY WAY

- » Equal Opportunity, Equal Treatment, Equal Pay

### POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

- » 33% reservation for women in Gram Panchayats and Municipal Bodies

### BOOSTING MORALE AND SUPPORTING WOMEN

- » Swadhar Greh in every district
- » Ujjawala for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration
- » Working Women's Hostel



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Government of India



*Indian Express, March 7, P.18*



# होली एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस की शुभकामनाएँ

8 मार्च 2012

राज्य सरकार द्वारा महिलाओं के कल्याण, विकास तथा सशक्तिकरण के लिए उठाये गये कदम :

- किशोरी बालिकाओं को अपने विकास तथा सशक्तिकरण, जीवन निपुणता तथा व्यवसायिक निपुणता को बढ़ाने, स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता, पोषाहार, प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य बाल देख-रेख के प्रति जानकारी में सक्षम करना तथा स्कूल न जाने वाली किशोरी बालिकाओं को औपचारिक/अनौपचारिक शिक्षा प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से राजीव गांधी योजना (सबला) 6 जिलों अम्बाला, हिसार, रिवाड़ी, रोहतक, यमुनानगर तथा कैथल में लागू की गई है।
- किशोरी बालिकाओं के स्वास्थ्य तथा पोषण स्तर में सुधार एवं व्यवसायिक कुशलताओं के लिए किशोरी शक्ति योजना 1132 बालिका मण्डलों के माध्यम से 87 परियोजनाओं में लागू।
- शिक्षा ऋण योजना के अन्तर्गत बालिकाओं को व्यवसायिक एवं उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने हेतु ब्याज में 5 प्रतिशत सबसिद्धी दी जाती है। योजना के अन्तर्गत 4287 बालिकाओं को ऋण स्वीकृत किए गए हैं।
- महिलाओं के सामाजिक, आर्थिक एवं शैक्षणिक सशक्तिकरण के लिए राज्य सशक्तिकरण मिशन का गठन।
- तेजाब से पीड़ित महिलाओं के लिए राहत व पुनर्वास योजना जिसके अन्तर्गत प्लास्टिक सर्जरी व अन्य उपचार पर खर्च की कुल राशि राज्य सरकार द्वारा वहन की जाती है।
- दुराचार से पीड़ित महिलाओं के लिए वित्तीय सहायता एवं सहायक सेवाएँ प्रदान करने हेतु योजना जिसके अंतर्गत दुराचार से पीड़ितों को आश्रय, काऊंसलिंग, स्वास्थ्य सहायता, कानूनी सहायता, शिक्षा तथा व्यवसायिक प्रशिक्षण की सेवाएँ प्रदान की जाती है।
- गर्भवती एवं दूध पिलाने वाली माताओं के लिए पंचकूला जिले में पायलट परियोजना के रूप में इन्दिरा गांधी मातृत्व सहयोग योजना लागू।
- बाल विवाह की रोकथाम और महिलाओं को घरेलू हिंसा से बचाने के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा जिला स्तर पर संरक्षण-कम-बाल विवाह निषेध अधिकारी नियुक्त किए गए। संरक्षण-कम-बाल विवाह निषेध अधिकारियों द्वारा वर्ष 2011-12 में घरेलू हिंसा से संबंधित 3909 तथा बाल विवाह से संबंधित 253 शिकायतों का निवारण किया गया।
- राज्य में घटते लिंग अनुपात एवं कन्या भ्रूण हत्या की समस्या से निपटने के लिए लाडली योजना लागू जिसके अन्तर्गत परिवार में जन्मी दूसरी बालिका के नाम 5000 रुपये की राशि 5 वर्ष तक निवेश की जाती है। 197.85 करोड़ रुपये की राशि से 1.45 लाख परिवारों को लाभ पहुंचाया जा चुका है।
- राज्य में महिला लिंग अनुपात में सुधार लाने के लिए प्रथम, द्वितीय तथा तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त करने वाले जिलों को क्रमशः 5 लाख रुपये, 3 लाख रुपये तथा 2 लाख रुपये के प्रोत्साहन पुरस्कार प्रतिवर्ष दिए जाते हैं।
- समेकित बाल संरक्षण योजना लागू जिसके तहत ज़रूरतमंद बच्चों की देखरेख व कानून का उल्लंघन करने वाले किशोरों से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न योजनाओं को कवर किया जाता है।
- राज्य सरकार द्वारा 1.00 लाख रुपये की राशि का इन्दिरा गांधी महिला शक्ति अवार्ड, 51,000 रुपये की राशि का कल्पना चावला शौर्य अवार्ड तथा 51,000 रुपये की राशि का बहिन शन्नो देवी पंचायती राज अवार्ड की स्थापना।
- बालिकाओं को शिक्षा के प्रति प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए ग्रामीण किशोर बालिकाओं को पुरस्कार की योजना के अन्तर्गत मैट्रिक परीक्षा में प्रथम, द्वितीय एवं तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त करने वाली बालिकाओं को क्रमशः 2000 रुपये, 1500 रुपये एवं 1000 रुपये पुरस्कार में दिए जाते हैं।
- ग्रामीण महिलाओं में खेलों मनोरंजन, सामाजिक गतिशीलता एवं समूह निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए खण्ड स्तर, जिला स्तर तथा राज्य स्तर पर ग्रामीण महिलाओं के लिए वार्षिक खेल प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन।
- अनैतिक व्यापार के शिकार महिलाओं तथा बच्चों की सुरक्षा तथा उनके पुनर्वास हेतु उज्ज्वला योजना लागू।
- कठिन परिस्थितियों में रहने वाली उपेक्षित महिलाओं/बालिकाओं को आश्रय, भोजन, कपड़े, सामाजिक व आर्थिक सहायता उपलब्ध करवाने के उद्देश्य से स्वधार योजना लागू।
- कामकाजी महिलाओं को क्रिफायती दरों पर सुरक्षित आवास उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए राज्य में 17 कामकाजी महिला होस्टल अम्बाला, भिवानी, फरीदाबाद, गुड़गांव, हिसार, जीन्द, जगजरी, करनाल, कुरुक्षेत्र, पंचकूला, रोहतक, रिवाड़ी, पानीपत, सोनीपत तथा सिरसा में चलाए जा रहे हैं।
- समेकित बाल विकास सेवाएं योजना के अन्तर्गत गर्भवती व दूध पिलाने वाली माताओं तथा किशोरी बालिकाओं को 25170 आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों के माध्यम से नई व आकर्षक रेस्पीज जैसे की आलू पूरी, भरवां परांठा तथा गुलगुले का प्राक्धान।
- आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं तथा हैट्यरों के कल्याण के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा जिला हिसार, रोहतक, गुड़गांव तथा अम्बाला में महात्मा गांधी स्वावलम्बन पैशन योजना लागू।
- राज्य सरकार की महिला कर्मचारियों को शिक्षुओं की देखभाल के लिए 2 वर्ष (730 दिन) का अवकाश।
- लड़कियों की उच्च शिक्षा के लिए खानपुर कला, सोनीपत में भगत फूल सिंह, महिला विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना।
- विशेषकर महिलाओं के लिए 31 आई.टी.आई की स्थापना।
- स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों में महिलाओं का 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण।
- पंचायती राज संस्थानों में महिलाओं के बराबर के अधिकार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 1/3 सीटें आरक्षित।
- भूतपूर्व सैनिकों की विधवाओं को वित्तीय सहायता 6000 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 11,000 रुपये।
- इंदिरा गांधी प्रियदर्शनी विवाह शगुन योजना के तहत अनुसूचित जाति के परिवारों की विधवाओं को उनकी लड़की की शादी के समय 31 हजार रुपये तथा गरीबी रेखा नीचे रह रहे समाज के अन्य सभी वर्गों के परिवारों को 11 हजार रुपये का अनुदान।
- लाडली सामाजिक सुरक्षा पैशन योजना के तहत उन माता या पिता जिनकी केवल दो लड़कियां हैं को 45 वर्ष की आयु पूरी करने पर 500 रुपये प्रति मास पैशन।
- महिला के नाम सम्पत्ति के हस्तांतरण पर स्टाम्प शुल्क में 2 प्रतिशत की छूट।
- बिजली का घरेलू कनेक्शन महिला के नाम होने पर बिल में 10 पैसे प्रति यूनिट की छूट।
- रक्षा बंधन के दिन महिलाओं एवं बालिकाओं को हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन की बसों में मुफ्त यात्रा की सुविधा।
- तकनीकी शिक्षा संस्थानों में दाखिले हेतु 30 प्रतिशत सीटें आरक्षित।
- 60 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र की महिलाओं को बस किराये में 50 प्रतिशत की छूट।

महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग, हरियाणा  
बेज नं. 15-20, सेक्टर-4, पंचकूला

Amar Dyal, March 8, 2012





अंतरराष्ट्रीय  
महिला दिवस

लड़कियों को रोना-सुनिधा, महिलाओं को नई जन्मीद

# महिलाओं का सशक्तीकरण

शिक्षा एवं जागरूकता के माध्यम से

- परिवार परामर्श केंद्र : परामर्श, रेफरल और पुनर्वास सेवाओं के लिए
- महिलाओं के लिए शिक्षा के संक्षिप्त पाठ्यक्रम : स्कूली शिक्षा बीच में छोड़ चुकी महिलाओं के लिए पढाई-लिखाई का अवसर
- जागरूकता प्रसार कार्यक्रम : स्वास्थ्य, पोषण एवं अन्य अधिकारों के बारे में जानकारी देने के लिए
- अत्यावास गृह/स्वाधार गृह : बेघर महिलाओं को अस्थायी आश्रय देने के लिए
- कामकाजी माताओं के बच्चों के लिए शिशुगृह (क्रेश) : कामकाजी माताओं के बच्चों की शिशुगृह में देखभाल एवं शिशुगृह कार्यकर्ताओं को रोजगार देने के लिए
- अभिनव परियोजनाएं : वंचित वर्ग और जरूरत पर आधारित क्षेत्रों के लिए



केंद्रीय समाज कल्याण बोर्ड

(महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय)

डॉ. दुर्गाबाई देशमुख समाज कल्याण भवन  
पी-12, कुतुब इस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली-110 603  
[www.cswb.gov.in](http://www.cswb.gov.in)

*Nanbharat times, March 8, P-11*



# महिलाएं घरेलू उत्पीड़न कानून का कर रही हैं दुरुपयोग

## सुप्रीम कोर्ट की जस्टिस ज्ञान सुधा मिश्रा ने दी नसीहत

● पीयूष पांडेय

नई दिल्ली। कानून के उपयोग की आचार संहिता पर महिलाओं को सीख देते हुए सुप्रीम कोर्ट की जस्टिस ज्ञान सुधा मिश्रा ने बुधवार को कहा कि एक बड़ी तादाद में महिलाएं घरेलू उत्पीड़न कानून का दुरुपयोग कर रही हैं। आजकल महिलाएं परेशानियों का सच्चाई से सामना करने की बजाय इस कानून का सहारा लेती हैं। कई बार कमी महिलाओं की ओर से भी होती है और उत्पीड़न पुरुष का हो जाता है।

ऐसे दुरुपयोगों को काबू किए जाने की जरूरत है। नहीं तो सच्चे मामले भी एक दिन झूठे प्रतीत होने लगेंगे। जस्टिस मिश्रा ने भारतीय महिलाओं से अपील करते हुए कहा कि सही

शमशान वैराग्य लड़की का जीवन : मीरा कुमार

नई दिल्ली। लोकसभा अध्यक्ष मीरा कुमार ने महिलाओं के शोषण पर चिंता जताते हुए कहा कि आज भी दूर-दराज इलाकों में लड़कियों का जीवन शमशान में गए उस व्यक्ति की तरह होता है, जो अंतिम संस्कार को देखकर विकल हो उठता है। दहेज, घरेलू उत्पीड़न, सम्मान के लिए हत्या जैसे कई मुद्दे हैं जिनसे निपटने के लिए कानून मौजूद हैं। इसके बावजूद जागरूकता की कमी के चलते महिलाओं का शोषण जारी है। लोस अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि हमारी संसद महिलाओं को सुरक्षा और संरक्षण प्रदान करने के कानून बनाने में चैपियन है। भविष्य में भी यह क्रम जारी रहेगा।

और गलत का फैसला उन्हें अपने अंतरात्मा की आवाज से लेना चाहिए। क्योंकि जिस तरह खुद का उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ आवाज न उठाना गलत है। उसी तरह किसी का बेवजह उत्पीड़न करना भी अनुचित है। जस्टिस मिश्रा ने महिलाओं को यह सीख मानवाधिकार आयोग की

सदस्य चारु वलीखन्ना और सुप्रीम कोर्ट की अधिवक्ता ज्योति कालरा की लिखी किताब मैरिड बट नॉट लीगली वैड का विमोचन के दौरान दी। उन्होंने राजस्थान की नाता प्रथा का उदाहरण पेश करते हुए कहा कि राजस्थान में कई युवा लड़कियों को शादी चुनुरंग से कर दी जाती है।

Amar Ujala, March 1, 2012

### - DOWRY ACT

# Dowry Act misuse does not warrant amendment

AMRITA DIDYALA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Though IPC Section 498-A, or Dowry Act, is often misused, its abuse is not so serious as to warrant its quashing or bring in major amendments, according to a report on domestic violence cases filed under Section 498-A in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts.

The report, prepared by a group of students from Nalsar University, also highlights stereotyping of gender roles in the society.

A team of four students — Tanay Agarwal, Ayush Ranka, Sravya Kopalappu and Sree Mitra — prepared the report titled *Status of 498A in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts*. The study collated data from 45 police stations randomly selected from across the

## AP NO. 2 IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Dowry and giving birth to a girl child are the prime reasons for domestic violence and harassment meted out to women, say the officials.

Hunger for dowry is equally prevalent in the rich and the poor across

the state.

AP ranks second in the country with regard to number of registered cases of violence against women. The number of domestic violence and harassment for dowry cases registered in the police stations is very high apart from case referred to village elders.

two districts.

According to the study, an average of six cases were registered under Section 498-A each month at these police stations. The number was 20 on average at the four women's police stations included in the research.

"The figure, however, was 240 cases at Charminar police station and as many as 413 requests for counseling were registered," the report states. "Also, most police officers were of the view that 99 per cent cases were true and involved harassment."

Deccan Chronicle, March 21, p. 2



# New law gives wife share in property

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 23

The Union Cabinet on Friday gave its approval to the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill 2010, entitling a woman to have a share in her husband's properties. Adopted children too will enjoy the same rights as biological offspring in terms of inheritance and other matters. The UPA government had introduced the Marriage

Laws (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha in August 2010. The bill was referred to the parliamentary standing committee on law and justice to solicit wider feedback from all stakeholders. The committee, in its

report, had opposed doing away with the waiting period before a joint motion to annul a marriage. The committee's report also supported the proposal to make "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" a new ground

## Divorce made easier for women

- She can get a share in her husband's property
- She can oppose husband's plea for divorce
- Adopted, biological kids to have same rights

for divorce. The Cabinet on Friday partially accepted the com-

mittee's recommendations, leaving it to the courts to decide the "cooling off" period before both parties can move a motion for divorce, sources said. The Cabinet also approved the move to give adopted children the same rights as biological offspring in case their parents opt for a divorce.

The Union Cabinet at its meeting on Friday approved the proposal that a woman should have a

husband's plea for a divorce under the new "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" clause but the same will not be available for a husband in the case of his wife moving court on the same grounds.

*Deccan Chronicle, March 24, P.1*

share in the property of her husband in case of a divorce. However, it decided that the courts would decide on case-by-case basis quantum of share that a woman should get.

Also, a wife can oppose a

# To live happily ever after

In the din of the unseemly skirmish between the army chief and the defence minister, a little Bill that could have big implications on marriage slipped by relatively unnoticed and unsung. The Cabinet this past week approved the Marriage Amendments Bill (2010). If passed by Parliament, it has the potential to become a new deal for thousands of women trapped in abusive marriages.

The Bill marks three significant departures from the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 and the Special Marriage Act of 1954. First, spouses will share assets acquired during the course of the marriage regardless of who paid for them (this obviously does not apply to ancestral property). Second, it introduces a new ground for divorce: irretrievable breakdown of marriage. A wife can oppose a husband's plea for divorce under this ground but a husband may not. Moreover, if the judges are convinced that the marriage is beyond repair, they will have the discretion to waive the present cooling off period of six to 18 months. And third, adopted children will now have the same rights as biological offspring in the event of a divorce.

All of this is in the realm of possibility; the Bill is yet to become law. Women's groups have welcomed it — by and large — but

elsewhere doomsday predictions range from the death of marriage to the birth of a new breed of mercenary woman.

This is bunkum. With the social stigma attached to divorce, nobody sane gets divorced just to get rich. If anything the Bill has some serious

flaws. It applies only to Hindus not to minorities. Moreover, how the assets are to be divided, and in what proportion, is left to the discretion of the judges. In a system where women encounter gender bias daily, this isn't a good sign.

Others object to the sharing of assets acquired by one partner. If he paid, why does she get a share? Here's why. In India, housework has no economic value. The 2001 Census, for instance, listed housewives as 'non-workers' at a par with beggars and prisoners. I am not aware of any India

specific study, but a 2002 UK Office for National Statistics study found that not only did women spend twice the time as men on housework, but if a value were to be placed on this labour, it would be worth £700 billion to the economy.

There are exceptions, always. But in most marriages, the wife either is not employed or is not the primary income earner. When she does work outside the house, she still bears an inordinate share

in bringing up the kids, putting dinner on the table, looking after the parents, shopping, cleaning and so on. This is unpaid work.

When a marriage breaks down, the same woman often finds she has nowhere to go. Maintenance amounts are both pitifully low (typically between 2-10% of her husband's annual declared income)

and pitifully slow in coming. Most abused wives either continue being imprisoned in marriages or turn to their fathers and brothers for financial support. A study authored by lawyer Kirti Singh and due to be published at the end of this year, found that in the event of a divorce or separation, the husband 'usually walks away with all the moveable and immovable assets in the household'. This is why women do not walk out of marriages, even when they face high levels of violence.

By dividing assets, regardless of who has financially contributed to them, the Bill acknowledges the contribution of the non-employed or the lesser employed partner (and this works equally for men).

Far from spelling the end of marriage as an institution, the Bill will strengthen the bonds of marriage. It will enforce discipline on abusive spouses. It will ensure that both husbands and wives remain in the marriage, because they want to and not because they have no other choice. It bestows respect and dignity on those who work but are not necessarily paid. And it will see marriage for what it is: a partnership between equals.

*Hindustan Times, March 31, P.14*



## - RENT A WOMB BILL

### ORDER, A LA CARTE

Surrogacy in India has finally been corporatised, moving out of small mom-and-pop clinics ruled by the buyer's market to companies that offer fixed prices to surrogates for each eventuality and ensure medicare and delivery at an empanelled multi-specialty hospital, such as Max Super-Specialty, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and the Fortis Group of Hospitals. Apart from getting paid and treatment costs, surrogates are put up in a home where their boarding and lodging is taken care of.

"Having the women live together helps us monitor their health, nutrition and hygiene aspects more closely," says Vivek Kohli, director, Wyzax Surrogacy Consultants, which diversified from medical tourism to concentrate on surrogacy two years ago. "We set up our first home in Delhi less than 18 months ago and 10 couples have already taken babies home. We have a database of over 80 surrogates and an average of 50 queries a month, 90% of which are from foreigners," says Kohli.

"Apart from the money paid for the delivery, we spend an ₹1.5 lakh on their food, medical care and lodging, on an average, they stay here for 10-11 months,"

says Jagatjeet Singh, the director in charge of the home where Sheikh lives.

"We group them together depending on their cultural and eating preferences, as a vegetarian may not want to eat with a meat-eater. Their families can visit them whenever they like and the women can go home, but we discourage home visits in the first trimester, which is the critical phase of a pregnancy."

Apart from Janakpuri, Wyzax Surrogacy Services have a home in Loni and another near Ganga Ram Hospital, and one-room homes in Hari Nagar for women who want to stay with their families.

### INDIA'S RENT-A-WOMB BILL

- The proposed Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill & Rules, 2008, legalises commercial surrogacy, stating that the surrogate mother can get "monetary compensation" for carrying the child in addition to health-care and treatment expenses during pregnancy.
- The surrogate mother has to relinquish all parental rights over the child once the amount is transferred. Birth certificates will be in the name of genetic parents.
- The surrogate mother should be between 21 and 45 years.
- No surrogate mother can undergo an embryo transfer more than three times.
- Single parents can also have children using a surrogate mother.
- All foreigners seeking infertility treatment in India have to first register with their embassy. They will have to state whom the child should be entrusted to, for example, in case genetic parent dies.

## - SEXUAL HARASSMENT BILL

# Sexual harassment bill to cover domestic help

**NEW DELHI:** In a move that will benefit about 47.5 lakh women registered as domestic workers in India, the Women and Child Development (WCD) ministry has decided to include them under the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2010.

The original bill, introduced in Lok Sabha in 2010 did not include domestic workers under its ambit.

"We have circulated a draft cabinet note seeking official amendment to the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill. After the cabinet nod, we intend to bring the amended bill in the budget session of Parliament," said a ministry official.

The bill ensures a safe environment for women at workplace — be it public or private, organised or the unorganised sector.

Ministry officials said inclusion of domestic workers will allow them access to an efficient

### WIDENING THE AMBIT

- The Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill ensures a safe workplace for women in public or private, organised or unorganised sector
- Earlier, domestic workers were kept out of the proposed law because of difficulty in enforcing it in the confines of a home
- Inclusion of domestic workers will now allow them access to an efficient redressal mechanism.

redressal mechanism as mandated under the bill, which presently they do not have.

The bill mandates setting up of Local Complaints Committee (LCC) at district level where a victim of sexual harassment can lodge complaint. It will then be

the committee's responsibility to look into the complaints and take action. "The ministry has now proposed to cast the responsibility on the LCC to

receive complaints from domestic worker," said an official.

The ministry had earlier kept domestic workers out of the proposed law on the grounds that

it will be practically difficult to enforce the provisions of the law within the confines of a home.

This despite the Parliamentary standing committee on HRD, which examined the bill after it was referred to it in 2010, recommending the inclusion of domestic workers under the proposed legislation. The panel had submitted its report in December last year.

The bill provides protection not only to women who are employed but also to any woman who enters the workplace as a client, customer, apprentice, and daily wage worker or in ad-hoc capacity. Students, research scholars in colleges and universities and patients in hospitals have also been covered.

*Hindustan times, March 19, P.8*

*Hindustan times, March 11, P.16*



# पिछड़े वर्ग की महिलाओं में साक्षरता की कमी: पाठक

अहमदाबाद, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता एवं आवाज की संचालिका ईलाबेन पाठक के अनुसार आज भी महिलाओं और बालिकाओं की उपेक्षा के चलते मुस्लिम, आदिवासी तथा पिछड़े वर्ग में महिलाओं में उच्च शिक्षा की कमी है। पाठक ने यहां अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर आयोजित सम्मेलन में कहा कि महिला बजट का आवंटन तो काफी है, लेकिन संसाधनों के बारे में समझाना जरूरी है। उन्होंने कहा कि महिला हिंसा की घटनाएं बढ़ रही हैं, लेकिन राज्य सरकार लगाम लगाने पर

कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठा रही है। पार्थी संस्था के संचालक महेन्द्रभाई ने कहा कि वर्ष 2012-13 के लिए राज्य का 50599 करोड़ रुपए का बजट है, जिसमें महिलाओं के लिए 2513.6 3 करोड़ रुपए का बजट है। बजट में दलित महिलाओं के लिए 16 करोड़, आदिवासी महिलाओं के लिए 52 करोड़, ओबीसी महिलाओं के लिए 24.88 करोड़ एवं महिलाओं की आवास के लिए 193.15 करोड़ रुपए आवंटित किया गया है।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 17, 2012*



# 'मंगल सूत्र' पर भारी पड़ रहा तलाक

महानगर की तेज रफ़्तार जिंदगी किस कदर दांपत्य जीवन पर प्रभाव डाल रही है, इसका अनुमान इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि राजधानी में पिछले तीन माह के दौरान हुए विवाह की संख्या से कहीं अधिक राजधानी की जिला अदालतों में तलाक के लिए आवेदन करने वाले दंपतियों की संख्या है। अगर, राजधानी में जनवरी से लेकर अब तक हुए विवाह के रिकार्ड पर नजर डाली जाए तो पता चलता है कि अब तक कुल 6728 युवक-युवती परिणय सूत्र में बंधे हैं। वहीं, राजधानी की जिला अदालतों में तलाक के लिए आवेदन करने वाले दंपतियों की संख्या लगभग 7 हजार है। इतना ही

नहीं, इनमें से 3894 मामले अदालत में विचारधीन हैं, जबकि अन्य मामलों में समझौता सदन व अन्य एजेंसियों के जरिए इस बात के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं कि वे किसी तरह से साथ रहने पर राजी हो जाएं और तलाक न लें। यह आंकड़ा महानगरीय सभ्यता में अधुनिकता के कारण युवाओं की बदलती सोच का परिणाम है।

सहनशीलता की कमी व अहंकार बन रहे हैं कारण: वर्मा: अधिकांश नीलम वर्मा का कहना है कि आज के युवा अलग सोच रखते हैं। युवाओं में सहनशीलता की कमी है और अहंकार अधिक। ऐसे में वे

## पिछले तीन महीनों में हुए विवाह और तलाक के मामलों की संख्या

मामले	संख्या
विवाह	6728
अदालत में तलाक के दिवाराधीन	3894
मामले तलाक के लिए शिफारिशें	3412

जीवनसाथी के चलते उत्पन्न तनाव झेल नहीं पाते और एक दूसरे से अलग होकर अपना जीवन नए सिरे से शुरू करना अधिक पसंद करते हैं। उनकी यही सोच तलाक का कारण बनती है। वहीं, वैवाहिक जीवन में दोनों पक्षों के परिजनों के हस्तक्षेप भी कई बार तलाक के कारण बनते हैं। एकल परिवार की संस्कृति है प्रमुख कारण: पारिख: मैक्स अस्पताल के

मनोचिकित्सक समीर पारिख का कहना है कि आजकल महानगरीय सभ्यता में एकल परिवार की संस्कृति खूब जोर पकड़ रही है। एकल परिवार में संयुक्त परिवार की अपेक्षा नैतिक मूल्यों की कमी अधिक होती है। मसलन, अगर संयुक्त परिवार में कुछ विवाद हो जाए तो वहां पर घर के तमाम बड़े-बुजुर्ग एकत्र होकर विवाद सुलझा देते हैं। क्योंकि उनका परिवार के छोटे सदस्यों पर प्रभाव भी रहता है। इससे परिवार का विखराव बहुत हद तक रुक जाता है। वहीं, एकल परिवार में पति पत्नी और बच्चों के अलावा कोई नहीं होता है। अगर पति व पत्नी के बीच विवाद हो जाए तो उन्हें समझाने वाला कोई नहीं होता है। यही कारण है कि एकल परिवार में रहने वाले लोगों के दांपत्य जीवन में तनाव कम नहीं हो पाता है और नौबत तलाक तक पहुंच जाती है।

*Dainik Jagaran, March 26, P. C*

## B'lore tops mean age of marriage for women



**BANGALORE:** The mean age of marriage for women is the highest at 28 years in Bangalore and Mumbai, among all the Indian metros, a study by a matrimonial site has revealed.

The study conducted by Jeevansathi.com also revealed that there is an upward push in the age of women gearing up to take their wedding vows, moving up from 26 years in 2008 to 28 in 2011.

In non-metros, the age has moved up to 27 years as compared to 26 years in 2008. State-wise analysis of the demographics show mean age of marriage for girls as 26 in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

Among the metros, Delhi and Chennai are at 27.

Commenting on the trend, Rohit Manghnani, Business Head, Jeevansathi.com, said: "Women have become more career-oriented in Urban India. This has coincided with the services sector booming in India. Larger job opportunities have meant that women are more financially independent now and therefore under less parental pressure to marry." In comparison, the mean age of men has been more or less stagnant. In metros, the mean age of men has moved from 29 in 2008 to 30 in 2011, while for non-metros it has been 29 for the last four years.

DH News Service

## बेटियों के हाथ पीले करेगी सरकार

सीकर: नरेगा श्रमिकों को बेटों की शादी के लिए अब चिन्ता करने जरूरत है नहीं है। इन श्रमिकों की बेटियों की शादी सरकार खुद करेगी। राज्य सरकार नरेगा श्रमिक की लड़की के विवाह पर 51 हजार रुपए की सहायता व पहली व दूसरी संतान पर छह-छह हजार रुपए की राशि भी देगी। यह सुविधा लेने के लिए नरेगा श्रमिक को एक वर्ष में 90 दिन कार्यरत होना होगा। श्रम विभाग से पंजीयन के बाद मजदूरों को 60 रुपए वार्षिक अंशदान व 25 रुपए शुल्क कार्यालय में जमा करवाना होगा। इस श्रेणी में सड़क मकान नरेगा व विद्युत निगम के श्रमिकों को भी शामिल किया गया है। वहीं अब श्रम विभाग नरेगा मजदूरों का निशुल्क समूह बीमा भी करवाएगा।

इसके अन्तर्गत नरेगा मजदूरों की सामान्य मृत्यु होने पर 30 हजार व दुर्घटना में मौत होने पर 75 हजार रुपए आश्रितों को दिए जाएंगे।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 23, P. 12.*

*Dainik Jagaran, March 23, P. 2*



# DIVORCE: IT WILL BE ADVANTAGE WOMAN

The Union Cabinet on Friday took some major decisions with regard to the Hindu Marriage Act, including making divorce easier by including "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" as a fresh ground for separation.

Result: The mandatory six-month clause for filing of divorce will now be waived off on grounds of irretrievable breakdown.

According to the Cabinet Note, while a wife can oppose a husband's plea for a divorce under the new "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" clause, the husband will have no such

rights if the wife moves the court on the same grounds.

The amendment, if approved by Parliament, will make divorce easier for estranged couples, experts said, particularly in cases

where a partner is deliberately delaying proceedings. The other grounds for divorce, which can take anywhere from six months to years, include cruelty, desertion and adultery.

The proposed amendment gives women, who are sometimes forced into marriage, an easier way to end an unhappy marriage and provides some safeguards against harassment. Some experts have warned against making divorce too easy, lest couples do not even attempt to reconcile differences.

The new clause also allows one-time settlement instead of monthly maintenance in case of divorce. Monthly alimony causes much discomfort to many women, especially those dependent on it for their survival and for raising their children. There is also a chance that a husband stops

paying the monthly installments and escapes to some foreign country. Also, a woman is entitled to monthly alimony only till she gets re-married. Lump-sum alimony is a concept popular in western societies. The government has also made share in husband's property acquired by marriage a right for women who so far used to get maintenance from courts. The court would decide the quantum of share on case-by-case basis.

Women caught in a failed marriage can now heave a sigh of relief, as they will not be so vulnerable after a divorce on grounds of 'irretrievable breakdown' of marriage. In such a scenario, the husband will have to share property acquired after marriage. This will be in addition to the alimony. However, a Minister who attended the Cabinet meeting said the Bill lacks any clear-cut rule on the share of property a wife will get. Apart from giving women the right to their husband's property, the redrafted Bill also aims at giving rights to adopted children on par with biological off-springs in case a couple goes for divorce.

*Free Press Journal,  
March 24, P.1*

## Denial of sex sufficient for divorce: HC

Willful denial of sex by the spouse can amount to cruelty and is sufficient ground for divorce. The Delhi High Court, in a verdict, has pronounced denial of sex, including the first night after the wedding, by either spouse amounts to cruelty.

The high court, however, also noted that frequency of sex cannot be the only parameter to assess the success or failure of a marriage, as it depends on the importance attached to sexual relations vis-à-vis emotional relations.

The high court also cited various Supreme Court judgments, saying, "Sex is the foundation of marriage and marriage without sex is an anathema. Marriage without sex will be an insipid relation."

Nonetheless, the high court made it clear that marriage was an institution through which a man and a woman entered a sacred bond, and to state that sexual relationship was the mainstay or the motive of marriage would be making a mockery of this pious institution.

"By getting married, a couple agrees to share their lives together with all its moments of joy, happiness and sorrow. Sexual relationship between them brings them close and intimate, by which their marital bond is reinforced and fortified," said Gambhir.

*Pioneer, March 25, P.5*



# Marrying a person based abroad?

Be vigilant  
Check the background &  
all legal details before saying  
**'yes'**.

- Ensure that the groom is single,
- Enquire about his business/job, location and NRI status (Whether he is a Green Card holder)
- Contact the concerned embassy for his details
- Check his Bank Account Number and Bank Statement, Residence Proof and Visa
- If he's a working professional, check the details of the Company and his job profile

Toll Free Number (from BSNL/MTNL Landline): 1800 11 3090

For assistance contact:

**Overseas Workers' Resource Centre**

Number accessible from Mobile & Landline from  
anywhere in the world +91-11-40503090



Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Govt. of India  
website [www.moia.gov.in](http://www.moia.gov.in) e-mail: [info@moia.nic.in](mailto:info@moia.nic.in)

*Pioneer, March 27, P. 2*



## Women-friendly Policies Will Improve Social Indices

Women hold up half the sky, said Mao Zedong. In percentage terms, the figure is slightly lower in India since 43 per cent of women are engaged in agricultural activity. Yet, their access to drinking water, health-care and education is limited for reasons both of stifling social inhibitions and longstanding infrastructural deficiencies. It isn't only that women work as agricultural workers, they also take to cultivation when the men migrate to the cities in search of jobs.

But the neglect which they have traditionally experienced is evident from the fact that a third of the women have a lower bodyweight. If they did not suffer from such discrimination and could avail of the facilities which the men do, it has been estimated that farm production could rise by 20-25 per cent. In a predominantly agricultural country, this is a considerable amount.

Since most of the women are from families of small and marginal farmers, landless tenant farmers and agricultural labourers, they hardly have any access to capital and credit facilities, leave alone innovative technologies. However, if new laws allocate wastelands to women and banks recognise them as entrepreneurs, then loans and kisan credit facilities could turn them into food producers and processors. For this to happen the government's mindset has to change from treating women as adjuncts to the rural scene and seeing them instead as a formidable workforce to boost agricultural and economic growth.

In the cities and mofussil towns, there has been perceptible improvement in the condition of women compared to 50 years ago. The tendency of families wearing long faces if a girl is born is slowly disappearing. But the scene remains dismal in the countryside if only because of the poor availability of basic facilities, forcing women to trek long distances in search of potable water and other necessities. It is high time the government paid greater attention to removing these shameful inadequacies.

*New Indian Express, March 14, p. 10*



# Terror against women

Even if the National Crime Records Bureau figures were to be taken as comprehensive, which, given the low rates of reporting they certainly aren't, a woman is raped in India every 24 minutes and this crime is rising faster than murder, robbery and kidnapping.

Ironically, the supposedly safer urban areas lead in rape cases and the national capital holds the ignominious distinction of accounting for nearly half of all rape cases in urban India. Our country that touts youth as its economic powerhouse also holds the world record for child abuse and trafficking. And just to complete the gory story, nearly 40% of married women suffer some form of physical or sexual abuse at the hands of their husbands and in-laws. Undoubtedly, the above figures are nowhere near the real numbers given the social stigma and the high degree of apathy victims encounter. Also, the depiction in percentages veils the fact that we are talking about millions of victims here.

Sometimes it makes me wonder if we have got our understanding of "terror" all mixed up. The underlying essence of "terror" is the ability of a small group of individuals to exert compulsion on a much larger majority, forcing the latter to alter its behaviour. To that extent, rising crime against women and children is probably the most heinous kind of "terror" that India suffers for three reasons. First, it is perpetrated by fellow

citizens and not some sinister external force. As a matter of fact, in the majority of rape and sexual abuse cases, the victim knows and at times is related to the perpetrators. Second, the trauma of the victims continues far beyond the incident itself as they are scarred for life—physically, psychologically and socially. But what probably puts this crime in the worst category is the fact that most instances are suppressed, allowing the perpetrators the impunity to strike again and again.

Like all crimes, our society pays a price for this at several levels. Studies show that survivors of such traumatic events continue to be dysfunctional and often become pathological committers themselves. Abused children have much higher proclivity towards violence and crime and most rape victims are suboptimal for the rest of their lives.

Without absolving law-enforcement authorities, or condoning their insensitivity at times, society at large is equally responsible for rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence. The latter atrocity clearly shows that the answer does not lie in just better policing or deploying more uniforms around the city. Instead, society, its exemplars and every individual are in some sense accountable for the deterioration.

While rape, sexual abuse and domestic violence are clearly three different crimes, their common thread is low rates of reporting. Estimates suggest that over 75% of rape cases are never reported. Reporting of sexual abuse and domestic violence is even lower. This clearly indicates that the "pareto" of addressing these crimes lies in creating an environment that fosters disclosure rather than suppression,

which only emboldens the perpetrator. And again, while measures such as sensitizing law-enforcement authorities, assigning women police officers or protecting the identity of the victim are important, they still address the smaller percentage of cases where the victims and their families muster enough courage to approach the police. That is because society still treats rape and abuse as "personal" crimes where the victim has a Hobson's choice of seeking recourse to the law and being subjected to the trauma of a largely apathetic society or just accepting the situation and moving on.

If such crimes have to be addressed forcefully, the answer lies in implementing steps that

provide a strong support structure to victims and high deterrence to potential perpetrators. The rape of a woman who works in a mall is an attack on every working woman. Every woman who needs to be out of her house is now forced to be restrained. The abduction and rape of a schoolgirl is an attack on every

child that forces each parent to be cautious and constrain their child's childhood. And while being cautious is common sense, it is definitely not the long-term answer.

Social institutions have a responsibility to create an environment where it is the perpetrators who are afraid and not the other way round. Schools and parents must teach children self-defence. Workplaces, corporates, NGOs and families must "own" the responsibility of providing financial, moral and legal support to victims on a continuing basis. Bystanders must realize that the girl they witness being abducted could have been one of their own and, therefore, must get involved. And society must demand pursuance of such cases with the same fervour as it does for outrages such as terror attacks. For, it is farcical to demand zero tolerance for terrorism in a society which is tolerant of such crimes.

*Mint, March 22, P-23*



# Crime against women on rise in trains

NEW DELHI, March 25 – Despite initiating steps to prevent crime in trains and stations, there has been an increase in cases of misconduct against women passengers.

As per data available with the Railways, a total of 712 cases including rape, murder, robbery and eve-teasing were reported against women and children in railway premises in 2011 as against 501 cases in the previous year.

There were 15 rape and 362 eve-teasing cases reported in 2011 as against 10 and 352 similar cases in 2010. Incidentally, in order to check increasing incidents of crime, RPF and GRP personnel escort about 3,500 express and local trains.

“Currently all important trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and

Duronto are escorted by security men and steps are being taken to strengthen security at stations by implementing integrated security system,” a senior Railway Ministry official said.

Railways is installing CCTV cameras at 202 stations as part of the integrated security system. There are about 8,000 railway stations in India.

“We are regularly reviewing the safety and security of the trains and adopting proactive measures to ensure safety of passengers,” the official said. He said anti-drugging squads are also functional.

Railways maintain that policing on the rail network is a state subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigations and maintenance of law and order in rail-

way premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the state governments which they discharge through GRP.

“We maintain regular coordination with the state governments to ensure better security to the commuters as well as the Railways system.

“Regular co-ordination meetings are being held with GRP by General Managers of zonal railways, divisional railway managers and chief security commissioners of RPF to enhance security in passengers trains and in Railways,” the official said.

Steps are being taken for integrating the RPF helpline with all-India passenger helplines to facilitate much faster response to security needs of passengers.— PTI

*Assam  
Tribune  
March 6, 84*

# Look, who is outraging the modesty of women in J&K!

Ishfaq ul-Hassan SRINAGAR

Imagine women “outraging the modesty” of women! State-torn Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a dubious distinction of being a state where women are outraging the modesty of women.

Data tabled in the legislative assembly revealed that 133 women have been arrested in the state for outraging the modesty of women for the last two years. The figures were released by chief minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds some portfolio, in a written reply to a question asked by the BJP legislator Shafi Wani.

However, it has not been specified under which sections women who allegedly outraged the modesty of women were jailed.

Legal experts say most probably the women might have been booked under section 354 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC).

Section 354 says whoever assaults or uses criminal force against any woman, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely thereby outrage her



modesty. The punishment for the crime is imprisonment for two years, or fine, or both. It is a cognizable and bailable offence.

“Modesty has not been defined per se. Even tearing down the clothes or hurling abuses or certain obscene gestures can be treated as outraging the modesty of women”, said Anwar-ul-Islam Shaheen, advocate at Jammu and Kashmir High Court. Shaheen said both men and women can be booked for outraging of the

modesty of women.

“Modesty is a virtue attached to women only. Both sexes can outrage the modesty and therefore can be booked under section 354 RPC”, he said.

Outraging modesty aside, around 2,177 women, including foreigners, have been arrested on serious criminal charges in predominately religious Jammu and Kashmir in last two years.

Of whom 633 women, including four from Pakistan, were arrested in the Kashmir Valley while 1,544, including four Burmese nationals were booked in Jammu region.

Among them 405 women have been held for rioting, 122 in stabbing cases, 84 for abetment to suicide, 62 for attempt to murder, 55 for murder, 15 for obscene act in public places, 44 for theft, 17 for assault on government servants and the remaining under miscellaneous crime cases in the last two years.

Three women, including two foreigners and one Indian, were detained under the Public Safety Act.

*D.N.A., March 28  
P-11.*



## Dowry cases dip as cops play peacemaker

Women have been subjected to mental and physical harassment for dowry for years. However, statistics from the Mumbai police show that such cases in the city have seen a steady decline from 2009 after a disturbing upward trend between 2006 and 2008. The number of cases registered under section 498(A) – cruelty to a woman by husband or relatives of husband) – of the Indian Penal Code fell from 389 in 2008 to 287 in 2011.

The success in bringing down harassment cases against women is attributed to a special cell of the Social Service Branch (SSB) of the city police. The cell resolves disputes among couples with the objective of bringing down cases of domestic violence against women.

"It is difficult to pinpoint a particular reason for the success. In a fast-paced city like Mumbai where people are under tremendous stress and there is lack of communication, such cases tend to occur frequently," said Nisar Tamboli, Mumbai police spokesperson and deputy commissioner of police.

Advocate Paresh Desai said cases of mental and physical harassment for dowry under the Domestic Violence Act are declining too. "This is because of counselling by the

### Case study

Year	Registered	Detected
2006	310	254
2007	368	291
2008	389	309
2009	356	279
2010	299	268
2011	287	239



**In a city like Mumbai where people are under tremendous stress, cases [of discord] occur frequently**

—Nisar Tamboli, DCP

police to couples with differences in their relationship," he said.

Some policemen, however, claim that the statistics do not reveal the complete picture. "One cannot entirely believe the statistics as they may also include cases purposely filed by women against their in-laws," said Sunil Deshmukh, assistant commissioner of police.

"Section 498(A) is often misused by women to create a fear psychosis among their in-laws so that they do not torture them. Also, the decrease in such cases must be marginal compared to previous years," said Deshmukh.

"The section is misused as many times, a woman, in a fit of rage, mentions every member of her husband's family in her police complaint to take revenge. It is very difficult to prove in court that the victim's in-laws demanded dowry. Therefore, in 90% of such cases, the accused is acquitted due to lack of evidence," said Desai who practices at the family court in Bandra.

Assistant commissioner of police Firoj Patel of the SSB said women with domestic problems related to harassment or torture

should approach the police as timely solution can curb such offences.

Deshmukh said in harassment cases related to dowry, the police meet the couple face-to-face and counsel them to ensure their marriage lasts. "Earlier, we would first register cases related to section 498(A) after the victim approached the police. But

now, we record the statements of all the people and verify facts to check whether it is a genuine complaint before registering an FIR," he said.

The deputy commissioner of police personally verifies the facts to ensure the complaint is genuine.

"However, in several cases we found the complainant was misusing the law to settle scores with her in-laws. As a result, offences were registered against innocent people," Deshmukh said.

*D.N.A. March 23  
P.1+4*



# 'Sexy' OK, 'bitch' harassment

**Chennai:** Does calling a woman employee 'bitch' at the work place amount to sexual harassment? The Madras high court thinks so. At a time when the National Commission for Women chairman is facing flak for saying that a 'sexy' tag doesn't amount to teasing or harassment, the Madras HC has said dubbing women teachers 'bitch' by their male colleague does fall within the definition of 'sexual harassment'.

*Times of India, March 18, P. 21*

## यौन दुर्व्यवहार की सजा पीड़ितों को ही क्यों

क्या स्त्रियों के खिलाफ बढ़ते अपराध को रोकने का यही तरीका है कि उन्हें घरों की चारदीवारी में कैद रखा जाए और उनकी सार्वजनिक गतिशीलता पर बंदिश लगा दी जाए? पुलिस अधिकारियों की सोच अक्सर इसी लाइन पर चलती है। पिछले दिनों गुडगांव में बढ़ती यौन अत्याचार की घटनाओं के मद्देनजर वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारियों की तरफ से लड़कियों / महिलाओं को यह सलाह दी गयी कि वे रात आठ बजे तक ही काम करें। इस सलाह की इस कदर आलोचना हुई कि कुछ ही समय बाद उन्हें अपना बयान बदलना पड़ा। ध्यान रहे, इस शहर में हुए जिस सामूहिक बलात्कार कांड के बाद पुलिस का यह बयान आया था, उसके हफ्ता भर बाद भी पुलिस उस पीसीआर वैन का पता नहीं लगा सकी है, जिसने पीड़िता के भाई की कॉल अटेंड की थी।

### असुरक्षा का दंड

सवाल उठता है कि ऐसी हर घटना के बाद जिस तरह महिलाओं के आने-जाने या काम करने पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की बात उठती है, वैसा ही उपाय अगर पुरुषों के साथ भी आजमाया जाए तो क्या होगा? सुरक्षा की गारंटी के लिए अगर लोगों को सड़क पर आने से ही रोक दिया जाए तो कैसा रहे? कहीं भी निकल कर काम

करने का हक उतना ही महिलाओं का भी है, जितना पुरुषों का। क्या यह हक इसलिए छीन लिया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि असुरक्षा व्याप्त है? यह तो पीड़ित को ही दंड देने जैसा होगा। कई बार पुलिस की तरफ से सुरक्षा के जिन अन्य उपायों को सुझाया जाता है, वे भी असुरक्षा से बचने की जिम्मेदारी महिलाओं पर ही थोपते हैं—सभी मोबाइल फोन लेकर बाहर निकलें, रात में या सूनी सड़क पर न जाएं, अकेले जाने के बजाय समूह में चलें आदि।

### मर्दानगी के मायने

कुछ समय पहले दिल्ली में पुलिस महकमे की तरफ से स्त्री सुरक्षा को लेकर प्रचार अभियान चलाया गया था। उन दिनों इसी सिलसिले में प्रकाशित एक विज्ञापन में एक डरी-सहमी लड़की का चित्र दिखाया था, जो बस स्टैंड पर खड़ी है और पास खड़े कई पुरुषों के बीच कुछ गुंठे उसे छेड़ रहे हैं। नीचे मोटे अक्षरों में नीचे लिखा है 'क्या यहां कोई मर्द नहीं है?' इस विज्ञापन में पुलिस मर्दों की कथित मर्दानगी को ललकारती दिख रही थी। मर्द अपनी मर्दानगी को साबित करने के लिए रक्षात्मक भूमिका में भी आ सकते हैं, लेकिन इसके

ठीक उलट अपनी मर्दानगी वे छेड़छाड़ के जरिये भी साबित कर सकते हैं। विज्ञापन के जरिये यही संदेश दिया जा रहा था कि उत्पीड़न से बचाने की जिम्मेदारी भी उन्हीं को सीपी जा रही है जो उसी पुरुषवादी मानसिकता से ग्रस्त हैं, जिसके चलते यौन उत्पीड़न होता है।

इस मानसिकता की पृष्ठभूमि काफी व्यापक

और गहरी है। किसी से भी आप मर्द या औरत का मतलब पूछें तो वह तत्काल उसके मन में दर्ज छवि को बता सकता है। आम तौर पर मर्द की छवि लाकतवर, कमाने वाले, रौबदार रक्षक उभरेगी, जबकि औरत के नाम पर प्यार करने वाली, अपनी सीमा में रहने वाली, घर और बाहर के काम को सलीके से संभालने वाली तथा सजने-संवरने वाली छवि उभरेगी। ये छवियां काफी कुछ भूमिकाओं को भी तय करती हैं। अगर पुरुष को नाकारा साबित करना है तो जूड़ियां पहन कर घर बैठने का ताना मिल सकता है। वह बचाव भी मर्द बन कर ही करेगा, एक सभ्य इंसान बन कर नहीं।

ज्यादातर विकसित देशों ने हमारे यहां की तुलना में औरत के साथ

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होने वाले दमन-उत्पीड़न पर रोक लगाने में सफलता पाई है। यहां जैसे सामूहिक बलात्कार, दहेज हत्या, या दूसरे अपराध कई देशों में सुनने को भी नहीं मिलते।

कई मुद्दे सही अर्थ में आधुनिक होने से भी जुड़े हैं, जैसे व्यक्ति की निजता का अधिकार। सामाजिक रीतिरिवाज और मान्यताओं का कहर किसी व्यक्ति विशेष पर बरपा नहीं हो सकता है। डायन हत्या और डायन उत्पीड़न जैसी घटनाएं भी हमारे ही यहां घट सकती हैं। जिसके साथ प्रत्यक्ष हिंसा को अंजाम नहीं दिया जाता, वह भी ऐसे वातावरण के

कारण अप्रत्यक्ष हिंसा झेलता है। दिल्ली का एक सर्वेक्षण बताता है कि 96 प्रतिशत महिलाएं यहां स्वयं को यौन हिंसा की दृष्टि से असुरक्षित महसूस करती हैं। हर समय डर के साये में रहना आधी आबादी की मानसिक स्थिति के लिये नुकसानदेह है। पुलिस की व्यवस्था और सख्ती से अपराध पर काबू करना काफी हद तक संभव

हो सकता है और इसे तो सुनिश्चित किया ही जाना चाहिये। लेकिन यहां की महिलाओं के लिये वातावरण सुरक्षित और अनुकूल बनाने के लिये तथा एक स्वस्थ माहौल निर्मित करने के लिये जरूरी है कि यह एक राजनीतिक मुद्दा बने तथा पूरे शहर के नियोजन और योजना में जेंडर भेद के मसले का हल निकाला जाए।

#### सियोल से सबक

इस संदर्भ में दक्षिण कोरिया की राजधानी सियोल से सीखा जा सकता है। यहां की महिलाएं काफी असुरक्षित थीं लेकिन अब इसे दुनिया में सबसे अधिक विमिन फ्रेंडली शहर होने की प्रतिष्ठा मिली है। सुरक्षा को निगरानी का का तंत्र यहां विकसित किया गया है। ऐसे कार्यस्थलों को प्रमाण दिया जाता है जो महिला के सुरक्षा और सुविधा का कल्पनाशील ढंग से बेहतर उपाय करते हैं। पार्कों, सड़कों और दूसरे सार्वजनिक स्थलों का सुरक्षा ऑडिट होता है, जिसमें असुरक्षित

स्थलों की पहचान की जाती है। जगहों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिये समय-समय पर कार्यक्रम चलाए जाते हैं। इन सबके अलावा हमारे यहां की स्थितियों तथा पुरुष प्रधान सामाजिक ताने-बाने को ध्यान में रखकर अन्य उपाय भी तलाशे जा सकते हैं।

इन सब दिशाओं में आगे बढ़ने के लिये राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति तथा ऊंचे आदर्श भी जरूरी हैं। लेकिन इसमें सबसे ज्यादा जोर पुलिस महकमे की मानसिकता बदलने पर दिया जाना चाहिए।

# Unsafe in the city

Rape cases across India are rising, with even erstwhile safe metros such as Bangalore and Kolkata reporting violent crimes against women, including rapes. Last year, 65 rape and 308 molestation cases were reported from Bangalore, with Kolkata registering 32 rape and 226 molestation cases.

"Despite growing urbanisation, traditional societal mindsets vis-à-vis women have not changed. This, along with an absence of strong penal deterrence against crimes such as rape, has resulted in a spurt in cases. Social silence encourages people committing such crime," says Meenakshi Lekhi, senior Supreme Court advocate.

Another reason why women have become more vulnerable than in the past is because they are coming out of their homes and venturing into erstwhile male territory, says Urvashi Butalia, author and founder of Zubaan.

"More women now work at all hours, creating strong competition for jobs that challenges some men and makes them hit back," says Butalia.

Crime statistics corroborate her view. According to the National Crime Records Bureau data, rape cases have gone up 791% since 1972 when such

cases started getting reported. From 2,487 rape cases registered in 1972, the figure has touched 22,172 in 2010.

Lax law enforcement has aggravated the problem further. "To start with, rape/sexual harassment

cases are under-reported because of stigma. The few that are reported suffer because of shoddy investigation, resulting in an extremely low conviction rate. This sends out the wrong message and prevents women from complaining," says Lekhi.

Agrees Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit, "The sense of fear while venturing out alone at night is very palpable. It is very disturbing. The police needs to be more prompt and show greater sense of responsibility," she says.

Delhi tops the list of metros with the maximum number of rape and molestation cases reported in India. "There is a need for social awareness about respecting women. Society needs to change the way it looks at its women. It's not there right now," she says.

Lack of sensitivity on part of India's political class has not helped.

This attitude adds to the existing insensitivity on part of the police dealing with rape cases.

"Instead of carrying out a proper inquiry, a victim is questioned about what she was wearing, what was she doing alone at the time etc. Questions like these are not asked in murder or dacoity cases, so why are women asked all this?" says Anita Agnihotri, member secretary, National Commission for Women.

"More than the attitude of society towards women, it's the attitude of police that needs to change. Unless rape cases are dealt with severely, a strong message won't be sent across," she adds.

Women and Child Development min-

ister Krishna Tirath recommends a two-pronged approach.

"Sensitise the youth to respect women and fast-track the police and judicial system. Stringent punishment needs to be meted out to send a strong message to violators," she says.

"We have already finalised the draft Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2010. We hope that it will be passed in the coming budget session of Parliament," adds Tirath.

#### WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP

NCW helpline: 011-13237166. Alternately you can also call 1091/1291

Delhi Police Women's Cell: 011-24673366/24674166/24677898. Respective state police have their own helpline numbers for women in distress.

letters@hindustantimes.com

Hindustan times,  
March 8, 11



# COUNT OF SHAME

In 2010, rapes, molestations, harassment and abductions against women in India crossed 2.13 lakh, which comes to 585 cases every day. This, however, is just a fraction of the real number because shame and fear drive many women to suffer in silence.

## DISPOSAL OF CASES BY COURT DURING 2010

	Trial cases , (includes pending)	Convicted	Acquitted/ Discharged	Pending trial at the end of 2010
Rape	89,707	3,788	10,475	75,295
Molestation	1,82,736	6,899	16,328	1,54,431
Sexual harassment	36383	4,367	4,027	26,820

	2008	2009	2010
Total cases*	1,95,856	2,03,804	2,13,585
Rape	21,467	21,397	22,172
Molestation	40,413	38,711	40,613
Sexual harassment	12,214	11,009	9,961
Kidnapping/abduction	22,939	25,741	29,795

\*Data includes all crime against women, including trafficking, dowry deaths, torture etc.

SOURCE: NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU 2010

## helpathand

Fear of social stigma and ridicule prevents many women from exposing predators. Here's a reckoner of laws empowering women

### What is sexual harassment?

defines sexual harassment as an unwelcome gesture or behaviour, such as sexually-coloured remarks, physical contact and advances, showing pornography, a demand or request for sexual favours, or any other unwelcome physical, verbal/non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature.

### What does the court say on the issue?

employers to deal with incidents of sexual harassment at the workplace and other institutions. It has directed the states to adopt guidelines, which make it mandatory to set up complaints committees on sexual harassment at all workplaces, be they in the government, private or organised sector. The committee has to be headed by a woman.

The Supreme Court judgment in the Vishakha case in 1997

Supreme Court has laid down detailed guidelines for

### What are the laws protecting women?

women from sexual harassment in the workplace. To address this, the Centre is working on the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment in Workplace Bill. The bill, introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 2010, is likely to be passed in the coming budget session.

### What should you do if you are harassed?

person harassing you. If it's happening in your workplace, complain to your superiors and the complaints committee at your workplace. If it's a neighbour or somebody outside work, take your family or friends into confidence. If you still feel threatened, complain to your respective city/state unit of the National Commission for Women or/and the nearest police station.

Current civil and penal laws do not specifically protect

Don't be a silent victim. It will only encourage the

MOUSHUMI DAS GUPTA



## A HINDUSTAN TIMES - CFRE SURVEY

# 91% OF URBAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED

Figures indicate percentage of women choosing each option



95% of young women (15-20 years) have faced this problem



53% of young women (15-20 years) have suffered this occasionally



29% of women (21-30 years) say they do go out late if required



74% of women (41-50 years) do not think public transport is safe



83% of women (41-50 years) have faced harassment in public places



88% of young women (15-20 years) say they have been harassed by strangers



98% of women (21-30 years) do not carry pepper spray or other deterrents



79% of young women (15-20 years) do not think dressing conservatively helps



92% of women (41-50 years) do not go to the police with their complaints



80% of women (41-50 years) are dissatisfied with police assistance



Only 1% of women (31-40 years) call the police first when in trouble



70% of women (41-50 years) say their workplaces do not have such systems

**METHODOLOGY:** Hindustan Times commissioned research organisation C fore to conduct this survey across Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Patna, Ranchi and Jaipur. A statistically selected sample of 5,041 women (age group: 15 to 50 years) were interviewed in residential colonies, parks, colleges, railway stations and market places on February 29 and March 1 using a structured questionnaire.

Graphics: Prashant Chaudhary



## विधवाओं के जीवन में भरने लगे रंग

राज्य में पुनर्विवाह के प्रति विधवाओं का रुझान बढ़ा, उदयपुर सबसे आगे, जोधपुर जिले में भी संख्या बढ़ी

जोधपुर

jodhpur@patrika.com

रूढ़िवादिता की बेड़ियां तोड़ विधवाएं पुनर्विवाह के लिए आगे आने लगी हैं। सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग की पालनहार योजना में करीब 1,608 बच्चों को दिए गए लाभ से यह तथ्य उजागर हुआ है। राज्य सरकार ने पुनर्विवाह के प्रति विधवा महिलाओं को आकर्षित करने के लिए पालनहार योजना में पुनर्विवाहित विधवाओं की संतानों को प्रति माह 675 रुपये आर्थिक सहायता मुहैया कराने का प्रावधान किया है। सरकार ने राज्य में वर्ष 2010-11 में पुनर्विवाहित विधवाओं की 709 तथा वर्ष 2011-12 में 899 संतानों को योजना का लाभ दिया है। वहीं, जोधपुर में 2010-11 तथा वर्ष 2011-12 में पुनर्विवाहित विधवा महिलाओं की दो-दो संतानों को पालनहार योजना का लाभ दिया।

### उदयपुर सबसे आगे

पुनर्विवाहित विधवा महिलाओं की संतानों को पालनहार योजना का लाभ दिए जाने में उदयपुर जिला राज्य में सबसे आगे है। उदयपुर में वर्ष

2010-11 में 690 तथा वर्ष 2011-12 में 866 पुनर्विवाहित विधवा महिलाओं की संतानों को पालनहार योजना में लाभ दिया गया।

### राजधानी रही पीछे

विधवा पुनर्विवाह के मामले में राजधानी जयपुर पीछे रहा है। जयपुर शहर एवं जयपुर ग्रामीण में वर्ष 2010 से 12 तक पुनर्विवाहित महिला की किसी संतान को पालनहार योजना का लाभ नहीं दिया गया। इसके अलावा कोटा, बोकानेर, भीलवाड़ा, झारंगपुर, चित्तौड़गढ़, बांसवाड़ा, डूंगरपुर, सीकर, अलवर, जालौर, जैसलमेर सहित कई अन्य जिलों में पालनहार योजना में किसी पुनर्विवाहित विधवा महिला की संतान को लाभान्वित नहीं किए जाने से सरकार की निगाह में यहां विधवा पुनर्विवाह का आंकड़ा शून्य है।

### मिलती है आर्थिक सहायता

सरकार ने विधवा पुनर्विवाहित विधवा माता की संतान को पालनहार योजना में शामिल कर प्रतिमाह आर्थिक सहायता मुहैया कराने का प्रावधान किया है। इस योजना से विधवा पुनर्विवाह को बढ़ावा मिल सकेगा।

### अजित व्यास

उप निदेशक (सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग)

Rajasthan Patrika, March 5, P.10



## WOMEN HEALTH/REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### Health isn't wealth for more than 60% women

Health isn't wealth for a lot of women, a new survey has found out. Conducted by GlaxoSmithKline, the pharmaceutical giant, it has thrown up some shocking revelations about Indian women's attitude towards their health.

More than 60% surveyed said wealth and comfort is their top priority. Health and protection from diseases ranked a dismal sixth on their list.

This sort of apathy is particularly dangerous for a disease like cervical cancer, which is the number one cancer among Indian women, affecting 1.34 lakh every year. Prevention of cervical cancer is only possible through regular check-ups in the form of pap-smear tests. Only 7% said they're likely to attend a pap-

ing in their practices. Dr Duru Shah, director of Gynaecworld, says she sends her patients regular reminders of pap-smear appointments. "Most doctors don't even go that far. There are some who are regular, but most of my patients ignore the reminders and turn up very irregularly. And 50% of my patients never return for a pap smear," she says.

This is partly because of lack of awareness among Indian women about cervical cancer. "Most don't understand the importance of a regular pap-smear check-up. They think gynaecologists are only there for pregnancies. They don't understand that even though they may be feeling fine, they might have an HPV infection, which, if left untreated, can evolve into cervical cancer," says Shah.

Women in India are also conditioned, doctors say, to put the family's welfare before their own. "In our society, women are supposed to look after their husbands and children. Most women put their own health below their loved ones'. They're either busy with their work or their families and have no time to look after themselves," she adds.

Dr Rishma Dhillon-Pai, consultant gynaecologist at Lilavati and Jaslok hospitals, believes that there is no concept of regular health check-ups in the country. "A healthy person going for regular check-ups is almost unheard of. We take our health for granted. The survey results are appalling. I wonder if a woman going

#### HOW LIKELY ARE INDIAN WOMEN TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

35% A meeting at work

29% Dinner with friends

12% Beauty appointments

12% Exercise classes

7% Pap smear appointments

through chemotherapy, surgery and various other treatments for cervical cancer would ever say that she would rather attend a dinner with friends than a pap-smear check-up. It's shocking to know that so many women put wealth and comfort above their health and well-being."

According to Shah, women need to be more aware of how important their health is. "I often tell my patients, 'Even if your family is your top priority, you will be able to look after it much better if you're in good health'." As for specifically motivating women to turn up for their pap-smear tests, Shah borrows an idea from the Scandinavian countries. "There, if you miss your pap-smear test or mammogram, you lose some of your government health insurance. We too need such measures to make women take these tests seriously," she says.

#### FROM THE STUDY

**45%** of the Indian women surveyed said their biggest health worry is putting on weight

**61.8%** aspire for wealth and comfort

**24%** said cervical cancer is their worry

**18.1%** aspire for a career or occupation of choice

**13%** prioritise good health and protection from diseases

smear appointment, as opposed to 35% who said they are likely to attend a meeting at work and 28% who said they would definitely attend a dinner with friends.

The results reflect what city doctors have been experienc-

*D.N.A., March 14, P1+6*



# कैंसर नहीं महिलाओं को मोटापे की है चिंता

नई दिल्ली | विश्व संवाददाता

काम और सामाजिकता के मोर्चे पर जी जान से डटी भारतीय महिलाएं अपनी सेहत को लेकर फिक्रमंद नहीं हैं। एक हालिया शोध बताता है कि भारतीय महिलाएं कैंसर से कहीं अधिक चिंता मोटापे को लेकर हैं। व्यस्त दिनचर्या में से मिलने वाले फुर्सत के पल कामकाजी महिलाएं दोस्तों के साथ डिनर और पार्टी में बिताती हैं, वहीं घरेलू महिलाओं का अधिक समय ब्यूटी पार्लर और खरीदारी करने में गुजरता है। सरवाइकल कैंसर के बढ़ते खतरे के बावजूद केवल 7 प्रतिशत महिलाएं जांच को लेकर गंभीर हैं।

19 देशों के 18000 महिलाओं पर किए गए सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार स्वास्थ्य जांच के मामले में भारतीय महिलाओं की स्थिति सबसे निचले दर्जे की है। 1009 भारतीय महिलाओं में 45 प्रतिशत का कहना है कि वह सेहत को लेकर तब ही चिंतित होती है जबकि उन्हें कोई मोटा बताता है। अध्ययन में महिलाओं से कैरियर, परिवार और स्वास्थ्य संबंधी विषय पर 20 प्रश्न किए गए। 61.8 प्रतिशत आर्थिक रूप से स्वतंत्र होना चाहती हैं, 10.3 महिलाओं ने खुशहाल परिवार को महत्व देती हैं, जबकि केवल 13 प्रतिशत महिलाओं ने यह कहा कि वह मानसिक और शारीरिक रूप से

## भारत समेत बीस देशों में किया सर्वे

सरवाइकल कैंसर के बढ़ते खतरे और इससे महिलाओं को जागरूक करने के लिए 19 देशों में सर्वेक्षण कराया गया, जिसमें भारत सहित बेलजियम, ब्राजील, जर्मनी, ग्रीस, इंडोनेशिया, इटली, लेबनान, लियुआनिया, मलेशिया, मैक्सिको, पोलैंड, रोमानिया, रूस, सिंगापुर, दक्षिण कोरिया, स्पेन, स्वीडन और चेक गणराज्य

स्वस्थ रहने को अधिक महत्व देती हैं। 24 प्रतिशत घरेलू महिलाओं ने कहा कि यदि उन्हें खुद पर खर्च

को शामिल किया गया। सेहत के मामले में इटली की महिलाएं सबसे अधिक (85 प्रतिशत) और भारत की सबसे कम (45 फीसदी) सेहत के लिए जागरूक देखी गईं। अध्ययन में 18-55 साल की महिलाओं से प्रश्न किए गए। भारत में दिल्ली, मुंबई, पुणे, चेन्नई और बंगलुरु की महिलाओं को शामिल किया गया।

करने के लिए पैसे दिए जाएं तो वह कुछ पैसे का बचत करेगीं और कुछ पैसे शॉपिंग पर खर्च करेगीं।

Hindustan March 13, P.9

## - DIFFERENT TYPES OF CANCERS

### स्तन कैंसर से सबसे अधिक मौत उप्र में

नई दिल्ली, 26 मार्च (भाषा)। देश में स्तन कैंसर से 2011 के दौरान सबसे अधिक मौतें उत्तर प्रदेश में हुईं। स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण राज्यमंत्री सुदीप बंदोपाध्याय ने सोमवार लोकसभा को यह जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में 2011 के दौरान स्तन कैंसर से 3859 मौतें हुईं। जबकि तमिलनाडु में 3357 महिलाएं स्तन कैंसर के कारण मौत का शिकार बनीं।

बंदोपाध्याय ने सुमित्रा महाजन और आर थामराईसेलवन के सवाल के लिखित जवाब में बताया कि समीक्षाधीन वर्ष में कर्नाटक में 2734, महाराष्ट्र में 2696, मध्य प्रदेश में 2062, पश्चिम बंगाल में 1987, बिहार में 1792, राजस्थान में 1376, गुजरात में 1412, आंध्र प्रदेश में 1921, केरल में 898, छत्तीसगढ़ में 521, ओडिशा में 791, झारखंड में 662, असम में 494, दिल्ली में 554, हरियाणा में 544, उत्तराखंड में 217, जम्मू कश्मीर में 250 और हिमाचल प्रदेश में 119 महिलाओं की स्तन कैंसर के कारण मौत हुई।

Jansatta March 27, P.9

### कैंसर से होने वाली मौत में तंबाकू सबसे बड़ा कारण

नई दिल्ली, जागरण स्यूरे : देश भर में होने वाली सभी मौत में से छह फीसद सिर्फ कैंसर से हो रही हैं। जबकि कैंसर से होने वाली मौत का सबसे बड़ा कारण तंबाकू बन रहा है। ताजा अध्ययन के मुताबिक कैंसर से मरने वाले पुरुषों में 42 फीसद का कारण तंबाकू होता है, जबकि महिलाओं में भी 18.3 फीसद मृत्यु कारण तंबाकू ही है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोध पत्रिका लैसिट में



प्रकाशित ताजा अध्ययन के मुताबिक भारत में होने वाली मौत में से छह फीसद सिर्फ कैंसर से हो रही हैं। इनमें भी काम-काज की उम्र में यह लोगों को और ज्यादा प्रभावित कर रहा है। प्रभात झा के नेतृत्व में किए गए इस अध्ययन के मुताबिक 30 साल से 69 साल तक के लोगों में कैंसर से होने वाली मौत और ज्यादा है। पुरुषों में इस उम्र में होने वाली मौत का औसत आठ फीसद है, जबकि इस उम्र की 12 फीसद महिलाएं सिर्फ कैंसर के कारण काल का ग्राम बन रही हैं।

Dainik Jagaran March 29, P.12



# Avoidable cancers causing most deaths

Nearly six lakh people are estimated to have died of cancer in 2010 out of which 70% were aged between 30 and 69, a first-ever comprehensive pan-India study on cancer mortality has found out.

The study, which was published on Wednesday in *The Lancet*, a world-renowned medical journal, shows that 7,137 of the 1,22,429 deaths in 2001-03 were due to cancer.

It shows that apart from tobacco-related cancer deaths, at nearly 23%, oral cancer has caused the most deaths in men, followed by stomach cancer (12.6%) and lung cancer (11.4%). Among women,

cervical cancer leads with 17%, followed by breast cancer (10.2%). "Compared to western countries, in India those cancers which can actually be avoided are in fact the leading causes of death. Tobacco-related cancers were estimated to have caused almost 1.2 lakh deaths in 2010 and were responsible for over 40% deaths in men and 20% in women," said Dr Rajesh Dikshit, epidemiologist from Tata hospital and one of the study authors.

Dr Rajendra Badwe, director of Tata Memorial Centre and co-author, said, "Though the overall cancer mortality in western countries is higher than in India, the average age of those who have died is

SLOW DEATH	
<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>MEN</b>
17% deaths due to cervical cancer	23% deaths due to oral cancer
10.2% deaths due to breast cancer	12.6% deaths due to stomach cancer
	11.4% deaths due to lung cancer

above 70. We found that here over 70% of those who died were aged between 30 and 69; these deaths are happening because of cancers that can be avoided — oral, lung, cervical, breast etc."

Dikshit said, "The number of

oral cancer cases was twice the number of lung cancer cases in individuals aged between 30 and 69. This shows that the range of fatal cancers caused by tobacco in India differs substantially from that in high-income countries."

Of the 1.2 lakh tobacco-related deaths in 2010, 84,000 were men and 36,000 were women. At 57,000, rural men had a higher mortality rate because of tobacco-related cancers as compared to their urban counterparts (27,000).

The study authors said, "Prevention of tobacco-related cancers and cervical cancer, and early de-

tection of treatable cancers, can reduce cancer deaths in India, particularly in the rural areas. The substantial variation in cancer rates in India suggests other risk factors or causative agents that remain to be discovered."

The study, which was done over 10 years with 130 trained physicians, independently assigned causes to 1,22,429 deaths, which occurred in 1.1 million homes in 6,671 small areas that were selected randomly to be representative of all of India, based on a structured non-medical surveyor's field report.

*D.N.A., March 29, P.1*



# Cervical cancer hits more Hindu women than Muslim

Somita Pal • MUMBAI

For a long time the city gynaecologists and cancer surgeons have been claiming that cervical cancer is becoming the leading cancer in women. This was confirmed in the study, led by the centre for global health research, in close collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital, published in Lancet on Wednesday. It revealed that 17% of the total cancer deaths in women are because of cervical cancer.

In women, cervical cancer was the leading fatal cancer in both rural and urban areas, with somewhat higher rates

in rural areas. The cervical cancer death rate of 16 per 1 lakh population suggests that a 30-year-old Indian woman has about 0.7% risk of dying from cervical cancer before 70 years of age, in the absence of other diseases. By contrast, the risk of deaths during pregnancy for Indian women aged 15-49 years is about 0.6%.

The study pointed out strategies to reduce cervical cancer deaths. This included vaccination against human papillomavirus before marriage, and for married women a once-only-testing or screening followed by visual inspection with acetic

acid and further referral for treatment.

According to experts, simple precautions like better hygiene, use of copper-T (birth control measure for women) and regular screening can help bring down this cancer considerably. Dr Rajendra Badwe, director of Tata Memorial Hospital said, "The incidence of cervical cancer is coming down every year by 15-20%. Early detection is one of the key factors to bring down the cervical cancer mortality rate."

The study also shows mortality deaths were higher in Hindu women than in Muslim women and experts feel

this is because of circumcision among Muslim men, which reduces the sexual transmission of human papillomavirus. "Studies have proved that circumcision reduces the risk of transfer of HIV virus," said Badwe.

Ashwini Bhalerao Gandhi, consulting gynecologist, PD Hinduja Hospital said, "I ensure that women coming to me are made aware of what is cervical cancer and the how it can be prevented. If they have daughters, we persuade them to go for vaccination. I have kept a pamphlet with all the information on cervical cancer and I make the patient read it."

*D.N.A., March 29, 11*

## For cervical cancer, ignorance is not bliss

Even as more than 72,000 women die annually due to cervical cancer in India, only less than thirteen percent of the female population take preventive measures to avoid the dreadful disease, reveals a survey.

A leading pharmaceutical company conducted a global cervical survey to probe if women around the world acknowledge that they are vulnerable to contracting cervical cancer. Of over 18,000 women aged 18-55 across 19 countries, close to a thousand women from India participated in the study.

Shockingly, in spite of cervical cancer being the number one cause of death amongst all cancers affecting Indian women, hardly 13% of them place top most priority on protecting themselves from the disease. This implies that not more than 13% women may regularly visit a gynaecologist

for getting a preventive pap smear screening done for early detection or prevention purposes.

"All women aged 30 years and above should get their cervix screened through Pap smear test by a gynaecologist, at least once in two years. Cervical cancer can afflict a woman and cells may stay dormant for some period. If detected at stage zero, cervical cancer is completely curable," explained Dr Rekha Daver, Head of Department, Gynaecology and Obstetrics at state-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai.

City doctors opine that apart from regular screenings, vaccine against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) - which is known to cause cervical cancer might also be effective against tackling the disease. HPV vaccine though is not available at public hospitals for free or

even at subsidised costs. Vaccine administration at private hospitals may cost anywhere between Rs 6000 to Rs 7000 for three doses.

"Three doses of the HPV vaccine can be taken by women. It is effective mostly for those who take it early in life before getting sexually active or pregnant. However, not all strains of HPV react to the vaccine. A screening of cervix there-

fore for sexually active women is the most advisable for nipping cervical cancer at the bud if detected early on," said Dr Rekha Daver.

• Cervical cancer affects cervix, which is located at the entrance of the uterus

• Every year, more than 72,000 women in India die due to cervical cancer

• Women above 30 years should get a Pap smear test done by a gynaecologist, once in every two years as preventive measure and early detection

*Free Press Journal, March 14, 11*



# 'Cancer killed 5.56 lakh people across the country in 2010'

R. Prasad

**CHENNAI:** Cancer killed 556,400 people across the country in 2010. The 30-69 age group accounted for 71 per cent (3,95,400) of the deaths. In 2010, cancer alone accounted for 8 per cent of the 2.5 million total male deaths and 12 per cent of the 16 million total female deaths in this age group.

These are some of the findings of a paper published on March 28 in *The Lancet*. The study found that 7,137 of the 1,22,429 deaths during 2001-2003 were due to cancer, corresponding to 5,56,400 cancer deaths in 2010.

At nearly 23 per cent, oral cancer caused the most number of deaths among men. It

was followed by stomach cancer (12.6 per cent) and lung cancer (11.4 per cent). In the case of women, cervical cancer was the leading cause (about 17 per cent), followed by breast cancer (10.2 per cent).

"All major cancers can be avoided in India," says Professor Prabhat Jha of the Centre for Global Health Research, University of Toronto, who is the senior author of the paper.

## Tobacco-related cancers

The most striking find is that tobacco-related cancers accounted for 42 per cent of all male deaths and 18.3 per cent of all female deaths. There were twice as many

deaths as a result of oral cancer (due to tobacco chewing), compared with lung cancer.

The percentages translate to a huge mortality number. Nearly 1,20,000 [84,000 in men and 36,000 in women] deaths from tobacco-related cancers were seen in both urban and rural areas," Profes-

sor Jha says. "About 20 per cent was due to chewing of tobacco."

At 57,000, rural men were twice more likely to die from tobacco-related cancers, compared with their urban counterparts (27,000).

Besides causing specific cancers, smoking contributes to overall deaths from other diseases.

In a February 2008 paper published in *The New En-*

*gland Journal of Medicine* (NEJM), Professor Jha and others reported that the total mortality from smoking in India was one million a year.

Bacteria/virus infection caused 19.6 per cent of infection-related cancers — cervical (human papillomavirus- HPV), stomach (*Helicobacter pylori*) and liver cancers (hepatitis B and C).

Similarity and differences in cancer mortality in men and women were seen in rural and urban populations. For instance, oral cancer was the leading fatal cancer in both rural and urban areas in the case of men. This was followed by lung cancer in urban

areas, and stomach cancer in rural areas.

"It is a combination of chewing tobacco and smoking, particularly by men," says Prof. Jha, explaining why oral cancer was the leading cause in urban areas.

In the case of women, though mortality from cervical cancer was three times higher in rural areas than in urban areas, the rate of cervical cancer deaths was nearly the same in both the areas. Likewise, similar mortality rates were seen in the case of breast cancer in both the areas. But rural women had higher stomach cancer rates compared with urban women.

Big variations in cancers not related to tobacco are seen in India. "We have no idea why [this is so]. Further research is required," he says. "That will be useful for India and the rest of the world."

In the case of cancers common to both sexes, the variation between States was nearly four times. Northeast States, Kerala, West Bengal and Kashmir recorded "particularly high rates of these specific cancers."

Men and women in the nine poorer States (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) had lower risk than the richer States.

## Role of education

"Why [this is so] we don't know," he says about the lower risks in the poorer States. On the whole, literacy had played a big role — mortality rates doubled in the case of illiterates. "Those with secondary and higher education had lower rates of deaths," he says. In illiterate men the death rate was 106 per 1,00,000; for women it was 107 per 1,00,000. In the educated, the death rates are 46 per 1,00,000 in men and 43 per 1,00,000 in women.

After taking age into account, the death rates between least and most

educated women came out very clearly in "oral cancer followed by stomach and cervical cancers. Rates of breast cancer varied little with education," the authors highlight.

## Cancer in Muslims

An interesting find is that in States where Muslim population was higher, cervical cancer risk was "much lower."

For instance, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam, which have 75 and 40 per cent Muslim population respectively, have "less than a quarter of

the national rates of cervical cancer," the authors write.

As seen internationally, circumcision in men greatly reduces the chances of sexual transmission of HPV virus. Women also had lower incidence of oral cancer. However, breast and stomach cancers were much higher.

Muslim men, however, had higher mortality rates than Hindus in the case of all cancers except liver cancer.

## Tobacco control

"Tobacco control is the best vaccine for lung and oral cancer," he stresses. "Tobacco is the single most cause of many deaths. Tobacco companies have been beaten in other countries. It is just a matter of time before it happens here."

"Big tax hike is the answer," Prof. Jha says emphatically. "France tripled the price in ten years and the consumption halved and revenue doubled." Mexico has increased tax by 30 per cent. "Philippines wants to hike it by 200 per cent. They hope to introduce it next year," he adds.

According to him, it is possible to cut many oral, breast and cervical deaths even in rural areas by early detection and treatment.

"You don't need super-speciality hospitals in rural areas. Basic services to detect and refer them for treatment is enough," Prof. Jha highlights.

## Changing trends

Trends similar to those in developed countries are slowly beginning to emerge. Even though cervical cancer is still the leading cause of cancer deaths in both rural and urban areas, numbers of cervical cancer are dropping in urban areas.

However, the number of breast cancer deaths is increasing. "Big drivers of

Hindu, March 29, P. 1.



breast cancer are the changing trends seen in India – late pregnancy and early menarche,” he notes. “Breast cancer development is similar in rural and urban areas.”

But deaths are more in rural areas due to lack of early detection.

The data for the study was collected by resorting to verbal autopsy in 2004-2005. In verbal autopsy the details of the cause of death in the family are collected from a family member.

Though the 2003 figures have been forward projected to 2010, there are lesser chances of gross errors creeping in as nearly 80 per cent of cancer deaths in people older

than 15 had a crude previous diagnosis of cancer by a physician, suggesting some medical confirmation of cancers,” the authors write.

Though verbal autopsy cannot provide correct diagnosis of specific cancers where the organs are close to each other, like stomach, misclassification is less likely in the case of oral, cervical and breast cancers.

Since India has only 24 urban population-based cancer registries and just two rural registries, the authors assessed cancer mortality in the Million Death Study (MDS), which is led by the Office of the Registrar General of India.

MDS is one of the few large, nationally representative studies of the cause of deaths, including rural areas.

## pharynx cancer

Rito Paul • MUMBAI

Forty five thousand and eight hundred men die every year due to lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer in India. This figure comes from a comprehensive study done by Tata Memorial Centre on cancer mortality in India.

Lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer is the highest cause of cancer-related deaths among Indian men. Women too are afflicted by this particular form of cancer, but not as much as men. Nineteen thousand and one hundred women die of lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer annually which is the fourth highest cause of cancer-related death among Indian women.

The major cause of lip, oral cavity is chewing tobacco, and 80% of all tobacco-related cancers are caused by chewing tobacco accord-

ing to Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi, head and neck cancer surgeon at Tata Memorial Centre. “Most of these deaths can be attributed to gutkha and panmasala. This problem can easily be solved by the banning of gutkha manufacturing. According to a law passed by the Food Safety and Standards

Authority of India in August 2011, the states have the power to ban the manufacture of gutkha because it adds tobacco to food-grade items like erica

nut, peppermint, condiments, sugar which also go into the manufacturing of gutkha,” he adds.

The government of Madhya Pradesh has already implemented this law and has

banned gutkha manufacturing in the state. Maharashtra though, is yet to take such a major step. “There aren't any gutkha manufacturing units in Maharashtra. The gutkha in our state is manufactured in Gujarat. We are trying to enforce a ban on the sale of gutkha. The law and judiciary ministry is taking a look at it. In a month we should have some feedback from them. We are taking many initiatives to curb the use of tobacco, like raising the tax on beedis to 20% and taking action on shops selling tobacco within 100m of schools and colleges.”

said, Mr Satish Patil, FDA minister of Maharashtra.

The age of initiation into the habit of tobacco happens at a very early age according to Dr Chaturvedi. “Most of the lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer cases are between the ages of 30-50. If we can stop our children from acquiring this destructive habit then it's unlikely that they'll take it up later in life. And if we're successful at doing that then we might have a tobacco-free generation in the near future,” he said.

**Annual deaths from lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer**

INDIAN MEN

**45,800**  
Total deaths

**31,800**  
No of deaths in rural areas

**14,000**  
No of deaths in urban areas

INDIAN WOMEN

**19,100**  
Total deaths

**14,600**  
No of deaths in rural areas

**4,500**  
No of deaths in urban areas

D.N.A.  
March 20, 2011



# 'Ovarian cancer forms outside ovaries'

IN A startling revelation, a new study has found that the deadliest type of ovarian cancer, high grade serous cancer (HGSC), which accounts for 90 per cent of deaths, often starts in the fallopian tubes rather than the ovaries. If the symptoms are recognised early enough, it can be diagnosed and treated effectively, say the findings of the DOvE (Diagnosing Ovarian Cancer Early) study, led by a research team from the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), Canada, and published in a recent issue of *The Lancet Oncology*. The study could revolutionise the way the disease is diagnosed.

The study also found that women over 50 years who suffer from bloating, high urinary frequency, abdominal or pelvic discomfort are about 10 times more likely to have ovarian cancer than those who do not.

The DOvE project was initiated in May 2008 to assess symptomatic women for ovarian cancer early, when chances of recovery are highest. During the pilot phase of the study, 1,455 women aged 50 years or more were assessed. As a result, cancers were diagnosed earlier, when 73 per cent of women could benefit from complete surgery, leaving no visible disease.

Dr Lucy Gilbert, Director of Gynaecologic Oncology at the MUHC and principal investigator of the DOvE study conducted over a period of four years says, "Each year 2,16,000 women worldwide are diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and 70 per cent of them will die unless we act on the information we have without delay. We encourage healthcare professionals around the world to be

**WOMEN OVER 50 yrs who suffer from bloating, high urinary frequency, abdominal or pelvic discomfort are about 10 times more likely to have ovarian cancer**

aware that high grade serous cancer often starts in the fallopian tubes. So the traditional tests — ultrasound scan of the ovaries and the one-off CA125 blood test — are not enough to diagnose high grade serous cancer (HGSC) in time.

"As the killer variety of ovarian cancer is not really cancer of the ovary, we have to rethink the current diagnostic test, or these cancers will be missed," adds Dr Gilbert, who is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at McGill University.

At Mumbai's Tata Memorial Cancer Centre, Dr Amita Maheshwari, Associate Professor of Gynaecologic Oncology, agrees that the study is important and certain variant cancers can arise in the fallopian tubes. "There are 28,000 new cases of ovarian cancer every year in the country as against 1.34 lakh new cases of cervical cancer and one lakh new cases of breast cancer," she says, adding that early detection is important and, sadly, there are no cost-effective screening tests for ovarian cancer.

Dr Hemant Tongaonkar, gynaecologic oncologist at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital and Research Centre, says that since the early symptoms of ovarian cancer are vague and mimic other conditions, the DOvE study had been taken up to develop a probability tool for detection.

Dr A Nanda Kumar, Director of the National Cancer Registry Programme, Bangalore, says that due to the high mortality, the aetiology of the cancer of the ovary has been the subject of several investigations. Experts agree that ovarian cancer is less common but more deadly. Kumar says this is because there is no screening test and most cancers are diagnosed in the advanced stage.



## SYMPTOMS

- Feeling full after eating only a few bites, or loss of appetite
- Change of bowel habits
- Bloating, distension of abdomen, clothes around the waist feeling too tight
- Weight loss, but not because of dieting
- Nausea, vomiting heartburn
- Gas, burping, indigestion
- Increased urinary frequency, need to urinate more urgently, pressure on the bladder, burning sensation when urinating, need to urinate but unable to do so, unable to empty bladder completely, feeling full after urinating
- Vaginal discharge, bleeding, spotting, deep pain during intercourse
- Discomfort or pain in the abdomen, pelvic region, or lower back

*Indian Express,  
March 3, 2012*



## - OSTEOPOROSIS

### 'Osteoporosis affects women more than men'

Around 70 per cent of arthritic patients who go for total knee replacements (TKR) are women. The main reason behind this is osteoporosis because of menopause which leads to reduced bone density. Senior Consultant, Orthopedics and Joint Replacement Surgery, Dr Raju Vaishya, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said, "Women on an average work three times more than men (domestic duties often performed on the floor put more pressure on their knees); and obesity is more prevalent in women above the age of 45 years (every kilogram of weight that they gain exerts 3 to 4 kilograms of pressure on their knees)."

In India, women have to be on a rich diet during pregnancy, due to which they put on weight. They are unable to shed this and get caught in the

vicious cycle — difficulty in exercising because of excess weight, which increases further. "They do not generally take calcium and Vitamin D supplements to prevent osteoporosis which progresses from bad to worse along with age. Rheumatoid arthritis affects women more than men which is more dangerous than osteoarthritis," Vaishya said.

For women suffering from severe or end-stage arthritis, walking short distances and performing daily activities becomes an ordeal. They experience unbearable pain, limp and are dependent on painkillers. "It is seen that after undergoing total knee replacement (TKR), patients are able to stand, walk, climb stairs, drive two-wheelers and four-wheelers and also use public transport," Vaishya said.

*Pioneer, March 14, P-2*



## दिल की बीमारी से ग्रस्त महिलाएं डाक्टर से जरूर मिलें

जनसत्ता संवाददाता

नई दिल्ली, 7 मार्च। ज्यादातर महिलाओं को दिल की बीमारी का खतरा होता है। 65 साल से ज्यादा उम्र की सभी महिलाओं को 325 एमजी की एस्पिरिन लेने से पहले अगर वे इसे पहले नहीं लेती रही हैं तो उन्हें चाहिए कि वे अपने डाक्टर से संपर्क करें।

कम उम्र की महिलाओं को इस खतरे से बचने के लिए रोजाना कम से कम 60 से लेकर 90 मिनट तक मध्यम किस का व्यायाम करना चाहिए। उदाहरण के तौर पर तेज गति से चलना और इसे हफ्ते के सातों दिन अपनाना चाहिए।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के मौके पर हार्टकेपर फाउंडेशन आफ इंडिया ने चंद हृदय संबंधी बीमारी से बचाव के लिए दिशा निर्देश जारी किए हैं। फाउंडेशन के अध्यक्ष डा. केके अग्रवाल ने बताया कि महिलाओं का दिल अलग तरह का होता है। जब उनको हार्टअटैक होता है

तो वे ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं देती और उस वजह से उन्हें कहीं ज्यादा गंभीर अटैक होता है।

डा. अग्रवाल ने कहा कि महिलाओं को दिल की बीमारी और हार्टअटैक पुरुषों की तरह होते हैं। 65 साल से ज्यादा उम्र की महिलाओं में मीत का मुख्य कारण दिल की बीमारी ही होती है। शहरी महिलाओं में दिल की बीमारी का खतरा स्तन कैंसर की तुलना में चार से छह गुना ज्यादा होता है। दिल की बीमारी से 65 से ज्यादा उम्र के बाद होने वाली मीतों की तादाद सभी तरह से कैंसर से होने वाली मीतों से भी ज्यादा है।

डा. अग्रवाल ने बताया कि पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाओं में दिल की बीमारियां करीब सात से लेकर 8 साल बाद होती हैं। लेकिन 65 की उम्र के बाद यह खतरा करीब दोनों में समान होता है। पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाएं हार्टअटैक के बाद कम बच पाती हैं। जीवन शैली संबंधी बदलाव के जरिए ब्लड प्रेशर के साथ ही वजन पर काबू पाया जा सकता है। इसमें शारीरिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ाकर सीमित मात्रा में शराब, नमक में कमी और ताजे फल व सब्जियों का सेवन करके साथ ही कम वसा वाले डेयरी का उत्पाद लेकर संभव है। महिलाएं धूम्रपान को कार्सलिंग या निकोटीन रिप्लेसमेंट के जरिए छोड़ने के तरीके अपना सकती हैं। जो महिलाएं अपना वजन घटाना चाहती हैं या स्थिर रखना चाहती हैं, उन्हें चाहिए कि वे रोजाना कम से कम 60-90 मिनट तक मध्यम किस का व्यायाम करें जैसे कि तेज गति से चलना। महिलाओं में हृदय संबंधी बीमारी से बचाव के लिए हार्मोन रिप्लेसमेंट थेरेपी न अपनाने की सलाह दी जाती है।

Jansatta, March 8,  
P. 4



# भारत की माताओं को चुपचाप मार रहा है टीबी

पिछली बार कब हमने टीबी को भारत की सबसे बड़ी स्वास्थ्य समस्या माना था? याद को ताजा करने के लिए यहां भारत में टीबी के बारे में कुछ तथ्य दिए गए हैं। यह भारत में मीलों के प्रमुख कारणों में से एक है। टीबी से यहां हर दो मिनट में एक व्यक्ति की मीत होती है और प्रतिदिन 750 लोग इसके कारण मर जाते हैं। इसके उपचार में आने वाली प्रत्यक्ष एवं अप्रत्यक्ष लागत 23.7 अरब डॉलर है। यह लोगों के जीवन के सबसे उत्पादक वर्षों को प्रभावित करता है- इसके लगभग 70 प्रतिशत रोगी 15 से 54 वर्ष के बीच के होते हैं। यह सांस के माध्यम से फैलने वाला रोग है। एक टीबी का रोगी हर साल 10 से 15 लोगों को संक्रमित करता है। यदि ये तथ्य आपको हैरान नहीं करते तो मुंबई के हिंदुजा अस्पताल में टीबी के 12 व्यापक दवा प्रतिरोधी मामलों की हाल की रिपोर्ट जरूर हैरान करेगी। एक ऐसी स्थिति है, जिसमें टीबी के उपचार में काम आने वाली सभी 12 दवाएं रोगी के लिए नाकाम साबित होती हैं।

## पुरुषों से ज्यादा जोखिम

महिलाओं को इसके अधिक परिणामों का सामना करना पड़ता है। यह रोग युवा महिलाओं को ज्यादा प्रभावित करता है। महिलाओं में टीबी के 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक मामले 34 वर्ष की आयु से पहले होते हैं। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के अनुसार दुनिया भर में 15-44 वर्ष की महिलाओं में मृत्यु का तीसरा प्रमुख कारण टीबी है। कम आय वाले देशों में यह 10-19 वर्ष की

महिलाओं में मृत्यु का तीसरा प्रमुख कारण है, जबकि दुनिया भर में 20 से 59 वर्ष की महिलाओं में मृत्यु का पांचवां प्रमुख कारण है। सक्रिय टीबी के विकास में गरीबी सबसे मुख्य कारक है। दुनिया के गरीबों का 70 प्रतिशत हिस्सा महिलाओं का ही है, लिहाजा टीबी के कारण उनमें रुग्णता और मृत्यु की दर और अधिक हो जाती है। इसके अलावा टीबी गर्भवती महिलाओं एवं उनके बच्चों के जीवन के लिए भी बड़ा खतरा है। टीबी से ग्रस्त महिलाओं में समय से पूर्व या कम वजन के बच्चे पैदा होने की संभावना सामान्य महिलाओं की तुलना में ज्यादा होती है और जन्म के समय बच्चे के मर जाने की संभावना चार गुना होती है।

**इलाज में सबसे पीछे**  
महिलाओं में फेफड़ों के बाहर टीबी होने की संभावना और ज्यादा होती है। कम ही लोग जानते हैं कि मध्यम एवं निम्न आय वाले देशों की महिलाओं में यह रोग उनके निस्संतान रह जाने का प्रमुख कारण है। यह एक ऐसी स्थिति है, जिसके कारण महिलाओं को अक्सर अपमान, भेदभाव और यहां तक कि शारीरिक शोषण का भी शिकार होना पड़ता है। जैविक संरचना की दृष्टि से महिलाएं पुरुषों से काफी अलग होती हैं और कुछ विशिष्ट जैविक कारक उन्हें टीबी के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील

बनाते हैं। टीबी के जीवाणु से संक्रमित महिलाओं में संक्रामक टीबी के विकसित होने की संभावना पुरुषों से अधिक होती है। फिर भी अक्सर महिलाएं प्रशिक्षित स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाता के पास कम ही जा पाती हैं क्योंकि वे अक्सर अपने स्वास्थ्य की अनदेखी करती हैं। वे अपने

परिवार के स्वास्थ्य को अधिक महत्व देती हैं और इस प्रक्रिया में अपने आप को हमेशा जोखिम पर रखती हैं।

सामाजिक कलंक, निम्न सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति और शिक्षा का अभाव कुछ ऐसे कारक हैं, जिनके कारण महिलाओं में टीबी के निदान एवं उपचार में बहुत देर हो जाती है। अन्य निम्न या मध्यम आय वाले देशों की तरह भारत में भी

महिलाएं अक्सर घर के अंदर उपले या लकड़ी जैसे जैविक ईंधन का उपयोग करके खाना पकाती हैं। इससे उनमें जोखिम और अधिक बढ़ जाता है। ऐसी महिलाओं में सक्रिय टीबी के विकास की संभावना ज्यादा होती है। इसके अलावा गरीबी में रहने वाली महिलाओं को देह

व्यापार में झंकी जाने का खतरा भी होता है। देह व्यापार में लिप्त महिलाएं टीबी के प्रति कहीं ज्यादा संवेदनशील होती हैं। उनकी सीमित जीवन स्थितियों के चलते उनमें एचआईवी से संक्रमित होने की संभावना भी बढ़ जाती है। जब किसी महिला में टीबी का निदान किया जाता है, तो उसे विभिन्न सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिणामों का सामना करना पड़ता है। पुरुषों की

तुलना में महिलाओं के लिए टीबी का कलंक झेलना ज्यादा भयावह होता है। कुछ समुदायों में किसी महिला को टीबी से संक्रमित पाए जाने की स्थिति में उस पर तलाक तक का दबाव डाला जाता है। यदि महिला शादीशुदा न हुई तो उसे अपना जीवन साथी ढूंढने में बहुत सी मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ता है। पूरे घर को देखभाल करने वाली और अक्सर अपने परिवार के लिए रोजी-रोटी कमाने वाली महिला, जब टीबी से पीड़ित हो जाती है, तब वह अपने बच्चों की देखभाल करने में अक्षम हो जाती है। उसे घर के कामों की परेशानी तो झेलनी ही पड़ती है। अक्सर वे इतनी बीमार पड़ जाती हैं कि घर से बाहर काम भी नहीं कर पातीं। इससे उनकी कमाई के साधनों का भी नुकसान होता है।

## अजेंडे पर लाना होगा

हम एक ऐसी दुनिया में रहते हैं, जहां बहुत सी महिलाएं अपने खुद के स्वास्थ्य के बारे में बहुत कम समझती हैं। समाज में भी उनके स्वास्थ्य की उपेक्षा की जाती है। इस प्रकार महिलाओं के मुद्दे अनदेखे रह जाते हैं। यदि टीबी और महिलाओं पर इसके प्रभाव की ओर उपेक्षा की जाती है तो स्वस्थ भारत के लक्ष्य को पूरा नहीं किया जा सकता। जब तक भारत की महिलाएं अस्वस्थ हैं, तब तक इसे एक स्वस्थ राष्ट्र नहीं कहा जा सकता। हमारी माताओं, पत्नियों, बहनों और बेटियों के अच्छे स्वास्थ्य को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हमें आज ही उनके स्वास्थ्य को राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं में से एक बनाना होगा, क्योंकि कल बहुत देर हो सकती है।

*Nandharat  
times, March 23  
P.10.*



# Can't make helmets compulsory for women'

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi government on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that helmets could not be made compulsory for women driving two-wheelers or riding pillion.

The government also urged the high court to dismiss a PIL that demanded helmets be made compulsory for both the genders.

The transport department's stand, however, is contrary to the views of Delhi Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Satyendra Garg. In June last year, he had posted on the Facebook page of traffic police that helmets should be made compulsory for women as well.

Garg had cited data to back his statement. "Traffic police data shows that 64 women died in road accidents while travelling on two-wheelers in 2010. This year (2011) also, there have been 37 casualties of women while travelling on two-wheelers till June 30. We are of the opinion that if these women



were wearing helmets, many of them could have survived," he had posted on Facebook.

Arguing his case, petitioner Ullhas PR, a social filmmaker, said in his PIL that women were equally vulnerable to injuries while riding or driving two-wheelers. "Their lives are not less valuable than that of men."

## 101 WOMEN WITHOUT HELMET DIED LAST YEAR

- Under Rule 115 of Delhi Motor Vehicle Rules, helmets are optional for women.
- But section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act applicable all over India makes it mandatory for all two-wheeler riders to wear helmets.
- Traffic police chief Satyendra Garg had in June last year said helmets must be made compulsory for women.
- He said 101 women died in accidents while riding or traveling on two-wheelers last year.

The transport department told the court that the Supreme Court had earlier upheld the provision — Rule 115 of Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules — under which it made helmets optional for women in Delhi.

Delhi transport department deputy commissioner Ranjeet Singh denied that Rule 115 is "contrary to the mandatory provisions of section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act".

But the transport department will have some explaining to do in the court as while rule 115

makes it optional for women to wear helmets, section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act applicable all over India makes it mandatory for all two-wheeler riders to wear helmets.

*Hindustan Times, March 22*

# Capital disconnect: Women helpline numbers busy or do not 'exist'

**Aakriti Sawhney**

■ aakriti.sawhney@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The shocking gangrape case in Gurgaon has raised several questions. One of them is: Are enough safety measures being taken to curb such incidents?

Though the state government has been trying to rid the city of its 'Rape Capital' tag, basic steps that can make a difference are not being paid much attention. The much-publicised women helpline numbers of Delhi Police aren't of much use as many of them don't work.

Delhi Police PRO, Rajan Bhagat, on being contacted, said,

## OF LITTLE USE

- At 1091, we got instant response in the evening. At night, the call was on waiting for a minute. No one called back either.
- The number 9604400400 was out of service at 6pm.
- The number 23379181 was either busy or did not respond.
- Rape Crisis Cell number 23370557 got connected only after several tries.

"It's easy to criticise but no one notices the effort that we (Delhi Police) are putting in."

HT tried out numbers given

on various government sites and found that while 1091, the women helpline number, responded instantly during afternoons and evenings, night callers had to wait for as long as 60 seconds and still don't get through. Most of the other numbers were either busy or didn't exist.

Ranjana Kumari, director, Centre for Social Research, says, "Linkages have to be created so that on finding one line busy, the caller gets connected to another line."

*Hindustan Times  
March 14, P.3*



# Danger lurks on Expressway

**GURGAON:** It's not just outside bars or during a leisurely walk to home that robbers and rapists in Gurgaon are targeting women. The high-speed Delhi-Gurgaon expressway is another place where they lurk in corners to prey on women.

HT did a reality check along the 18-km stretch of the E-way — from the Delhi-Gurgaon border toll plaza to the Kherki Dhoola toll plaza — and found it is left unattended, posing a risk to thousands of women who pass through it in cars or autos.

Of the 43 PCR vans with the Gurgaon police, only about half-a-dozen care to venture out in the darkness.

The problem on the E-way goes beyond just poor policing. In the absence of adequate transport facilities, thousands of women board random private cabs and buses, unwittingly exposing themselves to criminals.

Haryana state transport secretary Rajan Bhagat passed the buck: "It's a law and order problem."

There are at least five points on the E-way where private buses and cabs stop for passen-

gers, though it is illegal to stop unless one has valid reasons like a flat tyre or petrol shortage. This is where cabbie gangs have been found to be active.

DCP, Traffic, Bharti Arora could not be reached for any comment.

Still haunted by the endless trips a friend made to the local police station to get a complaint registered after she was molested outside her office? How many times have you decided against wearing a favourite dress on a night-out, worried what might happen on your way back home?

**hindustantimes**  
**SAFE**  
in the **city**

As part of our pan-NCR initiative to ensure women feel safe and the shameless perpetrators of sexual harassment no longer prey on their victims' fear and the local police's habitual hesitation in registering a complaint, Hindustan Times will become the interface between you and the cops. So, if you've been groped or harassed and the police aren't doing their bit, write to us at

**htreporters@hindustantimes.com.**  
**We'll take your complaints to the police.**

*Hindustan Times, March 21, P.1.*



# NCR's areas of darkness

**GURGAON:** Under pressure from the public and media, the Gurgaon police have stepped up patrolling around Sahara Mall. What they have failed to register is that danger lies beyond MG Road's Mall Mile too.

Continuing with its late-night patrolling to identify unsafe spots, HT on Tuesday night set out for an inspection of the 13-km stretch between IFFCO Chowk in Gurgaon to Mehrauli in Delhi between 10pm and 3am.

What it found will satisfy the cynic in all of us. MG Road was found conveniently deserted by both Delhi and Gurgaon police despite the fact that most crimes against women took place here and that this is the road criminals use to flee to Delhi.

Uneasy silence prevailed at Bristol chowk near Sikanderpur. No PCR van was in sight here.

No streetlight functioned at the nearly half-a-kilometre stretch between DLF Phase III and Guru Dronacharya Metro station. This is where hundreds of people get down to walk to their homes in DLF City till as late as beyond midnight. The Gurgaon Police apparently does not believe that dark can be dangerous. If it did, at least one PCR van would have been seen doing the rounds of the area.

But we did find the lone PCR van of Gurgaon police stationed at the Gurgaon-Delhi border. "We look for suspicious vehicles driving towards Delhi. Their number is huge," said an officer.

Then came the dark stretch between Dronacharya Metro station and Andheria Mod in Delhi. No PCR van was found patrolling here either. "The streetlights are never lit here," confirmed a Delhi Transport department official,

out with a team to check vehicles for forged papers under the Sultanpur Metro station.

But in Delhi, we did find two Delhi Police teams stationed at Chattarpur Metro station and Aaya Nagar border. "We constantly look out for suspicious vehicles. When we find a single female employee not accompanied by a guard in an office cab late at night, we issue challans," claimed an officer on duty.

According to Delhi Police, its beat officers are in the process of identifying such poorly lit areas and push for solutions with the civic bodies.

Still haunted by the endless trips a friend made to the local police station to get a complaint reg-

istered after she was molested outside her office? How many times have you decided against wearing a favourite dress on a night-out, worried what might happen on your way back home?

how safe are women in ncr?

As part of our pan-NCR initiative to ensure women feel safe and the shameless perpetrators of sexual harassment no longer prey on their victims' fear and the local police's habitual hesitation in registering a complaint, Hindustan Times will become the interface between you and the cops. So, if you've been groped or harassed and the police aren't doing their bit, write to us at

[htreporters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htreporters@hindustantimes.com). We'll take your complaints to the police.

## LAXITY ON EVERY STREET

For the past three days, an HT team has been doing the rounds of Gurgaon streets. On Tuesday night, it surveyed the stretch between IFFCO Chowk to Mehrauli. It found

- There were 3 PCR vans at Sahara Mall
- No PCR vans were found patrolling the stretch between the Sahara Mall and Gurgaon-Delhi border – a mostly dark but inhabited stretch
- One PCR van was found patrolling Delhi-Gurgaon border
- In Delhi, 2 PCR vans were

doing the rounds between the Aaya Nagar border and Mehrauli

- One Delhi Police team was found stationed on the Aaya Nagar border
- There were no operational streetlights between Guru Dronacharya Metro station in Gurgaon to Andheria Mod in Delhi. The entire area was very dark and unsafe.

*Hindustan Times, March 22, p.2*



# WHAT MAKES WOMEN VULNERABLE AND WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

## 1 DRIVING ALONE

As you get into your car, lock the doors and drive away. Women often sit in the car and make phone calls or fix their makeup before locking their doors – things that can be kept for later. Turn the ignition on while you make yourself comfortable in your seat and fasten the seat belt, so that you can zoom off instantly at the first sign of trouble. Avoid going to parking lots alone. If you have to do so, keep your keys in your hands so that you don't waste time looking for them in your bag. Your keys can act as a self-defence weapon if you hold them in your fist such that the metal part points outwards. Always park your car in a well-lit, high visibility area.

## 2 PARTIES

Alcohol makes women vulnerable, and chances of someone spiking your drink are very high at parties or in nightclubs. So, make it a point to never accept drinks from strangers. Always go to the bar yourself to get your drink, and watch the bartender mixing it if possible. Never leave your drink unattended even for a minute. If you have done so for some reason, it would be a good idea to abandon the drink and get a new one instead. Also, if you plan to go on a drinking spree, ensure that you have a trustworthy friend who will safely take you home without harming you or taking undue advantage.

## 3 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Women often complain of being groped or touched inappropriately in buses and Metro trains. In such cases, you should poke your elbow into the rib of that person or step on him to show him that you will not tolerate any harassment. Don't keep quiet; shout out to grab the attention of others – most often, they'll be glad to throw a few punches or abuses. If the situation gets out of hand, call the cops or the Metro helpline instantly and seek help from security at the next station. Take the pink coach in the Metro as far as possible. Avoid taking auto rickshaws alone in the night or sharing them with strangers.

## 4 CROWDED PLACES

Do not walk around in places that are crowded, be it a procession or a market area. Chances of your being touched inappropriately or getting groped are very high in such places, and you may not even realise when the harasser gets away. But, in case you can't avoid going to these places, be extremely alert and careful. Watch everything and everyone around you. Walk with your forearms and elbows outstretched so that no one can feel you up or rub against you as you walk. Preferably take along a friend, family member or colleague while you are out at such places, and keep your self-defence moves ready.

*Hindustan Times  
City, March 23, p.6*

## 5 DATES

When going out on a date, always go to a place that is buzzing with people and watch your drink and food. Avoid travelling in your date's car, at least the first few times. In case you start feeling uncomfortable at some point, call for a cab and leave the place as soon as you can. Let your parents or friends know where you will be meeting the person. Never divulge any personal information (like your home address), even if the date is going well. A glass of wine may not harm, but do not get drunk or lose consciousness as date rape is a common crime and the next morning, you may remember nothing.

## 6 TRUSTING NATURE

Society conditions females to be physically and emotionally dependent and trusting, making them vulnerable to danger. Training begins at an early age. Boys and girls are channelled into different physical activities, because of perceived physical differences. Consequently, as adults, females are unable to gauge their bodies' resistance to injury and their strength. Learning self-defence moves is a good step towards alleviating women's vulnerability, as is physical fitness and a feeling of independence and self-reliance. Remember that you do not have to be passive, coy, gracious, trusting or accommodating – instead, be strong and fight for your safety.

## 7 FAMILY SETUP

In India, especially in joint families, sexual abuse of women has been frequently reported. Often, women remain quiet as they are bound by the institution of marriage and do not want to bring 'shame' to the family. In such a scenario, it is important for every woman to respect her dignity, look for support inside and outside the family, and seek legal help as soon as possible. There have been cases where older male members of the family have been found to harass young girls. In such situations, it is important for parents to make sure their daughters are safe at all times, especially during family functions.

## 8 LIVING ALONE

If you live and travel alone most of the times, you need to take extra precaution to ensure your safety. Have emergency numbers on the speed dial of your phone. Also, make sure that a friend or a family member knows about your whereabouts at all times. Do not let any stranger enter your house. Often, criminals come dressed as policemen or repairmen. It also pays to keep a hockey stick or a cricket bat right next to the main door. Always have a safety chain and a peephole installed at the door and make sure the latches are strong. Being friends with a trustworthy neighbour may also come in handy.



## 9 WALKING UNACCOMPANIED

If you are out on the road on foot without company, especially at night, you can make for an easy target for attackers as they can drag you inside a moving car or grope you in a group. Avoid going out alone in the night, especially on public roads. In fact, even your friendly neighbourhood street may not be a good idea for a nightwalk all by yourself. Also, having just one male to escort you at night does not put off rapists or abusers, as the Gurgaon rape case has proved. Hence, hang out in a group of trustworthy friends, including guys, if you must, at night. Knowing a few self-defence moves is also sure to keep trouble at bay.

## 10 MEDICAL CHECKUPS

Whenever you go for a medical checkup, make sure you run a background check on the doctor you are about to consult. Preferably, go to a doctor who has been recommended by someone – a female friend – who has been treated by him. Harassment happens at well-known hospitals too, so don't go by brand names. Also, ask the doctor why he must examine you in a particular way if he so asks. If his actions seem suspicious to you. Avoid going to hospitals unaccompanied.

### - NIGHT SHIFTS

## 'No bar on women doing night shifts'

SANJEEV PAL ■ GURGAON

Taking lessons from the recent rape cases and brutal crimes against women in the millennium city's posh DLF and MG road, the district administration on Thursday dedicated a Helpline number 0124-2335100 for women and said this would remain operational round the clock.

Ranjiv Singh Dalal (DGP) Haryana said, "Gurgaon deserves special attention and laws have to be upgraded. Police is always committed to providing safety and security to women anytime and anywhere in the city."

Dalal came to lay the foundation stone of Traffic Tower, a seven-storey building which would cost ₹25 crore to the police department at Sushant Lok. All offices of traffic departments would be under one roof.

KK Sandhu, Gurgaon police commissioner, said on Thursday that police is responsible to provide security to all citizens, especially women, living in the district.

Discussing the law and

order situation with the district administration, he said both district administration and Police administration are providing full security to women and there is no restriction on them; they can work at any time, even during night shifts without fear. He has issued directions to the employers too that they must provide transport facility to the women who work in night shifts as laid down in Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishment Act. An additional picket has been set up on MG Road and the additional women police personnel will be deployed and four PCR vans and four riders have been deployed on the one-and-a-half kilometre stretch.

"We are going to constitute a Task Force Committee which will meet regularly to review the safety of women and give suggestions to district authorities. It will include DCP of the area, Deputy Labour Commissioner concerned, DETC (excise) and representatives of leading city NGOs."

*Pioneer, March 16, P. 2*



# WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ATTACKER GRABS YOU FROM BEHIND?

ILLUSTRATIONS: ABHIMANYU



**1** The attacker comes from behind and grabs you from the waist, over your arms



**3** Using the attackers own force, shift your hand towards his midsection and hit him in the crotch. The attacker will loosen his grip



**2** Quickly bend forward to displace your weight forward making it difficult for the attacker to lift you. Now, he cannot bring his face closer to yours



**4** Lift your elbow and strike the attacker under the chin causing him a!





**5** Complete the sequence by delivering a 'back kick' into his knee or groin and run for your safety.

So, the attacker has caught you unawares and grabbed you tightly from behind. Your arms are locked and you can't move your body. What to do? Don't feel that you are stuck in the situation. You can release yourself from his grip and escape from the scene if you keep your cool and follow these simple steps shown below with illustrations.

### WANT TO BE PART OF OUR SELF-DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME?

To learn the moves from an expert, SMS 'LEARN' to 5424211. If you're a self-defence trainer and wish to volunteer, SMS 'TEACH' to 5424211

LOOK OUT FOR OUR STEP-BY-STEP SELF-DEFENCE VIDEOS ON [FACEBOOK.COM/HTCITY](https://www.facebook.com/HTCITY)

SOURCE: JAIPREET JOSHI, SELF-DEFENCE TRAINER, FITCOMB

*H.T. City  
March 26,  
16*

## WHAT IF ALL ELSE FAILS AND THE ATTACKER FORCES HIMSELF ON YOU?

ILLUSTRATIONS: ABHIMANYU



**1** In most situations, the attacker would push you to the ground and place himself on you, between your legs





**2** Part your legs immediately, and place your right foot on the attacker's right ankle to lock his right leg and restrict his movement



**3** Now, outstretch your left hand swiftly, resembling the crucifix position. This would take his weight off you and move him to the left



**4** As you outstretch your left hand (as shown in step 3), lift your right hip up and topple him over to the floor



**5** Once you've managed to get him on the floor, punch him hard under the nostrils or in the eyes, get up and flee from the spot.

*HE city, March 25, p. 8*



# FIVE THINGS WOMEN MUST CARRY IN THEIR HANDBAGS ALL THE TIME

## 1 DEODORANT SPRAY

Women must carry a spray in their handbag as it can blind the attacker temporarily and give one enough time to escape. Your best bet is a deodorant spray, which you probably carry every day anyway. A deodorant spray can also be a good tool to hit the attacker with, provided you hit hard enough and at sensitive places such as the eye or the assailant's crotch. Make sure your deo can be placed on the top layers of the stuff in your bag, so that you can reach out for it easily in time of need. If you happen to have a lighter, you can also set a spark to the stream of spray for a hot flame that will make him run for his life.

## 2 CAR OR HOUSE KEYS

You can use your car or home keys as a weapon of self-defence. If you are travelling alone, take out your keys from the bag well before you reach the parking lot, and hold them in a way that the metal part of the keys stick out between your knuckles. If you were to punch someone with your key arranged this way (see picture on right), it could cause a far more serious injury than a mere fist punch, especially if you manage to jam a key into your assailant's eyes. It'd be a wise idea to practice the grip a couple of times in your free time. Also, the more the grooves in your key, the better a weapon it makes for. It's Wolverine-ish, and very powerful.

## 3 STOLE OR DUPATTA

Okay, wearing one may make you more prone to attack as you can be pulled back and tied up with it, but carrying a stole or a dupatta in your bag often proves helpful when you're confronted with a hostile situation. In case a harasser tries to get fresh, use the stole as a noose around the attacker's neck and pull him down to the floor. Various techniques of using a dupatta or a stole as a life-saving piece are also taught by many self-defence instructors (look out for our guide to dupatta as a self-defence tool in the coming days). If your bag has a longish handle, that too can be used to hit the attacker so that you can scream for help or escape in the meanwhile.

## 4 A BOTTLE FULL OF WATER

Most women carry a bottle of water in their bags but often don't think of them as a weapon for self-defence. Experts suggest that whenever a woman steps out of home or office, she should remember to fill at least half the bottle with water so that its weight makes it a powerful weapon. An umbrella is another useful tool. Both make for a good grip, and if you hit the attacker hard enough with either, they can cause serious injury and can make him fall on the road, giving you a chance to flee, scream, call for help or place a few more blows to make him unconscious. Remember to aim for sensitive areas on the attacker's body, such as the face, eyes, neck, nose, crotch and temples.

## 5 A PEN OR HAIR PIN

Whether it's a pen, a sharp-tipped pencil, a hairpin or a safety pin, a sharp object can act as a life saviour. A simple safety pin, when pricked into the attacker's arm or hand, causes sudden pain that can instantly divert his attention and give you time to run. Similarly, a pen or hair pin is helpful in such a situation. Remember, the basic idea is to put the attacker in a sudden spot of pain. Remember to place the object in an easily accessible pocket of your bag.

### FLASHLIGHT

Keep a small flashlight so that it can be used to blind the attacker during night-time. This buys you time to flee. The flashlight can also be used as a blunt object to hit, although it is only helpful in one-on-one situations when you're not outnumbered.



### POCKET KNIFE

A pocket knife is useful in one-on-one situations, though many security checks do not allow it in. Remember to always slash then stab the attacker, as stabbing would lead you to lose possession of the knife. Slashing would scare the attacker and stop him from coming any closer.



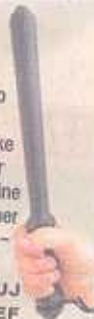
### PEPPER SPRAY

Contrary to popular perception, pepper spray is legal in India, and easily available over medical counters for ₹200-300 depending on the size of the can. The most convenient size to carry is the one that's about a lipstick's, and its range varies from six feet to 10 feet, so it can be used from a distance.



### TACTICAL BATON

A tactical baton is a small rod that can be extended to 40 inches to half a feet. It is a great weapon; one strike is enough to knock out your attacker. You can buy it online and ask a self-defence trainer to show you how to wield it - it needs practice.



SOURCE: ANUJ SHARMA, CHIEF INSTRUCTOR, INVICTUS SURVIVAL SCIENCES

### MOBILE PHONE

Make sure you have all the emergency numbers (police, women's safety helplines, ambulance, family, a friend) on the speed dial of your cellphone. It will act as a life-saver as you can reach out for backup within seconds. The phone can also be used as a blunt instrument to hit in one-on-one situations.



HE city, March 24, P.10.



# BEING PULLED OUT OF A CAR?

ILLUSTRATIONS: ABHIMANYU



**1** Most often, when you're at the wheel, the harasser tries to grab your hand to pull you out



**4** Just when he relaxes at the thought of overpowering you, push and kick hard under his crotch



**2** Bang your door against his head, and as he struggles to gain balance, shut it and zoom off



**5** Next, free your hand from his grip by slipping out the thumb first and fingers next, and run away



**3** If he still manages to pull you out of the car, act as if you've given in, and instead of resisting and fighting, let him pull you closer



# HOW WOMEN CAN STAY SAFE WHEN OUT AT NIGHT

## 1 DON'T LOOK LIKE A VICTIM

When a predator is looking for his next victim, he will assess every situation to look for the one with the biggest payoff. In other words, he wants the least hassle with the most reward (money, jewellery, your body). Looking confident will be a disadvantage in his book. Women who look unafraid are more likely to have taken self-defence courses and are more likely to put up a fight. Keep your eyes up instead of looking at the ground or continuously looking around you in fear. When you're confident, you also look like you have somewhere to be – that is, people are expecting you and may immediately come looking for you if you are late. It's an instant put-off for an attacker.

## 2 ALWAYS GUARD YOUR DRINK

Women need to be extra cautious when partying out at night. Don't have the stranger who just offered to buy the drink hold on to it. Take the drink to the bathroom with you if need be. Put it on top of the toilet paper holder or the top of the toilet lid. Leaving a drink unattended, even for a few seconds, gives anyone untrustworthy enough time to slip something in it. If you want to hit the dance floor for a while, have a close and trustworthy friend – preferably female – guard your drink. If at all for some reason you do end up leaving your drink unattended, let it go and get another one – it may cost you more, but will save you from life-threatening danger.

## 3 STAY WITH YOUR PALS

This doesn't mean being attached at the hip, but have cellphones handy (on vibrate mode since it might be too loud to hear the ringer), if someone decides to separate (i.e. go to the bathroom, etc.). Communication is key; the group should tell each other where they'll be, should they decide to separate for a few moments. If one of the group members is a smoker and everyone else isn't, the smoker should either be told where to meet with everyone inside or make sure everyone knows their location outside and not stray from that spot. If you feel like going out for fresh air or a puff, make sure at least one male member accompanies you out.

## 4 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

It's alright to get high and have a good time, but you don't want to pass out drunk and become an easy victim to predators who're looking for a vulnerable, unconscious woman to rape. No one knows better than you how many drinks you can hold, so don't overdo it or drink 'a little more' on someone else's insistence, even a friend's. The only time you can afford to let go, if you must, is when you're with your spouse, a trustworthy family member or your best friend.

## 5 WATCH YOUR SURROUNDINGS

The most important way to protect yourself is to be aware of your surroundings. Don't wear your mp3 player or chat on your cellphone when you're walking from office to the parking lot. This distracts you from being aware, which gives anyone the perfect opportunity to easily drag you out of sight. Have both your eyes and ears open to suspicious behaviour. By having your keys in one hand (in a fist) and cell phone in the other, you will be ready to take action if necessary. Attach a mace or pepper spray key ring and whistle to your keys, in case someone tries to attack you. Also, it will be easier to make an emergency call with your phone handy.

## 6 DRIVE OFF QUICKLY

Don't dilly-dally in the parking lot; drive off swiftly and confidently. While on the road, make sure you don't make eye-contact with any other driver or stranger and give them way if they're trying to overtake or act smart. Drive in your lane – zig-zagging on the road attracts unnecessary attention. Tell someone when you start and when you'll be back so they can check from time to time. Know your roads well and avoid deserted routes even if they are shorter.

## 7 IF YOU'RE FOLLOWED

If you're driving alone and feel like you're being followed, don't go straight home. Check your rear view mirror consistently, turn away into another busy road if possible. Go to a public, crowded, well-lit parking lot, like at a mall or restaurant. Park by a police car if you can, or head towards the closest police station (this requires you to do your homework before it's too late). Call a police helpline immediately; tell them where exactly you are and where you're headed. Do not switch off the ignition at traffic stops; pass them carefully without stopping if you can. It also pays to install a safety alarm in your car for such emergencies. The sound will scare off the attackers.

## 8 BE NOISY

If you are attacked, don't "shut up" even if your attacker tells you to do so. Scream, throw things, rustle branches, blow a whistle and do anything else it takes to make as much noise as possible. Also, instead of yelling "help," try "Call the police!" instead as loudly as possible. People who hear that will be less likely to ignore you. Also, they will dial for help immediately instead of investigating what is going on, so the authorities will arrive more quickly. Your screaming will make the predator think twice and possibly abort his attack. Your whole goal, if you are attacked, is to prevent someone from taking you to another place, where it will be easier to harm you.



## 9 LET YOUR FOLKS KNOW

When you are out at night, let someone among family or friends know when you are leaving, where you are leaving and what time you expect to arrive at your destination (or checkpoints for longer journeys) and check in with your trusted person every hour. Agree that at check-ins you will give your exact location and if you miss a check-in, your trusted person will notify the police of your last whereabouts and intended destination in case you are unreachable. Make sure your trusted person has written identification details such as the make, model and year of your car, your license plate number, and a physical description of you including what clothing you have on.

## 10 SAFETY IN THE CAB

As far as possible, use your office cab and insist on being accompanied by a security guard in the wake of the recent rape cases. Make sure you're not the last one to be dropped. If you must take a private cab, opt for a trusted radio cab service that has GPS installed in its vehicles, and keep an eye on the driver's behaviour and the route he takes. Sit confidently, keep a sharp object handy and don't let the driver slow down or stop midway. Take the cab right till the doorstep, and ask him to keep the headlights on and hang on till you enter your house.

# WHAT IF SOMEONE TRIES TO CHOKE YOU WITH A CLOTH OR ROPE?

ILLUSTRATIONS: ABHIMANYU



**1** The attacker will most likely strike from behind, and try to choke you with a cable or rope



**2** Instead of resisting, arch back towards the attacker, giving in to the force of his pull





**3** Grab both his wrists and pull him towards yourself to reduce the force of the choke.



**5** As soon as you turn, kick hard in his groin and run to safety.



**4** At the same time, turn towards the attacker while holding his hands.

*Ht city, March 27, P.5*



# TOP 10 SAFETY WEBSITES THAT WOMEN MUST KNOW ABOUT

## 1 WOMENS-SELF-DEFENSE- INSTRUCTION-ONLINE.COM

Self-defence instruction for women online aims to acquaint girls with basic self-defence moves that will help them when in trouble. The goal is to help them develop a successful plan before something happens. Basic self-defence moves given on the website have been designed by professionals who have years of experience in creating self-defence programs. The practical self-defence moves are specifically crafted for women/girls, who have no previous training in combatives, or martial arts. Log on to this site to learn these easy moves and stay safe.

## 2 KEVINCOFFEE.COM

On this website detective Kevin Coffey, an expert in travel safety and other crime avoidance advice, lists important safety measures that women should take in their daily lives. From smart safety travel tips on how to avoid date rape drugs, tips to prevent rape and escape from the rapist to a host of other safety tips from experts including women cops, the website has a comprehensive coverage of various safety issues surrounding women. The detailed presentation of these topics with subheads makes it easier for one to implement the instructions. For instance, safety tips for women travellers has sub-topics such as how to choose a hotel, how to have a safe flight, how to take care of your luggage, money and etc.

## 3 SELF-DEFENSE-MIND- BODY-SPIRIT.COM

The safety tips given on this website provide you with common day to day measures that you can take to protect yourself against criminal activity. Each of the articles listing safety tips give information on real life threatening scenarios and how you can prepare yourself to ensure your safety. Having the knowledge and a pre-planned set of actions to take for as many scenarios of danger as you may face, can improve your chances of not getting victimised. Some of the articles on this website are on ATM safety, driving safety, home safety, parking lot safety, transportation safety, travel safety, vacation safety, and walking safety.

## 4 SUITE101.COM

This is yet another website that should feature in a woman's must-check list. There are a wide range of topics on women safety that are covered here. Beginning with safe dating tips, night-outs, returning home late from work, solo boating safety practices, to tips on how to be safe in unfamiliar countries, use the cell phone safely and more, there're a host of useful tips for women. It also has a special section for single pregnant travellers. Most of these tips are handy and can help avert awkward and uncomfortable situations. Also it tells you what to do if you are being followed, if you are walking alone to your home at night, if you are out on your first date with a person you don't know well, and more.

## 5 WOMEN-IN-CHARGE.NET

This website by a woman called Sera is meant for women. Though on the outset it may look like any regular website offering beauty, shopping, health and fitness tips and easy recipes but delve a little further in the tips section, and you come across interesting tips on how to stay safe at night. The website suggests you take your dog along with you, carry a weapon like pepper spray or a knife, tell someone where you are heading to, be confident etc. It also provides you with tactics to deal with burglars.

## 6 SAFETYFORWOMEN.COM

A comprehensive women safety website that gives out self-defence tips and tricks for women. The USP of the website is one new safety tip that pops up on the top right side, prompting what to do when caught in a life-threatening situation. It also has a section on domestic violence and how to deal with it. The category titled common threats enumerates all possible threats that a woman is likely to face, and ways to avoid them. It encourages readers to share their stories and ways through which they got out of a dangerous situation. It also has pictures showing self-defence methods when one is attacked.

## 7 CRIME-SAFETY-SECURITY.COM

The website has put up life-saving lessons taken from real life interactions with children's groups, college students, civic groups, corporations, rape survivors, and veteran cops at police academies. There is also a special section on home security that creates awareness about home invasions and burglaries and also gives safety tips on how to avoid them. You will also find the inputs on safe driving, parking lot safety, and street crime tips quite useful. The real-life stories throughout this website show you how to stack the odds in your favour. You'll also find tips on how to avoid a face-to-face encounter, control fear, and most importantly, how to outsmart them.

## 8 LAWISGREEK.COM

Women-related laws and women-centric issues are tackled in detail in this resourceful website. The online portal simplifies laws and makes women aware of their legal and safety rights. Many real life stories and legal cases with the verdict are available on the website for women to refer to and learn from them. Some interesting must-reads here are Legal Rights: Problems Faced by Working Women in India; Indian Laws: Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill. So, if you have any doubts regarding your rights and don't know what to do, try logging into this website, and know about the your laws in details, without having to worry about tough language or incomprehensible jargon. The cases in example act as good reference points for women.



## 9 AUTOS.AOL.COM

All motorists need to be careful on the highway, but female drivers of all ages, unfortunately, have to be doubly vigilant to avoid becoming victims of crimes while driving, including carjacking, sexual assault, robbery and worse. Articles on this website give tips to women on such issues so that such unwarranted incidents of carjacking, robbery, sexual assault by a passenger etc can be avoided. This website has everything that you need to know about safe commuting. Read up before you take to the roads, and be safe.

## 10 MYPROPERTY.PH

This website gives practical and helpful tips to women who are living alone or are planning to live alone for the first time. Right from choosing an accommodation to installing alarm systems, and getting to know the neighbours, the site tells you everything that you need to know about safety and security when you are on your own. You can also find information about your legal rights when it comes to taking a place on rent, dealing with the landlord and other issues related to accommodation. Detailed and simplified explanations make this website quite user-friendly too.

# HOW DO YOU TACKLE AN ATTACKER ARMED WITH A BATON?

ILLUSTRATIONS: ABHIMANYU



**1** If a person tries to attack you with a baton, get close to him and block his arm with yours



**2** Grab his armed hand and kick his groin with your knee while putting pressure on his nape





**3** Once the attacker is in pain, twist his arm to pull the stick out of his grip



**5** As he falls to the ground, flee from the spot as soon as you can.



**4** Once you have the stick, lock your shoulder with his, punch and push him to the ground

*HT My city, March 29, P.7*

# बिहार में महिलाओं का अलग सहकारी बैंक

पटना

bureau@patrika.com

बिहार में महिलाओं के लिए अलग सहकारी बैंक होंगे। पटना और नालंदा में जल्द ही महिला सहकारी बैंकों की स्थापना होगी।

सहकारिता में उनका योगदान बढ़ाने के लिए महिला सहकारी पार्लियामेंट का आयोजन किया जाएगा। पैक्सों में भी सदस्य के रूप में महिलाओं और अल्पसंख्यकों की संख्या बढ़ाई जाएगी। सहकारिता विभाग इसके लिए विशेष अभियान चलाएगा। अभियान में हर उस किसान को भी पैक्स का सदस्य बनाया जाएगा, जो

किसी योजना में सरकारी अनुदान ले चुका हो। इसी के साथ दिल्ली की तर्ज पर राजधानी में सहकारी हाट बनाया जाएगा। सहकारी समितियों की संपत्ति का सूचना प्राप्त कर उसे वेबसाइट पर डाल दिया जाएगा।

सहकारिता मंत्री रामाधार सिंह ने विभाग के बजट पर हुई चर्चा का जवाब देते हुए विधान परिषद में कहा कि महिला सहकारी बैंकों के माध्यम से ही आधी आबादी के उत्थान और सुरक्षा के लिए चलाई जा रही सभी योजनाएं चलेंगी। उन बैंकों में सिर्फ महिलाएं ही खाता खोल सकेंगीं। जमा राशि और

सरकार के अंशदान से जो पूंजी का निर्माण होगा, उसे आधी आबादी को वित्तपोषित किया जाएगा। इसमें भी सामाजिक और आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़ी महिलाओं को प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी।

मंत्री ने कहा कि पटना में सहकारी हाट का निर्माण राज्य कोऑपरेटिव फेडरेशन की खाली पड़ी जमीन पर किया जाएगा। फेडरेशन का जीर्णोद्धार होगा और वहां पांच मंजिली इमारत बनेगी। भवन का नाम लोकनायक भवन होगा। पैक्सों में बनने वाले गोदाम भी इसी नाम से जाने जाएंगे। (ब्यूरो)

Rajasthan  
Patrika  
March 31, P.7

## Bride, who demanded toilet after marriage, rewarded

K. Balchand

**NEW DELHI:** As if to buttress Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's emphasis on drinking water and sanitation in his reply to the motion of thanks to the President's address, a young woman was rewarded for her successful insistence on a toilet as a precondition for living at her husband's place.

Anita Bai Narre of Chichouli village of Betul district in Madhya Pradesh was handed a cheque for Rs. 5 lakh by Union Minister of Rural Development Jairam Ramesh, on behalf of Sulabh International, for standing up for her dignity on reaching her husband's place and demanding the construction of a toilet.

Sulabh International chairman Bindeshwar Pathak

- Due to Anita's activism, 100 out of 157 houses in Ratanpur village have toilets now
- 2.5 lakh panchayats would be turned to nirmal gram panchayats in a decade: Jairam

presided over the function.

Anita's courage has changed the picture of her in-law's village (Ratanpur) which is now heading towards cleanliness. Out of its 157 houses, 100 now have toilets — thanks to the bold stand taken by her on her arrival there after her marriage to Shivram Narre in May last year.

Within eight days, Shivram, a casual labourer, constructed the toilet and got his wife back. He got about Rs. 2200 from the gram panchayat and contributed Rs. 2000 from his kitty.

The couple, who are expecting their first child in June, credited each other for the change ushered in their lives. "He [Shivram], too, should be given the credit as he accepted my demand," Anita, a second year BA student, maintained.

On his part, Shivram, a matriculate, said that Anita's demand was just and it did not cause him annoyance. The couple have already made plans on how to spend the reward money though Shivram said that he would be happier to have a permanent job.

Referring to his earlier

statement that cleanliness was as important as praying to God, Mr. Ramesh said it was time to give equal importance to cleanliness. Underlining the need to pursue the task as a social campaign, he pointed out both the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have accorded the highest priority to drinking water and sanitation by allocating more funds in the budget.

Mr. Ramesh said that all the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats would be turned into nirmal gram panchayats within a decade. "The thrust is not just to construct toilets, but to use and keep them clean — not use them as storage spaces for vegetables and food grain." Admitting that the task at hand was not easy, he added that it demanded a behavioural change.

Hindu, March 20, P.2



## FREE HEALTH CAMP FOR SEX WORKERS IN SULTANPURI

**NEW DELHI:** Around 300 women, most of them sex workers, have been given free health check-ups in north-west Delhi's Sultanpuri.

A free health check-up camp was organised last week by the Fortis Foundation and Drihtikon, a not-for-profit organisation. It was to ensure that underprivileged women and children in the area, who have limited access to health care, are examined for basic conditions such as vitamin and mineral deficiencies, hygiene and eyesight problems.

"We have checked nearly 300 women and children in the camp today. Most of them suffer from various micro-nutrient deficiencies and were given dietary supplements. There were many

with symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases and they we asked to come to the hospital for detailed examination and treatment," said Dr Neha George, resident medical officer at Fortis, Shalimar Bagh.

"We are fully aware of the risks involved. Every six months, we undergo HIV test in the local government hospital. Local NGOs help us a lot," said Shahana (name changed), one of the sex workers at the camp.

Local NGOs recruit people from within the community to develop a rapport with the women to ensure their health is not neglected. "We recruit peer educators from within them and give them incentives to work with us," said Monika Mendiratta, of Drihtikon.

*Hindus San Times,  
March 19, P6*

## विकास का उजियारा कहीं रुला तो नहीं रहा महिलाओं को?

■ बुनियादी सवाल ने उलझाया सरकार को

हेन्दरसिंह बगवाड़ा @ नई दिल्ली

delhibureau@patrika.com

राज्य में गांवों की अधिकतर महिलाओं को आज भी खुले में शौच जाने को मजबूर होना पड़ रहा है। टूकों एवं अन्य वाहनों की तेज रेशनी जब खुले में शौच कर रही इन महिलाओं पर पड़ती है तो उन पर क्या गुजरती होगी? योजना आयोग के इस सवाल से बुधवार को यहां मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत, मुख्य सचिव सी के मैथ्यू समेत दर्जन भर आला अधिकारी अवाक रह गए। जब मुख्यमंत्री ने बात सम्भालते हुए घरों में शौचालय बनवाए जाने की योजना पर तेजी से काम करने की बात कही, तब जाकर अधिकारियों की जान में जान आई। इसके लिए उन्होंने केन्द्र से भी अतिरिक्त सहायता उपलब्ध करवाए जाने की मांग की। राज्य की वार्षिक योजना को लेकर आयोजित बैठक में जब मुख्यमंत्री राज्य की विकास

योजनाओं का ब्यौर दे रहे थे, उस समय योजना आयोग की सदस्य सईदा हमीद पूछ बैठी कि राज्य में खूब पैसा खर्च हो रहा है। सड़कें बन रही हैं। उन पर ट्रक एवं अन्य वाहन भी तेजी से दौड़ने लगे हैं। लेकिन ज्यादातर घरों में, खास तौर पर ग्रामीण घरों में आज भी शौचालयों का अभाव है। ऐसे में सड़क पर चलते वाहनों की लाइट जब शौच करती हुई महिलाओं पर पड़ती है। इससे महिलाओं को लेकर अपराध भी बढ़ते हैं। योजना आयोग की सदस्य ने सुझाव दिया कि महिलाओं और बच्चों को सरकारी योजनाओं का ज्यादा से ज्यादा लाभ मिलना चाहिए। मुख्यमंत्री ने सफाई दी कि इस दिशा में राज्य सरकार तेजी से काम कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि केन्द्रीय योजनाओं में विसंगतियों के कारण कई बार उन्हें लागू करने में कठिनाई आती है। उदाहरण के तौर पर नरेगा में ज्यादातर बच्चे काम हो रहे हैं। यदि केन्द्र सरकार मैटेरियल कम्पोनेंट बढ़ा दे तो सथाई काम किए जा सकते हैं।

नहीं हैं शौचालय: पिछले दिनों

जारी हुए जनगणना आंकड़ों के अनुसार वर्ष 2011 में राजस्थान के गांवों में 80.4 फीसदी घरों में शौचालय नहीं थे। जबकि वर्ष 2001 में यह आंकड़ा 85.4 था। जहां तक शहरों का सवाल है तो वर्ष 2011 में 18 फीसदी घरों में शौचालय का अभाव दर्ज किया गया। वर्ष 2001 में 23.9 फीसदी शहरी घरों में शौचालय नहीं थे।

गहलोत ने रघुनाथ महाराज की कुशलसेम पूरी

नई दिल्ली . राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत ने बुधवार को यहां युक्त रोग संस्थान, 'इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ लीवर एण्ड बिलियरी साइंसेस' जाकर वहां भर्ती राजस्थान के अलवर जिले की श्यामदा मुण्डावर गद्दी पीठ के प्रमुख रघुनाथ महाराज की कुशलसेम पूरी और उनके शीघ्र स्वस्थ होने के लिए शुभकामनाएं प्रेषित की। मुख्यमंत्री ने संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. एसके सरिन से महाराज को दिए जा रहे उपचार एवं परामर्श के बारे में जानकारी भी ली।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 22, P.2*



# Mass marriage in 'village of sex workers'

Eight girls were married and 12 more engaged in Wadia in Gujarat

Manas Dasgupta

**AHMEDABAD:** It was a different kind of festival the Wadia village in north Gujarat celebrated on Sunday. For the first time, almost the entire village participated in a mass marriage celebration where eight girls were married and 12 more engaged.

Not only the marriage and engagements, the parents of at least 10 more girls of marriageable age have come forward and promised to marry off their daughters in the next six months or so. "The response was so overwhelming and encouraging that we are planning to organise yet another mass marriage programme in the next few months, said Mittal Patel, the co-ordinator of the Vicharti Samudaya Samarpan Manch, the voluntary organisation working for the welfare of the nomadic tribes.

Known as "village of sex workers," Wadia, the small village in Tharad taluka in the border district of Banaskantha in north Gujarat close to Rajasthan border, is all set to change the course of its life. In a village where most of the grown-up women were known for taking to prostitution to feed themselves and their male family members depended on them, the young girls are refusing to follow the traditional business and settle in normal life by marrying and rearing a family.

The Manch had been work-

• **Response overwhelming and we are planning another programme in few months: NGO**

• **Government promises borewells and jobs in and around village**

ing hard among the members of the Saraniya community, a nomadic tribe migrated to Gujarat from Rajasthan during the Moghul period, for the last five years or so to bring normalcy in their lives and help erase the village's image of prostitution. Initially the organisation had to face a lot of resistance from the "pimps" in Wadia, Palanpur, the district headquarter of Banaskantha, and other places who were worried that it would mean an end to their income from the flesh trade. "But the resistance has started diminishing now and contrary to our apprehensions during the Sunday's mass marriage, the situation remained peaceful and instead almost the entire village participated in the ceremony," Ms. Patel said.

When the Manch planned about the mass marriage, 12 girls had agreed to participate in the ceremony, but three of them later developed cold feet for one reason or the other while the marriage of one girl was postponed because the groom, Chandra, is appearing for higher secondary examinations. "Chandra is the first boy from the entire Saraniya community and

from Wadia village to go up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard and we did not want to disturb him in the all-important examinations, so we decided to postpone his marriage till the examinations are over," Ms. Patel said.

It was the first time a mass marriage was organised in the village and soon it turned to be a festival. "Not only today [Sunday], the villagers were singing and dancing in preparation of the marriage festival for the last two days and the entire village turned in an unprecedented festive mood on the occasion," Ms. Patel said.

The police and the State authorities also did their bit. The Manch had registered a case with the Tharad police apprehending trouble from a section of the anti-social elements encouraging the flesh trade. Two mobile police vans were stationed at the village. "But there was not even a whisper of trouble," Ms Patel said. The State government officials who visited the village on the occasion, also promised to arrange for borewells and creating various job opportunities in and around the village the lack of which so far was one of the principal reasons for the continuation

of flesh trade since generations.

A dozen girls whose engagements were finalised on Sunday were of 12 to 17 years of age. Since they were not of marriageable age, the marriages could not be solemnized. "But we did not want the opportunity to slip off, so we at least arranged for the engagement ceremony so that the future commitment remained in tact," she said.

But seeing the developments, the parents of 10 more girls came forward to get their daughters married. "It was most heartening, the people at least have started to realising the necessity to break away from the traditional trade and lead a normal social life. Our efforts have paid off" Ms. Patel said with satisfaction.

Saraniyas, who were experts in shinning and shaping swords, had left their native villages in Rajasthan with the army of Rana Pratap in his fight against the Moghul emperor, Akbar. But after his defeat, neither Rana Pratap nor the Saraniyas returned to Chittorgarh to prepare for the next round of battle. The Saraniyas later settled in Wadia village but with the loss of their traditional trade, they learnt to live only on the income of their womenfolk, experts in singing and dancing, who were forced to take to "entertaining" men to earn their and their families' livelihood.

*Hindu, March 12, P.20*



## तनाव बना रहा महिलाओं को नशेड़ी

पुणे, विवाहित शिक्षित महिलाओं में तनाव, अकेलेपन के कारण नशीली दवाएं और अल्कोहल के सेवन के मामले बढ़ रहे हैं। यह बात वर्ष 2005 से 2011 के बीच किए गए एक अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष में कही गई है। अध्ययन में चार नशामुक्ति केंद्रों में रह रही 371 महिलाओं से बातचीत की गई। अध्ययन में कहा गया है कि महिलाओं ने अल्कोहल के अलावा, अवसाद से बचने की दवाएं और नौद की गोलियां भी घरेलू तनाव और विवाह विच्छेद के सदमे से उबरने के लिए ली हैं। शहर के बायां करवें महिला अध्ययन केंद्र की अध्यक्ष मृणालिनी चितले के अनुसार नशे से मुक्ति के लिए थैरेपी लेने वाली महिलाओं में ज्यादातर की उम्र 31 साल से 40 साल के बीच थी। इन 371 महिलाओं में से 28.8 फीसदी महिलाएं अकादमिक डिग्रियां धारी थीं और 48.63 फीसदी गृहणियां थीं। इनमें विवाहित

महिलाओं का प्रतिशत करीब 55 था।

### औपचारिकता बन रही लत

बीकेडब्ल्यूएससी की ओर से सर्वे करने वाले दल को एक सदस्य अश्विनी तांबे ने कहा कि भावनाओं के आवेग में आकर शिक्षित विवाहित महिलाएं अल्कोहल और नशे की गोलियां लेने लगती हैं। अध्ययन में कहा गया है कि कई बार सामाजिक औपचारिकता के तौर पर शुरू किया गया अल्कोहल और नशीली दवाओं का सेवन जल्द ही लत का रूप ले लेता है। इसमें यह भी कहा गया है कि कई बुजुर्ग लोग चिकित्सक से परामर्श लिए बिना ही अवसाद से बचने और नौद के लिए गोलीयों का सेवन करते हैं। इनकी समस्या के शुरू में कभी चिकित्सक ने इन गोलीयों के सेवन का सुझाव दिया था लेकिन बाद में यह लत बन गई।

Rajasthan  
Patrika, March 13  
P.13

## महिलाएं घुमाएंगी रोडवेज बसों का

अलवर

alwar@patrika.com

रोडवेज बसों की स्टेयरिंग अब महिलाओं के हाथों में भी होगी। पहली बार रोडवेज ने चालक-परिचालक भर्ती में महिलाओं का क्वॉटा आरक्षित किया है।

अगर सब कुछ सही रहा तो कुछ महीनों बाद ही महिलाओं को बसों का संचालन सौंप दिया जाएगा। रोडवेज ने 583 पदों में महिलाओं के लिए चालक के 50 और परिचालक के 25 पद आरक्षित किए हैं। इन पदों के लिए भर्ती परीक्षा जून में होगी।

चालक-परिचालक के अलावा रोडवेज ने इसमें आर्टिजन ग्रेड द्वितीय में महिलाओं के लिए 2 व तृतीय में 35 पद आरक्षित हैं। पहले मृतक आश्रितों में कई महिलाओं को परिचालक के पद पर लगाया गया था, लेकिन जब यह प्रयोग सफल नहीं हुआ तो महिलाओं को एलडीसी व अन्य पदों पर लगाया गया।

कार्यकारी प्रबंधक सुधीर भाटी का कहना है कि चालक-परिचालक या अन्य तकनीकी पदों की भर्ती में महिलाओं के भाग लेने पर कोई बंदिश नहीं थी, लेकिन वे फार्म नहीं भरती थीं।

Rajasthan  
Patrika, March 26  
P.14

## In a different role: Koya tribal women play 'seed mothers'

THEY ARE called "mothers" for the role they play not for themselves but for the entire nation. People in the locality honour them for their exceptional service — the affectionate acts of nurturing and nourishment they do are for the sustenance of local agriculture system and the biodiversity they are greatly dependent on.

Once the local seeds are sustained, it ensures protection of local birds, animals and human food production chain.

Fondly called Bihan Maa (seed mothers), the women belonging to Koya tribes in Orissa's Malkangiri have boastfully conserved and preserved innumerable varieties of paddy, pulses and millets using their traditional wisdom and technology.

Some rare varieties of aromatic paddy like Kalajeera, Samudrabali, Kala Basmati, Kalamahura, Masuridhan, Sapuridhan, Chudidhan that are seen anywhere are grown by these Koya women and preserved carefully at their homes so as to ensure that the posterity inherits the precious wealth.

Kalajeera rice is claimed to have got more fragrance than Basmati variety. The tribals, who still dare not get influenced by the strong seed and fertiliser market forces, sell it at ₹40 at the local weekly market. The other varieties sell a little cheaper.

Malkangiri, formerly a sub-division under Koraput district, is dotted with high hills, number of rivers and rivulets which provide ideal conditions for different varieties of paddy, pulses and millets. Some are grown alongside

streams and rivers and a few others are cultivated on sloppy, hilly terrains.

The conservation of seeds by the Koya tribals have now turned into a passionate culture. And this culture has of late assumed the hues and colours of a festival called Bihan Mela or Annual Seed Fair. Thanks to the efforts of the Organisation for Rural Reconstruction and Integrated Social Service Activities (ORRISSA) and the state agriculture

department which have not only acknowledged the role of seed mothers but also inspired them to continue their activities more ardently and energetically.

Since 2005, the adivasi farmers' organisations around Malkangiri and Kandhamal have been organising the Annual Seed Fairs in line with their cultural values and celebrating the bounty of the nature and local wisdom of food productions.

In February this year,

similar seed fairs were organised at Chandanguda, Podabhata and Burudabahal villages in Malkangiri district which saw huge turnout of Koya people.

The seed mothers, carrying seed baskets well-decorated with palash flowers and leaves of medicinal plants, congregated at the fairs and exchanged their seeds with farmers who came from far off places like Bolangir, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal,

Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Khurda, Balasore and Ganjam.

Eighty-one-year-old Kartik Das, a farmer from Nuapally village under Buguda block in Ganjam district who came to Chandanguda fair under Padmagiri gram panchyat, said he found several new varieties of paddy and collected them to grow in his area. He, however, claimed that farmers in his region had got more varieties of millets than the Malangiri

Biswamohan Mohanty, secretary of ORRISSA, who is instrumental in converting the seed conservation practice of the tribal women into a festival, sums up the utility of the fair in his own words.

"The adivasi or tribal women play a key role in nurturing the local seeds. They have enormous knowledge on seed conservation. They have been carrying this practice since long with dignity. We have just made a little effort that this beautiful tradition gets embed in their culture," said Mr Mohanty.

These fairs bring dignity to local food and reiterates that the adivasis are capable of producing their own food and this is the only way the locals can conserve the bio-diversity in the area.

*Asian Age, March 13,  
P. 14*



## गोवा में घरेलू महिलाओं को भत्ता, पेट्रोल सस्ता

पणजी (एजेंसी)। गोवा के मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर पारिकर ने सोमवार को राज्य का लोक लुभावन बजट पेश करते हुए घरेलू महिलाओं को 1,000 रुपए महीने भत्ता देने और पेट्रोल के दाम 11 रुपए कम करने के उपायों की घोषणा की।

मुख्यमंत्री पारिकर के पास वित्त विभाग भी है। उन्होंने अगले वित्त वर्ष में राज्य के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में 15 फीसद वृद्धि का लक्ष्य रखते हुए घरेलू रसोई गैस सिलेंडर के दाम पांच साल स्थिर रखने की भी घोषणा की। पारिकर ने कहा कि पेट्रोल पर मूल्य वर्धित कर यानी वैंट करीब समान कर दिया गया है, इस पर केवल 0.1 फीसद वैंट लगेगा ताकि बिक्री का रिकार्ड रखा जा सके। इससे राज्य में पेट्रोल के दाम 65 रुपए से घटकर करीब 55 रुपए रह जाएंगे। मुख्यमंत्री ने राज्य में घरेलू महिलाओं को 1,000 रुपए महीना भत्ता देने का भी प्रस्ताव किया है। राज्य के परिवार जिनकी सालाना आय तीन लाख रुपए से कम है उनमें घर में रहकर परिवार संभालने वाली महिलाओं को 1,000 रुपए महीने का भत्ता मिलेगा।

परिवारों को एक और बड़ी राहत देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर को 16 मार्च 2012 के दाम पर ही स्थिर रखने की घोषणा की। राज्य में अगले पांच साल तक एलपीजी सिलेंडर का दाम इसी स्तर पर रहेगा। पारिकर ने कहा, 'केन्द्रीय बजट से घरेलू सिलेंडर के दाम बढ़ने की आशंका बड़ी है। मेरी सरकार का मानना है कि गोवा के लोगों को इस महंगाई से दूर रखा जाए।' गोवा की नवगठित भाजपा सरकार ने राज्य में दयानंद सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजना के तहत भत्ता 1,000 से बढ़ाकर 2,000 रुपए करने की भी घोषणा की है। योजना के तहत वरिष्ठ नागरिकों, विधवाओं, पति द्वारा छोड़ी गई महिलाओं, अपंग और एचआईवी प्रभावित लोगों को लाभ दिया जाता है।

*Rashtriya Sahara,  
March 27, p.1*

## महिलाओं के जिम्मे छोटा परिवार

सिरोही

paal@patrika.com

रसोई का भार, दफ्तर की भागदौड़, परिवार को बांधकर रखने की जिम्मेदारी के साथ महिलाएं परिवार नियोजन की भी जिम्मेदारी निभा रही हैं। घर की मैनेजर को यह पता है कि अधिक बच्चों के लालन-पालन में किस तरह की समस्याएं आती हैं। शायद इसलिए इस मामले में भी महिलाएं पुरुषों को पछाड़कर घर को सुखद परिस्थिति में लाने का प्रयास कर रही हैं और नसबंदी करवाने में महिलाएं आगे आ रही हैं। प्रतिवर्ष करीब साढ़े पांच हजार महिलाएं छोटे परिवार की खातिर नसबंदी करवा रही हैं। सूचना के अधिकार के तहत चाही गई जानकारी में मिले आंकड़ों मुताबिक पिछले चार सालों में साढ़े बाइस हजार महिलाओं ने नसबंदी करवाई है।

हर शिविर में दिखती हैं महिलाएं

नसबंदी के लिए आयोजित किए जाने वाले शिविरों में महिलाओं की संख्या अधिक रहती है। इससे यह साफ है कि महिलाएं छोटे परिवार की



अवधारणा को समझ रही हैं। ऐसे में घर का मुखिया भले ही नसबंदी नहीं करवाए, लेकिन महिला छोटा परिवार, सुखी परिवार का महत्व जान रही है।

सबसे आगे रही इस साल

पिछले चार साल के आंकड़े देखे जाएं तो इस साल महिलाएं काफी आगे रही।

वर्ष-2011 में दिसम्बर तक ही 6813 महिलाएं नसबंदी करवा चुकी हैं। वर्ष-2008 में 4073, वर्ष-2009 में 5984 व वर्ष-2010 में 5535 महिलाओं ने नसबंदी करवाई।

*Rajasthan  
Patrika,  
March 23, p.12*

# Fair & secure: products, benefits for women only

If you were a woman born in India in the early 19th century, you would have probably never stepped into a school, or even held a pen. Today, 200 years after, women have marched much ahead of those times, armed with education and an independent financial life.

A list of some women-only financial products and benefits.

## INCOME-TAX BENEFITS

Under the current tax regime, women pay less tax than men. For the assessment year (AY) 2012-2013, the tax exemption limit for women is ₹19 lakh. However, for men this limit is ₹18 lakh. So a woman who earns an annual salary of ₹10 lakh will need to pay ₹1.2 lakh as income-tax. In comparison, the male counterpart will need to pay ₹1.2 lakh tax.

## INSURANCE POLICIES

**Life:** While buying a life insurance policy women pay less premium than men. Women enjoy discounts, up to 10%, till the age of 40 years.

**Health:** Though women don't enjoy any discounts in premiums, but there are other women-related benefits.

**Maternity benefits:** Most group health insurance policies offered by firms cover maternity benefits. "Most group covers are floater policies and offer maternity benefits," says Deepak Mendiratta, director, HII Insurance Brokers. "However, there is a sub-limit on maternity benefits and can range from ₹35,000-50,000."

**Riders:** There are riders that cover

women-specific ailments. Recently, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched a standalone critical illness policy exclusively for women. This covers five women-specific cancers along with burns, paralysis and multi-trauma. If the

## WHAT'S ON OFFER

### LIFE INSURANCE

Insurers give a discount of up to 10% in premium rates.

**Keep in mind:** This discount is maximum for younger women

### INCOME-TAX

Women's exemption limit is higher at ₹1.9 lakh than men, whose limit is ₹1.8 lakh.

**Keep in mind:** This advantage may not continue under the Direct Taxes Code.

### BANKING

Some banks give a discount of 50-100 bps on interest rates on education loans, while some give loans of ₹50,000-2 lakh to buy gold.

**Keep in mind:** More such offers at state-owned and co-operative banks

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Group covers offer maternity benefits. Some individual plans, too, offer this benefit at a cost.

**Keep in mind:** Such individual policies may have a waiting period, other conditions.

### STAMP DUTY

A woman pays less stamp duty than men during property registration. For example, in Delhi, women pay 3%, while men pay 5%. The rates vary from state to state.

**Keep in mind:** Even if women are co-owners, they can pay less stamp duty.

policyholder contracts any of the ailments, she will get the sum assured and the policy would terminate.

## BANKING PRODUCTS

Banking financial services and products specially designed for women are not uncommon these days — be it loans, debit cards, credit cards or savings accounts.

**Loans:** Government-owned banks have a special discount of about 50-100 basis points (100 basis points is 1 percentage point) for women taking education loans. For instance, Bank of Baroda gives a loan that is cheaper by 1% for girl students. A few banks offer loans for women to buy gold jewellery. Some banks also offer loans for financing women entrepreneurs.

**Cards and savings accounts:** Banks are also designing premium cards with women-specific features. Examples include HDFC Bank's Solitaire Premium women's credit card range. Apart from the reward points on spending, the card offers free health check-up.

A few banks, including Axis Bank Ltd, IDBI Ltd and ICICI Bank, have savings accounts, which have women-specific features such as zero balance requirement.

## STAMP DUTY

Transfer of property is subject to stamp duty in the country. It is a tax you pay to the state government when you buy a property or get a property transferred in your name. However, for women, the rate is less than that for men. The stamp duty rates varies from state to state. Thus if your apartment costs you ₹50 lakh, you would have to shell out ₹1.5 lakh as stamp duty if you are woman compared with ₹2.5 lakh that a man would have to pay.

Hindustan Times, March 10,  
P.24



# Harassment for all

Stigma and discrimination are not the only barriers to fighting HIV. These also border on social exclusion and violation of the basic rights of people with different sexual preferences. This is the point that emerged from a pilot study conducted by 300 community researchers representing these groups.

Against the backdrop of a high-level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage for India committing to provide access to "affordable, accountable and appropriate health services of assured quality to all citizens" irrespective of social status, gender, income or caste, the marginal communities are, on a daily basis confronting the grim realities of stigma and discrimination by government as well as private healthcare institutions, the study says.

In the pilot study on Stigma, Discrimination and Violation of Rights, representatives of State Networks of marginal communities like MSM, sex workers, IDUs and transgenders from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland, highlighted their experiences. The study across the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka revealed that the communities are not only concerned about poor healthcare access for HIV, opportunistic infections, sexually transmitted infection but most critically of general health problems. The study also shows that nearly 50 per cent of the concerns expressed by respondents were around lack of access to general healthcare, followed by 33 per cent on HIV.

Sharing their experiences

at a function organized by 365 x 6, a consortium of three organizations led by Praxis and supported by Oxfam, Tom Thomas, CEO, Praxis India, focussed on the need to "generate a discussion on the painful experience of social exclusion faced by the community and a more nuanced

understanding of what has shaped the community's perception about duty bearers and their attitude towards marginal communities."

Ratan Kumar, representing Navatejam, Andhra Pradesh Network of MSM and Transgender and Rajeshwari representing Ushassu Network of Sex Workers, stated that of all the reasons cited by their peers for feeling excluded and discriminated by healthcare providers, verbal harassment accounted for over 40 per cent and 50 per cent

respectively.

Expressing concern over the magnitude of stigma and discrimination these communities face, Dr. Joe Thomas, Director, Technical Support Facility South Asia (TSF SA), stated that UNAIDS strategy, drawn by all member countries for the next five years, recognises the gravity of the problem and has made "to get to Zero discrimination by 2015 as one of agreed goals of all countries wanting to halt the spread of HIV and achieve the Millennium Development Goal."

Ms. Salma, Project Director, Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS), said that reducing stigma and discrimination against all marginal communities was not only the mandate of KSAPS but also of the National Rural Health Mission

ing off from this, Vivek An from Humsafar Trust, a leading Community Based Organisation representing MSMs and sexual minorities, stated that the time has come to go beyond diagnosing the problem of stigma and discrimination against all marginal communities especially in the health care setting to evolving an action plan to address it. Dr. Smarajit Jana, who pioneered and founded the first Sex Workers Collective in India, the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee emphasised that the policy makers must realise that as long as the marginal communities continue to experience

such high degree of stigma and discrimination in the hands of healthcare providers, any ambitious health reform will not favourably impact these communities.

"Any plan to strengthen and scale up convergence must be re-visited in the light of the stigma and discrimination the communities face", he stressed. Reiterating the same point of view Mr. Manohar Elavarthi, Executive Director, Sangama, Bangalore stated, "If policy makers went ahead with pushing the agenda of convergence without sensitizing healthcare providers, the services meant for marginal communities will not reach them." Speaking on behalf of V-CAN, the Tamil Nadu Network of Sex Workers, MSM and Transgender, Bhoomika stated that even in Tamil Nadu, which has the unique distinction of having strong development indicators, the communities found that 75 per cent of the issues of discrimination and exclusion occurred in Government health institutions. "We are keen to ensure that all our peers access health as a right and entitlement. The MSM community is most stigmatised not only by doctors and nurses but also by paramedics and even counsellors and NGOs," she added.

However, community representatives from Raichur and Ramnagar district of Karnataka lamented that the experience of extreme disrespect and verbal harassment by healthcare providers was experienced by one and all whether the community member was a sex worker or sexual minority. But the most poignant sharing was done by Renphamo from Nagaland. Having been through a harrowing experience of 10 days in a district hospital he is not only disillusioned about the healthcare institution but feels that it will take a lot of time for him to heal and regain his trust and faith in the healthcare system.

Hindu, March 24, P4

## SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET/ FUNDS/ HIKE/ SPENDING/ INVESTMENTS

### School education to get more outlay

**NEW DELHI:** School education sector was one of the major benefactors of the Union Budget, as allocation for the vertical was raised by 18 per cent for implementation of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Right to Education Act through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Rs 45,969 crore was allocated to the Department of School Education and Literacy of the Human Resource Development ministry. Last year, the figure stood at Rs 38,957 crore.

"The Right to Education (RTE) Act is being implemented with effect from April 1, 2010 through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). For 2012-13, I have provided Rs 25,555 crore for RTE-SSA. This is an increase of 21.7 per cent over 2011-12," Finance Minister said while presenting the General Budget in Parliament here on Friday.

Allocation for the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was raised by 29 per cent, as the Finance Minister earmarked Rs 3,124 crore for its implementation.



At Rs 15,458 crore, allocation for higher education sector witnessed a 15 per cent boost. In the last budget, Rs 13,463 crore was allocated to the sector.

"A scheme for education loans is being implemented by banks. To ensure better flow of credit to deserving students, I propose to set up a Credit Guarantee Fund for this purpose," the Finance Minister said.

However, the hike did not match the demands of the Human Resources Development ministry which had asked Rs 85,000 crore for school education and Rs 25,000 crore for the higher education sector.

DH News Service

*Deccan Herald, March 17, P.5*



# Big money in edu scheme, little change in schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WHILE the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) infrastructure budget increased by 137 per cent between 2009-10 and 2011-12, there was only marginal progress on the norms identified under the Right to Education Act (RTE). The annual PAISA report released today shows that nearly three years after the Act came into effect, the RTE indicators remain largely unchanged.

The PAISA project is a collaborative effort of the Accountability Initiative of the Delhi-based independent policy think tank Centre for Policy Research and ASER Centre, aimed at improving transparency and accountability in public expenditure management for social sector programmes.

PAISA has been bringing out annual reports since 2009. SSA is the implementing vehicle for RTE that promises free and compulsory education for all children from ages 6 to 14.

"Proportion of schools with

shortfall in teachers, classrooms, drinking water facilities, kitchen/shed, playground, complete boundary wall, separate room for headmaster has remained more or less unchanged between 2010 and 2011," says the report.

While most states have met the access norm of a primary school within 1 km of a habitation, 60 per cent schools in Orissa, Karnataka and Jharkhand do not have a functional toilet. Forty eight per cent primary schools have a pupil-teacher ratio greater than the mandated 30:1,

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Vinod Rai, who released the report, said that in light of PAISA findings, it seemed to be time to audit SSA. The CAG last audited SSA five years ago.

According to the report, India's SSA budget increased from Rs 26,169 crore in 2009-10 to Rs 42,926 crore the next year, and to Rs 55,746 crore in 2011-12.

The per-child allocation during the same years went from Rs 2,004 to Rs 3,287 to Rs 4,269.

Allocation to teachers and

school infrastructure made up 80 per cent of overall allocations in 2011-12. Grants receipts to schools improved from 77 per cent in 2008-09 to 84 per cent in 2009-10, but fell to 82 per cent in 2010-11.

Fifty nine per cent schools reported receiving grants in the first half of the financial year in 2009-10; in 2011-12, the figure fell to 53 per cent.

The good news is that in 2008-09, only 55 per cent schools reported receiving all grants; in 2010-11, this rose to 70 per cent.

## WHERE THE SSA BUCK STOPS



ALLOCATION  
DOUBLES IN 3 YRS...



...BUT INFRASTRUCTURE CRAWLS

FACILITY	2010	2011	SHORTFALL*
Headmaster's office	26	26	
Drinking water	17	16	
Kitchen/shed	18	16	
Playground	38	37	
Complete boundary wall	49	46	
Library books	37	29	

Indian  
Express  
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# छात्र तक पहुंचता है सिर्फ 6 फीसदी पैसा

नई दिल्ली

bhopal@patrika.com

सरकार ने भले ही सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के लिए बजट आवंटन में आशातीत वृद्धि की हो, लेकिन सच तो यह है कि छात्रों तक इसका केवल छह फीसदी रकम ही पहुंच रही है। बाकी रकम स्कूल बिल्डिंग सहित अन्य आधारभूत संरचनाओं में खर्च की जा रही है। उधर, कैंग ने इस अभियान के ऑडिट की जरूरत बताई है।

एनजीओ प्रथम और एकाउंटबिलिटी इन्हींशिफ्टिव द्वारा तैयार की गई 'पैसा' रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि 78 प्रतिशत रकम शिक्षकों और प्रबंधन पर खर्च की जा रही है, जबकि छात्रों के हिस्से में केवल 6 प्रतिशत हिस्सा आ रहा है। सात राज्यों के 14283 स्कूलों के सर्वे के बाद यह रिपोर्ट तैयार की गई है।

## लगातार बढ़ रही है रकम

सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के लिए दी गई रकम वर्ष 2009 से लेकर 2012 में दोगुनी हो गई। वर्ष 2009 में इस मद में 26169 करोड़ रुपए जारी किए गए थे, जबकि अब यह 55746 करोड़ पर पहुंच गई है। प्रति छात्र आवंटन की रकम की बात करें, तो वर्ष 2009-10 में उन्हें 2004 रुपए मिल पाते थे, जबकि 2011-12 में यह रकम 4269 रुपए हो गई।

## ऐसे की रकम खर्च

अप्रैल 2010 से नवम्बर 2011 के बीच स्कूलों ने ऑडिट रकम का 68 प्रतिशत हिस्सा वाटररोड का निर्माण, 69 प्रतिशत स्कूल के कार्यक्रम, 89 रकम वाट, वलौब और रजिस्टर की खरीदी में खर्च की गई। एकाउंटबिलिटी इन्हींशिफ्टिव की लिटेराच यामिनी अय्यर ने कहा कि हमने शिक्षकों पर खर्च और छात्रों के रकम के बीच कोई संबंध नहीं पाया।

## जांच की जरूरत

रिपोर्ट को दिलीज करते हुए भारत के विद्यार्थी और महालक्ष्मी फ्रीसक रिजोड राय ने कहा है कि रिपोर्ट के तथ्यों को देखकर लगा रहा है कि अब धरत आ गया है कि सर्वशिक्षा अभियान का ऑडिट किया जाए। कैंग ने पांच साल पहले इसका ऑडिट किया था।

## ऐसे बढ़ा बजट आवंटन

2009	26169 करोड़
2010	42926 करोड़
2011	55746 करोड़
कहां किसका खर्च हुआ (प्रतिशत में)	
सुविधा	2010 2011
हेडमास्टर ऑफिस	26 25
पेराजल	17 16
किचन रोड	18 16

Rajasthan Patrika, March 23, P.1.



# Gender budget yet to yield fruits

P M Ragnunandan

**BANGALORE:** The gender-based budget resorted to by the State government from 2007-08 fiscal does not seem to have helped much in improving the skewed sex ratio in Karnataka.

Gender budgeting is a statement disclosing allocations made with a gender perspective. The initiative was taken up with an aim to promote gender equality, particularly to improve the sex ratio.

The State Finance department has set up a gender budget cell to identify the quantum of resource allocation and expenditure on women and monitor translation of policy commitments into action.

## Significant increase

As per the 2011-12 Economic Survey report of Karnataka, allocation of funds for various programmes and schemes meant for the welfare and development of women over the last five years (during 11th Five Year Plan period) has witnessed a significant increase - Rs 16,832 crore in 2007-08 to Rs 30,561 crore in 2011-12 in the State. In 2012-13 fiscal (the first year of 12th Five Year Plan), the total outlay for gender budget is Rs 38,845 crore.

The number of schemes, wherein 100 per cent allocation is meant for women, has also increased - from 43 schemes with about Rs 550 crore allocation in 2007-08 to 45 schemes with about 874 crore

allocation in 2011-12. Besides, there are as many as 759 schemes with an allocation of Rs 29,682 crore wherein at least 30 per cent of funds are meant for women.

Prominent among the schemes wherein 100 per cent allocation is meant for women are Bhagyalakshmi, Udyogini, women training programme, Devadasi rehabilitation programme, Santhwana and Sabala.

Bhagyalakshmi has been a flagship scheme of the government, which is mainly aimed

at improving the sex ratio. The scheme provides incentive in the form of insurance bond in the name of a girl child of BPL families. The scheme also aims at eradicating social evils like child labour, female foeticide, child marriage and child trafficking. The government has spent a whopping Rs 1,524.08 crore during 11th Five Year Plan period, benefiting over 10 lakh children, under the scheme.

But all these, it seems, have been of little use to bring about gender equality, especially in setting right the skewed sex ratio in the State. While the sex ratio in the 0-6 age group has

## Schemes, grants during 11th Plan

YEAR	NO SCHEMES	ALLOCATION
2007-08	236	Rs 16,832
2008-09	703	Rs 20,107
2009-10	789	Rs 22,436
2010-11	786	Rs 26,290
2011-12	804	Rs 30,561

NOTE: All figures in Rs crores



decreased from 946 in 2001 to 943 in 2011, the overall sex ratio has increased only marginally from 965 in 2011 to 968 in 2011.

"Though the State has taken many initiatives for empowerment and uplift of women and protection of children through the Five Year Plans, the results

are muted," the Economic Survey report stated.

A closer look at the implementation reveals that the government has not been able to achieve 100 per cent target with respect to a majority of these schemes. Except for Bhagyalakshmi, implementa-

tion of women-specific schemes is an average 60 per cent.

Prof R S Deshpande, Director of Institute of Social and Economic Change, said the government should aggressively implement the schemes. Implementation has been a problem because the process is institutionalised. Steps should be taken to make the schemes easily accessible, he said. The Economic Survey report suggested that the focus during 12th Five Year Plan should be on efficient implementation of programmes aimed at economic growth of women, while also deepening the reach and impact of social development programmes.

DH News Service

*Deccan herald, March 28, P.7*



# Bulk of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan funds spent on whitewashing

Aarti Dhar

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 68 per cent of the elementary schools in India spent a bulk of the funds received under the much talked about Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on whitewashing the buildings and another 69 per cent used some of the money to fund school events. Of the total budget, teachers accounted for the largest share at 44 per cent while the children received only 10 per cent.

On an average, about 90 per cent schools that received the money reported spending a bulk of their money on essential supplies, including whitewashing.

The latest PAISA 2011 report on tracking public expenditure on schools,

brought out by Accountability Initiative, suggests India's SSA budget (Centre and State share) has more than doubled between 2009-10 and 2011-12, up from Rs.26,169 crore to Rs.55,746 crore, as has the per child allocation, from Rs.2,004 in 2009-2011 to Rs.4,269 in 2011-12.

Releasing the report, Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai said it was time to review the SSA.

However, allocations to teachers (salaries, training and teaching inputs under the Teacher Learning Equipment) accounted for the largest share of the SSA budget. In 2011-12, teachers accounted for 44 per cent of the budget, school infrastructure accounted for the

second largest share with an allocation of 36 per cent, while children (entitlement and special programmes) accounted for 10 per cent.

There are variations in allocations across States. In 2011-12, Bihar allocated 32 per cent of its SSA budget to teachers, 51 per cent to school infrastructure, while Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan allocated 72 per cent and 74 per cent, respectively to teachers.

There are variations in outlays for States with allocations in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal doubling, while those for Haryana and Jharkhand rising minimally at 39 per cent and 30 per cent respectively.

The report "Do Schools Get Their Money?" is based

on the PAISA survey conducted through the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) that covered more than 14,000 schools across rural India in 2009, 2010 and 2011. As per the report, grant receipts to schools under the SSA improved from 77 per cent in 2008-08 to 84 per cent in 2009-2010, but declined marginally at 82 per cent in 2010-2011. There are some differences across grant type. In 2010-2011, 84 per cent schools reported receiving maintenance grant,

87 per cent received Teacher Learning Material grant and 77 per cent, the development grant

While schools get money, data suggests they don't always report receiving the entire entitlement. It is important to note that on close examination of the data there were cases where respondents had not indicated the types of grants and instead reported receipt of one consolidated figure, indicating the lack of awareness among the headmasters, the primary respondents of the survey.

Overall, the quantum of grants received in schools has improved. In 2008-09, 55 per cent schools reported receiving all three grants. This improved to 70 per cent in 2010-11. Here also, there were variations. Grant receipts in Rajasthan improved from 38 per cent schools that reported receiving all three grants in 2008-09 to 54 per cent. Himachal Pradesh also saw a significant improvement from 71 per cent schools receiving all three grants in 2008-09 to 90 per cent in 2010-11.

However, the report points out that increased outlays in elementary education have not led to improved outcomes. To

examine this in greater details, PAISA 2011 undertook a preliminary analysis of the links between per child expenditure under specific categories (teachers, school, children, quality) and learning outcomes. To do this, PAISA analysed per child ex-

penditure data for 2009-10 and ASER learning level data for 2010. This analysis pointed to a positive correlation between per child expenditure on quality and learning levels. "This correlation merits further analysis, especially because expenditure on quality is relatively low and is usually incurred towards the end of the financial year. Interestingly, PAISA did not find any correlation between the expenditure on teachers and

children's learning levels," the report said.

On progress on Right to Education (RTE) front, the report says there has not been much progress in compliance with various RTE-related norms. This is despite a 137 per cent increase in SSA infrastructure budget between 2009-10 and 2011-12. The proportion of schools with shortfall in the number teachers, classrooms, drinking water facilities, kitchen/shed, playground, complete boundary wall, a separate room for the headmaster has remained more or less unchanged between 2010 and 2011. However, there has been progress in provision of separate toilet for girls, and library books.

*Hinder,  
March 23, 2012*



# सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के लिए

## 1,770 करोड़

### मंजूर

#### हमारे प्रतिनिधि

चंडीगढ़, 27 मार्च। हरियाणा स्कूल शिक्षा परियोजना परिषद की कार्यकारी कमेटी ने आज वर्ष 2012-13 के लिए सर्वशिक्षा अभियान की वार्षिक कार्य योजना और लगभग 1770 करोड़ रुपये का बजट अनुमोदित किया। कमेटी ने प्रदेश के कस्तूरबा गांधी बालिका विद्यालयों में कार्यरत स्टाफ के वेतन को बढ़ाने को भी स्वीकृति प्रदान की गई। हरियाणा को मुख्य सचिव उर्वशी गुलाटी की अध्यक्षता में मंगलवार को यहाँ हुई सर्वशिक्षा अभियान की

अर्धी बैठक में यह स्वीकृति प्रदान की गई। अब इस योजना एवं बजट को केंद्रीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय को प्रेषित किया जाएगा। अनुमोदित योजना के तहत 21 नये प्राथमिक स्कूल खोले जाने का प्रस्ताव है और 23 प्राथमिक स्कूलों को अपर प्राथमिक स्कूल बनाया जाएगा।

इस कार्य के लिए कुल 2.25 करोड़ रुपये का बजट प्रस्तावित है। नए प्राथमिक स्कूल भिवानी, फतेहाबाद, गुड़गांव, झज्जर, करनाल व पलवल जिलों में खोले जाएंगे जबकि फरीदाबाद, गुड़गांव, हिसार, जींद, कैथल, करनाल, पलवल, सिरसा व सोनीपत जिलों के 23 प्राथमिक स्कूलों को अपर प्राथमिक स्कूल के रूप में अपग्रेड किया जाएगा। लड़कियों के लिए प्राथमिक स्तर की शिक्षा के राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम के लिए 10.43 करोड़ रुपये अनुमोदित किए गए हैं। शिक्षकों के वेतन के लिए 402 करोड़ रुपये, कलस्टर संसाधन केंद्र के लिए 4.35 करोड़ रुपये और खंड संसाधन केंद्र के लिए 74 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए गए हैं।

बैठक में सिविल कार्यों के लिए कुल 576.74 करोड़ रुपये का बजट निर्धारित किया

गया है। यह प्रस्तावित बजट का लगभग 32 प्रतिशत है। स्कूल नहीं जाने वाले बच्चों के लिए 36 करोड़ रुपये की राशि और 21.16 लाख बच्चों को मुफ्त पाठ्य पुस्तकें उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए 38.87 करोड़ रुपये निर्धारित किए गए हैं। कम्प्यूटर आधारित अध्ययन, बच्चों का शैशवकाल में देखभाल एवं शिक्षा, लड़कियों

की शिक्षा, अनुसूचित जाति के बच्चों, अल्प संख्यक बाहुल्य क्षेत्रों के लिए 25 करोड़ रुपये की राशि स्वीकृत की गई है।

विशेष आवश्यकताओं वाले 37621 बच्चों के लिए 11.29 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए गए हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, 11.13 करोड़ रुपये का रखरखाव अनुदान और 15014 स्कूलों के लिए

8.62 करोड़ रुपये का स्कूल अनुदान अनुमोदित किया गया है। लगभग 32578 प्राथमिक और 36004 अपर प्राथमिक शिक्षकों के लिए 500 रुपये प्रति शिक्षक की दर से शिक्षक अनुदान अनुमोदित किया गया है और इसको कुल राशि 3.43 करोड़ रुपये है। शिक्षा प्रशिक्षण के लिए 33.76 करोड़ रुपये और विद्यार्थियों को वर्दियां उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए 64.20 करोड़ रुपये रखे गये हैं। अनुसंधान एवं मूल्यांकन के लिए 2.25 करोड़ रुपये और ग्रामीण शिक्षा कमेटी के सदस्यों को प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए 2.70 करोड़ रुपये का बजट स्वीकृत किया गया है। कस्तूरबा गांधी बालिका विद्यालयों के लिए कुल 24.65 करोड़ रुपये का बजट अनुमोदित किया गया है। आसपास स्कूल की सुविधा न उपलब्ध होने के कारण शहरी एवं पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के बच्चों को लाने-ले जाने की सुविधा उपलब्ध करवाने के लिए कुल 3.40 करोड़ रुपये का बजट

अनुमोदित है।

सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के मानदंडों के अनुसार प्राथमिक स्कूलों का दर्जा बढ़ाकर उन्हें अपर प्राथमिक स्कूल बनाने के लिए शिक्षक अध्यापन उपकरण अनुदान प्रदान किया गया है।

*Dainik tribune,  
March 28, P.7*

## No budgeting for health

**T**he absence of significant statements of intent or noteworthy financial outlays on health in the Union budget is glaring, given that these are the two identified priorities for the Twelfth Plan starting this year. Both these sectors need inspiring governmental leadership to realise the demographic dividend from a young population. On healthcare, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee announced only an incremental increase of about Rs. 2,700 crore in the allocation for the National Rural Health Mission. He referred to the planned launch of a National Urban Health Mission and improvements to some government medical colleges for better tertiary care. This is all very welcome, but none of these measures up to the scale and scope of the reform proposals now before the Planning Commission, seeking to provide a certain level of guaranteed, tax-funded Universal Healthcare (UHC) to all Indians through public and private hospitals. It must be emphasised that this issue, along with education, deserves the same level of commitment from government as Defence. In his speech, the Finance Minister said the outlay of Rs. 1.93 lakh crore for Defence Services was based on present needs, and any further requirement would be met. The approach to healthcare during the Twelfth Plan should be no different. If State governments join the effort, as indeed they should, a suitable taxation regime by the end of the Plan can make UHC self-sustaining.

Significant government support would be required to make progress on a National Health Package offering free treatment under UHC. Several tasks have to be accomplished in parallel. These include creation of trained public health cadres, setting up of a National Health Regulatory and Development Authority to evolve norms for treatment, costs and so on, and developing an Information Technology platform to administer the massive enterprise. The challenge to achieve quality and access is staggering. The global average of hospital beds to population is 2.9 per thousand, but India has 0.9 beds. If there is a focus on preventive care, a lower ratio of 2 per thousand would be able to meet the national requirement by 2022, estimates say. But what is particularly worrying is that half of the beds now available in government facilities are listed as "non-functional", along with 30 per cent in the private sector. It must also be pointed out that rural citizens have shockingly low levels of hospital bed access, especially in central India, compared to urban counterparts. Evidently, it will take a Herculean effort over the next five years to create a foundation for UHC. The finalised Plan and the financial outlays will reveal whether a revolution is on the anvil.

*Hindu, March 21, p.12*



## Meagre hike for feeding malnourished kids criticised

**BANGALORE:** To address the rising malnutrition cases in the State, the government may increase the allocation for each child by Rs 2 under the Integrated Child Development Scheme in the upcoming budget.

However, the civil society and those actively involved in campaigning against malnutrition have slammed the meagre hike, which is said to be based on unscientific grounds.

Addressing the media, the Forum to End Malnutrition has said that despite repeated suggestions to the government to develop a scientific model to address the situation of malnutrition, the government has

failed to understand the issue.

"Increasing the allocation by Rs 2 per child is not the answer. What needs to be understood is that the needs of each child between the age group of 6 months to five years is different. The government needs to deploy a scientific methodology in addressing the concerns of each child in each age group," said Matthew Phillip, Executive Director of Sichrem.

The forum alleged that the government lacked political will to address the problem.

Quoting the recent government re-survey of malnourished children in Raichur, Y Mariswamy, State Organiser of

Samajika Parivarthana Janandolana, said records show nearly a 50 per cent increase in the number of malnutrition cases among children.

"When the first survey was conducted in September last year, the number of cases recorded in Raichur was 4,531. It has now gone up to 8,397 in the re-survey conducted by the government. It is a slap on the face of the government," he said.

### Lokayukta raids

Lauding the efforts of the Lokayukta in conducting raids on the officials of the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), the forum demanded the government to act by arresting all the accused. The Lokayukta had raided three officials, including IAS officer Shamla Iqbal, under the suspicion that they had received kickbacks from Christy Fried Grams Industry for awarding them the contract to supply food packets to children in the anganwadis across the State.

DH News Service

*Ducan herald,  
March 21, 12*

### महिला व बच्चों के विकास पर 1673 करोड़ खर्च

चंडीगढ़, 19 मार्च (हप्र)। हरियाणा सरकार ने महिला एवं बाल विकास से संबंधित कल्याणकारी योजनाओं पर वर्ष 2005 से अब तक 1673.43 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किए हैं। महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री गीता भुक्कल ने बताया कि महिला एवं बाल विकास के लिए विभिन्न कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को लागू करने के लिए सरकार पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध है। वर्ष 2012-13 के लिए विभाग का बजट बढ़ाकर 542.62 करोड़ रुपये किया गया है। यह राज्य में महिला एवं बाल विकास को अधिक गति प्रदान करेगा।

*Dainik Tribune,  
March 20, 12*

# 5.3 per cent share for children in Budget

Aarti Dhar

**NEW DELHI:** As much as 5.3 per cent of the Union Budget for 2012-13 is Budget for Children (BfC) with an increase of 0.3 per cent since 2011-12. This must be set against the inflation rate of 6.6 per cent.

The increase can be attributed to the increased allocation in the development sector by 66.2 per cent and health by 29.7 per cent. However, as always, the share of the protection sector remains the lowest, an analysis of the budget for children's component by HAQ, a child rights group, suggests.

Despite the recognition of protection of children in the 11th Five Year Plan and reaffirmation in the Working Group Report of the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the 12th Plan, there is an 18 per cent decline in allocation from 2011-12.

The education sector, too, has seen a decline of 0.1 per cent over last year's share — this when over half of India's children are either not attending school or dropping out before class eight.

It, however, still remains the most resourced sector in the budget for children, with 3.6 per cent share of the Budget and 67 per cent of the allo-

cations for children's component going to it, the HAQ has said.

Following the recommendations of the Prime Minister's National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges, the attention given to malnutrition and the introduction of the multi-sectoral programme to address maternal and child malnutrition in selected 200 high-burden districts was a very important step given that 46 per cent of our children suffer from malnutrition. However, one wonders where the additional allocations are to back this promise.

While attention to urban health through the National Urban Health Mission to meet the primary healthcare needs of people in the urban areas is an important step, there is no budget line to match this good intent, the analysis points out.

The fall in the share of the protection sector is disappointing, since after its recognition the 11th Plan, there had been a consistent increase in allocation for this sector, however small it may have been.

There is a 64.6 per cent increase in the allocation for the Integrated Child Protection Scheme from Rs. 186.40

crore to Rs. 400 crore. This is important when several States are yet to implement the programme even as the 11th Plan came to a close.

Given the government's promises to pay attention to streamlining adoptions in the country, HAQ's analysis points out that the 74.6 per

cent decrease in allocation for the Central Adoption Resource Agency is indeed disappointing. The decision comes at a time when large-scale trafficking in children for adoption is an established fact and there is an urgent need for stringent regulation in this field.

The overall increase by 66.2 per cent in the development sector is largely due to the 71.6 per cent increase in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). However, the ICDS programme has largely bypassed children with disabilities and Dalit and minority

groups.

The 29.7 per cent increase in health sector allocation has been welcomed as earlier allocations have been really low.

The increase can be traced to the 223 per cent increase in the manufacture of serum and vaccine.

*Hindu, March 18, 15*



# Art to raise funds for musahar kids

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The impoverished musahar community in Bihar can now hope for a better future. For long, the community has lived below the poverty line with no skills to earn a livelihood. However, of late, musahars have started sending their children to school in Patna. Thanks to Shoshit Seva Sangh (SSS) that runs a residential school in Patna only for the musahar (rat-eater) community, its children are now becoming literate. They have started speaking in English and are developing a strong value system.

The NGO has been functioning from a rented place for the past five years, and is now making efforts to have a campus of its own. Though it has already bought two-acre land in Patna for Rs 2.5 crore, the residential building will cost Rs 7 crore more.

The group organized a preview of 50 sketches by Indian artist Francis Newton Souza in the city on Wednesday evening. These sketches will be up for sale to raise funds for the community. The sketches, costing Rs 3-4 lakh each, were donated to SSS by art critic K B Goel. "This is our attempt to raise money to build a residential school with all modern facilities. We have planned to create infrastructure for 500 children in the first phase though our objective is to accommodate at least 1,000 musahar children in the school," Jyoti Sinha, founder of the school — Shoshit Samadhan Kendra — said. The

school, which started with just four children in 2007, now educates 287 children from the musahar community residing in different parts of Bihar.

A former IPS officer, Sinha took up the challenge to educate musahar children so that they can act as catalysts of change in the coming years. "Musahars usually work as landless agricultural labourers. The literacy rate in the community is less than 3%. There are four million musahars in Bihar. They live in ghettos outside villages as they are not allowed to reside in the same areas as other communities," Sinha explained. He recalled how the group reached out to different ghettos in various hamlets of Bihar to bring children to the school.

"We faced resistance initially, but things changed as the word spread. Now, hundreds of parents turn up for admission of their children during October-November every year. He proudly added that four children in the school are currently taking the CBSE Class X exams. "They were promoted as they performed really well," Sinha said.

"We do send the children back twice a year so that they are not disconnected with their families. It's heartening to see they are usually not. Once a student went back home only to find his father drinking alcohol every evening. He told him to stop if he wanted that he should stay back. Soon he quit drinking. That's the kind of change these children will make," beamed Sinha.

*Times of India,  
March 16, P 9*

## Education budget rises by 18%

**NEW DELHI:** Finance minister Pranab Mukherjee has allocated ₹61,427 crore for education in his budget — 18% more than last year's ₹52,057 crore.

Of this, ₹45,969 crore has been earmarked for school education and literacy while ₹15,458 crore has been allocated for higher education.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal told HT: "It is commendable that the

finance minister has continued to invest in education in a difficult year like this. This is the surest road to empowerment."

The allocation to implement the Right To Education (RTE) Act for children between 6 and 14 years was hiked by 21.7%.

"The RTE Act is being implemented with effect from April 1, 2010 through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and we propose to increase the allocation to ₹25,555 crore," Mukherjee

told Lok Sabha.

Lauding the role of mid-day meals in enhancing enrolment, retention, attendance and improving the nutrition levels among children, the minister said the budget for the scheme was being hiked from ₹10,380 crore to ₹11,937 crore — an increase of 15%.

Underlining the pivotal role played by the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan in improving secondary educa-

tion, Mukherjee said ₹3,124 crore had been allocated for it — nearly 29% higher than last year.

Stressing on the need to set up model schools at block levels, he said in the 12th Plan, there was a proposal to build 6,000 such schools. "Of these, 2,500 will be set up under Public Private Partnership," he said.

To improve the flow of credit to deserving students, a credit guarantee fund would also be set up, he added.

*Hindus Jan times,  
March 17, P 17*



## EDUCATION SEES 18%

# INCREASE IN FUNDING

India on Friday proposed an almost 10% increase in the education budget to ₹61,407 crore for the fiscal starting on 1 April amid increasing concerns that the country risks losing its competitive edge because of a perceived drop in the quality of education.

The amount proposed in finance minister Pranab Mukherjee's budget speech in Parliament compares with an allocation of ₹52,060 crore for education in the current fiscal year.

School education, with a student base of more than 220 million, received the maximum focus with the outlay for fiscal 2013 pegged at ₹45,969 crore.

In the previous budget, the government had allocated some ₹38,957 crore for the segment. Higher education received an outlay of ₹15,438 crore, up from ₹13,103 crore.

The latest budget follows increasing concerns over the quality of India's education system. Three recent reports have highlighted drawbacks in the education system, sparking worries that India's long-term competitiveness is at risk of being eroded.

The 2011 Annual Status of Education Report, compiled by Pratham, an educational non-profit organization, had found that less than one in two class V students are able to read class II level texts.

The Quality Education Survey by Wipro Ltd and Educational Initiatives, an education assessment firm, found that high-end schools in metros lacked quality parameters and largely depended on rote learning.

A study by the Programme for International Student Assessment found that out of 74 countries, Indian school students at the higher secondary level ranked almost at the bottom, with only Kyrgyzstan faring worse than India.

"The increase in budgetary allocations for school education...is a very welcome step," said Shiv Nadar, chairman of HCL Technologies Ltd and Shiv Nadar Foundation, a non-profit that's active in education.

Yet, spending more money on education doesn't necessarily translate into better outcomes, said some critics.

"More allocation does not guarantee better quality in education as the government's policies are confusing and implementation record is poor," said Pramod Maheshwari, chief executive officer of CareerPoint Ltd, an education company.

The budget has done little to boost private investment in education, he complained. It has hiked the service tax from 10% to 12% for supplementary education providers like tutorial and training schools, potentially making such services more expensive for students, Maheshwari said.

In the next fiscal, of the total school education outlay, the government pro-

poses to spend some ₹25,555 crore for implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act that promises compulsory education to all children in the 6-14 age group.

However, it may not be sufficient because the requirement is some ₹10,000 crore more than the proposed allocation. According to the ministry of human resource development estimate, the central government needs to spend some ₹35,000 crore annually for smooth implementation of RTE.

Another key allocation is ₹11,937 crore for mid-day meals, a scheme that aims to attract students to elementary schools by providing them food.

Mukherjee set aside ₹3,124 crore for the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, a scheme for promoting second-

ary education. Under this programme, the government plans to open some 6,000 model schools, including 2,500 in collaboration with the private sector, during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17) beginning in April.

"The model school proposal seems exciting as it gives a policy direction on private participation," said Sanjiv Mansotra, chairman of education technology firm Core Education Ltd. "We look forward to the PPP (public-private partnership) schools."

Mukherjee, in his speech, said the

government wants to open two credit-guarantee funds—one facilitating hassle-free loans for poor students wanting to pursue higher education, and another for equipping students with job skills.

The budget proposed an outlay of ₹1,000 crore for the National Skill Development Fund to bridge the so-called education-employability mismatch amid complaints by many employers that students graduating from colleges were not job-ready.

Of the total outlay in the higher education sector, the budget set aside ₹800 crore for providing an interest subsidy to students who take study loans provided their annual family income is less than ₹4.5 lakh.

Shares of listed education companies fell on Friday as investors who had been expecting policy guidelines for turning education into a for-profit sector from a not-for-profit activity were disappointed.

Career Point stock ended the day's trading at ₹190, down 7.6% on the National Stock Exchange.

Shares of Educomp Solutions Ltd, Zee Learn Ltd, Edserv Softsystems Ltd, Everonn Education Ltd and Tree House Education dropped between 3.74% and 6%. The benchmark Sensex lost 1.07% to end at 17,486.62 points on Friday.

Mint, March 17, p. 26



# Education quality down on poor funds utilization

**Report prepared by Accountability Initiative also finds fund flow to schools slowed in the first half of 2010-11**

BY PRASHANT K. NANDA  
prashant.n@livemint.com

NEW DELHI

Poor utilization of funds and irregular disbursements have been cited as the reasons for India's school education system failing to show desired improvement even as the government has more than doubled funds for education programmes in the past two years.

The government has spent just 70% of the funds allocated for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (education for all) and Right to Education in 2010-11 compared with 78% in the year earlier, according to the *Planning, Allocations and Expenditures, Institutions: Studies in Accountability* report, prepared by the Accountability Initiative, a wing of Centre for Policy Research.

The report, which surveyed 14,283 schools in rural India, found that flow of funds had slowed in the first half of 2010-11. "The timing of the grant receipts has worsened. By November 2009, 59% of schools reported receiving grants. In 2011, grants receipt by November dropped to 53%."

In the national budget for the year starting 1 April, finance minister Pranab Mukherjee increased the allocation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Right to Education by

21.7% to ₹25,555 crore. The government is increasing spending on education to help prepare the youth to join the workforce and contribute to the economic growth of Asia's third biggest economy.

Funds, including allocations by states, for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has more than doubled between 2009-10 and 2011-12. The allocation increased from ₹26,169 crore to ₹55,746 crore, according to the Accountability Initiative report.

Studies have indicated that the quality of India's school education is declining and such a trend can affect the long-term competitiveness of an economy that aims to become the knowledge hub of the world.

"An increased financial allocation does not necessarily mean better quality of education," said Yamini Aiyar, director of Accountability Initiatives. "We did not find this in our survey. The utilization of resources is a huge concern."

Only 84% of the schools received maintenance grants in 2010-11 under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan compared with 85% a year earlier, the study said. Similarly, development grants reached just 77% of the schools during the same period, a drop of six percentage points from the previous year.

Meanwhile, the human resources development (HRD) ministry held a meeting on Tuesday to assess the outcome of the implementation of the right to education in the past 18 months.

HRD minister Kapil Sibal said the impact of the spending will be visible in five years. "The success of the Right to

Education can be achieved through partnership between the Centre and state governments, civil society, parents and teachers," a ministry statement said, citing Sibal. "He also underlined the need for curriculum and text books reform as it is seen that books are not always age appropriate."

Enrolment at elementary level has increased to 192.8 million in 2010-11 from 179 million in 2006-07, according to the ministry. The total number of teachers in government schools have increased to 4.19 million in 2010-11 from 3.6 million in 2006-07, improving the teacher-student ratio, it said. Following the implementation of the right to education, there has been a "substantial increase in the availability of basic facilities in schools, including increase in percentage of schools having drinking water facility (92.6%) in 2010-11, according to HRD ministry. Separate toilets for girl students are now available in 57% of schools, the ministry said.

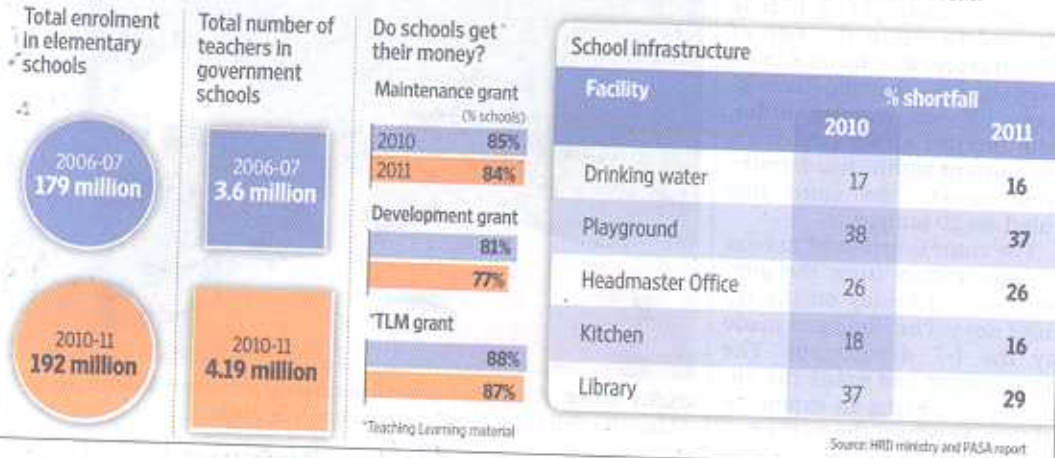
The Accountability Initiative report said there was some improvement in school infrastructure but 47% of schools still have fewer classrooms than required.

On the issue of the poor management of funds allocated for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Right to Education programmes, a ministry official said that "they are aware of the situation and talking to states to iron out the issues". The official, who declined to be named, said fiscal prudence is one of their key focus now and in coming years one can "see the difference."

Mint, March 21, p. 4

## REPORT CARD

Enrolment at elementary level has increased to 192.8 million in 2010-11 from 179 million in 2006-07. The total number of teachers in government schools have increased to 4.19 million in 2010-11 from 3.6 million in 2006-07, improving the teacher-student ratio.



## SURVEY FINDINGS

# Rs 89 crore set aside to draw women to careers in science

**NEW DELHI:** The government will spend more to ensure women participation in the field of science and technology. The government has allocated about Rs 89 crore to encourage them to opt for career in the field. This allocation was only 40 crore in the fiscal year 2011-12. Out of the 89 crore allocated for the next year, 49 crore is to go for the Disha program for women in science.

In general, women related programs will have an increased allocation of funds this year compared to what they had received last year. Though, the overall increase remained at 1.5 per cent with regard to

all the women oriented programs, for 100 per cent women specific programs it goes up to 12 per cent.

The Budget presented by the finance minister on Friday shows increase of expenditure from over 20,496 crore in 2011-12 to over 22,968 crore in 2012-13 for women specific programs.

The programs which are 30 per cent women specific witness an increase from 56,449 crore in the last financial year to 65,173 crore in 2012-2013.

A major part of the fund given for women is to be spent on the programs related to health and family welfare. About

9,084 crore is to be spent on these programs.

More than 50 per cent of this amount will go to reproductive and child health care. Rural Family Welfare Service will be another program with priority on which about 4,031 crore is to be spent.

After health, education is to be the priority. About 610 crore has been allocated for school education, of which 450 crore is to be spent on building hostels for girls studying in secondary and higher secondary schools. An amount of 100 crore is to be spent on women's hostel in Polytechnic.

**DH News Service**

*Deccan Herald, March 17, P.6*



# HEALTH SECTOR ALLOCATION UP 22%

The only major gain under inclusive development is for the Integrated Child Development Services scheme

BY VIDYA KRISHNAN & ANUJA

NEW DELHI

Those waiting for social reforms and inclusiveness were left disappointed, as finance minister Pranab Mukherjee's increase in funds in the national budget left no room for radical changes.

Although budgetary allocation for health was raised by as much as 21.5% to ₹30,702 crore and for social justice and empowerment by 15% to ₹6,008.30 crore, public health experts said these will be insufficient for the reforms promised by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The finance minister also announced the launch of the National Urban Health Mission, but made no budgetary allocation for it. The project has been in the backburner since 2008.

The only major gain under inclusive development was to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, for which budgetary allocation was raised by 58% to ₹15,850 crore.

The lack of focus or priority in the policies on inclusiveness in the budget was a big concern, an expert said.

"There is no effort for inclusiveness in the budget, besides the focus on ICDS," said A.K. Shiva Kumar, development economist and member of the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council (NAC), which sets the government's social agenda.

On the launch of the health mission, he said connecting health for urban poor to the im-

provement of seven medical colleges was myopic. The mission focuses on curative health than on preventive and primary healthcare, he added.

"We will have to wait for the 12th Five-Year Plan (which begins on 1 April) before drawing conclusions," Shiva Kumar said. "There is a lack of clarity but there is commitment to the health sector."

As a part of inclusive development, although Mukherjee has increased allocation to welfare programmes for scheduled castes and tribes, experts termed it a mere lip service in view of the major reforms that are required.

"In a situation where you talk about inclusive development, these two sectors—scheduled castes and tribals—are the most crucial ones," said Tanweer Fazal, assistant professor at the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Milla Islamia University. "The increase in budgetary allocation for the next financial year would not be able to bring about any substantial change in the minority population, a group which should get priority in inclusiveness."

The budget raised allocation by 37% to ₹8,447 crore to the National Social Assistance Programme, a centrally-sponsored welfare scheme that provides pensions to widows, old people and disabled people living under the poverty line, besides other benefits.

Mukherjee in his budget speech said malnutrition needs decisive intervention if India were to attain "faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth" during the 12th Plan period that ends March 2017. He announced a multi-sectoral scheme to address maternal and child malnutrition in 200 districts.

But there was no clear road map on how malnutrition will be addressed, said Thomas Chandy, chief executive of Save the Children, a non-profit organization.

"The funding is highly inadequate. Despite mentioning malnutrition as a thrust area, there is no coherent move. A reduction of custom duty on soya was announced, which is not going to solve the problem," he said. "The Planning Commission's working group had estimated the need for ICDS to be ₹1.83 lakh crore over five years, or over ₹36,000 crore per year, which means that India's children need further and a more substantial increase in the budgets in the coming years."

Chandy also criticized the proposal of a ₹5,000 exemption for preventive health check-ups, as only private hospitals will gain from it. "Health check-ups is an urban trend and does not benefit the majority," he said. "There is no focus on the urban poor or people living below the poverty line in this regard."

## SNAPSHOT

### Disappointments

- Launch of National Urban Health Mission; no budgetary allocation; would be counterproductive if funds are taken from National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
- Marginal increase in budgetary allocation across the board for health, water, sanitation, mid-meal schemes, etc; no room for reforms
- Tax incentive for private hospitals with deduction of up to ₹5,000 for preventive health check-up; private hospitals will benefit
- Upgrade of seven medical colleges for the urban poor; unlikely to benefit the poor as there is no focus on primary and preventive healthcare

### Allocations

- 58% increase in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) funding
- NRHM increased by 14.9%
- Scheduled caste/scheduled tribe sub-plan increased by 18%
- Tribal increased by 17.6%
- Rural drinking water and sanitation increased by 27% (from ₹11,000 crore in 2011-12 to ₹14,000 crore)
- Right to Education (RTE) ₹25,555 crore allocated for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, an increase of 21.7%

Source: Budget documents

YOGESH KUMAR/MINT

*Hint, March 17, p. 24*



# No free drugs, but 50% hike in allocation for ICDS

*Six life-saving drugs get full exemption from excise duty, big chunk for NHRM*

**H**OPES OF a commitment from the Finance Minister on universal healthcare in his budget speech came to a naught when Pranab Mukherjee's health sector announcements were limited to a vaccine unit, salary hike for accredited social health activists (ASHAs), announcement of urban health mission without any financial commitment, and seven more AI-IMS-like institutes even as the six announced earlier hang fire. The

much hyped scheme to provide free drugs at all public health facilities did not find a mention either.

The high point of social sector spending was a 50 per cent jump in the allocation for the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), from Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 15,850 crore. The total allocation for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare went up by 13 per cent from Rs 26,760 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 30,477 crore, of which Rs 20,822 crore — up 15 per cent since last year — is for the NHRM.

Six life saving drugs/vaccines have been given full exemption from excise duty/countervailing duty. These are raltegravir potassium for HIV, rotavirus vaccine, live oral pentavalent, pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine for thalassaemia and cancer, posaconazole oral suspension for life-threatening fungal infections, temsirolimus concentrate for infusion for injection for renal cell carcinoma, and natalizumab for multiple sclerosis.

To fight malnutrition, Mukherjee reiterated the decision of the PM's National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges to address the issues of nutrition, sanitation, women's education through a multi-sectoral programme.

RAVI KANOJIA



## WHAT'S NEW

₹570 CRORE integrated vaccine manufacturing complex of HLL at Chengalpattu

*Indian Express -  
March 17, p. 9*

# 19% increase for education sector

**T**HE education sector has attracted a near 19 per cent hike in its budgetary allocation, and it is schools and flagship projects that continue to retain top focus. A 22 per cent hike has been announced for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, while that for the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is 29 per cent. Both programmes focus on increasing enrolments in schools.

A total of Rs 61,427 has been allocated for the education sector in Budget 2012-13, with Rs 15,458 crore earmarked for higher education and Rs 45,969 for school education. The 19 per cent hike, however, is nowhere close to what the Ministry of Human Resource De-

velopment (HRD) had originally demanded — near Rs 30,000 crore for higher education and Rs 85,000 crore for school education.

From the Rs 61,427 allocated, it is implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act that corners the lion's share — Rs 25,555 crore has been sanctioned for the SSA, which operates as a financing channel for RTE. SSA allocation, in fact, is up by nearly 40 per cent from the Rs 15,000 crore it was given in 2010-11.

Rs 11,937 crore will go to the Mid Day Meal scheme, which is credited with pushing up enrolment in primary schools, and Rs 3,124 crore will be pumped into the RMSA, which seeks to expand access and increase enrolment in secondary education.

**CREDIT GUARANTEE FUND** to facilitate student loans and a scholarship scheme for needy students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes studying in Class IX and X. There are about 40 lakh such students

Rs 1,080 crore has been set aside for setting up of 6,000 model schools in educationally backward blocks.

The government refrained from announcing any major new programme or scheme for education. A Rs 15,000 crore budget for higher education, to be shared by IITs, IIMs, NITs, IISERs and Central universities, as it leaves any scope for new projects in the higher education sector.

*Indian Express -  
March 17, p. 9*



# बेहतर स्वास्थ्य के लिए खर्च बढ़ाएगी सरकार

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

## सकारात्मक कदम

देश में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बेहतर बनाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार ने स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में आवंटन को बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है। सरकार अगले पांच साल में स्वास्थ्य पर होने वाले खर्च को सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) का ढाई प्रतिशत तक बढ़ाना चाहती है। अभी भारत में जीडीपी का सिर्फ 1.4 फीसदी ही स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं पर खर्च किया जाता है।

प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह की अध्यक्षता में हुई एक उच्चस्तरीय बैठक में तय किया गया कि सरकार योजना आयोग से आवंटन बढ़ाने का आग्रह करेगी। बैठक में यह सुझाव भी दिया गया कि आयोग स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के लिए अधिक धन आवंटन करने के लिए राज्यों को बढ़ावा देने के उपाय करे। इसके लिए आयोग स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर एक उपयुक्त प्रणाली भी तैयार कर सकता है।

मनमोहन सिंह ने 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में अधिक आवंटन पर जोर देते हुए कहा कि स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र के लिए धन की कोई तंगी नहीं होगी लेकिन इसके लिए केंद्र और राज्यों के स्तर पर उपयुक्त क्षमता का निर्माण होना चाहिए। ताकि, आवंटन

- सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 2.5 प्रतिशत किया जाएगा खर्च
- अस्पतालों में मिलेगी मुफ्त दवाएं, नए हॉस्पिटल बनेंगे

का बेहतर ढंग से इस्तेमाल किया जा सके। सरकार राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (एनएचआरएम) के तहत स्वास्थ्य देखभाल के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने का काम कर रहा है।

इसके लिए स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय एक केंद्रीय खरीद एजेंसी स्थापित करने का काम कर रहा है। ताकि, लोगों के मुफ्त दवाएं मुहैया कराई जा सके।

केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल पहले ही खरीद एजेंसी की स्थापना को मंजूरी दे चुका है। केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को स्वास्थ्य मिशन से जुड़ी सभी योजनाओं का विलय करने के लिए एक कार्ययोजना बनाने की हिदायत दी गई है। अगले वित्त वर्ष से विलय का काम शुरू हो जाएगा और 2013-14 तक इसे पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों को मजबूत बनाने के लिए सामुदायिक केंद्रों व जिला अस्पतालों में नकदीरहित बेहतर सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए भी कहा गया है।

*Hindus Jan,  
March 1, P.12*

## कन्यादान के लिए अब पंद्रह हजार

भोपाल, मुख्यमंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने अपने जन्मदिन पर बेटियों को तीहफा देते हुए मुख्यमंत्री कन्यादान योजना और निकाह की राशि दस हजार रुपए से बढ़ाकर पंद्रह हजार रुपए कर दी। रवींद्र भवन में लाइली लक्ष्मी, जननी सुरक्षा और कन्यादान योजना प्रकोष्ठ के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने यह घोषणा की। उन्होंने इस अवसर पर महिलाओं को बेटियों के साथ भेदभाव न करने का संकल्प दिलाया और

महिलाओं को आर्थिक रूप से समृद्ध करने के लिए स्वसहायता समूह को आंदोलन के रूप में चलाने की घोषणा की। प्रदेश भाजपा अध्यक्ष प्रभात झा ने भी संबोधन दिया। इस अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री की पत्नी साधना सिंह, पूर्व सर संघ चालक केएस सुदर्शन, भाजपा के संगठन महामंत्री अरविंद मेनन, महामंत्री नंदकुमार सिंह चौहान, पार्टी नेता सरिता देशपांडे, राज्य मंत्री रंजना बघेल, महापौर कृष्णा गौर आदि उपस्थित थे।

*Rajas Chan Patrika, March 7, P.12*

# By 2017, India's health sector outlay will be 2.5% of GDP

Resisting pressures to cut down expenditures on social sectors ahead of the Union Budget, the central government on Wednesday decided to give a boost to health sector, deciding to increase the outlay from 1.48% to 2.5% of the GDP by 2017, the end of the 12th Plan. The planned incentives include a minimum health care package to all citizens, free medicine and a dedicated health cadre attend to the health of nation.

A high-level meeting at the Prime Minister's Office headed by the principal secretary Pulok Chatterjee including top officials from the ministries of health, finance and planning commission took stock of the implementation of recommendations of the National

Commission for Macroeconomics & Health and the High Level Expert Group.

Realising that a young and healthy population was an asset for the country, the officials emphasised the need to create adequate capacity at the centre and the states to meaningfully absorb the increased outlays.

The Planning Commission was requested to allocate resources to achieve the target and also to motivate and incentivise the states to allocate more funds for the health sector. "For this purpose the Planning Commission in consulta-

tion with the health ministry will also work out an appropriate mechanism and scheme for this purpose," said an official, who was part of the meeting.

The health ministry officials said they were working towards the goal of universal health care. The ministry was told to focus on a new initiative of providing free medicine through public health facilities under the National Rural Health Mission. The cabinet has already approved the setting up of a Central Procurement Agency for bulk procurement of drugs. The ministry was told to set up the CPA ear-

ly and prepare Standard Treatment Protocols.

The high-level meeting also decided to provide a minimum package of care to all citizens through provision of

casiness, hassle free outpatient, inpatient and diagnostic care and supply of essential medicines. Ambulance services will be strengthened to provide access to health services to far off and inaccessible areas.

Further, in order to focus on prevention of disease and promotion of good health, it was decided to prepare an approach paper for induction of health managers and creation of a public health cadre. The health ministry was also told to prepare a clear roadmap to merge all the NRHM schemes under one umbrella.

## Social sector hike to be nominal

**Kakoly Chatterjee** ■ NEW DELHI

With fiscal deficit looming large in certain sectors and pet projects of the government taking a hit, the social sectors may get a hike in absolute terms but in effect it will be just about to counter inflation.

**get  
alk**

This means enough provisions will be made in the forthcoming budget to continue running the schemes that are under education, health, water supply and sanitation, scheduled castes and tribes, minorities, food security, a pet project of the ruling party, could undergo certain changes and has challenges in terms of cost. Even if around

700 mn of the total population is included instead 1.2 bn the total cost of the scheme could go up to Rs1,10,000 in 2011-12 as compared to Rs55,578 crore during 2010-11. The price at which the food would be available is going to vary with every category which means it involves an elaborate process to identify the categories and implement accordingly which is a major challenge.

Senior economist of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Praveen Jha said, "since the government is very keen on the food bill, it will try to ensure more allocation here and as a result it may have to put a cap on higher allocations for other sectors including the social sector."

Jha said there is not much

to expect for the social sector from the government during this budget because since this is not an election year, it is not likely to stretch itself too much this time.

Moreover, while attempting to tackle the fiscal deficit, the social sector may be hit in terms of allocation. One of the major challenges of implementing the food security bill is also the cost factor involved. However, experts point out that if India decides to reduce exemptions by around 20% then the cost of implementing the scheme can be covered.

In a scenario where the whole population is covered, the cost could go up further but it is unlikely that this will happen right now.

D.N.A,  
March 1, 19

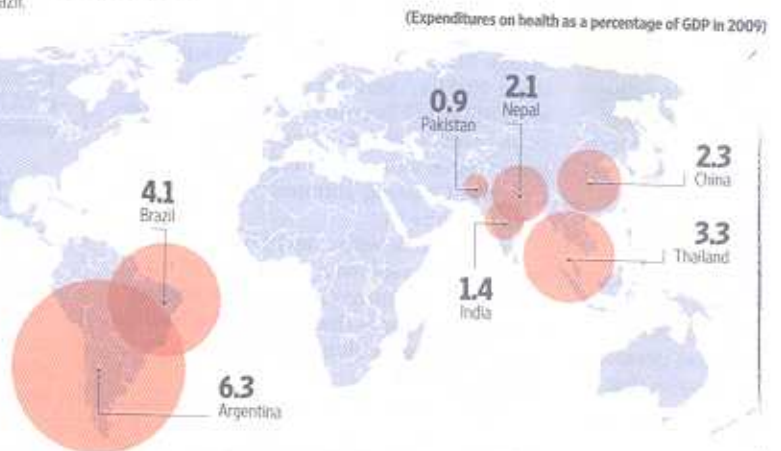


# EXPENDITURE HURDLES FOR NRHM

More than seven years after the government launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), public health results are spotty. While allocations for health have more than tripled since 2005-06, spending on health and family welfare, as a proportion of the government's total expenditure, has only marginally increased from 1.89% to 2.03% in 2010-11. This is extremely low, both in absolute terms and compared with many other developing countries. Lack of doctors and specialists also remains a serious problem. A review of data collected by the Accountability Initiative, Centre for Policy Research, in Delhi analyses spending in public health trends. This is the last of a four-part series leading up to the Union budget on 16 March.

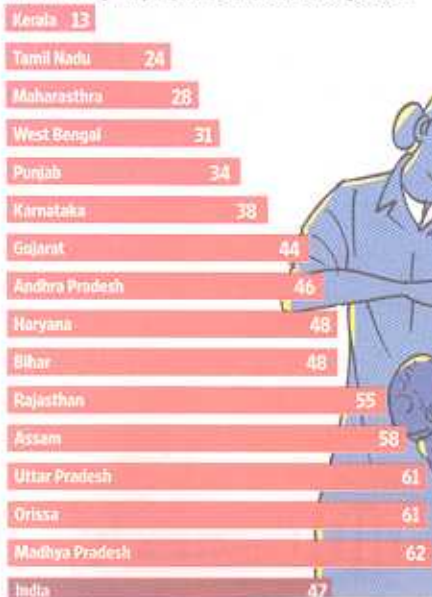
## India's expenditure on public health is extremely low compared with other developing countries

India spent only 1.4% of its GDP on public health in 2009-10, which is extremely low, both in absolute terms and compared with developing countries such as Nepal, China, Thailand, Argentina and Brazil.

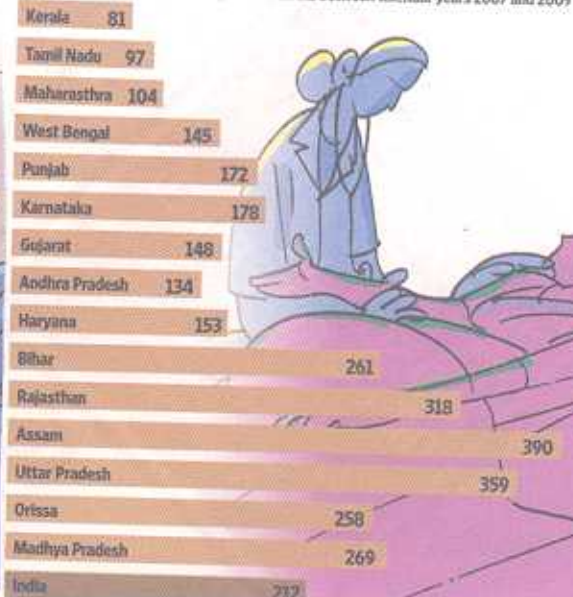


## The infant mortality rate has declined from 58 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 47 in 2009, while the maternal mortality rate has declined from 254 per 100,000 live births in 2004-06 to 212 in 2007-09.

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births in calendar year 2009



Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births between calendar years 2007 and 2009



Compiled by: Malia Politzer/Mint malia.p@livemint.com  
Graphics by Sandeep Bhatnagar; illustrations by Shyamal Banerjee/Mint

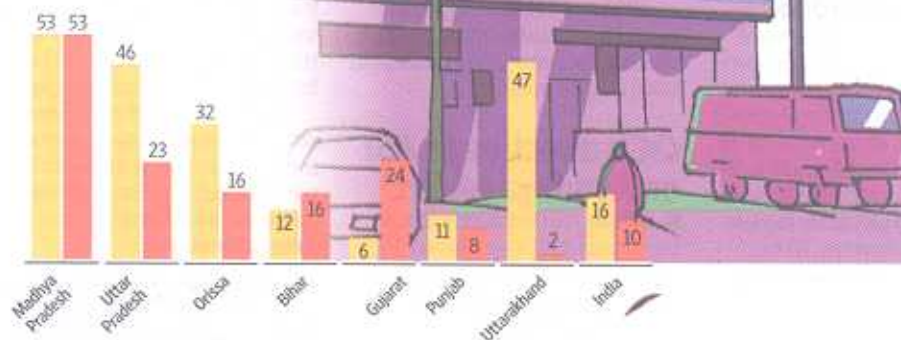
Mint, March 2, P10

## Though there has been a marginal decrease in shortfall of doctors at public health centres, state-wise data is uneven.

The shortfall of doctors in PHCs decreased by six percentage points overall between March 2009 and March 2010. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Orissa have shown some improvement, while Bihar and Gujarat have regressed.

(Figures in %)

- as on March 2009
- as on March 2010



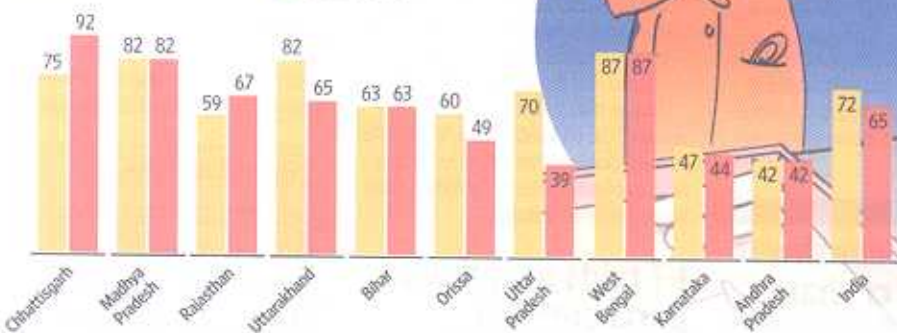
## Lack of specialists remains a serious problem across states

More than 65% of the community health centres in India do not have the required number of specialists (surgeons, paediatricians, physicians and obstetricians and gynaecologists).

Shortage of specialists in CHCs by state

(Figures in %)

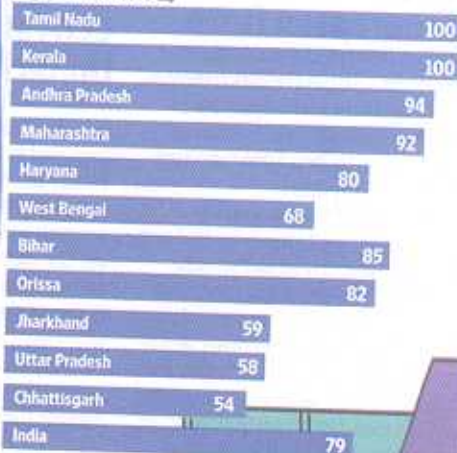
- as on March 2009
- as on March 2010



## Institutional deliveries improving across states

The proportion of institutional deliveries has increased from 57% in 2006-07 to 79% in 2010-11. Kerala and Tamil Nadu were the best performing states in 2010-11, while Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand lagged behind.

(Figures in % for 2010-11)





# सेहत के साथ हो सकती है

## कंजूसी

नई दिल्ली, जागरण ब्यूरो : स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में तुरंत गंभीर कदम उठाने की जरूरत पर प्रधानमंत्री की ओर से किए गए वादों और लगातार सामने आ रहे सरकारी दावों के बावजूद बजट में इस लिहाज से व्यापक कदम की उम्मीद न रखें। शहरी गरीबों के लिए बनाई गई संप्रग सरकार की 'राष्ट्रीय शहरी स्वास्थ्य मिशन' (एनयूपएचएम) योजना को लेकर इस बार के बजट में भी कोई शुरुआत होती नहीं दिखाई दे रही। वैसे, गांवों के सरकारी अस्पतालों में मुफ्त दवा उपलब्ध करवाने की योजना को पूरा करने के लिए रकम का प्रावधान जरूर होना चाहिए।

इस बार का बजट 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना का पहला बजट भी है। सरकार यह बार-बार कह चुकी है कि इस योजना अर्बाधि में वह स्वास्थ्य पर सरकारी खर्च में बड़ा इजाफा करना चाहती है। पिछले हफ्ते ही प्रधानमंत्री मनमोहन सिंह ने वादा किया है कि इस दौरान स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र पर सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 2.5 फीसदी खर्च सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा। जबकि इस समय यह सिर्फ 1.4 फीसदी ही है। सरकार ने भले ही इतना बड़ा लक्ष्य रखा हो, लेकिन इस दिशा में इस साल के बजट में कोई बड़ी प्रगति होती नहीं दिखाई देती। संप्रग सरकार ने अपने पहले कार्यकाल में गांवों के गरीब लोगों के स्वास्थ्य के लिए राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य

मिशन के रूप में एक महत्वाकांक्षी योजना जरूर शुरू की, लेकिन इसके बाद से कोई बड़ा कदम उठाने में नाकाम रही। यहां तक कि इस योजना में शहरी गरीबों को भी शामिल करने के लिए बनाई गई एनयूपएचएम योजना को अब तक जरूरी रकम नहीं मिल पाई है। इसके तहत छात्रागत युविधाओं के विकास पर पिछले पांच साल के दौरान किए गए खर्च के बाद इस बार

*Dainik Jagaran,  
March 4, 2012*

जोर दवाओं पर होगा। गांवों के सभी सरकारी अस्पतालों में सभी गरीब मरीजों के लिए हर दवा को मुफ्त उपलब्ध करवाने के लक्ष्य पर काम करते हुए इस बार केंद्रीय एजेंसी के जरिए

दवा खरीद के लिए अलग से रकम दी जा सकती है। वैसे, एनआरएचएम में पहले ही दवाओं की खरीद के लिए केंद्रीय राशि का प्रावधान है।



- शहरी गरीबों के लिए बनाई गई योजना को लेकर फिर चुप्पी
- गांवों के सरकारी अस्पतालों को दवा खरीद पर हो सकता है जोर

वर्ष	ये मिला बजट में	रकम
2009-10		19,500
2010-11		22,000
2011-12		24,000

(रकम करोड़ रुपये में)

### समावेशी विकास

गरीबी उन्मूलन के प्रयासों के तहत कई कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की घोषणा पिछले वर्षों के बजट में की गई :

#### बजट 2011-12

- > संसद में राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा विधेयक पेश किया जाएगा
- > सामाजिक क्षेत्र के लिए प्रस्तावित आवंटन में 17 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की गई है। यह कुल आयोजना आवंटन का 36.4 प्रतिशत है
- > सरकार ने मनरेगा के तहत कृषि श्रमिकों के लिए उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक को अधिसूचित करने का निर्णय लिया है।

**बजट 2009-10**  
> मनरेगा योजना के तहत आवंटन 39,100 करोड़ रुपये किया गया है। यह बजट पिछले साल की तुलना में 144 प्रतिशत अधिक है

- > मनरेगा के अधीन परिश्रमियों की उत्पादकता एवं संसाधन बढ़ाने के लिए कृषि, वानिकी, जल संसाधन, भू-संसाधन और ग्रामीण सड़कों से संबंधित अन्य योजनाओं के साथ समाभिरूपता की जा रही है।

#### राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम

यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि ग्रामीण अथवा शहरी क्षेत्रों में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे गुजर बसर करने वाला प्रत्येक परिवार तीन रुपये प्रति किलो की दर से प्रति माह 25 किलो चावल अथवा गेहूँ के लिए हकदार होगा। यह अधिनियम सार्वजनिक बहास के लिए वेबसाइट पर रखा गया





# BMC to spend Rs 1,273 cr on women's empowerment

Budget provides for additional outlay of Rs 15.69 cr for year 2012-13

vision for a gender budget finds a mention in the budg

STAFF REPORTER  
Mumbai

Recognizing the importance of education for the girl child, the BMC has extended various facilities to girl students including free supply of school bags, education kits and supply of flavoured milk etc. Out of the total outlay of Rs 2468 cr that is being spent on primary and secondary education, Rs 1258 cr are being spent on education of girls.

An additional outlay of Rs 15.69 cr has been envisaged in 2012-13 budget for generating self-employment options for deserving women,



training women in self-defense and skill upgradation, arranging workshops and capacity building, assistance to the handicapped for self-employed and med-

ical aid etc.

The scheme also includes various activities under the Adhar Project and a special fund for Self-Help Groups (SHG). Apart from the pro-

## MAHA BUDGET FOR GIRLS

- Out of the total outlay of Rs 2468 cr that is being spent, Rs 1258 cr are being spent on education of girls.
- Additional outlay of Rs 15.69 cr has been envisaged in 2012-13 budget for - generating self employment options for: deserving women.
- Rs 1200 cr are being spent on women health care.
- Incentives are also given to girl students for increasing attendance in primary and secondary schools.

visions, around Rs 1200 cr are being spent on women health care.

Incentives are also given to girl students for increasing attendance in primary and secondary schools. The pro-

ject after a long time and thus has raised hopes especially in a scenario where a new corporation house has been elected to power with more empowered women than ever before.

## More money to check malnutrition

**BANGALORE:** The State, after a long time, has increased the nutrition expense per child from Rs 4 to Rs 4.60 from April 2012.

At present, the nutrition expenditure per child in the state is Rs 4 with the state and central government contributing Rs 2 each. The state will now spend another 60 paise per child, resulting in an additional expenditure of Rs 90 crore.

In addition, specific administrative efforts will be made to ensure efficient utilisation of the outlay of Rs 795 crore for the nutrition programme which includes the Integrated Child Development Scheme. The Bhagyalakshmi scheme has also received a significant increase in allocation from Rs 408 crore last year to Rs 500 crore this year. About 2.6 lakh new beneficiaries are expected to be enrolled this year under the scheme.

The Department of Women and Child Welfare this year will begin a job placement cell for the physically handicapped. It is meant to be a skill enhancement and job placement centre, where physically handicapped persons can develop new skills. Depending on their aptitude, they will be trained and assisted in obtaining jobs in private companies. The programme is open to both men and women.

Recognising the work done by the NGO Sumangali Sevashram since 1975, the government has provided it a grant of Rs 50 lakh. The organisation provides education to children and free hostels for women and also serves as a creche for destitute children.

### Highlights

- Rs.8 crore for NGOs running special schools for physically challenged children.
- Rs.12.5 crore for promoting activities of Stree Shakti Groups including facility of mobile vans for sale of their products.
- A new scheme for self employment opportunities for transgenders.
- Hike in scholarship from Rs 100 to Rs 600 for girls from backward classes studying in Class 8 to 10.
- Special subsidy for children's films to be enhanced from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh.



### Social security pensions

The State has increased the social security pensions for eligible persons between 65 to 80 years to Rs 500 per month from April 2012. This increase of Rs 100 will benefit almost 30 lakh beneficiaries. Total outlay: Rs. 2310 crore.

*Deccan Herald  
March 22, P.6*



# Schools that are a scandal

## Pumping money into SSA is not helping



That a large number of Indian schools are sub-par is a fact well known. But what comes as a surprise is that the quality of education imparted at these schools has not improved even though the country's budget allocation for elementary education has doubled between 2009 and 2012. During this period, the amount of money earmarked for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan — the Government's principal tool to achieve the goals set out in the Right to Education Act that makes primary education free and compulsory for all six to 14 year olds — increased by a whopping 137 per cent, from ₹26,169 crore to ₹55,746

crore. However, this increase was not reflected either in the children's levels of learning or in the other parameters outlined in the RTE. There has been only a marginal improvement, as a report brought out by NGOs, Pratham and Accountability Initiative, shows. The report is part of the latter's flagship programme — Planning, Allocations and Expenditures, Institutions: Studies in Accountability — popularly known as PAISA, that aims to improve accountability in the management of public funds used for social welfare programmes. It makes amply clear why despite so much more money being allotted to the SSA, half of India's children in Class V can barely read textbooks prescribed for Class II and still fewer are able to do basic arithmetic. But then, if 78 per cent of the money allocated is spent on management and teaching costs, with children receiving a meagre six per cent, this is only to be expected. Indeed, the report, which studies 14,283 schools in seven States across rural India, found that while most schools spent their money on purchasing teaching aids like globes and charts or to pay for school events, there was little emphasis on teacher training and student investments. The reason is obvious — those expenses require planning and thoughtful consideration, which the school authorities are often incapable of, and the Government too indifferent to provide any real guidance. Whitewashing of walls, for instance, brings in the 'utilisation certificate' without which fresh funds are not released. Amidst this bureaucratic morass defined by a retrograde approach to education, a golden opportunity to raise India's children to be productive members of society is tragically lost.

Ultimately, the Government must realise that, simply by throwing money at a problem or announcing a fanciful scheme, the matter is not resolved. There are no short-cuts to achieving growth and development. Just like the MGNREGS did not resolve India's employment or poverty problems and the setting up AIIMS-like institutions across the country will not necessarily ensure quality medical care for the country, pumping money in the SSA without planning for an effective outcome, is senseless.

*Pioneer, March 23, 18*



# Population growth rate slows down; concentration up in South-West, North-West

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

**NEW DELHI:** After recording a staggering 47 per cent growth in population between 1991 and 2001, Delhi's decadal pace of population growth has slowed down to 21 per cent, with two of its nine districts, New Delhi and Central, registering even negative growth, the Census of India 2011 has revealed. It also shows how construction activity, displacement and rehabilitation of slums, and commercialisation of residential areas has led to significant demographic changes in Delhi.

The total population of Delhi stood at 1.68 crore in 2011 compared to 1.38 crore in 2001. The population growth has been highest at 30.62 per cent in South-West Delhi, followed by 27.63 per cent in North-West, 26.73 per cent in North-East, 20.59 per cent in South, 18.91 per cent in West, 16.68 per cent in East and 13.04 per cent in North Delhi.

New Delhi district posted a negative 25.35 per cent

growth as people were either displaced or shifted out in large numbers. So was the case with Central District, which comprises a large part of the Walled City area, and where the population has actually declined by 10.48 per cent in the past decade.

On the events influencing the demographic changes, the Census states that a major reason for the fall in the decadal growth rate was the

wide-ranging removal of slum clusters. Some major clusters were removed in the mid-2000s from the Yamuna Pushta. These clusters were spread along the river bed in the New Delhi, Central, North and East districts. Besides, some slums were also removed from Gautam Nagar and Kalka Mandir area in South District while others were removed from the New Delhi Municipal Council

area.

"Many more have been removed in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games in the last two years. Of the population living in these clusters, about 32,000 families have been shifted to rehabilitation colonies in North-West and South districts as per the data from the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board but the rest were not eligible for rehabilitation and were thus displaced," the Census report says.

Another visible trend as per the report has been the commercialisation of previously residential areas.

"The tendency is to convert the ground floor for commercial/office use and, if at all, only keep the upper floors residential, thus to a great extent using up the extra housing capacity created by the increased floor-area ratio norms of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi," it observes.

With this trend most visible in Old Delhi areas of Chandni Chowk and Sadar Bazar as also Central Delhi areas of Paharganj and Karol

DECADAL GROWTH OF POPULATION 2001-11



Bagh, the report notes that there has been a marked reluctance among the descendants of old time residents of these areas to continue staying there.

"People prefer to move out to more modernised housing in other parts of Delhi or the National Capital region. Thus the removal of the Yamuna Pushta and simultaneous large-scale commercialisation has led to a 10.5 per cent fall in population in Central Delhi," it points out.

On the other hand, the report says the coming up of numerous unauthorised colonies in West District has led to a growth in population there. A similar situation exists in South District as well. As for the North District, it says while these factors hold true, the coming in of Delhi Metro and many flyovers has led to large-scale demolition

and consequent loss of population in its Kashmere Gate area.

The overall population density of Delhi has also increased from 9,340 persons per square km to 11,297 persons in 2011.

*Hindu, March 11 P. 4*



## IMMIGRATION OF MAIDS LEGALLY

### GO PLACES, GO LEGAL. BE HAPPY

As a maid,  
I never knew that  
illegal emigration  
would lead to  
so much of suffering ... and  
no one to hear my cry.

Never go by the word  
of the Agent alone

#### Do Check, that:

- The recruiting agent is registered with the Protector General of Emigrants(PGE) and holds a valid registration certificate.
- You have a valid "work" visa and not a "visit" visa.

#### If you have an ECR passport and are going to an ECR country, do check that:

- You are above 30 years of age.
- Your work contract has been attested by Indian Mission in your country of destination (if going for unskilled work)
- You have obtained emigration clearance from the office of Protector of Emigrants.

Before going abroad leave a photocopy set of all documents at your home

For assistance contact:

**Overseas Workers Resource Centre**  
Number accessible from Mobile & Landline from  
anywhere in the world + 91-11-40503090



**Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**  
**Government of India**

website: [www.moia.gov.in](http://www.moia.gov.in) e-mail: [info@moia.nic.in](mailto:info@moia.nic.in)

Toll Free Number  
(from BSNL/MTNL Landline): 1800 11 3090

Before going abroad leave a photocopy set  
of all documents at your home

*Assam Tribune, March 23, 2014*

## RADICAL TRANSFORMATION

# JSPAL: Bringing about a radical transformation

### HEALTH

- Regular health check-up camps, antenatal care (ANCs), family planning counseling are conducted and medicines are provided free of cost. Voluntary blood donation camps are organised in and around the plants.
- Under the initiative PAHAL - A Population Stabilisation Initiative in collaboration with the Health Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, incentive distribution to Non-Scalpel Vasectomy and Tubectomy are supported.
- A Mother and Child Care Programme named 'Aanchal' in partnership with Zilla Swasthya Samiti, National Rural Health Mission and the district administration at Angul, Odisha has been initiated.
- Kishori Express for the improvement of the health of adolescent girls (would-be mothers) through regular medical check-ups, haemoglobin check-ups, awareness creation and nutrition supplementation commenced operations in villages around the plant at Angul, Odisha.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

The following infrastructure development jobs were executed in the areas of operations: construction of roads, community halls, temples, water tanks, school boundary walls, borewells, excavation and deepening of ponds, cultural stages, heritage buildings, box culverts, new school buildings, platforms, gymnasiums, veterinary hospital buildings, transit hostels, clubs, drinking water facilities, toilets, furniture and fixtures in schools. The needs of the people living in peripheral villages are identified by the process of Participatory Rural Appraisal.

### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Some innovative programmes geared towards women self-empowerment initiated by JSPL are as follows:

- Ecospa is an innovative initiative at Angul in the direction of sustainable livelihood and micro-enterprise promotion where women from local villages bring together locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs to produce high-quality herbal body care products.
- Odifab is a platform that showcases the diversified jute products manufactured by the rural women of the villages around the plant in Odisha.
- Undertook a food processing initiative called Chaiti. The fruits and vegetables used as ingredients in pickles, sauces,



squashes and other canned products are grown by the village folk in their backyards and freshly picked before being processed.

- Initiated Ssodashi - the low cost sanitary napkin manufacturing unit and the promotion of better healthcare practices, especially pertaining to personal hygiene in order to prevent infection of the reproductive canals.
- Of note is our tie-up with Jharcraft to provide training to women in 'Kantha' and 'Zardozi', enabling them to earn a monthly income.

### EDUCATION

Realising the importance and relevance of education, the company has taken a number of initiatives like establishing a Global University, Specialised Institutes and Schools.

Jindal Institute of Power Technology, O.P. Jindal Community Colleges (in joint venture with Montgomery College, Maryland, USA) have been established to develop a skilled workforce by empowering competency based, skill oriented, technical and vocational training. The colleges are located at Angul and Barbil (Odisha), Patratu and Godda (Jharkhand) and Raigarh.



H.T.,  
March 5,  
P.4



# SCHEMES/FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES RELATED TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

- ADARANI

'ADARANI' UNDER JANANI SISHU SURAKSHA KARYAKRAM (JSSK) IS A SCHEME THAT WILL ENSURE SAFE CONVEYANCE OF MOTHER AND CHILD AFTER DELIVERY FROM HOSPITAL TO BACK HOME

# ADARANI

Now reaches out to 21 more Districts of Assam

These Districts are

District	Launch Date
Cachar, Hailakandi & Karimganj	12th March
Lakhimpur & Dhemaj	15th & 16th March
Baksa, Nalbari and Barpeta	16th March
Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Chirang & Dhubri	18th & 19th March
Nagaon, Jorhat & Golaghat	18th March
Sonitpur, Darrang & Udalguri	20th & 21st March
Tinsukia, Dibrugarh & Sibsagar	23rd March

### Features of Adarani:

- ★ Adarani is a completely free of cost service to drop back mother and neonate to their home from hospital after delivery.
- ★ The service is available only for delivery in Govt. hospitals.
- ★ It is available for 365 days a year.
- ★ It will operate only during day time from 9 am to 6 pm.
- ★ Only 1 attendant is allowed with a mother and child.
- ★ The vehicle will carry one or multiple cases in a trip.
- ★ The service will be provided in journeys of more than 1 km to 20 km.
- ★ To avail Adarani Service, call 108
- ★ Vehicle assignment will be done from "108" response centre only.
- ★ Driver will not honour any direct request from any person.
- ★ Caller may give pre intimation about the discharge by calling 108.
- ★ In case of any query or suggestion, one may call 0361-2236869.



Assam Tribune, March 26, P.5



National Rural Health Mission, Assam





## GOVERNMENT OF DELHI

### - HEALTH SCHEME

# Govt plans mega health scheme

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government has chalked out an ambitious healthcare plan that will begin with distribution of medicines at public healthcare centres. It has also plans of creating "cashless outpatient departments" in government hospitals and making substantial improvements to primary healthcare in the long run.

The programme is aimed at wooing voters in the 2014 general election. An announcement to this effect is expected to be made on Monday in the Presidential address and allocation for the plan will be made in the budget through a universal health coverage (UHC) scheme to be rolled out in the next plan period starting April 1.

At the core of this mega healthcare scheme will be a national programme on free supply of essential medicines to everyone seeking healthcare in any public facility.

A high-level expert group set

up by the Planning Commission had pointed out that low public spending on drugs and non-availability of free medicines in government healthcare facilities are major factors discouraging people from accessing public sector health facilities.

Recommendations of the panel headed by K Srinath Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India, form the bedrock of the UHC plan.

An increase in the public procurement of medicines from around 0.1 per cent to 0.5 per cent of GDP may ensure universal access to essential drugs, greatly reduce the burden of private out of pocket expenditure and increase the financial protection for household.

"As much as 75 per cent spending on healthcare in India is private out-of-pocket expenditure while the state pays for only 25 per cent, and that too mostly in hospitalisation costs. We have recommended investing more in preventive primary

care so that hospital costs go down," A K Shiva Kumar, one of the members of the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council and a member of the Reddy panel, told *Deccan Herald*.

To ensure that the programme works efficiently, the Centre approved a central procurement authority on the basis of the Tamil Nadu Medical services Corporation model where bulk procurement is done directly through authorised and certified medicine manufacturers of quality generic medicines through a transparent bidding process.

This encourages use of generic names at all stages of procurement, distribution, prescription, drug information and rational use at every level of healthcare system.

"However, we need very good accounting and technology support for successful implementation," Shiva Kumar said.

DH News Service

*Deccan  
herald,  
March 12,  
p. 7*

## GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

### - INDIRA GANDHI MARRIAGE SCHEME

## हरियाणा में विवाह से पहले मिलेगा शगुन का लाभ

हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र सिंह हुड्डा ने सरकार द्वारा जरूरतमंद एवं गरीबों के लिए चलाई जा रही सामाजिक सहायता योजनाओं की अनुदान राशि का समय से आवंटन करने के आदेश दिए हैं। उन्होंने अधिकारियों से कहा कि इंदिरा गांधी विवाह शगुन योजना की राशि का भुगतान विवाह से पहले किया जाए, ताकि लाभार्थी को दी जाने वाले सहायता राशि में विलंब न हो सके और इस धनराशि का सही इस्तेमाल किया जा सके।

मुख्यमंत्री हुड्डा मंगलवार को यहां अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति पर अत्याचारों से रोकथाम के लिए गठित राज्य स्तरीय सतर्कता एवं निगरानी समिति की बैठक की अध्यक्षता कर रहे थे। मुख्यमंत्री ने इंदिरा गांधी विवाह शगुन योजना की समीक्षा की। उन्होंने कहा कि इस योजना के अंतर्गत लाभार्थी को राशि का भुगतान विवाह के पहले किया जाए। राशि में देरी इस योजना के उद्देश्य को समाप्त कर देती है। हुड्डा ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए कि फंड की उपलब्धता को लेकर जिला स्तर पर उपायुक्त के अधीन व्यवस्था की

जाए, ताकि लाभार्थी को राशि तुरंत मुहैया हो सके। उन्होंने कहा कि जरूरतमंद एवं गरीबों के लिए लागू की गई सामाजिक सहायता योजनाओं के लिए फंड की कोई कमी नहीं है लेकिन फंड का उपयोग समयबद्ध रूप से होना चाहिए। इसलिए अधिकारी फंड के सही उपयोग को भी सुनिश्चित करें, ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को इसका लाभ मिल सके। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार ने इंदिरा गांधी प्रियदर्शनी विवाह शगुन योजना का दायरा बढ़ाते हुए इसमें अड़ई एकड़ से कम या एक लाख से कम वार्षिक आय वाले परिवारों को भी सम्मिलित किया है। ऐसे परिवारों

को लड़कियों को विवाह शगुन के रूप में 11 हजार रुपये का अनुदान दिया जाएगा।

मुख्यमंत्री ने अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति पर अत्याचारों से रोकथाम के लिए जिला स्तर पर सतर्कता एवं निगरानी समिति के गठन के निर्देश दिए और कहा कि ऐसे मामलों में कार्रवाई को जिला स्तर पर नियमित समीक्षा की जाए। मुख्यमंत्री ने अनुसूचित जाति के कल्याण के लिए चलाई जा रही विभिन्न विभागों की योजनाओं का एक साथ संकलन करवाने तथा इसका प्रचार करने के भी निर्देश दिए।

*Dainik  
Jagaran,  
March 21,  
p. 4*



GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

-BALLIKA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA

# बालिका समृद्धि योजना फ्लॉप

चुरू

nikar@patrika.com

सरकार की अनदेखी, व प्रशासनिक लापरवाही के चलते चुरू जिले में बालिका समृद्धि योजना फ्लॉप साबित हुई है। इस योजना के शुरू होने के बाद 14 साल में मात्र 412 छात्राएं लाभान्वित हुई हैं।

## तया है योजना

केन्द्र सरकार ने 1997 में योजना की शुरुआत की। योजना के तहत कक्षा एक से दस तक अध्ययनरत बीपीएल परिवार की छात्राओं को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए लाभार्थी बालिका के नाम से बैंक या पोस्ट ऑफिस में 500 रुपये की एफडी कराने का प्रावधान था।

अध्ययन के दौरान खाताधारक बालिका को प्रतिवर्ष सहायता राशि नगर परिषद के माध्यम से दी जाती थी। योजना के शुरू हुए 14 साल हो गए लेकिन चुरू शहर में अब तक केवल 412 छात्राओं को ही

## आंकड़ों की जुबानी

वर्ष	लाभान्वित
1997-2002	आंकड़े नहीं
2002-03	236
2003-04	16
2004-05	42
2005-06	22
2006-07	आंकड़े नहीं आए
2007-08	45
2008-09	31
2009-10	20
2010-2011	00

## कक्षा

वर्षिक प्रोत्साहन राशि	कक्षा
300 रु. प्रत्येक	एक से तीन
500	चौथी
600	पांचवीं
700	छठवीं-सप्तमी
800	आठवीं
1000	नौवीं व दसवीं

लाभान्वित किया जा सका है। नगर परिषद में वर्ष 2010-11 के लिए महज 14 आवेदन प्राप्त हुए जो बजट के अभाव के चलते फाइलों में दब कर रह गए।

## ऐसे हो रही योजना फ्लॉप

योजना को हाशिये पर पहुंचाने में सरकार व प्रशासन की लापरवाही रही। इसके चलते ही बैंक व पोस्ट ऑफिसों में 500 रुपये की एफडी करना बंद कर दिया है, जिसके कारण जरूरतमंद लाभार्थी योजना से वंचित हो रहे हैं।

बजट के अभाव में योजना का विस्तार नहीं किया जा सका

संभव नहीं हो पा रहा है। बजट के लिए बिकानेर मंडल के परियोजना विदेशक वेजे फर गेज दिया गया है लेकिन वहां से 39वीं तक कोई जानकारी नहीं मिली है।

सावरमल रैनी, आयुक्त नगरपरिषद, चुरू

Rajasthan Patrika March 21, P-11

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

-RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RMSA)

# World Bank's \$500m for education

Washington, March 23: The World Bank has offered \$500 million interest-free credit to India for improving the standards of secondary education, an official statement said Friday. The World Bank on Thursday approved the credit that will help the Indian government's efforts to make good quality education "available, accessible and affordable to all young persons at the secondary level (grades 9 and 10)."

The project will support all activities as envisioned in the \$12.9 billion Rashtriya Madhyamik

**The interest-free credit was approved to help efforts to make good quality education "available, accessible and affordable"**

Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) programme, a flagship government of India programme for gradual universalisation of secondary

education, the World Bank said in a statement. "This World Bank project will support the objectives and activities of RMSA. It will facilitate a whole set of mechanisms built around identifying what is needed to improve the quality of secondary education," said Venu Rajamony, joint secretary, economic affairs in India's finance ministry.

The project will be financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) — the World Bank's concessional lending arm — which provides interest-

free loans with 25 years to maturity and a grace period of five years. The money will be used for setting up libraries, computer laboratories, upgrading primary schools in to secondary schools and providing training to teachers.

Expansion, repair and renovation will take place in 60,000 government secondary schools; 44,000 upper primary schools will be upgraded into secondary schools; and 11,000 new secondary and senior secondary schools will come up in underserved areas.

— IANS

Asian Age, March 24, P-5

## Minority girl students to get free bicycles

**NEW DELHI:** In an attempt to check school dropout rate among girls from minority communities, the Union government has decided to give free cycles to them.

The government has earmarked Rs 4.5 crore for the purpose in the Union Budget presented by Pranab Mukherjee on Friday.

"The Union General Budget 2012-13 provides Rs 4.50 crore for a new scheme to provide free cycles to girl students of class IX with the objective of retention of minority girl students from class IX onwards," said a statement released by the Ministry of Minority Affairs here.

Also, for the promotion of education in 100 minority concentrated areas, the government has provided Rs 45 crore.

Another new scheme proposed by the government for minority development, known as Skill Development Initia-

tives, has been allocated Rs 18 crore.

This scheme, according to the government, "will allow urban and rural livelihoods to improve for inclusive growth by providing skill to the minority communities who do not possess any, to allow them to gain employment."

In all, for the year 2012-13, the government has earmarked Rs 3,135 crore — an increase of Rs 385 crore from the last year's expenditure — for the welfare of minority communities in the country.

The revised budget estimates for the year 2011-12 was at Rs 2,750 crore.

According to the government, the Union Budget "significantly increase the outlay for scholarship schemes being implemented by the (government) for the students belonging to minorities."

**DH News Service**

*Deccan herald, March 17, P 5*

## बालिकाओं के लिए केन्द्र की योजना

### ■ अल्पसंख्यक लड़कियों को मिलेगी साइकिल

कोलकाता

[kolkata@patrika.com](mailto:kolkata@patrika.com)

अल्पसंख्यक लड़कियों को शिक्षा जारी रखने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के इरादे से केंद्र सरकार ने इस श्रेणी की कक्षा नौ की छात्राओं को साइकिल देने की योजना बनाई है। केंद्र सरकार ने इस मामले में सभी राज्य सरकारों से सुझाव मांगा है। यह योजना उनके लिए है जिनके परिवार की वार्षिक आय एक लाख रुपये से कम है।

अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के केन्द्रीय मंत्रालय के उप सचिव लुकास एल कामसुआन ने सभी राज्यों के मुख्य सचिवों को पत्र भेज कर इस योजना के

बारे में जानकारी दी है। इसमें उन्होंने कहा है कि अगले वित्तीय वर्ष से केंद्र सरकार इस योजना को पूरे देश में लागू करना चाहती है। केंद्र ने सभी राज्य सरकारों से उनके सुझाव और प्रतिक्रिया मांगा है।

कामसुआन के इस पत्र के मुताबिक यह योजना इस इरादे से बनाई गई है ताकि उच्च कक्षाओं में पढ़ने वाली लड़कियां अपनी पढ़ाई जारी रख सकें। देखा जाता है कि कम आय वर्ग के घरों की लड़कियां आर्थिक तंगी के कारण अपनी पढ़ाई बंद कर देती हैं। इसके अलावा बाल विवाह जैसे सामाजिक कुरीतियों के कारण भी उनकी पढ़ाई बीच में छूट जाती है। अल्प संख्यक मामलों के विभाग के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने रइटर्स बिल्डिंग में इस

अशय के पत्र के आने की पुष्टि करते हुए कहा कि अल्पसंख्यकों में यह प्रवृत्ति कुछ ज्यादा है। इस अधिकारी ने कहा कि अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के विभाग के पास इस तरह की कोई अपनी योजना नहीं है। हालांकि पश्चिम बंगाल में आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग और अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजाति की लड़कियों को साइकिल दी जाती है। पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग पर इसकी जिम्मेदारी है। हाल ही में सामान्य वर्ग की गरीब लड़कियों को भी इस योजना में शामिल किया गया है।

इस योजना के लिए पचास फीसदी रकम केंद्र सरकार देगी और बाकी रकम की व्यवस्था राज्य सरकारों को करना पड़ेगी। केंद्र शासित क्षेत्रों में इस योजना का पूरा खर्च केंद्र सरकार उठाएगी।

*Rajasthan Patrika, March 22, P 13*



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Phone : 2618 0194, e-mail : [cara-wed@nic.in](mailto:cara-wed@nic.in), <http://www.adoptionindia.nic.in>

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