BENGAL’S KANYASHREE
Pages 8-9

LYNCHING ANGER GROWS
Pages 10-11

‘WE FACE A BACKLASH’
Pages 12-13

INTERVIEW
‘NGO FUNDING HAS BEEN FALLING’
MATHEW CHERIAN ON GROWING REGULATORY PRESSURES
Pages 6-7

PUMP PRIMING SOLAR
Pages 22-23

FARM IN YOUR HOME
Page 24

STATES OF ENTERPRISE
Page 28

WATER SMART CITY
How Belagavi has got its wells, lakes and tanks working again
Harvesting Rain for Profit
Name: Shri Muniraj
Village: Muthur, Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu

Muniraj, a marginal farmer with seven acres of land from Muthur village of Krishnagiri district, had a greenhouse where he practiced horticulture. However, a falling water table meant that irrigation became a problem—especially during summer months even for drip irrigation.

To overcome the problem of insufficient water, Srinivasan Services Trust (SST) encouraged Muniraj to save every drop of rainwater falling on his greenhouse. SST provided technical information and engineering support for creating a pond, next to the greenhouse, large enough to collect six lakh litres of rainwater. To prevent loss by seepage, the pond was lined with a polythene sheet and a shade net was used as cover to help arrest loss by evaporation. The pond gets filled up with 3 days of rain. The water saved in this pond is sufficient for the crop needs for one season.

IMPACT: Muniraj is now financially secure and earns more than ₹30,000 per month. He has built a pucca house and also bought a car. He has become an expert on rainwater harvesting and offers advice to several villages in the area.

IMPACT: Muniraj has built a pucca house and also bought a car.

Muniraj has become an expert on rainwater harvesting and offers advice to several villages in the area.

Goa still in knots over coconut tree

Srinagar starts boat transport

Gujarat’s blueprint for farm sector

A spiritual high in coffee

Bold films on politics, patriarchy

What battered Indians say

Ayurveda: That bloated feeling

Contact Civil Society at: response@civilsocietyonline.com
The magazine does not undertake to respond to unsolicited contributions sent to the editor for publication.
Himalaya will continue to expand the scope of its support and strive to help children who would otherwise be denied of education due to hunger.
NGO Funding Has Been Falling Quite Dramatically

Mathew Cherian on the confusing regulations the voluntary sector is grappling with

Civil Society News

7

NGOs from across India, for his views on what didn’t see the light of day. Such a law was drafted under the UPA but it government to consider drafting a law to regulate in last-mile situations. even as the government contended with as well since there is lack of clarity on financial sustainability. Now there is GST to social initiatives and be intended to achieve
to foreign contributions. Income tax provisions, on

The voluntary sector in India has been under regulatory pressure for one reason or the other. Thousands of organisations have seen their licences cancelled for violating norms relating to foreign contributions. Income tax provisions, on the other hand, make it difficult to show any income at all even though it may come from bona fide charitable initiatives or be given in lieu of charitable financial sustainability. Now there is GST to contend with as well since there is lack of clarity on what NGOs should be paying at the time of making transactions. The role of NGOs as agents of development and change is well-documented. They have proved to be redeﬁnable and innovative solution providers, especially in last-mile situations. Even as the government draws on them, it makes their functioning difﬁcult - a trend that began with the Congress-led UPA and has continued with the NDA under the BJP.

A major reason for the problem is that no clear policy governs the voluntary sector. NGOs themselves have done little by way of self-regulation so that governments can’t meddle with them. In response to a public interest litigation (PIL), the Supreme Court in July asked the Union government to start drafting a law to regulate NGOs. Such a law was drafted under the UPA but it didn’t see the light of day.

We spoke to Mathew Cherian, head of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), an apex body of NGOs from across India, for his views on what could be the way forward.

It is being said that grassroots NGOs are under severe stress because of government regulations and taxation. is this accurate?

We are facing a lot of scrutiny both from the Income Tax Department and the Union Home Ministry. Even small NGOs have been getting scrutiny notices. There seems to be some internal circular that the moment an NGO crosses Rs 50 lakh of overall income, it gets a scrutiny notice. The scrutiny, the officer can ask for anything - all communications, paybooks. In certain organisations, that would run into thousands of pages. So you have to take multiple copies of that and leave it with the scrutiny ofﬁcer. He can demand more documentation. Most NGOs have one accountant who does all this so it’s very difﬁcult for them to handle all this.

The other issue is if NGOs are doing slightly commercial work, they do declare it else this income will be taxed in full. So NGOs selling books, magazines, artisanal craft or handicrafts all come under Section 215 of the income tax rules. Their income is treated as commercial income and not charitable money. A demand notice is sent to them.

The process is ﬁrst you pay what is demanded in the notice and then you go in for appeal. If you win the appeal you can get your refund from the Income-Tax Department which is not a simple procedure and it can take anywhere between two to three years.

Nobody is aware of what the implications of GST on the non-proﬁt sector are. But one area that is going to cause concern is CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funding. Some companies have brought CSR under their service tax provision. So non-proﬁts getting CSR funds become vendors of services. So as a result, we will also come under GST. As a result, we will also come under GST.

Does GST apply at all to NGOs?

There are two opinions. One says if you are in the nature of providing services you may have to pay GST. So if you are providing medical services you may be classiﬁed as a service provider of medicines. If you are running educational services, and to cover costs charging a nominal Rs 50, they can classify it as a service. The quantum of charge is not important. Even for Rs 50 you will have to pay service charge.

Should the non-proﬁt sector have been treated differently?

Yes. We should have been treated differently because the nature of the service provision is not a for-proﬁt service provision. It’s a charitable service. You can speculate whether a nominal charge of Rs 50 for remedial education or a token fee of Rs 50 for charitable health services is commercial. Many NGOs in the health sector charge a small amount for medicines.

Now this will fall under the ambit of GST and cause problems. Many organisations will not be able to pay this GST because under each receipt you can’t say GST is the service. Instead of 18 percent you will charge Rs 2. Then they will say you charged 20 percent so you violated the 18 percent rule. You should be charging Rs 1.80 plus 18 percent. So there are lots of things that can happen. The problem is many chartered accountants are confused on this. There is overall confusion.

Even VANI has got one notice, by the way.

What impact is this having? Are NGOs closing down?

The scrutiny notices by the Income Tax Department seem to go to NGOs where they want to harass. Even VANI has got one notice, by the way.

During the UPA rule there was a move to have a law for the voluntary sector. Is it a fair idea? Does non-proﬁt sector leaders opted for self-regulation. Do you think a proper law will help prevent this sort of situation from developing? There was a move for self-regulation. I had chaired an executive committee with the Planning Commission and suggested ways to accredit. Credibility Alliance and Bright Star were also doing accreditation. We have at least 40,000 NGOs who have uploaded their accounts. It may not be a huge number compared to the millions of NGOs around but at least so many ﬁled.

A PIL was ﬁled in the Supreme Court which has now established a committee to examine the issuing of a law for the voluntary sector. Again we have revised the law and have moved the UPA regime. Nobody in the last ministry had done this. The issue was which ministry will deal with it. The ministry also seems to be interested in doing something.

About 10,000 NGOs were not given their FCRA. Some of the reasons cited were that they were not showing their full accounts. But many of these were simple clerical errors. The ministry also seems to have lost some of their submissions. VANI appealed so they allowed those NGOs to once again ﬁle online and in whatever was missed.

At last count about 8,000 out of 10,000 NGOs had cleared their dues. All that outcome was good and VANI’s services were found to be useful.

How many NGOs have lost their FCRA licence?

About 10,000 NGOs were not given their FCRA. Some of the reasons cited were that they were not showing their full accounts. But many of these were simple clerical errors. The ministry also seems to have lost some of their submissions. VANI appealed so they allowed those NGOs to once again ﬁle online and in whatever was missed.

At last count about 8,000 out of 10,000 NGOs had cleared their dues. All that outcome was good and VANI’s services were found to be useful.

Some companies have brought CSR under their service tax provision. So non-proﬁts getting CSR funds become vendors of services.

Corporate Affairs, saying they have lots of experience since they have recently drafted a Company’s Bill. The ministry tossed it back to the law ministry.

What were its highlights?

It said it implemented a new law, put in an accreditation system, bring transparency to the system, etc. NGOs want to be transparent and accountable but the government is not creating the systems for it. They simply publish a report each time, saying only so many NGOs have ﬁled their returns. Under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 there is no provision that says you have to ﬁle your returns. Only Uttar Pradesh has a ﬁve-year registration law with a provision of ﬁling in every return. So NGOs in Uttar Pradesh have been ﬁling because it is mandatory.

NGOs working with VANI are mostly in health, education, environment and grassroots issues. Are they getting ﬁnancial support from companies?

Funding has been falling quite drastically CSR money is accessed mostly by the better-of NGOs who can go up proposals according to corporate standards. Rural NGOs don’t have access to CSR funds except if there is a factory around or a company near their place of operation. Many of them are not getting funds. The amount available to NGOs have been drastically cut by about 50 percent because a lot of it is being lost to Swachh Bharat and Skill India. Other ministries, too, are grabbing that money because especially of the S选择了N和D两个参数。
Impoverished girls of Medinipur find a friend in Kanyashree

West Bengal scheme helps them through school and into jobs

Subir Roy
Kolkata

Monika Soren, from Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, was born into an impoverished tribal Santhal community. Her father was the sole bread earner of her six-member family. As a little girl she would plant a stick into the ground, hang a basket from it, take her father’s bowl and arrows and keep shooting at the birds until she got hold of them. When her father saw her determination, he preferred to send her to school instead of arranging her marriage at adolescence. She first represented her school in shot put and then, when her teachers saw her talent in archery, she was sent to an archery academy run by the Government of West Bengal. She then went on to represent her state in archery. She was quoted as saying in a report, “Celebrating the Kanyashree Success” which bears the West Bengal Government logo, “I am a leading role in a group called Khoj set up by the Government of West Bengal administration so that I can provide a platform for my students to be trained in archery.”

The most visible sign of the West Bengal government’s strategy is groups of girls going to school, neatly dressed and self-confident, on bicycles early morning in semi-urban and rural areas. The bicycles come from the scheme Sabojyoti, which seeks to distribute four million bicycles to children in Classes 9-12 to reduce dropouts. They have been distributed in the past two years, 2015-17. The bicycle is an enabling device which helps the programme, Kanyashree, succeed.

The big thing about the Kanyashree programme is that it works, is visible across the state and in a few years has secured a space for itself in the popular imagination. Over four million girls are currently enrolled under it and nearly nine million have benefited from it till now. In Jharkhand, Kanyashree secured international recognition by winning the 2017 United Nations World Bank Service Award, becoming one of the three schemes across the world to be placed in Category I for “reaching the poorest and most vulnerable through inclusive service and participation”. Globally acclaimed for being comprehensive, efficiently implemented and easy to monitor and evaluate, the programme has been adopted as a model for the central government’s Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.

Kanyashree runs on information technology, both in doing things and monitoring the work done. It is delivered through a dedicated web-based portal (www.kanyashree.gov.in) which reduces paper work and response time. The system was developed in just two months in 2013 by the National Informatics Centre in West Bengal, taking in data on millions of girls, 17,000 institutions like schools, 13 government departments and 130 branch offices. UNESCO is a partner for the project and technically helps in imparting entrepreneurial skills to the girls. The big thing about the Kanyashree programme is that it works, is visible across the state and in a few years has secured a space for itself in the popular imagination.

 procedure for completing forms and registration is hassle-free. We have to update the school’s database and it is a very easy process to do as it helps the students.”

How well has Kanyashree done on the ground?

Once girls join the club they get to choose the skills they want to develop. Among the popular choices are making soft toys, paper flowers, tailoring, computer training, theatre and martial arts. Trainers are brought in from local self-help groups, health centres, Rotary Clubs and the police department. In spreading the messages about nutrition, hygiene, trafficking and early marriage, the Sanghas use devices like role play and street theatre. These are still early days to get a quantitative measure of the success of the project but, says Mannmott Kaur Nanda, district magistrate of North 24-Parganas, “We have already met the targets for annual scholarships and one-time grants but it is not only numbers that make the Sanghas a success. There is a substantial change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence. The Sanghas have given girls a voice to speak up and when can we expect to have another toilet in our school. We have a life-long change in the girls’ confidence.
Saiab Chatterjee
New Delhi

If not now, then when? That unequivocal call to action stirred thousands of citizens. They took to the streets on 26 June to register their protest against the mob-violence being perpetrated against minorities across the country in the name of cow protection. A pivotal part of a Facebook post by independent filmmaker, researcher and writer Saba Dewan, the rhetorical question was triggered by the killing of teenager Hafiz Jumail on a Mathura-bound train.

The appeal went viral and culminated in the countrywide ‘Not in My Name’ campaign. Carrying placards proclaiming “Say no to hatred,” “Hindus against Hindutva” and “End Islamophobia,” people came together to “reclaim the Constitution” and position themselves against political forces bent upon decimating the “idea of India.”

Jumail, who was on his way home after Eid shopping in Old Delhi, died on 22 June after being beaten and stabbed by a mob that hurled communal slurs at him following an altercation over seats.

Dewan reacted to the crime on 24 June. Four days later, citizens were out in strength in 26 cities. The spontaneous mobilisation demonstrated the positive potential of social media, which otherwise has today been appropriated by an army of abusive Hindutva trolls and hate mongers.

A part of Dewan’s long and impassioned FB post read: “Shouldn’t there be protests against the lynching, especially after the killing yesterday in Delhi-NCR of a 16-year-old Muslim boy? Why wait for answers to her questions. The violence get together in protest…?” She did not have to wait for answers to her questions. The response was instant and overwhelming.

Thousands of citizens gathered at Jantar Mantar to protest against mob lynching and communal hatred. The script took a slight turn on 10 July, when seven Amarnath Yatra pilgrims were gunned down by terrorists in Kashmir. Immediately, rightwing leaders and television channels found a stick to beat the ‘Not in My Name’ gang. One of them said: “We are not here because we are against all forms of political violence.”

The ‘Not in My Name’ campaign was by no means a one-off. Actress Swara Bhaskar, also a part of the campaign, petitioned the prime minister for the enactment of Manu Sushilka Kansan (MASUKA), a law against lynching, in the next session of Parliament. It calls for making lynching a non-bailable offence.

In her fervent appeal, the Nil Battey Sannata star wrote: “Every time I read about a new case of mob lynching, my head hangs in shame. I am a proud Indian and have always believed that our country’s strength lies in its diversity and acceptance of different cultures, religions and languages… Lynching does not find a mention in the Indian Penal Code. I believe in a violence-free India. Therefore, appeal to the lawmakers to enact a strict legislation against mob lynching.”

Bhaskar’s plea coincided with the unveiling of a draft MASUKA law in the presence of political activists Prakash Ambedkar and eminent lawyers Sanjay Hegde and Shelzaad Pranavalla. Referring to mob violence inspired by religious hate, Ambedkar said: “It should be nipped in the bud before it develops roots in India. For that, a law against lynching should be passed in Parliament to convey a clear message.”

The ‘Not in My Name’ campaign, on its part, is all set to move to the next level and assume the form of an even more concerted movement. They are digging their heels in for this is a pitched battle of ideologies with no room for half-measures. 

Addressing the gathering in New Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, Dewan spoke of her “massive sense of disquiet.” She said it was time for action because “this is not the India we grow up in.” That sentiment was the leitmotif of the evening as filmmakers, writers, journalists, civil society activists, human rights campaigners and ordinary citizens joined the Not in My Name campaign. Hindus and Muslims, men and women, old and young, spoke in one voice against the continuing violent depredations of thugs roving as cow protectors with the tacit support of and wilful incitement by their political masters.

Mohammed Asaduddin, Jumail’s 22-year-old elder brother, told the protesters at Jantar Mantar: “Even I was called a terrorist in college. This issue is of identity and we have reached a point where we have to hide our skull caps and other symbols that define who we are.”

Ramnath Roy, who was among the protesters, pointed out that in Bengaluru, an all-India Ghorg Karnad and historian Ramachandra Guha turned up to express their solidarity with the campaign.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders.

‘I am a citizen of one of the finest democracies in the world. That is why it is important to respect and protect the tenets of our Constitution.’
It’s an open secret that corruption flourishes at the grassroots. As money gets siphoned off, development plans suffer and villages don’t get the roads, irrigation, drinking water, health facilities and so on that they deserve. Invariably, it is the sarpanch of a village who orchestrates the corruption. The Madhoor Kuan Baki Sangathan (MKSS), led by Aruna Roy, Nikhil Dey and Shantanu, has been fighting this kind of entrenched corruption in Rajasthan for many decades. They realised early on that information was their most potent weapon against corruption. Thus, they launched the epic right to Information movement, and a 53-day dharna in Jaipur in 1997.

What happened in Harwana gram panchayat?

What happened in Harwana was the immediate consequence of us using those provisions to get information from the panchayats. Harwana, in fact, is one of the first explicitly documented cases of the MKSS trying to get information.

The country owes Harwana a lot because Ram Karan, one of my co-accused and co-conductors, documented every one of our instances of trying to get that information. We went there 73 times. The government issued several orders to the sarpanch to give information or action would be taken against him.

We used the Harwana documentation and example even in the Parliamentary Standing Committee and various places while legislating for national law to show that if you don’t bring in penalties then people will never get information because you will keep issuing orders that will get ignored. So what do you do? That’s why we need a judicial authority like a commission, and penalties. We showed them the documentary proof from Harwana and they became significant.

Did you eventually get the information?

Well, we got roughed up. We did not lift a finger. But what we did do was to go back. Aruna immediately sent a fax to the Collector, the SP and the Chief Secretary. To cut a long story short, they filed an FIR two days later. We decided not to file an FIR since for us information was more crucial. We decided to just go to the Collector’s office and say, “look, this is a huge case and we need your help.” The Collector then wrote to the SP, “look, the information is important.” Once the SP wrote to the Collector, the Collector then wrote to the SP. So our battle for information began. In 1996-97 changes in the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj rules enabled us to do it.

We took an FIR and with the FIR we filed an RTI. We went there 73 times. The government issued several orders to the sarpanch to give information or action would be taken against him.

Do you see a backlash from vested interests?

There is a massive backlash because in our culture of opaqueness, even though people in government accept that they have to part with information, there is not a single government, including the Delhi government, that has put in place Section 4 of the RTI law to pro-actively create transparency. It actually saves the government money.

People are asking for information and getting it reluctantly. So you get half the information you want and then get caught in the commission’s long waiting list. Ninety percent of that can be avoided if the government tells their various officers to put out all that information or action would be taken. The bigger point is, people are asking for information and you are telling them no. You are saying no to transparency.

The fight against corruption is important to ensure government schemes work in reality. Absolutely. The government, instead of seeing allies, is buckling under its own corrupt employees and standing by them. None of us are paid people. We are going out of our way, putting our lives at risk. If we are not here, who will stand by them. None of us are paid people. We are going out of our way, putting our lives at risk.

We are sceptical of all government structures but think that at least in transparency and accountability they will be active. But their record on this is abysmal.

We don’t want everyone in jail. We want a change in the paradigm of the way governance works. That is the power of RTI.

How much has the RTI helped in curbing corruption?

The biggest jump was the really powerful RTI law with all its shortcomings but still powerful and a rare instance in India where a law becomes a big shift to the movement.

Often, a movement results in a law but it is so poorly implemented. This law still results today, in its eighth million users. Every one of those applications has elements of Harwana in it. There is someone who is trying to hide and you are asking someone to reveal himself. The eventual aim is to change the culture of governance and democracy from one of secrecy to one of openness.

Today, yes, there is a corruption but ghost works in places where RTI has been used have come down nearly 90 percent. At that time, when we were getting records out, there were works only on paper. Now, what you have is colossal corruption. Master rolls, bills and vouchers are now pro-actively disclosed everywhere. They are on the Internet, painted on walls and so on. It is a revolutionary change. It’s not like things have reached their zenith. There is a limit to transparency or the truth.

Do you see a backlash from vested interests?

There is a massive backlash because in our culture of opaqueness, even though people in government accept that they have to part with information, there is not a single government, including the Delhi government, that has put in place Section 4 of the RTI law to pro-actively create transparency. It actually saves the government money.

People are asking for information and getting it reluctantly. So you get half the information you want and then get caught in the commission’s long waiting list. Ninety percent of that can be avoided if the government tells their various officers to put out all that information or action would be taken.

We noted that if people are asking for information and the government is not providing the information, that is a bleak atmosphere of fear even among officers and the Modi government has said, don’t talk to the press. Public consultations have come down to a trickle. Access to information is reducing.

At the ground level getting information, whether on corruption, agricultural laws, GM foods… you can face violence, because vested interests are threatened by your asking for information. All of us face threats day in and day out. The second level is where they use violence and then the third is where they kill people and then there are false cases. What has happened with us is an inversion of justice. Actually, we were roughed up and we were convicted in a case going back 19 years. Sanjay Subhis (also in the Civil Society Hall of Fame) has false cases against him. Two of them are attempt-to-murder cases. In both he wasn’t even present. The first case was with Jeet Devar in Ranchi, in Jharkhand, a different state. Jeet has written to the DC in Patna, saying there are several cases of these. They are all being filed by MG/NGRAE employers. They are going on dharna against Sanjay, demanding his arrest.

Basically, the department is being forced to part with information. Sanjay takes it one step further because he has built a sangathan to use the information. He is trying to sort out the system, not just one individual. MKSS has been more fortunate. We have more experience, more people and we speak English. Sanjay is a Hindi-speaking village saathib, an electrician. Who can he turn to? He will spend his life in court.

What can be done?

The whistleblowers law that was passed by Parliament during the UPA rule has still not been notified. I think a government that is not putting this law into effect has blood on its hands because it can at least provide some help, some succour, some support to all of us. They want to amend it and reduce its impact. The Lokpal law was passed and also not put into effect. They want to reduce its powers too.

We are sceptical of all government structures but think that at least in transparency and accountability they will be active. But their record on this is abysmal.

The fight against corruption is important to ensure government schemes work in reality. Absolutely. The government, instead of seeing allies, is buckling under its own corrupt employees and standing by them. None of us are paid people. We are going out of our way, putting our lives at risk. If we are not here, who will stand by them. None of us are paid people. We are going out of our way, putting our lives at risk.

We are sceptical of all government structures but think that at least in transparency and accountability they will be active. But their record on this is abysmal.

The fight against corruption is important to ensure government schemes work in reality. Absolutely. The government, instead of seeing allies, is buckling under its own corrupt employees and standing by them. None of us are paid people. We are going out of our way, putting our lives at risk. If we are not here, who will stand by them. None of us are paid people. We are going out of our way, putting our lives at risk.
GOA STILL IN KNOTS OVER COCONUT TREE

When we think of Goa we think of the coconut tree. The tourism department uses it extensively to promote Goa, so there is no need to declare the state tree, said Rajendra Arlekar, former forest minister.

No one seems to be addressing the economic side of the story and it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it.

Goa, where an argumentative mindset is part of the local identity, there are always two sides to any story, sometimes three. The coconut tree issue, which catapulted the Goa Forward Party (GFP) from one MLA to three, is one such story.

For much of the debate, which started in December 2015 when the then Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government decided to strip the coconut palm of ‘tree’ status, the approach has been to save this ubiquitous tree or at least give the impression of saving it. Goa without its coconut tree is like the US without the Grand Canyon.

So, when the GFP found itself in the new government, thanks to some deft political manoeuvres by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, it was time for a solution, even a symbolic one.

About a month ago the GFP and the RPF released a common minimum programme, which, among other things, promised to re-designate the coconut palm as the state tree. All seemed hunky-dory and a common minimum programme, which, among other things, promised to re-designate the coconut palm as the state tree.

The government needs to go beyond symbolic gestures. Braganza is of the view that if the benefits extended to mango growers like a subsidy of Rs 20,000-25,000 per hectare, it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it. Then, in 2007 the Goa Bachao Abhiyan started an agitation after coconut trees were felled in a village called Nasim. The then government understood the political implications and in 2008 brought the coconut tree under the Forest Act. "It was still not a tree, but it was brought under the Act to prevent cutting," explained Braganza. And that is where it remained until January 2016.

The government needs to go beyond symbolic gestures. Braganza is of the view that if the benefits extended to mango growers like a subsidy of Rs 20,000-25,000 per hectare, it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it.

The government has the power to review and we can have a new state tree.

But this is easier said than done. The former forest minister has a different point of view. He explained that there is no need to declare the coconut tree the state tree as it already enjoyed that status. "When we think of Goa we think of the coconut tree. The tourism department uses it extensively to promote Goa as a destination, so there is no need to declare it the state tree," he said.

The government foresees a problem in elevating the status of the coconut tree. "First, the government will have to take a decision to densify the matti tree and then declare the coconut tree as the state tree," he said. This could prove to be difficult.

Braganza, secretary of the Botanical Society of Goa and former agriculture officer, agrees that the move to declare the coconut tree the state tree is symbolic but adds that it will make a difference to the people. "Ninety-nine percent of the people don’t know anything about the matti tree. Not all foresters know about it. The coconut tree, on the other hand, is easily recognised and is therefore symbolic.

In any case, giving the coconut palm state tree status is largely symbolic because the real problem lies elsewhere. Goa’s coconut production has remained stagnant over the last 15 years. Between 2000 and 2015 the total number of nuts produced fluctuated in the narrow range of 125 to 129 million nuts per year. More important, the figures did not rise after the coconut tree was brought under the Forest Act in 2008 by the Digambar Kamat government.

The conclusion is, the debate on the coconut tree tends to remain in the domain of symbolism and no government felt the need to go beyond it.

At the heart of this story is economics. Coconut tree planters are not getting enough for their produce. Second, the yield is as low as 27 to 30 nuts per tree per year. What they ought to get is at least 150 nuts per year. "The yield is poor because hardly anyone takes care of trees. Fertiliser has to be put at least once in three months, but here, once the tree grows it is forgotten," lamented Braganza.

No wonder planters prefer to sell their property to either builders or industrialists. In fact, it was a project to set up a brewery in the village of Amdai in Sanguem taluka that started it all. When it became known that over 500 coconut trees would have to be felled to make way for the project, people woke up. Then came the amendment and people put two and two together and the fate of the government was cooked.

"The project had nothing to do with the amendment," argues Arlekar who spearheaded the amendment. "The process to amend the Forest Act was started by the previous minister in response to demands from planters." But few believe him.

Goa has a large and thriving tourism industry. Government statistics show that at least 50 lakh tourists, both foreign and domestic, visit the state every year and it’s no wonder that there is a huge demand for tender coconuts which fetch a price of up to Rs 35 a piece in the market.

If planters shift to tender coconuts they could earn at least four times more. But this is not happening because of a mindset that places kernel above water. "They are not reacting to the market," explained Braganza who was recently called by a planter in Messes, which is about three kilometres from the capital of Panaji.

The planter was earning about Rs 6,000-25,000 per pluck and had an offer of Rs 160,000 for tender coconuts. He called me because he was worried if plucking tender coconuts would damage the tree," said Braganza. "So there is a psychological block.

No one seems to be addressing the economic side of the story and it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it.

The government needs to go beyond symbolic gestures. Braganza is of the view that if the benefits extended to mango growers like a subsidy of Rs 20,000-25,000 per hectare, it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it.

The government needs to go beyond symbolic gestures. Braganza is of the view that if the benefits extended to mango growers like a subsidy of Rs 20,000-25,000 per hectare, it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it.

The government needs to go beyond symbolic gestures. Braganza is of the view that if the benefits extended to mango growers like a subsidy of Rs 20,000-25,000 per hectare, it would not be out of place to say that the coconut tree has gained little from political vicissitude over the last 15 years. It never enjoyed any status under the Forest Act and no one really bothered about it.
Srinagar starts boat transport

Jehangir Rashid
Srinagar

In the old days, people from Srinagar often travelled by boat down the Jhelum to towns and villages along the bank. Now, the state government of Mehbooba Mufti plans to revive water transport in the summer capital. The idea is to decongest road traffic in the city and curb pollution. Travelling by boat or motorised shikaras would also be attractive for tourists.

If the plan works out the government will extend water transport facilities to other districts of the Kashmir Valley.

The divisional administration has started the service on a trial basis. ‘Free water transport will be available to the public on the Jhelum river for one month on a trial basis from 15 July. The Chief Minister has a futuristic vision to develop water transport in the city for which two water channels have been earmarked, the Jhelum and Dal Lake,” said Baseer Ahmad Khan, Divisional Commissioner.

An action plan, based on water transport standards prevalent in Italy and other European countries, has been prepared.

“It will generate employment opportunities for shikara owners and for unemployed youth,” said Ahmad Khan. The timing of this free service is from 10 am to 4 pm. Boat journey from Peerzo to Veer Chattabal and back. Later, these services will be extended to Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla.

For the trial run, two motorboats of the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation and one motor-driven shikara were pressed into service. The motorboats can carry 18 persons and the shikara can carry eight.

Lone said that this service would not only revive traditional water transport, but would also promote heritage structures on the banks of the Jhelum. Motor-driven traditional shikaras will pass under the famous seven bridges of the Jhelum.

Lone said that this service would not only revive traditional water transport, but would also promote heritage structures on the banks of the Jhelum. Motor-driven traditional shikaras will pass under the famous seven bridges of the Jhelum. The Irrigation and Flood Control Department has been directed to maintain the ghats as an anchor point for the motorboats.

People have welcomed the initiative and agreed it would lead to some decongestion of traffic in Srinagar city. They demanded that the frequency of the service be increased so that more people could avail of it.

“It will be prudent to use traditional shikaras instead of motorised boats. This will ensure that we do not pollute the Jhelum. We have already paid a price on the environment front by causing irreparable damage to water bodies like the Dal Lake, the Jhelum and Wular Lake. It is important that further damage is avoided to our water bodies,” said Imtiyaz Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar.

Mohammad Imran, a student, said the hours of the service should be increased. The current timing of 10 am to 4 pm is not practical, he felt.

Some years ago, a cruise service had been introduced for visitors to Srinagar. It started from Zero Bridge and culminated near Chattabal in downtown Srinagar. However, it did not last.

Hopefully, this experiment will also inspire the state government to clean up its rivers and lakes so that a recurrence of floods does not take place.

WHERE ARE WE BEING READ?

WATER SMART CITY

Belagavi gets its wells and lakes working again

Shree Padre
Belagavi

E VERY summer, until a few years ago, temps would rise in the municipal corporation of Belagavi (formerly Belgaum), a city in northwest Karnataka. Armies of women fortified with kolas (water vessels) would barge into the municipal offices with all their might. They led morcha after morcha for water. Officials from the corporation, wherever they went, would be encircled by people demanding water.

Such heated protests have been petering out over the past 10 years. The city has revived a great many of its traditional wells, tanks and lakes, and there is water for everyone. “We are now in the third week of June,” says Sanjyot Bandekar, mayor of Belagavi, with relief. “The monsoon hasn’t really set in. If it was those difficult years, we would have been really tense. From early morning, corporators would have been besieged with phone calls from aggrieved housewives.”

In 1995 the city faced acute drought. The monsoon was late by a fortnight. Belagavi’s water supply came from the Rakoscope reservoir, 22 km away. That year, the reservoir dried up. The municipality found itself supplying water to angry citizens just once a week. Corporation officials didn’t know what to do.

In a bid to recall how their old wells had served them, they started designing and setting up wells. Before the Rakoscope reservoir was commissioned in 1964, these open wells were a reliable source of water. But, alas, most of them had been crammed with garbage or were lying abandoned since the city had switched to piped water sourced from the reservoir.

During the drought year, the municipal corporation hesitatingly began to revive the Kapileshwara tank, a huge water body about half an acre in size. About 100-150 volunteers from five or six招股 mandates worked, digging shoulder-to-shoulder with officials from the municipal corporation even on Sundays, recalls Vijay More, ex-mayor. It took a month. Lo and behold, the tank began to yield water.

Encouraged, the municipal corporation turned its attention to the deserted open wells. They were familiar with a British-era document that mentioned the existence of 700 wells topped with water. M. Vishveshwarya, a legendary engineer who designed the Rakoscope water supply scheme, had mentioned in his project report how the city’s chain of open wells could sustain its water supply. The Rakoscope reservoir was needed just for the city’s projected population growth, he had said.

So Belagavi’s municipal corporation embarked on a mission to revive its old wells and water bodies. In 22 years it has restored more than 100 wells and 10 lakes. Thirty-two large wells provide 400,000 litres per day round the year. Nearly one-third of the city’s population of 600,000 citizens gets part of its water supply from wells.

There is no shortage of water even during the peak of summer. Belagavi has been recently selected for the smart city programme. But what the municipal corporation has done with its water is even smarter. It is weaning the city away from dependence on rivers, dams and canals, and showing other cities the way forward.

THE INITIAL STEPS

The first well the municipal corporation revived was Mathi Galli. R.C. Nayak, city engineer of Belagavi Corporation, the brain behind the well revival plan, says: “We were very apprehensive about whether we would succeed. We hoped the well would yield clean water in sufficient quantity to supply to residents.”

Fortunately, Shetty Galli fulfilled all expectations. This boosted the corporation’s confidence. It went on to revive another well, Shetty Galli.

Well water was tested to find out if it was potable. Next a filter, pump and pipeline were installed. Only 40 litres per day was drawn to augment the existing supply. The Shetty Galli well, a perfect rectangle, was constructed by the British in 1883. Mathi Galli was also built by the British in 1883. A fire station was located near it.

Amazingly, both wells contained an unbelievably large quantity of water. “In one well we installed four 5 HP pump sets to drain the water but for seven to eight hours, the water level appeared unchanged,” recalls Nayak. “We could easily lift 400,000 litres of water from each of these wells.”

Surprisingly, water levels didn’t go down in these wells even at the end of summer.”

The corporation paused at this stage and decided to seek expert opinion before going ahead. Fortunately, Dr Adhiren G. Chachadi, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Goa University, was in the city for some work. Officials from the corporation sought his opinion on scaling up their well revival plan. Dr Chachadi surveyed the city and prepared a groundwater flow map and report. Most public wells were located on water flow lines.

This encouraged the corporation to go ahead with its plan: The Rotary Club, Lions Club, Indal factory and local people pitched in. But the leadership for the effort came from the Belagavi City Corporation.

City engineer Ravindra Satu Nayak, 58, the driving spirit behind the mission, explains what restoring wells entails. “It’s more labour-oriented,” he says. “The muck has to be professionally removed. We employ only qualified well-diggers. The wells were filled with foul-smelling debris and, sometimes, poisonous gases.”

Workers were given masks and gloves. Cleaning was carefully monitored to ensure no worker was injured.

THE CONGRESS WELL

In 2004 the historic Congress Well was revived. Built in 1924 to commemorate the Congress’ historic Belagavi convention which was presided over by Sheshatma Gandhi, the well cost Rs 4,170 and three annas at the time. The Congress Well went on to supply water to half the city. But once tap water was introduced, this well, like scores of others, turned into a dustbin.

“Later it became infamous as a ‘suicide well’,” says M.K. Hegde, resident editor, Vijaya Karnataka. “Wild plants grew around it. It became a den of rowdies. Decent folk were afraid to come near.”

Today the well, surrounded by a beautiful garden, brims with light blue water.

Another successful revival was of a well at Hutatma Chowk named ‘Barah Gade’ because 12 pulleys used to be deployed to lift water from it. Households would collect water from this well and paanwallahs would supply its water on small hand-pulled carts to residents.

In 1994, when piped water was introduced in Belagavi, households were ambivalent about getting connected to the pipeline. When efforts to woo residents failed, the then divisional commissioner had what he thought was a brainstorm. Since residents were refusing piped water, he ordered closure of the wells. Barah Gade was closed. Ironically, 30 years later, the same government machinery had to work hard to reopen it.

Over the years, the area where Barah Gade once flourished had become a parking lot. When corporation officials began their revival efforts, there was resistance. Auto drivers and the owner of an ice-cream parlour objected vehemently. It took the corporation two years to overcome the opposition. In 2013, it revived its efforts. Then, corporation officials realised they didn’t know where precisely the well was.

Nayak then hit upon an idea. He began combing the locality for its oldest residents. Finally, 94-year-old Yalagi offered to help. He said he used to play near the well as a boy. Nayak took him to the spot. Yalagi placed four stones on the ground after looking at the spot carefully. “The well was between these stones,” said the old man. “This used to be called ‘freedom fighters’ circle’.”

Thereafter, the Barah Gade well was found and cleaned. It now supplies water to the surrounding locality. To retain its old charm, 12 iron dummy pulleys have been mounted on the well on all four sides.

A similar strategy was followed for rejuvenation of the Kudachi well. Corporation officials sought out the oldest person of the locality. He led them to a place where there was a big stone. At first there was no sign of a well having existed there. After digging through mounds of garbage for a considerable period, the well revealed itself.
The Rotary Club shoulderled the revival of six wells over three years. Their most outstanding achievement was the revival of the well in Veesabadra Nagar. “The well had become a dumping ground,” says Chaitanya Kulkarni, former club president. “We got a matching grant of $26,000 from Amwell Rotary Club of England. They were impressed when we told them revival of the well would provide water to 10,000 people. In fact, three representatives of that club came all the way from England to attend the inauguration function.”

Built by the British in 1908, the Veesabadra well is a three-in-one well. Two underground tunnels six feet high connect the three wells together. The well is now flush with water. Another one is being revived in the cantonment area. Workers finally found it after digging more than 60 feet.

Around 70 smaller wells, connected to a plastic tank, are used for local supply. According to need, one or two more standposts are constructed. Water is not lifted from the 10 lakes the corporation has revived. The lakes are intended to recharge groundwater and ensure drinking water is always available.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

When the team from the municipal corporation went to inspect the wells, anti-social elements used to protest. But they finally came round and even helped out. “Where water is concerned, no one is an anti-social. There are cases of rowdies joining the mainstream after cooperating to restore water,” says Nayak.

A notorious rowdy named Maruthi had his adda, a den for drinking and gambling, near the Veesabadra Nagar well. When officials from the corporation began trying to revite it, he threatened them. But the team under Nayak refused to budge. They tried reasoning with him. Maruthi pleaded that his adda was his only source of income. Out of compassion, the officials offered him a job as a welman, a post he had aspired for in the past. He took the job and became a changed man for a while.

“My mother thanked us. He used to hand over his earnings to her,” says Nayak. But, in a twist of fate, Maruthi went back to his old ways as a rowdy, landed in jail and his adda was closed.

Ironically, another challenge the corporation faced was getting people to accept well water. The water was always tested to find out if it was potable. But convincing people to drink it wasn’t easy.

Nayak went from house-to-house with two assistants and a koda of water. He would request the lady of the house to bring him a glass. He would then cline the virtues of well water and drink it in front of the family. The mayor, corporations and even the local MLA had to employ this strategy. “I had to literally market water from the well,” laughs Nayak.

Fortunately for the corporation, none of the revived wells was contaminated. But the corporation found the problem of contamination in one or two private wells.

The process of slogging these wells could be a model to follow for thousands of other contaminated wells in the country.

“If a well is contaminated, there is the danger of the contamination spreading to other areas. We have to identify the source. It could be a gutt or faulty underground drainage. We use dyes that are generally used by laundries to see if water is coming from the point of contamination,” explains Nayak.

It is far better to eliminate contamination of a well and make its water potable than to dig a new well. Huge resources abandoned contaminated wells, not realizing they could be made usable. Every corporation should spread knowledge of such techniques.

“This is not rocket science,” Nayak reiterates, “Contamination is always local. You have to observe where it is originating and then reverse it. Corporations should be trained in such techniques.”

IMMERSION TANKS

Another challenge the corporation faced was preventing contamination of water sources during Ganesha Chaturthi, a festival that is celebrated ubiquitously in Belagavi. The idea of preventing contamination appealed to the people but they asked where the idols should be immersed.

The corporation came up with a solution. It built 11 immersion tanks across the city. These are portable maximum groundwater recharge tanks. The ability to recharge and hold water is very high in this terrain,” says Purandar B.K., a scientist with NIoH. “If the surrounding environment is kept suitable for recharge and not exposed then water than can be recharged is lifted, these wells can supply water for at least 50 years.”

The corporation is now exploring the possibility of reducing electricity costs and making the water tanks more energy-efficient.

“The topography of the city is shaped like a bowl, surrounded by hillocks on three sides. Its basaltic terrain permits maximum groundwater recharge,” says Vishwanath. Instead of fighting over the Kaveri river, Bengaluru and also Delhi should have created areas to harness and treated water. “It is energy-efficient and cheap. A local engineer can do far more result-oriented work than an outside expert. One has to study local history very well and the community’s usage pattern,” he says.

Every city must map its groundwater, the quantity being used, recharge areas and the quality of the water. “A combination of groundwater, harvesting and treated water can make our cities sustainable in water,” says Nayak. Instead of fighting over the Kaveri river, Bengaluru and also Delhi can learn from Belagavi.

Cover: Contact Us: R.Nayak – 9448102297 Email: bgcenorth@gmail.com

The Barhan Gade well at Husetra Chok on with 12’ hump from puley

The Barhan Gade well being doubled and cleaned

Cover

‘The topography of the city is shaped like a bowl, surrounded by hillocks on three sides. Its basaltic terrain permits maximum groundwater recharge.’

Nayak has received eight awards to date for his outstanding contributions. Among them are the National Urban Water Award (2010) by the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, the Outstanding Award during the Bangalore World Water Summit (2012), the Gilles National Award in 2015 (an award usually reserved for civil servants), and the Skoch Order of Merit Award in 2015 for smart-governance.

“My estimate is that Belagavi has 4,000 to 4,500 wells. Out of these 800 may be in use. If we make more wells functional and bring in greater efficiency in water supply management, we can free ourselves of dependence on the Raskosve reservoir or Hirakud dam,” says Chaitanya Kulkarni whose firm, Chaitanya Associates, has been reviving private wells in homes. “So far he has revived 12 wells. ‘Many sensible government officials and even NGOs are coming forward to revive wells. An NIer lady contacted us, keen to revite a well that was built by her grandfather. In some areas, there are issues with underground drainage,’ explains Shashidhar Kurera, commissioner of Belgaum City Corporation and managing director of Belgaum Smart City. ‘We have to do more. Having an inventory of wells and closed wells is really a good idea. What we have is scattered information. Even in the master-plan of the smart city we have added this component. In fact, the importance of wells is included in the policy itself.’

LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Noted water activist S. Vishwanath, who heads the Rainwater Club of Bengaluru, says the message from Belgaum is that local water resources and communities are the key to resolving water issues. “Community attention to wells will subsequently make them more visible and give them the status that they need,” says Vishwanath.

The institution that does this is a local NGO called SKOSH. “We are building awareness and training people to revive and maintain wells,” says Vishwanath.

“It is energy-efficient and cheap. A local engineer can do far more result-oriented work than an outside expert. One has to study local history very well and the community’s usage pattern,” he says.
Many more consumers need to be reached. Technology and services from solar companies should be made more widely available. Power distributors must feel enthusiastic about solar so that grid interconnectivity becomes smoother. Banks have a crucial role to play in helping shape the market by lending to solar power developers and end-users and structuring loans on affordable terms. Apart from solar developers, SBI will be encouraged to lend to end-users like small and medium enterprises where the cost of financing is not so much the issue as the access to financing. By providing $650 million to SBI we are asking them to put aside $650 million of their own resources and dedicate that entirely to solar power at concessional rates in order to shape the market. It is not just financing $650 million worth of assets but creating a context in which much more significant financial players can take part. We are moving towards much more sophisticated work. SBI is an experienced and sophisticated lender, it is now to the solar power market. The World Bank will be helping SBI orient itself to the needs of the market. Civil Society Spoke to Simon Skill: The issue we are trying to address is in the lack of affordable financing.

The World Bank will essentially be pumping priming the rooftop solar market to get it moving. It is hoped that disbursement of $650 million in loans by a big public sector lender like SBI will provide the momentum needed to achieve commercial viability. So, rather than finance $650 million worth of assets, somewhere in the vicinity of 600 MW to 800 MW in solar rooftops, we are trying to do it in ways that will also incentivise or provide comfort to the banks to lend a portion of the money that is required to cover a portion of that asset.

With SBI we are doing something different. We are saying the government has a solar rooftop programme: it wants SBI to provide finance in that programme. What we are going to do is to provide concessional finance to SBI not for specific assets but to support that programme. So, we will disburse that money as SBI uses a similar quantum of money to finance solar rooftop installations. For every dollar, every megawatt it invests in we will provide this concessional financing to it. We have given SBI the capacity to lend at sub-nine percent. We are looking at ways in which we can leverage our financing to create much larger volumes of financial flows towards sectors that are important to India and the world. What is your expectation of SBI? What do you expect it to lend at? This goes beyond a business arrangement. This is a social initiative. Absolutely. Rates in the market change over time but they have generally ranged between 13 percent and 18 percent. We want to discount that. SBI came up with a rate, depending on creditworthiness, that sits between 8.3 and 8.9 percent. It is sub-nine percent. So, it is a very significant discount to what the market was and still is providing. I think there is also the issue of availability and what we have done with this facility is to incentivise SBI to lend to smaller parts of the market such as small and medium enterprises where the cost of financing is not so much the issue as the access to financing.

So, is $650 million the limit of the fund? At the moment. Hopefully, by the time $650 million has been disbursed you would have seen the business start to grow to the point where, particularly in the commercial and industrial sectors that we are targeting initially, there is a strong commercial case for solar. Who will SBI be funding? Your press release talks about other sectors which we are expected to lend to. We are looking at companies which can do solar rooftop projects and they should have certain credentials. Yes. But we also want to reach out to the small and medium enterprises which will struggle, given the size of their balance sheets, and present a credible risk to SBI. So, within the structure that we have created, we will use SBI to set up a small first-loss facility. We provide some risk coverage to incentivise SBI to go and work with much smaller companies.

So what you hope to do is to bring a lot more detailing to SBI lending in this sector. Detailing, yes. SBI simply hasn’t dealt with this sector. SBI is a sophisticated institution and deals with sophisticated project financing across the board, but it hasn’t yet dealt with the small solar rooftop market. What we have done through this programme is to provide incentive to SBI to look at that sector and structure its own internal processes and continue to improve them. Does this mean working very closely with SBI? Absolutely.

There is a lot of homework to be done. A part of the GEF grant will be used for capacity development, which will be aimed at SBI. We will be working alongside SBI to develop some of their processes to aid in their understanding of the rooftop market, and to help them see how this market has grown in places like California. We will also be helping developers understand how to tap into finance. What about learning from successful Indian projects? I agree that is a lot already happening out there. A lot of that experience is also specific to the Indian situation and realities here. It may have more relevance than learning from California.

Some people will ask why we are spending $650 million, which is the commitment we made to the Indian government to do this. When we talk of a developer, it could also be a house developer going beyond that. The roof of the housing estate could be developed for solar power and that it can own that asset alongside the housing estate. Now, we are only going to finance the solar asset.

What are you essentially trying to do in the dots. Basically, you will finance the companies that provide solar power services but you will also help the SMEs connect with them. Or provide the finance directly to the SMEs if they want to own the asset themselves and have sufficient equity. They can go to SBI with the proposal to finance their own facility.

What have we recognised is that there will be some small and medium enterprises that will struggle, given the size of their balance sheets, and present a credible risk to SBI. So, within the structure that we have created, we will use SBI to set up a small first-loss facility. We provide some risk coverage to incentivise SBI to go and work with much smaller companies.
**A RICH, NUTRITIOUS VEGETABLE** Peeping through are gourd, ridge gourd, bottle gourd, chilies and chaulai. Mandawewala for one, is grocer for the fresh, fresh produce directly to consumers in the area. Friends and family roped him in to embellish their balconies, terraces and backyards with herbs. It is from this point that the idea of urban farming took shape in his mind. His intensive research and growing knowledge about urban farming evolved into Edible Routes, a Delhi-based company officially registered in August 2016. There are great reasons for Mandawewala to celebrate, for one, the grocer is certain about the freshness and nutritional value of the produce he will grow.  The produce will start losing its nutritional value as soon as it is harvested and loses half its nutritional value in about 24 hours. It may look fresh, but different artificial means but what you are eating is empty calories,” he says. Equally important, he says, are three questions: Who is growing our food? Where is it being grown? And how is it being grown? “We have lost the link from compost with all our food,” he says. “Urban farming is how you build that connection back. The moment you grow, for example, a pot of spinach in your balcony you have answers to these questions. Obviously, you won’t put any chemicals into it,” he adds.

Greening urban spaces is what Edible Routes is all about. The venture holds workshops on subjects like, composting, organic waste management, water harvesting, composting and even eco-construction, and offers consultancy and products that support its mission. The standard package for consultation costs around 1,000 rupees and includes designing the space, getting the project started and managing it for about two months. For small balconies, where only material costs and a bit of hand-holding skills is required, the costs range from 7,000 rupees, he adds.

Edible Routes’ approach is beyond the obvious. The company targets younger minds as well. Among the educational institutions where it holds workshops and involves children is the Delhi Government. Local campsuses are the Shiv Nadar School and the British School. For the massive Indian School project, which will run into multiple lakhs, Edible Routes will help convert what today is a concrete jungle into a green space.

**CONVERSATION WITH THE STATE** Edible Routes began and is still working purely on providing consultation fees. In all, Mandawewala has been involved in the farm for the past seven years. He started and managing it for three years and now works from there.

**Eco-Friendly Citizen**

Mandawewala and his 12-member team work from a 2.5-acre farm in Agra Nagar, near Greater Noida, in the PHI. The farm is located on a large piece of land that has 11 owners, mostly artists. Near the entrance you see studies of well-known artists Vivan Sundaram and Jagannath Panda. Throughout the farm and there seems to be chaos all around — miniature/growing varieties of basil grow in proximity to chillies while creepers like black-eyed peas, bottle gourd and okra compete for space. There are drumsticks and kuleba naag (water spinach) too next to each other happily.

“Urban farming is intentionally chaotic. The idea is to grow plants in a way that we can multiply our yield and enhance our resilience,” says Mandawewala. Companion planting is a science he believes in. “This is syngony, not competition. If you go into a forest, you don’t see one variety of tree or plant. The principles of nature are diversity and resilience,” he says.

There’s a shop too at the farm where avid gardeners can pick up organic farming mix, organic pesticides, bio-fertilisers, gardening tools, pots, seeds, saplings, composting kits and much else. Mandawewala has a deep affinity with organic farming though his background is radically different. He holds a Master of Information Systems & Finance at the University of Texas in Austin, went on to a career as a senior consultant with Deloitte Consulting in San Francisco. But he was restless and in 2008 decided to relocate to India.

**Eco-Friendly Citizen**

“I was restless and in 2008 decided to relocate to India. There were some critical issues that helped us build such a meaningful relationship. First, it had to do with our basic belief that most people intrinsically design their future of being positive and constructive. People within the government are no exception. When an entity may face several challenges, there is a significant proportion of people within the government who are sincere, hard-working and well-meaning. The odds they face — in terms of serious constraints in resources, political influence and institutional conditions — are huge and yet they manage to focus on their responsibilities.

Second, we have to recognise the scale on which and the constraints within which the government operates. Despite the relatively large irrevocable amount that Premji has set apart, our funds are insignificant compared to those deployed by the government. Further, the government has a constitutional responsibility for one and all — and cannot differentiate or discriminate between sections of society to provide better benefits. Third, we cannot approach the government with ready-made solutions. We have to test and analyse the problems together to evolve solutions. Incidentally, this process itself is a capacity-building one on both sides. There are no silver bullets for the mammoth and often due to conflicting interests.

Fourth, while the Azim Premji Foundation enjoyed a certain brand with the government, it was not a silver bullet. We had to engage in the capacity-building efforts of teachers and other functionaries. It was clear that we had to learn to build such a meaningful relationship.

Fifth, we were very sensitive while interacting with them. It is a constant negotiation between not being subservient and not coming across as disrespectful. Waving a point at a point is the most important factor in our relationship.

There was some resistance initially. The rate cut was an important factor in our relationship.

Fifth, we were very sensitive while interacting with them. It is a constant negotiation between not being subservient and not coming across as disrespectful. Waving a point at a point is the most important factor in our relationship.

*Continued on page 26*
E VER since India enacted the new land acquisition law in 2013, it has failed to deliver on its promise of returning unused land to its original owners. More than six years have passed since India enacted the new land acquisition law, but people are still tilling their land. What if only 50 percent of the land acquired under any of the three laws has been returned to its original owners? The responsibility of the government sets up limited health or education facilities for people as it is ultimately going to be used for coal mining. While issues were noticed to be faced by some states, the National Award for the best state in implementation of the 2013 law has not been awarded. The status quo is maintained and the land remains unused for a long time. The government has only recently shown signs of being receptive to the idea of returning unused land to its original owners. The idea of returning unused land to its original owners is not new, but it has not been implemented on a large scale.

The agricultural research and extension system have deteriorated in Gujarat, as in the rest of India. But, after 2000, the Gujarat government unbundled the massive Gujarat Agricultural University into four independent universities and increased the resources allocated to them. Scientists at the four universities have adopted a micro-irrigation system. As a result, the yield of crops has increased, which has helped farmers to increase their income. The Gujarat government has focused on the development of new crops and technologies to improve the productivity of crops. The government has also been providing financial assistance to farmers to adopt new technologies.

The agricultural research and extension system have deteriorated in Gujarat, as in the rest of India. But, after 2000, the Gujarat government unbundled the massive Gujarat Agricultural University into four independent universities and increased the resources allocated to them. Scientists at the four universities have adopted a micro-irrigation system. As a result, the yield of crops has increased, which has helped farmers to increase their income. The Gujarat government has focused on the development of new crops and technologies to improve the productivity of crops. The government has also been providing financial assistance to farmers to adopt new technologies.

The agricultural research and extension system have deteriorated in Gujarat, as in the rest of India. But, after 2000, the Gujarat government unbundled the massive Gujarat Agricultural University into four independent universities and increased the resources allocated to them. Scientists at the four universities have adopted a micro-irrigation system. As a result, the yield of crops has increased, which has helped farmers to increase their income. The Gujarat government has focused on the development of new crops and technologies to improve the productivity of crops. The government has also been providing financial assistance to farmers to adopt new technologies.
The business development of Hyderabad and Bengaluru in the 1990s and since 2000 has been largely on account of local enterprise. That phenomenon explains the overall economic development of Gujarath, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu as well.

All this is not to deny the role of political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.

On a recent visit to Uttar Pradesh, I met young entrepreneurs who had been let down by their hopes on Akhilesh. Some had even returned from the United States, giving up promising careers there, to invest in UP. They were all disappointed. They are now praying for new leadership in the state to bring in new investment into UP and keep existing investors from moving out. They have to do business in UP as good a place as any to do business in.

One consequence of the new Goods & Services Tax is that the role of area-based incentives is less relevant to the development-oriented local political leadership. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Jagan Yedla Rao managed to bring in new investment across the state by working with the central government and industry leaders. The state had some very good chief ministers and long periods of political stability. That, however, does not seem to have made much difference.
Room with a view. The presidential suite at the Java Rain Resort attracts both Hindus and Muslims, all of whom participate in an annual Budan. Religion scores over nature here, as this town is the residence of Dattatreya Swami as well as Baba gifting India her first coffee plantation.

When Indira Gandhi entreated the voters of this town to do: visit Marle Chennakesava temple, belavadi for curing, roasting, grinding and other coffee paraphernalia were on display in the lab. For editing out bits of the script over several rounds of confrontational kind of politics that thrives on tall claims, derives impatience and tasteless distortions, among others. This town has got away with a film of this nature bears testimony to the power of the web.

In Pagla Ghoda, a 114-minute adaptation of a theatrical production that ran well over three hours, the director who made his big-screen debut in 2014 to bring Indian films this year. Both are screen adaptations of writer-director Bikas Ranjan Mishra has made two such films this year. Both are screen adaptations of important plays—one relates a story of love and cruelty, the other is a searing portrait of patriarchal smugness.

In Pagla Ghoda, a famous quote from French nouvelle vague pioneer Jean-Luc Godard: “If you need for a movie is a gun and a girl.” But the film points towards much more than it actually explicates on the screen. The gun and the girl are just a pretext for an exploration of the larger forces that have been let loose by forces feeding on a belligerence, confrontational kind of politics that thrives on tall claims, derives impatience and tasteless distortions.

The irony is lost on them. The dialogues in the film censors have no jurisdiction over the artistic, literary, aesthetic, ethical, social or moral content of any representation whether it be theatre, cinema, radio or television.
When relationships crumble

MBITIOUS architects, live in relationships, stressed partners and live in the city with a dose of corruption and bad weather thrown in — or... those who play games with property and use real estate as their storey-by-storey ruin to pass on... a naive, almost claustrophobic, existence dominated by ambition. The book opens with Sushrut and Sanika, both architects, who are in love but have never married. Sanika is part of a young group of builders who have never married. Sushrut and Sanika, both architects, who are in love but have never married. Sanika is part of a young group of builders who have never married.

Various characters take over the pages, covering the everyday aspects of city living with flashbacks to the past of the main protagonists. Ganesh Matkari’s novel has quite a bit of the short story to it. Each of the characters seems to be complete in itself, with a different voice taking over, ending on a note of inner conviction, not with the high drama one would expect given the subject. Occasionally it takes time for the links to the main story to build since this method of narration is very different from the usual linear progression we expect with individuals like these. Matkari breaks up the coefficient of narrative and, while dealing with the big picture, ignores the smaller details like the cleaner of a car, a verandah in a small Mumbai apartment or the exterior of a building.

In the end it is all about relationships and the choices one makes in life. Issues come to a head over the building of the oddly named Elena, a high-context profile construction that houses all the ambitions of the group, spearheaded by a brilliant, wheeling-dealing Bengal. But at its foundations lies a work-related argument between Sanika and her once best friend that sends the whole Mumbai community a work-related argument between Sanika and her once best friend that sends the whole Mumbai community. A different musing takes over the pages, covering the everyday aspects of city living with flashbacks to the past of the main protagonists. Ganesh Matkari’s novel has quite a bit of the short story to it. Each of the characters seems to be complete in itself, with a different voice taking over, ending on a note of inner conviction, not with the high drama one would expect given the subject. Occasionally it takes time for the links to the main story to build since this method of narration is very different from the usual linear progression we expect with individuals like these. Matkari breaks up the coefficient of narrative and, while dealing with the big picture, ignores the smaller details like the cleaner of a car, a verandah in a small Mumbai apartment or the exterior of a building.
That bloated feeling

I work as a copy writer and spend long hours at my desk, working on my laptop. I exercise moderately. Yet I find my days are made miserable because of bloating. An hour or so after eating my stomach feels like it has swelled into a balloon. I have tried antacids but they give temporary relief. Please help.

Ashit Sengupta

WHY BLOATING OCCURS

Bloating, gasiness and abdominal discomfort might look very simple but the problem can be quite painful and embarrassing to those who suffer from it. Severe bloating and pain often disrupts the daily routine of patients.

● Overeating is probably the most common cause of bloating. 
● Eating too fast adds to the risk of bloating after a meal. 
● The remedy is simple – eat at a moderate pace. 

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Avoid habits like drinking through a straw, gurgling carbonated beverages, chewing gum and sucking on hard candy. These habits tend to increase the air we swallow, which, after a while, might cause bloating.

Each person’s reaction to a meal may be different. This might be an inclusive list, but often some of these foods might be the culprit. Try to strictly avoid or reduce consumption of these foods. 

Beans, chickpeas and lentils contain indigestible sugars called oligosaccharides. 
Fruits and vegetables such as cabbage, green peas, potatoes, cauliflower, carrots, apricots and sprouts may cause gas and bloating. 
Sorbitol, an artificial sweetener, can’t be easily digested. 
Fructose, a natural sugar, added to many processed foods, is difficult for many people to digest.

Sstitute the cause, then take Trikatu tablet (Himalaya/ Zandu) – one to two tablets, twice daily, before meals for two to three weeks. 
If constipation is the cause, then take Trikatu tablet/syrup (Himalaya) — 1 tablet/ml syrup, twice daily, after meals. 
If indigestion is the cause, then take Trikatu tablet/syrup (Himalaya) — 1 tablet/ml syrup, twice daily, after meals till the symptoms subside. 
Gasex tablet (Himalaya)/ Gasex tablet (Himalaya)/ Gasastak bati (Baidyanath) — 2 tablets, thrice daily, after meals. 

HOME REMEDIES

If eliminating or reducing consumption of hard-to-digest foods doesn’t solve the problem of frequent bloating, try any of the following home remedies and Ayurvedic medicines for about two weeks.

Chew and swallow one teaspoon of fennel seeds (saunf) after every meal. 
Take about half a teaspoon of carom (ajwain) seeds with warm water once a day. 
Take a tablespoon of cumin (jeera) seeds and boil in two cups of water for 10-15 minutes. Drinking this ‘jars water’ is a good natural remedy for curbing gas production. 
Take a quarter to half teaspoonful each of asafoetida (hing) and rock salt (sendha namak) mixed in fresh buttermilk (chauch) after meals. This decoction is helpful in relieving bloating.

The least is taken for the treatment of bloating that occurs after a single meal. A person with chronic bloating will have to be more careful about what he eats.

If bloating is due to the consumption of foods that are hard to digest, then consider reducing his consumption of these foods. Take a tablespoon of cumin (jeera) seeds and boil in two cups of water for 10-15 minutes. Drinking this ‘jars water’ is a good natural remedy for curbing gas production.

Cabbage, green peas, potatoes, cauliflower, carrots, apricots and sprouts may cause gas and bloating.

Beans, chickpeas and lentils contain indigestible sugars called oligosaccharides.

Fruits and vegetables such as cabbage, green peas, potatoes, cauliflower, carrots, apricots and sprouts may cause gas and bloating.

Sorbitol, an artificial sweetener, can’t be easily digested. Fructose, a natural sugar, added to many processed foods, is difficult for many people to digest.

Dairy products can be a source of intestinal distress and bloating if you have trouble digesting lactose or milk sugar. However, buttermilk seems to be an exception.

Whole grains, recommended for their many health benefits, can sometimes cause bloating and gas problems. 

Difficult-to-digest foods can cause gasiness and bloating. Eating rich and fatty food can make one feel uncomfortably stuffed. 
Fat takes longer to digest than protein or carbohydrates, so it keeps the stomach full longer.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Indigestion can give rise to constipation, which can lead to bloating.

Dr Srikanth is a postgraduate in Ayurveda and has been a consulting physician for the past 17 years. He is currently National Manager, Scientific Services, of the Himalaya Drug Company.

If indigestion is the cause, then take Trikatu tablet/syrup (Himalaya) — 1 tablet/ml syrup, twice daily, after meals.

If constipation is the cause of bloating take Triphala tablet (Himalaya/Zandu) — one or two tablets, twice daily, before meals for two to three weeks.

The sensation of fullness and discomfort could be due to bloating or to the fact that some of the food has not yet been digested. 

Most balloon-like conditions are due to food or air that has been swallowed. The rest is produced by bacteria in the gut that ferment food.

Another most common cause of temporary bloating is ‘gas in the abdomen’.

About half of gas in the digestive system is taken up by the bacteria and the rest is produced by air that we swallow, which, after a while, might cause bloating.

Bloating is ‘gas in the abdomen’. About half of gas in the digestive system is taken up by the bacteria and the rest is produced by air that we swallow, which, after a while, might cause bloating.

Stress and anxiety impact our digestion in a big way. We must adopt stress management techniques like exercise, meditation, prayer, listening to soothing music and spending more time doing things that we love.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.

Staying hydrated is essential to beat bloating. Always drink enough water.

At least six to eight glasses of water per day is a must. Staying hydrated can help digest food.
SHAPING THE FUTURE

Education - the key to a sustainable future

Education has always been the thrust area for Tata Steel. In 2014, Tata Steel ensured the following in Jharkhand:
- Scholarships to more than 3,000 SC/ST students
- More than 16,000 adults became functionally literate
- 200 underprivileged girls linked to formal schools
- More than 10,000 students provided pre-matric coaching
- Mid-day meals for 50,000 students in partnership with Jharkhand government and ISKCON.