

THRILLING IPL 2024

The eagerly anticipated Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season is set to kick off on March 22, promising cricket fans yet another thrilling display of talent and competition. Last season's champions, Chennai Super Kings, will enter the tournament as defending champions after securing their fifth title by defeating Gujarat in the final. The opening match of the tournament will see the Chennai Super Kings take on Royal Challengers Bangalore, setting the stage for an exciting start to the season. With a total of 10 teams vying for glory, including Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians, Gujarat Titans, Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Punjab Kings, and Sunrisers Hyderabad, the tournament promises to be fiercely competitive. The schedule for the initial phase of the tournament, comprising the first 21 matches, has been announced by the BCCI, spanning from March 22 to April 7. Despite the truncated schedule possibly due to the Lok Sabha elections, anticipation and excitement among fans are running high as they eagerly await the spectacle of IPL 2024.

The Indian Premier League, also known as the TATA IPL, is a men's Twenty20 cricket league held annually in India.

Need to care primary educational System

RAKESH AATHUR

Someone has rightly claimed, "Sound mind is the sound body". As per Directive principle 45th of the constitution of India there is provision of free and primary education to the children below the age factor of (5 to 14) years of the age bar in the government schools and other educational institutes throughout the country. Though it is a non-justice-able right and but few suggestions can be entertained within the context of non- deployment of children at any business centers including hazardous and non- hazardous centers i.e. industries, shops, work- places, labor venues, etc. It is so probably the basic legislations may amend in order to garner the suitable Primary education to the every child. But here some private schools and other educational institutes, tuition centers, etc are running freely at its own will and pattern of conduct in lieu of its fee- structure, levy, annual charges, etc. Still not any particular reshuffle has been made- up to garner the welfare of the locals/ poor students of 5 to 14 years of age pyramid.

One may assess the disequilibrium or disparity in the present system of education having number of deficiencies which are rendering the educational system weak and dull throughout the nation. The government schools below middle standard are quite weak in response towards the students. Due to which the drop- out rate of students in some governmental schools and institutes are enhancing day by day on a major scale, which is not returning in its original position, causing direct effect upon the poor students' educational standard or life career!

On the other hand the structure of high charges, dues, fee, structure and extraordinary levies imposed by the private schools/institutes and tuition centers are just like burdensome to a common man. Because few schools are in consonance with book sellers for the sack of extra commission perhaps who are selling books at higher rates which can be watched in samba district vehemently. Resultantly the people from lower strata may not afford the education to their children in such schools, academic institutes, etc whether it may be academic or professional institutes. One can face major scale of disequilibrium also in his daily life, but as far as human approach or Indian constitution aspects, there every one born free and have right to attain his/her goodwill from (Art 5 to 36, 45 & 46) included right to compulsory education, right to life, right to religion, right to wage, etc,

According to an intellectual Roussou who had acclaimed well by saying, "Man is born free but everywhere he is in the chains." Meant to say that poor people have lost-up their basic right in the prescribed clans with their birth, as they cannot attend these particular schools having lucrative standard and uniform-dresses including fee, dress, etc. And all such items are commissioned based because its available on the prescribed retail outlets, shops, book, centers, stationery shops, etc which may outcomes as lower participation and selection of government's elite job tests, interviews included administrative, provincial and other sub-ordinates and white collared professions.

This huge gap has been enhancing among rural students as their shyness to stand and score for ultimate goals. It is a major cause of lagging behind of the poor students from the rich and urban guys in the state and nation. But if we can peep into the compulsory educational system among the government schools, institutes, tuition centers, so that pupils may not remain back from their basic rights.

The parents who are frail to enroll their children into well private Schools/ institutes due to its cost- effective standard i.e. fee, annual charges including lab and others. It is the only and major stage which started the stage of disequilibrium among bourgeois and proletariat sections of the society on the one hand and rendered the compulsory and free education far from (5 to 14) years of age of students as baseless and excuse only. Even though so many parents have acclaimed with the complaints that their grievances in lieu of their children enrollment in the centralized schools is not secured likely kendriya Vidyalaya schools.

The secant ruling required in order to improve this posterity gap within the directive principle 45 indicating (5 to 14) years of age of students should have vehemence everywhere among government and private schools in order to reduce the gap of educational standard. It is strong need of the hour to care and reshuffle among the state and nation. Several of the parents including pupils are in greater fury for the admission purposes, who are facing obstacle to attain admission in the well defined educational schools whether private or governmental.

Present season is running session of admissions in the Jammu and Kashmir and other states of the India. As we knew that the annual session of admission among private and government schools should started with the dawn of march-April every year and hoard of the parents including pupils goes multiplying at the doors of the every school and academic institute on a large- scale . And poor parents may have started to hatch-up their dreams only in their solitary eyes despite it may come true is not fortune of everyone. So we can say that on Indian soil there is poverty and epidemics emerged as high degree of discrimination which haunted many innocents to cut their coats according to their clothes wherever it may pertain to the aspect of primary and compulsory education or others. The burden of high fee- structure and other dues, annual levies are haunting the poor parents on a larger scale in the state to which need to reshuffle within the time-frame limit so that poor children may optimize their schooling in their felicitous educational institutes with the minimum fee and other dues as per compulsory educational system (5 to 14) years of age. Therefore there is strong need to adopt good initiatives for the improvement of primary educational system and reduce the initial stage of disequilibrium for everyone likely good efforts for which the people of the area can bade good regards.

And further course of action the burden during admissions should also be reduced for the sack of common people of the state as well as of country.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)- Agricultural Knowledge Hub Centres

DR. BANARSI LAL & DR. PAWAN SHARMA

India is a land of villages and most of the people residing in the villages are farmers. Agriculture is the major occupation of the people and around 60 per cent of the population is directly associated with agriculture. Agricultural development is helpful for the overall growth and development of the country. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people as it provides employment to more than half of the population of the country. This sector contribution signifies the dependency of the country on agriculture. The green revolution increased the agricultural production of the nation and India became self-reliant in many agro-commodities. But a lot is needed to improve the condition of the farmers as they are really the backbone of the country. Judicious use of land is necessary to mitigate the growing needs of the increasing population by keeping the sustainability of soils, ecosystems and environment in view.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) also known as Farm Science Centers, a gross root level scheme which was designed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the country. In 1964-66, the Education Commission of Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr.D.S.Kothari gave recommendations for the application of science to productive process including agricultural education. The Planning Commission of India and Inter-Ministerial Committee reviewed the recommendations. A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohan Singh Mehta was constituted by the ICAR in 1973 which further gave the recommendations for the establishment of KVKs in the country. The first Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was established in 1974 at Pudducherry under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore by the ICAR, New Delhi. Presently, the ICAR has established 731 KVKs all over the country under different organizations like State Agricultural Universities, the ICAR institutes, Deemed Universities, Central Institutes, State Governments and NGOs. SKUAST-J has established 9 KVKs in different districts of J&K. These KVKs are mitigating the scientific agricultural needs of the farmers of Jammu division. These KVKs are playing a pivotal role in transformation in rural areas by updating the rural people about the latest agricultural technologies. These KVKs are immensely playing a major role in farmers' prosperity. The KVKs have proved their worth to mitigate the agricultural needs of the farmers. The KVKs empower the farmers through need-based farmers/vocational trainings and helpful to change the socio-economic conditions of the farmers. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras conduct on- farm testing, identify the location specificity of agricultural technologies, lay out front line demonstrations to establish the production potential of various agricultural technologies at farmers fields, impart need-based and skill oriented training to the

practicing farmers, in-service extensional personnel , to those who are interested for self-employment to update their knowledge and skills in new agricultural technologies, create awareness on improved technologies through various extension methods, produce and provide improved quality seeds, planting material, livestock, poultry, fisheries etc. to the farmers and work as agricultural knowledge centers for the public, private and voluntary organizations. These Kendras cater the needs of those who wish to be self-employed or those who are already employed. There is no particular syllabus for the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The programmes and syllabus(action plan) of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras are tailored according to the needs, resources and potential for the agricultural growth in a particular area and is finally decided by involving the districts heads, Panches/Sarpanches and also progressive farmers of the respective district.

KVKs serve as the knowledge and resource centres for agricultural technologies, assisting governmental, commercial and non profit organizations in enhancing the district agricultural economy. KVKs produce quality seed and distribute high quality agro inputs to the farmers. They also provide agricultural literature to the farmers in local dialect. The prime objective of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras is agricultural growth. Priority is given to the weaker sections of the society like small, marginal, tribal farmers, agricultural labourers, drought prone areas, hilly areas, forest areas, coastal areas etc. and work-experience is the main method of imparting training. The first objective of the ICAR is to cover the entire country with one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district and priority is given to the backward areas. As there is a great demand for the improved agricultural technologies by the farmers so there is great demand of Krishi Vigyan Kendras throughout the country. Farmers need not only the latest knowledge of the technologies but also more skills in the agricultural operations for adoption.

The KVK staff is comprised the sixteen members team. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra is headed by one Senior Scientist & Head, six Subject Matter Specialists(SMSs) from the different discipline like Agricultural Extension, Horticulture, Agronomy, Home Science, Animal Science and Fisheries, three Programme Assistants(trainings, farm and computer each), two administrative staff, two drivers and two OCCs. In the agricultural universities, KVKs are headed by the Director Extension (DE) and at zone level KVKs are monitored and guided by Director, ATARI (Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute).At central level KVKs are headed by Deputy Director General (DDG) Extension. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) provides guidelines to KVKs and conducts periodic supervision. In order to establish a KVK there is requirement of basic infrastructure. The KVK has its administrative building, farmers' hostel and six quarters for the staff. KVKs can have dif-

ferent units such as hydroponics unit, mushroom cultivation unit, rain water harvesting unit, soil and water testing labs, e-connectivity, vermicompost unit, polyhouse unit, fish pond unit, poultry farm unit, beekeeping unit etc. The KVKs also have a jeep, two wheelers and tractors facilities. The KVKs are also guided to establish crop cafeterias and technology parks for the demonstration purpose. KVK executes its activities with the help and support of local management committee. The KVKs also need to constitute their Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting which involves the agricultural and allied departments' heads and is chaired by the head of the organization. In this meeting the progressive farmers are also involved. In order to get the technical and scientific guidelines to achieve the targets and also to present the action taken report, the KVKs need to conduct Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting twice in a year. The KVKs can spend their revolving funds for production of technological products. The KVKs decide certain thrust areas according to the agro-ecological, cropping pattern and farming system of the respective district. The major thrust areas are as (i)Integrated nutrient/pest/weed management in different crops(ii)Water management (iii)Promoting organic farming (iv)Protected cultivation of high value and low value crops(v) Promotion of aromatic and medicinal plants (vi)Increase in the productivity of livestock (vi)Drudgery reduction for farm women (vi)Promotion of loose flower cultivation (vii)Promotion of new single cross hybrids in maize(viii)Value addition of agricultural products etc. Kisan Sarathi is an ICT based interface solution with the ultimate goal an intelligent online plate form for agriculture at the local level with a national perspective. The objective of Kisan Sarathi is to connect the farmers to the newest agricultural technologies, information base and a vast pool of subject matter experts in a multimedia and multi-way manner.

Follow-up of extension programmes are conducted after trainings in order to get the impact of the trainings on the trainees and proper documentation of the programmes is important. It has been observed that with the introduction of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) the adoption rates of new agricultural technologies have been increased. Now, majority of the farmers are using hybrid/improved/high yielding varieties of maize, paddy, wheat, pulses, oilseeds etc. KVKs are diverting the farmers from subsistence farming to commercial farming. By keeping the scope of floriculture in the Union Territory of J&K floriculture industry in j&k is spreading. Mushroom cultivation, sericulture, horticulture, dairy farming, vermicomposting, food processing, milk processing entrepreneurs are developed among the farmers in certain pockets of J&K. KVKs are really proving as the agricultural knowledge hubs.

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Consequences of Rampant Mining in Kashmir

MOHD YOUNUS BHAT

Despite the regulations in place, like the National Mineral Policy (NMP) of 1993 and subsequent amendments, which include restrictions on mining depth, infrastructure development, environmental risk compensation, and employment regulations for locals, the lack of effective monitoring and enforcement has allowed unchecked mining activities to persist. This has resulted in the depletion of natural resources and the disruption of ecosystems in the region. Unchecked mining poses significant risks, including the potential for floods like those experienced in September 2014, damage to fertile agricultural lands, health hazards, social conflicts, and ecosystem disturbances. Moreover, this situation could escalate into a water crisis and adversely impact the livelihoods of the inhabitants. Kashmir although having an abundant mineral wealth, is grappling with persistent environmental and economic issues due to rampant mining of resources such as sand, gravel, pebbles, and soil from its land and waterways. Without a shift towards sustainable management, these practices threaten the delicate balance of the region's ecosystems, its ability to withstand climate change, and the well-being of its communities.

Environmental Impacts

1. Loss of Fertile Land: Mining beyond the base level of erosionshrinks the water table and can lead to the drying up of wells and the deepening of the water table, potentially transforming fertile lands into barren areas. Mining activities that involve the removal of vegetation and soil layers expose the land to erosion, resulting in degraded fertility. This process contributes to increased sedimentation in rivers and streams, impacting water quality and elevating the risk of floods.

2. Ecosystem Vulnerability: Excessive mining and sand extraction from water bodies can have detrimental effects on ecosystems, resulting in habitat loss for various plant and animal species. This disruption in biodiversity can lead to a decline in fish and other aquatic populations. The aquatic ecosystems are especially vulnerable to these activities. The

degradation caused by mining activities poses a significant threat to the environment, wildlife, and the livelihoods of those dependent on these natural resources.

3. Health Hazards: Mining activities often involve the use of chemicals like cyanide and sulphuric acid, which can seep into nearby water bodies, leading to pollution. These chemicals, when leaked or spilt from mining sites, contaminate the water, posing serious health risks to both humans and aquatic life. Additionally, the extraction processes in mining can increase water turbidity, which harms aquatic ecosystems by reducing water clarity and quality. This pollution not only affects aquatic life negatively but also diminishes the availability of clean water for local communities, highlighting the detrimental impact of mining on water resources and ecosystems.

4. Climate Impact

The degradation of natural landscapes and ecosystems, particularly through activities like flora, and fauna loss and habitat destruction, diminishes the region's resilience to climate change impacts such as floods and landslides. These actions not only reduce the area's natural ability to withstand environmental stresses but also contribute to increased carbon emissions, further intensifying global climate change challenges. The loss of biodiversity and disruption of ecosystems due to deforestation and habitat destruction have far-reaching consequences, highlighting the critical importance of preserving natural habitats for climate resilience and mitigating climate change effects.

Economic Impacts

1. Livelihood Disruption: Many communities in Kashmir rely on agriculture, fishing, and tourism as key sources of livelihood. The unchecked mining and extraction activities in the region can have a severe impact on these sectors, causing environmental degradation that disrupts the delicate balance of ecosystems. This disruption can lead to economic instability and a loss of income for local populations dependent on these sectors. The degradation of natural resources due to mining not only threatens the environment but also jeopardizes

the livelihoods of those who depend on agriculture, fishing, and tourism in Kashmir, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable practices to protect both the environment and the local economy.

2. Infrastructure Damage Increased sedimentation and altered river flows resulting from activities like sand mining can have detrimental effects on infrastructure in Kashmir. The accumulation of sediments in rivers can lead to higher water levels during floods, increasing the risk of damage to roads, bridges, and irrigation systems. The altered flow patterns caused by excessive sand mining can undermine the stability of infrastructure, posing a threat to the region's economic resources. This infrastructure damage not only requires costly repairs but also disrupts transportation networks and agricultural activities, exacerbating the economic strain on the region.

3. Tourism Impact: Kashmir's natural beauty serves as a major attraction for tourists, contributing significantly to the region's economy. However, the visual and environmental consequences of excessive extraction activities like mining can degrade the scenic landscapes and environmental quality, diminishing the area's allure for visitors. This decline in the region's aesthetic appeal can result in reduced tourism revenue, which plays a crucial role in supporting the local economy. The negative impacts of excessive extraction on Kashmir's natural beauty not only affect the environment but also have economic repercussions by deterring tourists and impacting the livelihoods of those dependent on tourism-related activities.

Social Impacts: Excessive mining and resource extraction have significant social, economic, and environmental impacts, affecting the well-being of individuals at the grassroots level. Health issues emerge as local populations face respiratory and other health problems due to water pollution and dust, with the loss of clean water sources significantly heightening community health risks. This environmental degradation fuels community conflicts, where competition for natural resources leads to internal and external tensions, exacerbated by the uneven distribution of benefits and

varying environmental impacts. Additionally, the allure of quick wealth from mining profitability creates social disparities, enticing young individuals to forsake education for mining jobs, thereby affecting educational opportunities, and altering community social dynamics. Economic instability further complicates the situation, as unchecked mining activities degrade ecosystems, undercutting the livelihoods of those dependent on agriculture, fishing, and tourism, and leading to widespread loss of income.

Water scarcity from mining activities in Kashmir exacerbates environmental degradation, economic pressures, and social challenges, necessitating holistic solutions to address the root causes of these interconnected issues. Mitigation A comprehensive strategy is needed to control excessive mining in Kashmir, including strict environmental regulations and thorough impact assessments. These measures ensure sustainable practices and informed decision-making, minimizing environmental degradation. Community empowerment is crucial in reducing mining's negative impacts. Involving locals in decision-making and incorporating their traditional knowledge promotes sustainable resource management. Supporting eco-tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy projects reduces dependency on extraction. Investing in restoration and conservation initiatives is crucial for Kashmir's ecological future. Rehabilitating mining sites, reforestation, and conserving natural habitats can restore balance, preserve biodiversity, and support economic development while ensuring environmental conservation. Conclusion In essence, while the exploitation of natural resources has the potential to shoot economic growth, adopting sustainable practices is essential for safeguarding the delicate natural environment and the quality of life of its inhabitants. A collaborative approach involving government, business sectors, and community stakeholders is essential to achieving a harmonious balance between development and environmental stewardship, paving the way for a resilient and sustainable Kashmir.

YOUR COLUMN Employees appeal Govt to release their salary arrears before Mar 31

Dear Editor, Government employees and pensioners appealed to the UT administration to release their salary arrears pending for months together before March 31, 2024. Government employees and pensioners sought release the pending salary arrears before March 31.

The Government should release salary arrears at the earliest so that the employees and pensioners would heave a sigh of relief from the rising prices of essential commodities. Scores of employees of the Animal Husbandry Department, who come under New Pension Scheme (NPS), are also without salary for last three to nine months. While the employees recruited under Old Pension Scheme are receiving their regular salaries, the NPS employees are suffering due to non-availability/delay of matching Government share under salary budget.

All the NPS employees in all the districts including doctors and their families are suffering due to non-payment of their salaries. In some districts the employees are without salary for three to four months while in some for the last five to nine months. The Association has sought intervention of the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to intervene into the matter as their dependants are facing lot of hardships. The Association has decided to go on strike if their wages are not paid by the end of this month.