

## Soaring High End, Falling Low End

India's consumption story has two strands – demand is growing for premium products, but sale of mass-market goods is dipping **DEEP DIVE ▶ 5**

magazine

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### ET WEALTH ON MONDAY



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#### NIA Arrests 15 From Maha, K'taka in IS Conspiracy Case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested 15 alleged operatives of the terror outfit ISIS after conducting multiple raids in Maharashtra and Karnataka. NIA teams raided as many as 44 locations.

#### Strategies Tested in States, BJP Scales Up for 2024 Elections

The BJP has laid out a detailed road map for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and, the assembly polls were a trial run. The party is scaling up the strategy it employed successfully in the three states. **Kumar Anshuman** reports.

## India Inc Dishes Out a Course on Food Sustainability

Cos clamping down on food wastage via slew of measures to foster staff awareness on environmental impact of excess consumption

**Seeradha D Basu & Brinda Sarkar**

Bengaluru: Corporate India's focus on sustainability has now moved to the office lunch tables.

Companies—particularly those in the IT/ITES/technology space—including Capgemini, Infosys, Hexaware Technologies, NetApp, and Flipkart are cracking down on food wastage as they drive awareness among employees about the environmental impact of excess consumption.

For this, companies are following a multi-pronged approach: from using AI and food apps to predict real-time inventory needs for each kitchen, targeted communication

to encourage mindful consumption and portion control through mini meals to in-house organic waste converters (OWC), biogas plants, and vermicompost pits.

### On the Plate

**WHAT COS ARE DOING**

Displaying total weight of wasted food per day

Using AI and food apps to predict real-time inventory needs for each kitchen

Capgemini's strategy is to cultivate a culture of mindful consumption and collaboration. A prominent display at its cafeterias shows the daily food waste generated

to foster a sense of responsibility among employees; cafeterias also offer mini meals. Leftover food undergoes processing to yield manure for landscaping and vermi-

composting distribution drives are frequently conducted on campus. All this, says Vijay Chandramohan, head of corporate real estate services (CRES)-India and APAC, Capgemini, has led to a cultural evolution of sorts—employees have wholeheartedly embraced the concept of moderation.

"These measures are part of our commitment to fostering a sustainable workplace and promoting corporate responsibility," added Chandramohan.

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Promoting a circular economy  
Engaging with social organisations who come and pick up additional food for needy

GYAN & VARANI SAHU



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Rakesh Mohan Chaturvedi



'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CRUCIAL'

**India has Emerged as Global Growth Engine: Rajnath**

Defence minister Rajnath Singh has said that India has emerged as a global growth engine and is providing new direction to the world. The minister emphasised that the growth story has showcased that there is no trade-off between economic growth and distributive justice. ▶ 3

**Ease of Doing Biz Factor ▶ 7**

**IN FACE OF GLOBAL HEADWINDS...**

## IT Cos Take Pole Position on CEO Pay Front in India

Offer executives higher compensation than other sectors to stay globally competitive

**SEVEN OUT OF 10 HIGHEST PAID CEO/MDS IN FY23 FROM IT SECTOR**

	Wipro Thierry Delaporte MD & CEO	₹82 cr
	Persistent Systems Sandeep Kalra Exec Director & CEO	₹62 cr
	Poonawalla Fincorp Abhay Bhutada MD & CEO	₹78 cr
	HCLTech CP Gurnani***	MD & CEO
	₹56 cr	Salary (₹ Cr)
<b>Company</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Hindalco	Satish Pai	MD & CEO
L&T	SN Subrahmanyam	MD & CEO
Cofores	Sudhir Singh	Exec Director & CEO
TechM	CP Gurnani*	MD & CEO
TCS	Rajesh Gopinathan**	MD & CEO
HCLTech	C Vijayakumar***	MD & CEO

\* To retire; \*\* Moved out; \*\*\* Paid in US \$. Source: Company Balancesheets

Tech Mahindra, and Rajesh Gopinathan, former CEO of TCS, were among the 10 highest-paid MDs and CEOs last financial year, along with Abhay Bhutada of Poonawalla Fincorp, Satish Pai of Hindalco, and SN Subrahmanyam of Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

The data include salary, bonus, allowances, commission, and other benefits.

C Vijayakumar, managing director and CEO of HCL Technologies, India's third-largest IT services company by market value, was the eleventh-highest paid, taking home \$3.46 million, or about ₹28 crore, the is based out of the US) in FY23.

**Challenging Role ▶ 7**

**LOCAL & GLOBAL INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS SHOW STRONG INTEREST**

**IndiGrid Raises ₹670 cr via QIP**

India Grid Trust, the country's first publicly listed power sector infrastructure investment trust (InvIT), has raised ₹670 crore through institutional placement. ▶ 3

**2023 INBOUND TOURISM AT 50-70% VS 2019 LEVELS**

## Tour Cos Request PMO to Campaign for Brand India

Seek relaxed visa regime, aggressive marketing, among other measures, to woo foreign tourists

**Anumeha Chaturvedi**

New Delhi: While the number of Indians travelling overseas is experiencing robust growth, attracting a similar volume of inbound tourism remains a major challenge, tour operators and travel agents told ET.

The domestic travel and tourism industry is now urging the Prime Minister's Office to prioritise initiatives that attract foreign tourists and boost overseas marketing and promotional campaigns.

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) said on Friday it has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention for the revival of the inbound tourism industry.

"The letter has drawn the attention of the prime minister to the recently made statement in Parliament by Union tourism minister G Kishan Reddy that only 85.9 lakh foreign tourist visitors visited the country in 2022 as compared to 3.14 crore in 2019," said IATO president Rajiv Mehra.

"It mentions multiple reasons for the decline in numbers such as withdrawal of incentives to the inbound tour operators on their foreign exchange earnings which were being used for overseas marketing and promotions; lack of trained tourism manpower in Indian embassies who are not able to do regular

### Setting Sights on Overseas Visitors

Industry writes to PM Narendra Modi, seeking steps for revival of inbound tourism

**THE BIG ASK**  
Aggressive marketing and promotional campaigns overseas

**More dedicated funds for such activities**

**Greater participation in foreign fairs**

**Hiring of more trained tourism personnel in embassies**

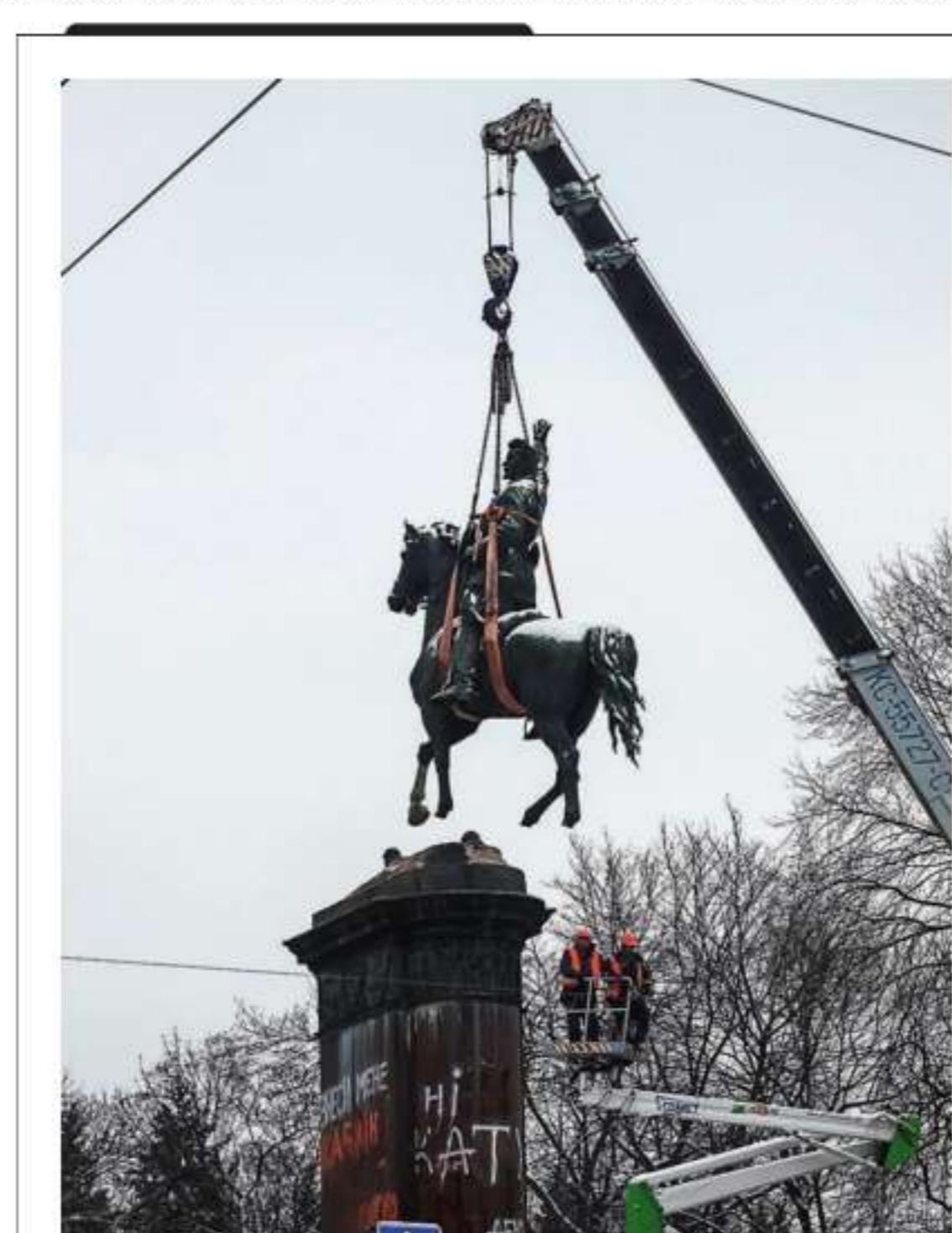
follow-ups with the foreign tour operators," said Mehra.

"Advance planning of at least one year is required and dedicated budgetary funds should be provided to the ministry of tourism for aggressive overseas promotions. We also think there's an immediate need for the formation of a National Tourism Board," he added.

As per industry estimates shared with ET, inbound tourism would still be about 50-70% of the pre-pandemic levels for this year.

Ajay Prakash, board member of Federation of Associations for Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH), said it is an unfortunate reality that inbound tourism has not picked up and is still below the 2019-2020 levels.

**Global Slowdown Also Hurting Biz ▶ 7**



### Horses Might Fly

Municipal workers dismantle a monument of Mykola Schors, a Soviet field commander, in Kyiv on Saturday, amid the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Cos advance events by 7-10 days in bid to clear stock, meet revenue targets

### 108 MODELS HIT THE ROAD THIS YEAR

## SUV Launches Jam Sales Highway

New variants instant hits; fewer sedans, hatchbacks introduced in 2023 as demand falls

**Lijee Philip**

### In Top Gear

#### NUMBER OF MODEL LAUNCHES

Body Type	2019	2022	2023*
SUV	91	98	108
Sedan	62	49	47
Hatchback	48	26	21
MPV	15	10	14
Others^	22	6	6

\* January-October 2023 Others include Convertible, Coupe and Wagon

Source: Jato Dynamics



The increased focus on SUVs reflects a major shift in the Indian passenger car market in the last few years.

Demand for hatchbacks and sedans have declined.

**Boon for Car Makers ▶ 7**

Cos advance events by 7-10 days in bid to clear stock, meet revenue targets

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# NIA Arrests 15 From K'taka, Maha in ISIS Conspiracy Case

Raids 44 locations, seizes huge amount of unaccounted cash, firearms, incriminating docs...

**Our Political Bureau**

**New Delhi:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested 15 alleged operatives of the terror outfit ISIS after conducting raids in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

NIA teams raided as many as 44 locations at Padgha-Borivali, Thane, Mira Road and Pune in Maharashtra, and Bengaluru in Karnataka early Saturday morning.

A huge amount of unaccounted cash, firearms, sharp-edged weapons, incriminating documents, smart phones and other digital devices were seized during the raids, the agency said.

The raids, the NIA said, were con-



ducted as part of its ongoing efforts to disrupt and demolish the attempts of ISIS to carry out violent acts of terror and take innocent lives.

The accused, operating on the directions of their foreign handlers, had been actively involved in terrorist activities, including fabrication of IEDs, for furthering the violent and destructive agenda of ISIS, as per NIA investigations.

The NIA said its investigations have revealed that the accused, all members of the ISIS Maharashtra module, were operating from Padgha-Borivali. They had aimed to disturb peace and communal harmony of the country and to wage a war against the government, it said.

Initial investigations have revealed that the arrested accused had self-declared the village of Padgha in rural Thane as a 'liberated zone' and 'Al Sham', and were motivating impressionable Muslim youth to relocate to Padgha, the agency said. Saqib Nareshan, the main accused and the head of the ISIS module, was also administering the 'bayath' (oath of allegiance to the Khalifa of ISIS) to the people joining the proscribed organisation, it said.

The NIA has, in recent months, conducted several raids and busted different ISIS modules and arrested terror operatives. The agency had registered a case against the ISIS Maharashtra module earlier this year.

## MINISTRY SAYS ANSWER WAS GIVEN BY MURALEEDHARAN

# MEA Says Tech Error After Lekhi Denies Signing Answer on Hamas

**Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury**



**New Delhi:** Minister of state for external affairs & culture Meenakshi Lekhi said on Saturday that she did not approve any answer to a question in the Lok Sabha over declaring Hamas as a terrorist organisation, resulting in the opposition calling for a probe.

The Ministry of External Affairs later clarified that there was a technical error in the attribution of the answer, which it said was given by minister of state V Muraleedharan.

"You have been misinformed as I have not signed any paper with this question and this answer," Lekhi said in response to a post on microblogging site X on the Lok Sabha question on declaring Hamas a terrorist organisation.

Lekhi said an "inquiry will reveal the

unstarred questions do not call for an oral response and the ministers to whom they are addressed give a written answer.

Sources told ET that such errors are not uncommon, but the minister's public outcry is intriguing as such matters are generally settled internally.

The question in the Lok Sabha was raised by Congress MP Kumbakudi Sudhakaran. He asked whether the government had any proposal to declare Hamas a terrorist organisation in India; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for that. He had also asked whether Israel had raised any demand with the Indian government to declare Hamas a terrorist organisation.

The matter has been raised with the foreign secretary, she said.

The ministry said the unstarred question in the Lok Sabha answered on December 8 "needs a technical correction in terms of reflecting Shri V Muraleedharan as the minister of state replying ... This is being suitably undertaken."

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## DECISION UNFORTUNATE, SAYS AMROHA MP

# BSP Suspends Danish Ali

**Our Political Bureaus**

**Lucknow | New Delhi:** The Bahujan Samaj Party on Saturday suspended its Lok Sabha member Danish Ali for alleged "anti-party" activities a day after he joined the opposition's walkout from the house to protest the motion to expel Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra.

Other BSP members had remained seated in the house.

BSP insiders said party chief Mayawati is unhappy with Ali because of his growing proximity with the opposition camp. "BSP's stand is very clear to maintain equal distance from both the camps (ruling NDA and opposition INDIA bloc)," one of them said.

Ali said he never indulged in

any kind of anti-party activities and only raised his voice against the BJP-led government's "anti-people" policies.

If this was his "crime", he was ready to face punishment for it, Ali said, adding that party supremo Mayawati's decision to suspend him was "unfortunate".

Ali has been actively joining opposition ranks in attacking BJP and its policies. Satish Chandra Misra, BSP general secretary, said Ali was told verbally many times that he should not make any statement. "Despite this, you have been continuously acting against the party," he alleged in a letter to Ali.

Ali said he never indulged in

## AFTER DISMAL CONG SHOW IN STATES

# Will Give Full Respect to Allies, Says Akhilesh

**Our Political Bureau**

**Lucknow:** Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Saturday that the party will maintain "utmost respect" towards allies while contesting the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

Samajwadi party's aim right from the beginning has been to challenge the BJP. And whenever we have allied with a party, we have done so maintaining utmost respect (for the ally) and in the future too the SP will respect allies to contest the BJP," he said.

The SP chief was speaking at a press meet held in Lucknow to honour the team of 14 'rat-hole' miners who helped rescue 40 labourers who were trapped inside the under-construction Silkyara tun-

nel in Uttarakhand. Yadav gave them a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh each.

Yadav's statement, directed towards the Congress as well as the Rashtriya Lok Dal came in the wake of Congress' defeat in assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and SP's own dismal performance in MP where the party failed to win a single seat.

Last month, an SP leader had said the party was willing to leave 15 out of 80 seats in UP for allies. Yadav later clarified that this was just one "suggestion" which had come up during a party meeting.

# NC, PDP Say Partymen Told to Stay Home on Article 370 Verdict Day

**Hakeem Irfan Rashid**

**Srinagar:** Regional political parties in Kashmir have alleged that their workers are being told by the police and security agencies not to step out of home on Monday and their permissions for gatherings have been cancelled in view of the Supreme Court verdict on Article 370.

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday

said the authorities have cancelled permission for his programme in Sangram area on Monday and that his colleagues have been informed that they will not be allowed to move out of their homes on that day.

Another former CM, Mehbooba Mufti expressed concern that workers of different parties, especially that of her People's Democratic Party, are being called and summoned by the respective police stations. This is "as if they know the decision

will not be in favour of the people of J&K and that of the country, but it will just further the agenda of BJP".

A 5-member constitution bench of the SC will deliver its verdict on a batch of over 20 petitions, challenging the BJP government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and divide the state of J&K into two union territories, on Monday.

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**GOING FOR A COMBINATION OF CAMPAIGN MODELS**

# STRATEGIES, PLATFORMS TESTED IN STATES BJP READY FOR 2024

BJP aims to increase the votes polled in its favour to 350 m in 2024, from 220 m five years ago, writes **Kumar Anshuman**



FILE PHOTO

## EXPERIENCE FROM STATE POLLSC

**T**he BJP has laid out a detailed road map for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and for the party, the assembly polls that just ended were a trial run that went as per its plans.

The party is scaling up the strategy it employed successfully in the three states — Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh — where tough contests were predicted but the verdicts were one-sided in favour of the BJP. It has already started working on mass-scale worker and voter mobilisation across the country, to be completed before the campaign formally starts for the Lok Sabha polls, according to party insiders.

The core of the programme is reaching out to 800 million beneficiaries of government schemes and making them vote for the BJP.

Around 300 call centres have already been set up, mostly at district BJP offices. These are currently being used to connect with about 5 million people who joined the BJP giving a missed call, to shortlist those who want to actively contribute to the party.

**COMMUNICATION CENTRES**  
The party established 20 call centres with 50-60 agents in the three states. MP had nine of these call centres, while Rajasthan had six and Chhattisgarh five. These call centres were planned to be the convergent points between the senior leadership and local-level workers.

**CONNECTING MISSING WORKERS**  
This was the most important task handed out by union minister Amit Shah to state leaderships and communication teams, four months before the assembly elections. The BJP created separate mobile apps for the three states: Sangathan (MP), Vijay Sankalp (Rajasthan) and Sangathan Shakti (Chhattisgarh).

At the national level, the BJP works on the Saral app for membership and booth-level connectivity. The state-level apps were an extension of Saral with more localised information.

The idea was to create a separate platform for party workers in the states in the wake of elections.

The BJP runs a campaign allowing anyone to become a party member by giving a missed call. But not all of those who join the party this way become active members. It ran a drive through the call centres in the three states to connect with such members and try to shortlist those who are willing to devote time for the party. Through this process, it added 1 million new active party workers in three states, with MP accounting for as much as 450,000 of them.

**IN CONG-RULED RAJASTHAN AND CHHATTISGARH, BJP FOCUS WAS ON THOSE WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED THE BENEFITS OF THE CENTRAL SCHEMES**

In the next phase, it will target the beneficiaries of government schemes. It has planned to add 70m more people to the beneficiary list.

By the end of December or the beginning of January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch another beneficiary outreach drive. It will be concluded by February, before the real election campaign starts.

The operation is coordinated by union minister Bhupender Yadav and BJP general secretary Sunil Bansal, and run by strategy consultant Diggi Magra's Jarvis Consulting. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had got 220 million votes and, at the internal meetings, party national president JP Nadda has set the target for next year at 350 million, or about 60% more votes than five years earlier.

**EXECUTION**

On the voting day, from setting up the counters at polling booths to bringing the beneficiary voters,

everything was updated instantly by the party workers on the app. In MP, voting by beneficiaries of the Ladli Behna scheme and female voters was slow in the first half but picked up in the afternoon. In MP, the plan was executed up to 88%, while it was 70% in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

As the final results came, the BJP increased its vote share in all the three states, adding the most in Chhattisgarh. It increased its vote share from 33% in 2018 to 46% in Chhattisgarh, where it got around 2.5 m more votes. In MP, it added 5.47 m votes compared with 2018, while in Rajasthan, the increase was 2.77 m votes.

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**CBI Files Charges Against 9 in Murder of Woman in Imphal East**

**Our Political Bureaus**

**New Delhi | Guwahati:** The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed a chargesheet against nine accused in a case over alleged abduction and murder of a woman in Manipur in July.

The chargesheet was filed before the CBI court in Guwahati on Friday. This is one of the cases linked

to the ethnic violence in Manipur that the CBI is investigating. The Supreme Court had ordered transfer of the cases to Assam. The case was earlier registered in the Laelia Police Station, Imphal East. It was alleged that a mob of armed per-

sons had abducted the woman on July 15. Her body was recovered later in the day. While Patil wants the community to be recognised as OBCs and given a blanket reservation, chief minister Eknath Shinde has emphasised that while the state has been offering a quota to those Marathas who have historical proofs of being a Kunbi (a Maratha subcaste that is in the OBC category). A blanket reservation would not be given as it would not stand legal scrutiny.

## No Corrupt Person Will Be Spared: Shah

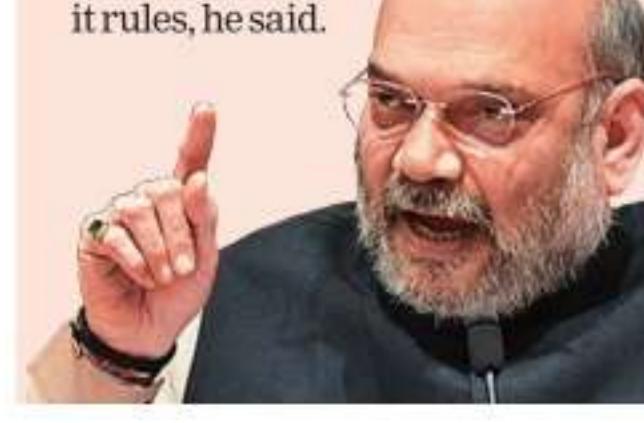
**Sanjay Singh**

**New Delhi:** Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that no person involved in corruption would be spared, how big he or she is.

His comment came in reference to media reports claiming a recovery of about Rs 200 crore in cash during income tax raids at premises linked to Congress MP Dhairaj Prasad Sahu.

"It is a coincidence that today is International Anti-Corruption Day. Two days ago, I was surprised to see the pictures carried by the newspapers ... so much of cash had come out of the residence of an MP of a party," Shah said. The home minister was speaking at the valedictory session of the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun.

The BJP government has ensured red development with total transparency in all its rules, he said.



FILE PHOTO

Shah said the authorities have cancelled permission for his programme in Sangram area on Monday and that his colleagues have been informed that they will not be allowed to move out of their homes on that day.

Another former CM, Mehbooba Mufti expressed concern that workers of different parties, especially that of her People's Democratic Party, are being called and summoned by the respective police stations. This is "as if they know the decision

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## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

# India Has Emerged as Global Growth Engine: Rajnath

Says country provides new direction to the world, asks business leaders to collaborate

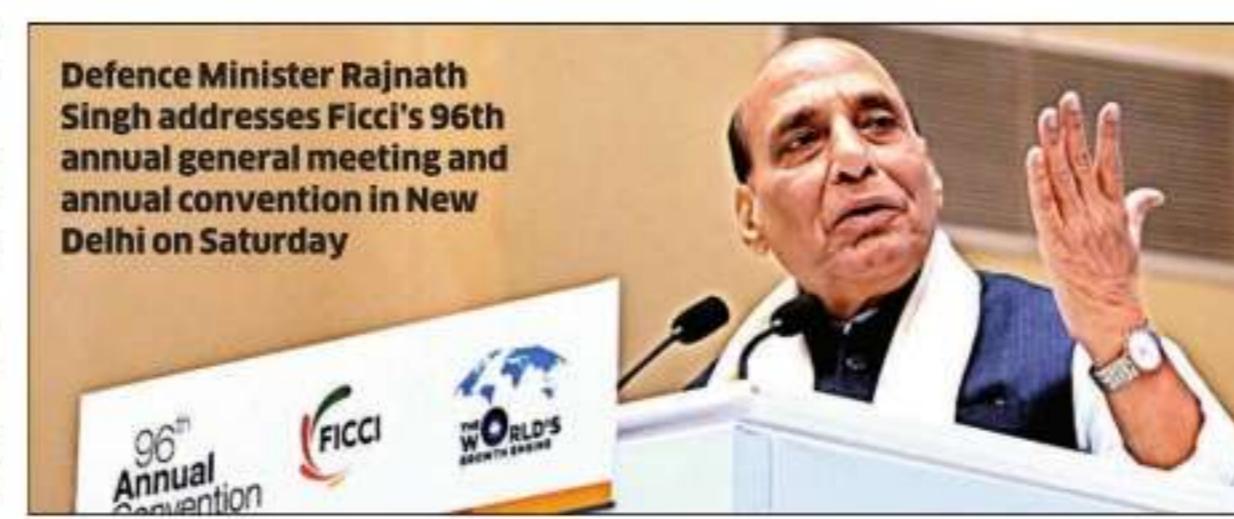
### Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh said India has emerged as a global growth engine and is providing a new direction to the world. The minister emphasised that the growth story has shown

that there is no trade-off between economic growth and distributive justice.

"Our growth model shows that equal opportunities to everyone and the accelerated growth rate can be achieved simultaneously," the minister said at Ficci's 96th annual general meeting and annual convention in New Delhi.

He added that the growth being achieved is sustainable and has not come at the cost of environmental degradation. "We have chosen the path of green growth. We signed the Paris Agreement. We have formed the International Solar Alliance. We have taken initiatives to



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses Ficci's 96th annual general meeting and annual convention in New Delhi on Saturday

ment and, as a result, all the regions are developing together," he said. The minister spoke about infrastructure development initiatives of the government. "Till 2014, India had 91,000 km of national highways; today it has increased to about 1.5 lakh km. While India had only 74 airports in 2014, today it has increased two-fold," he said.

Singh also emphasised on the significance of human resources in economic progress. Highlighting interventions made by the government to promote Indian economy, he termed "strengthening of the country's human resources" as the most impactful.

promote clean energy. We have also reduced the emission intensity of GDP," he said.

In his address, Singh said that a growth web has been created

across the country by decentralisation. "We have connected remote parts of the North-East and small towns with metro cities through infrastructure develop-

# Govt Completes First Cost of Regulation Study: DPIIT Secy

### Our Bureau

New Delhi: The government has completed its first cost of regulation study where it has analysed the average cost of regulation in 13 services, Rajesh Kumar Singh, secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), said Saturday.

"We are talking about a huge amount of 17,000-odd crore of the cost of regulation during that assessment period, which was one-and-a-half years," he said at Ficci's 96th annual ge-

neral meeting and annual convention. The study has been undertaken for all states and Union territories in the country but is not in the public domain yet. "There are tremendous variations across the country when it comes to these 13 services that we tried to cover in terms of average cost of regulations," he said.

One state may have ₹50 lakh for accessing these 13 services on average, while in another state, it may be as low as ₹5 lakh, but the average is about ₹21 lakh, Singh said, adding that the indices and data will enable states to look at themselves.

### UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

# India Silent on Fossil Fuels Phase-down Despite Green Push

Environment min highlights India's record on clean and renewable energy

### Urmi Goswami

Dubai: In a departure from its proactive efforts in Sharm El-Sheikh, India has been silent on the question on phasing out or down of fossil fuels at COP28.

Despite its aggressive renewable energy targets and its role in the adoption of the G20 commitment to triple renewable energy capacity, India has so far maintained a studied silence on the issue of fossil fuels at the ongoing UN Climate Conference in Dubai.

At COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh last year, India had proposed inclusion of clear language on phasing down all fossil fuels, not just coal, as agreed at the Glasgow meet.

Though the proposal failed to make the final cut, it gained the support of at least 80 countries and the European Union. This tentative alliance between India, the EU, and small island states was viewed by some observers as a new approach that was ambitious while being rooted in equity.

The proposal had not found support from India's traditional negotiating partners such as China and Saudi Arabia.

Now, at Friday's plenary marking the start of the second week of negotiations in Dubai, India did not address the issue in its intervention.

Instead, it extended support for the position taken by the 43-member Like-minded Developing Countries (LMDC) group



FILE PHOTO

that includes China, Saudi Arabia, Bolivia, and Egypt, among others. In its intervention, LMDC said the focus should be on reducing emissions rather than on "sources".

India's failure to take up from where it left off in Egypt has been something of a disappointment, particularly given its record on renewable energy, climate activists and observers said.

India reversing its position on phase-out or phase-down of fossil fuels and joining China and the Arab countries for removing any references in the negotiating text at COP28 is disappointing but not surprising in absence of any references to means of implementation and finance for energy transition," said Sanjay Vashist, director at Climate Action Network South Asia, a coalition of over 250 civil society organisations in eight South Asian countries working to promote actions to limit human-induced climate change.

Addressing the conference on Saturday, environment minister Bhupendra Yadav highlighted India's record on clean and renewable energy. "India has also achieved 40% of electric installed capacity through non-fossil fuel sources nine years ahead of the target for 2030.

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# No COP28 Consensus Yet on Climate Change Goals

Lack of agreement mainly due to the divergence on targets that countries need

### Urmi Goswami

Dubai: Lack of progress on designing a framework for a global goal on adaptation, or measures taken by countries to live with and become more resilient to adverse impacts of climate change, could derail a successful conclusion to the COP28 climate talks.

While emission reduction or mitigation has clear goals—the temperature target of well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, there are no comparable targets for adapting to impacts of climate change. The 2015 Paris Agreement addresses this gap through the decision to put in place a global goal that mirrors that for mitigation.

Developing countries build systems to withstand the impacts of climate change. Some negotiators hold Saudi Arabia, which leads the Arab Group at COP28, responsible for the lack of consensus.

This pushback, according to an observer, is because concerns on equity and justice raised by developing country groups do not find reflection. Developing countries would like clear targets such as setting a timeline to ensure that vulnerable communities are covered by early warning systems.

# PLI Schemes Have Started to Yield Desired Outcomes'

Data protection rules under DPDP Act to be unveiled in a few weeks

### Our Bureau

New Delhi: The production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes of the government have been successful in desired outcomes such as localisation of medical technologies, bulk drugs, electronics, and specialty steel among others, top government officials said Saturday. Addressing a session during 96th Annual Convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (Ficci), IT secretary SKrishnan also said that the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) rules will be rea-

died in a few weeks.

"The DPDP Act balances the need for regulation, and personal data being secure against the need for innovation. We've managed to hit the sweet spot where everyone seems to find it broadly acceptable. The rules will come out in a few weeks and that should top off a good year on the regulation side," Krishnan said.

Highlighting the need for more localisation of electronic goods in the country, Krishnan said that no one country has more than 40-45% of the value chain in this sector, including

China. "Currently our value chain is about 10-15% of the total value addition. We are still at the assembly line stage and most of the inputs get imported... If we have to be truly competitive once the PLI goes, then you need to be looking at least 30-35% of the value chain including components being made in India, that is critical."

Pointing out that the PLI for Food Processing are on track, Anita Praveen, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries said that more than 2 lakh jobs have been added to the 80 lakh existing ones in this sector.

# IndiGrid Raises ₹670 crore Via Institutional Placement

InvIT sees interest from local & global institutional investors

### Our Bureau

Mumbai: India Grid Trust (IndiGrid), the country's first publicly-listed power sector infrastructure investment trust (InvIT), has raised ₹670 crore through institutional placement.

The process launched on December 5 saw strong demand from both existing and new Indian and global institutional investors, the company said on Saturday. In September, IndiGrid had raised over Rs 400 crore through a preferential issue. With the recently-concluded institutional placement, the company has raised equity funds of Rs 1,070 crore in FY24.

"Proceeds from the recently-concluded institutional placement and those from the preferential allotment would be used for paring down the debt," the company said, adding that with the capital raise, IndiGrid has created a significant debt headroom of ₹6,000-7,000 crore at the leverage cap of 70%.

During the first half of this fiscal, IndiGrid acquired Viresent Renewable Energy Trust (VRET) at an enterprise valuation of Rs 4,000 crore. VRET was India's first and only renewable energy InvIT with a portfolio of 16 opera-

## Driving Growth

IndiGrid has so far raised equity funds of ₹1,070 Cr in FY24

Co allotted 52.7 m new units to 11 eligible investors on Dec 8

In H1FY24, co acquired Viresent Renewable at an enterprise valuation of ₹4,000 cr

tional solar projects and a cumulative capacity of 538 MWp. The acquisition was funded through a combination of internal accruals, debt and capital raise, and IndiGrid's net debt to the asset under management reached 63.5% as of the end of Q2 FY24.

"This fundraise has helped us expand our unit holder base with more than 90% demand from long-term investors across insurance companies, pension funds, mutual funds and domestic institutions to IndiGrid's investor base," said Harsh Shah, chief executive officer of IndiGrid.

The board of directors of IndiGrid, acting in the capacity of the company's investment manager, approved the issuance and allotment of 52.7 million new units through the institutional placement to 11 eligible investors on December 8. More than 90% of incremental units were issued to insurance companies, mutual funds, pension funds and domestic institutions.

  
Ministry of Civil Aviation  
Government of India

**Modi Government Committed towards the Development of Andhra Pradesh**

**Foundation Stone Laying for New Terminal Building, Rajahmundry Airport**

**SALIENT FEATURES & BENEFITS**

- New Terminal Building (NTB) of approx. 21,000 Sqm, five times bigger than existing terminal, undertaken at a cost of ₹ 350 Crore**
- Increase in passenger serving capacity from 225 passengers to 2100 passengers during peak hours and 30 lakh passengers, annually**
- 28 check-in-counters, 08 X-BIS machines, 04 conveyor belts, 03 aerobridges to elevate passenger convenience**
- New Terminal Building to embrace sustainable features (GRIHA compliant) and will capture latest of technologies to enhance ease of travel**
- Design elements of NTB to reflect the architectural heritage and cultural glory of Andhra Pradesh**
- Upgraded Terminal with modern amenities will play an important role in holistic development of the region**
- Boost to education and employment; accelerating growth of trade, industry and tourism sectors**
- Strengthening the cultural legacy of Rajahmundry, preserving and promoting the heritage of the state**

by **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**  
Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel

in the august presence of

**Gudivada Amarnath**  
Minister of Industries, Infrastructure, Investment & Commerce, Information Technology and Handlooms and Textiles, Andhra Pradesh

**Margani Bharat Ram**  
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)

**Jakkampudi Raja**  
Member of Legislative Assembly

Watch the event live on DD News

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 | 11:00 hrs. | Rajahmundry Airport, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh



# SOARING HIGH END, FALLING LOW END

Across many sectors, India's consumption story has two diverging strands after Covid – demand is growing for pricier, premium products, especially in urban areas, while the sale of entry-level and mass-market goods is dipping



FMCG

## Moving Faster in Cities, Selling Slower in Villages

Sagar Malviya

Rural India, which accounts for nearly 40% of the overall market of fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), has seen a noticeable drop in demand for a year due to inflation and erratic monsoons. It is the demand in cities that is leading the overall growth as urban incomes are more resilient and have better wage inflation. Rural FMCG sales expansion was about 6% in July-September 2023, y-o-y, while the urban sales volume grew by 8%. This is in sharp contrast to what had happened before the pandemic, when villages were growing at twice the rate of cities.

The consumption pattern for groceries and household products shows a sharp divergence, segmentally. There is a greater demand for pricier, more discretionary products like cosmetics in urban markets where the per capita FMCG consumption is 1.5-2 times the national average. However, the same categories are under stress in rural areas where consumers are either downgrading to cheaper products or shifting to local brands.

There is a huge demand, most-

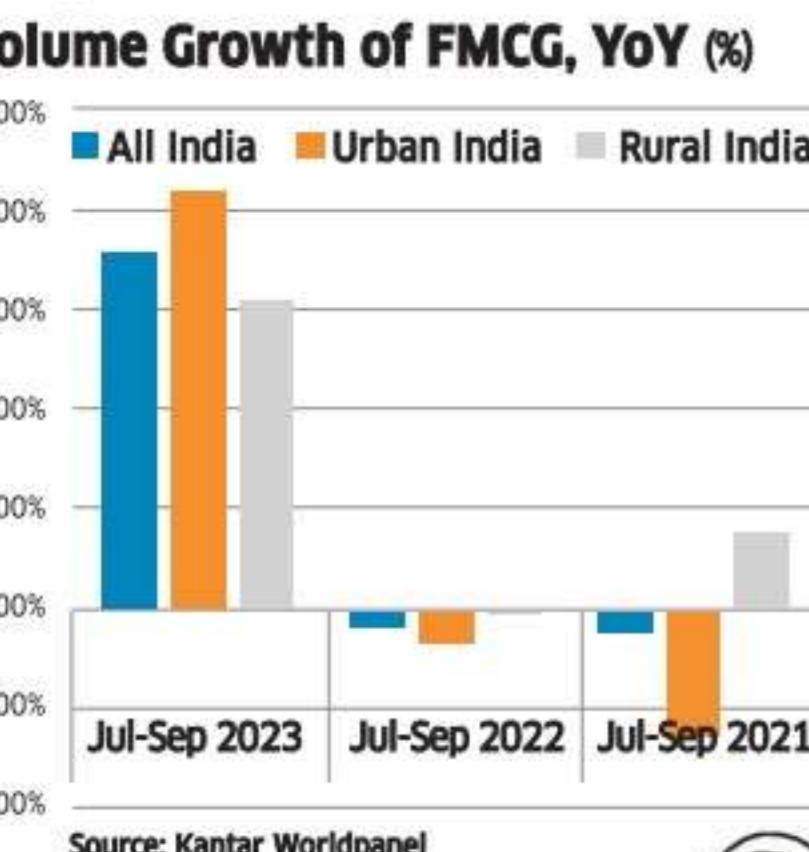


ILLUSTRATION ZAHID

Source: Kantar Worldpanel

ly in rural areas, for products of small and regional companies, especially in categories such as detergents, soaps, snacks and tea where the raw material costs have risen. This is reflected in a slower pace of growth for many large, listed companies such as HUL and Britannia, especially at the mass end and in rural markets.

Says Rohit Jawa, MD, Hindustan Unilever: "We are seeing a resurgence of small and regional players in select categories and price points. Many of them had vacated the market at the peak of inflation. But the No. 1 consumer trend is upgradation and premiumisation. It is more pronounced in urban areas, but if you take a longer arc of time, it is also true of rural areas."

The overall FMCG demand, however, is on the rise, although at a slow pace, and entirely driven by volume. The overall volume growth for July-September 2023, y-o-y, was 7.2%. Companies said a fall in inflation due to the base effect and a recent decline in unemployment figures, among other factors, could lead to demand recovering in the hinterland.

There is a huge demand, most-

loans—could also be fuelling demand as younger consumers shed the conservatism of the past.

"With increased access to credit, consumers starting their careers in the corporate sector are not going for vehicles priced below ₹10 lakh, which is upping sales at the more premium end of the market," says Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

The lower end of the income spectrum, more impacted by the pandemic, did not see a swift recovery amid high inflation. A patchy monsoon has also slowed rural recovery.

"Government spending also digressed from its long-term pattern, where revenue expenditure used to be higher. Now capital expenditure is higher, impacting income," says Shukla. "It will probably take 18 months of economic momentum to (regain) a semblance of normalcy in the consumption pattern. There has to be over 6% growth in real terms or 10% in nominal terms for four-six quarters in addition to a normal monsoon."



SMARTPHONES

## Ringing Two Ways

Writankar Mukherjee

The smartphone market is ringing two ways. While the overall market has been on a decline since CY2022, the premium segment of smartphones priced above ₹30,000 has been growing.

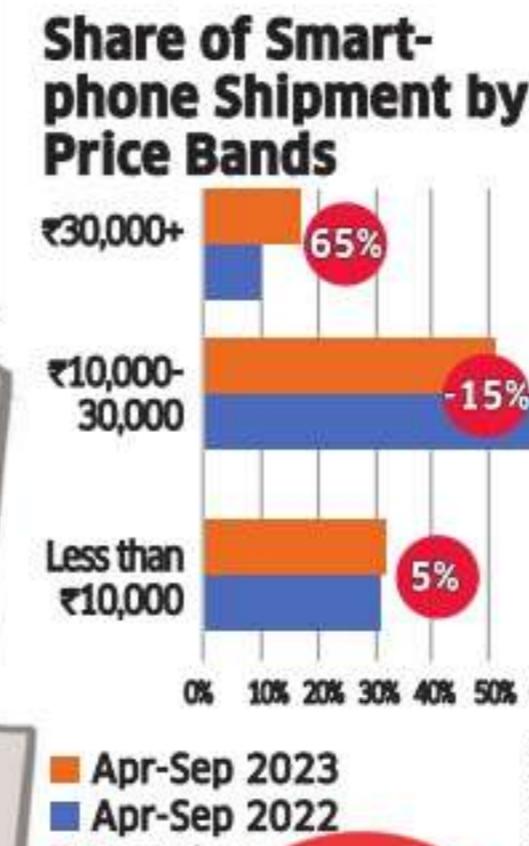
In the first half of FY2024 (April-September), the ₹30,000-plus price band has grown by 65% in volume, y-o-y, while phones costing ₹10,000-30,000 fell by 15% in the same period.

Chandu Reddy, director, Sangeetha Mobiles, a leading cellphone retail chain that has over 800 stores in south India, says consumers—even those with less disposable incomes—now prefer premium smartphones since they expect these to last longer. "Consumers are replacing or upgrading their handsets 6-12 months later than they did pre-Covid days. So, they prefer to buy premium handsets," he says. The rise of schemes to finance such purchases is fuelling the trend. EMI purchases now account for almost 55% of transactions in his stores compared with about 34% in 2019.

The overall smartphone market shrank by 10% in CY2022 in India, according to market researcher International Data Corporation (IDC) India. In the first half of this fiscal year, the overall market declined by 1% y-o-y. According to industry executives, consumers are delaying or shying away from purchases due to high inflation and the lingering impact of Covid-19 on earnings and savings. There is also a slowdown in the transition from feature phones to smartphones.

IDC India research manager Upasana Joshi says it was a modest start to the festive quarter with multiple launches, especially of affordable 5G phones. "The fourth quarter is expected to decline owing to a post-festival dip in shipments and high inventory levels that are expected to remain till the beginning of January 2024."

IDC estimates a slow start to 2024 owing to rising prices, macroeconomic uncertainties and consumers holding on to devices for a longer period, says Joshi.



Source: IDC

## Home Truths: Big Becomes Bigger

Faizan Haidar

Over 500,000 homes are expected to be sold in top cities in India in CY2023, the highest in a decade, as demand for property rises. However, while the share of luxury homes in overall sales is growing, the share of budget and mid-income housing has been falling post-Covid.

In Q3 2021, affordable housing's share in overall sales was 26%, mid-segment's was 50% and luxury and premium housing's was 22%, according to CBRE. In Q3 2023, the share of affordable housing dropped to 16% and that of mid-segment declined to 46%. Meanwhile the share of premium and luxury houses went up to 35%, as the well-off went for bigger and better homes. Affordable housing costs less than ₹50 lakh; mid-segment homes cost ₹50 lakh-1.5 crore; while premium and luxury houses cost above ₹1.5 crore and ₹4 crore, respectively.

According to data analytics firm PropEquity, developers in top seven cities—Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai—sold 4,64,849 units in 2022. In the first nine months of 2023, 3,72,961 units were sold. With big launches planned by DLF, TARC,

### RISE & FALL

Share In Total Sales In Q3 2021

Affordable Housing	26%
Mid-segment	50%
Premium & Luxury Housing	22%
Total Sales In 2022: 464,849	
Total Sales In 2023: 501,281*	
Estimate	
Source: PropEquity	

Source: PropEquity

\*Estimated



## China's Nov Consumer Prices Drop

**BEIJING:** China's consumer prices fell at the steepest pace in three years while producer costs dropped even further into negative territory, underscoring the challenges facing the economic recovery. The consumer price index fell 0.5% last month from a year earlier, the national statistics bureau said on Saturday. — Bloomberg

## Azerbaijan to Host Next COP29 Summit

**DUBAI:** Azerbaijan looks set to host next year's COP29 climate change summit, after winning backing from other Eastern European nations on Saturday. Nations from the Eastern European region, which is due to host next year's summit, backed Baku's bid during the COP28 summit in Dubai, unblocking a geopolitical deadlock over the next global gathering to address climate change. — Reuters

## Ousted in '99 for Opposing Kargil: Sharif

**LAHORE:** Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday said he was ousted from the government in 1999 by (late) Gen Pervez Musharraf for opposing the Kargil misadventure. The three-time prime minister questioned why he was ousted from the office of the prime minister prematurely. "I should be told why I was ousted in 1993 and 1999. When I opposed the Kargil plan saying it should not happen..." — PTI

## Challenging Role

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So, why do Indian IT companies in general pay more to their top executives than even bigger companies in other sectors? Because they compete in the global market, experts said.

"Most Indian IT services companies are global in nature and compete with other global companies headquartered in the West. The challenges for the CEO are alike and hence the pay needs to be globally competitive," said Anubhab Gupta, managing director of Exec-Ren Advisors, a specialised executive compensation advisory firm.

Anandrup Ghose, partner at Deloitte India, pointed out that CEOs of Indian IT services companies are often based abroad or operate out of multiple locations globally even if they are based in India as they primarily serve customers outside of the country.

"We have to also account for the fact that many Indian IT services firms are global industry leaders. Hence, given the size, geographical reach, and complexity of businesses, it is natural to have a lot of these CEOs be at the higher end of the pay ranges," Ghose said.

"A lot of these companies are also listed on global exchanges leading to shareholders/boards evaluating CEO compensation in line with other peers listed on those exchanges," he added.

Rishi Jhunjhunwala, senior vice president at IIIFL Securities, said, "Employee is the only key cost in IT services and, hence, they should be paid more."

Recent times have seen a much stronger focus from company boards on linking CEO pay to the company's performance, financials, and valuation (market cap growth for listed companies).

The average pay increase of professional CEOs/MDs in FY23 was 6%, ET had earlier reported. This compares with the pre-Covid average hike of 7.5% in FY20. In FY23, the average pay of MDs and CEOs was ₹10.3 crore, versus ₹9.71 crore the year before and ₹9.33 crore in FY21.

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THE AI ACT WILL PAVE WAY FOR AN OVERSIGHT OF SERVICES SUCH AS CHATGPT

## EU Strikes a Deal on World's First Comprehensive AI Rules

AP

**London:** European Union negotiators clinched a deal on Friday on the world's first comprehensive artificial intelligence rules, paving the way for legal oversight of AI technology that has promised to transform everyday life and spurred warnings of existential dangers to humanity.

Negotiators from the European Parliament and the bloc's 27 member countries overcame big differences on controversial points in

**NEW HORIZON**  
The EU becomes the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI, European Commissioner Thierry Breton posted on X

### In the Works

- EU took an early lead in the global race to draw up AI guardrails
- It unveiled the first draft of its rulebook in 2021
- The European Parliament will still need to vote on act next year

cluding generative AI and police use of face recognition surveillance to sign a tentative political agreement for the Artificial Intelligence Act. "Deal!" tweeted European Commissioner Thierry Breton just before midnight. "The EU becomes the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI."

The result came after marathon closed-door talks this week, with

the initial session lasting 22 hours before a second round kicked off Friday morning.

Officials were under the gun to secure a political victory for the flagship legislation. Civil society groups, however, gave it a cool reception as they wait for technical details that will need to be ironed out in the coming weeks. They said the deal didn't go far enough in pro-

Firms building foundation models will have to draw up technical documentation, comply with EU copyright law

The most advanced foundation models that pose 'systemic risks' will face extra scrutiny

tecting people from harm caused by AI systems.

"Today's political deal marks the beginning of important and necessary technical work on crucial details of the AI Act, which are still missing," said Daniel Friedlander, head of the European office of the Computer and Communications Industry Association, a tech industry lobby group.

The EU took an early lead in the global race to draw up AI guardrails when it unveiled the first draft of its rulebook in 2021. The recent boom in generative AI, however, sent European officials scrambling to update a proposal poised to serve as a blueprint for the world.

The European Parliament will still need to vote on the act early next year, but with the deal done that's a formality. Brando Benifei, an Italian lawmaker co-leading the body's negotiating efforts, said.

The eventual law wouldn't fully take effect until 2025 at the earliest, and threatens stiff financial penalties for violations of up to 35 million euros (\$38 million) or 7% of a company's global turnover.

## A Deep Dive into OpenAI's Internal Struggles

NYTNS

**San Francisco:** About noon on November 17, Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, logged into a video call from a luxury hotel in Las Vegas. He was in the city for its inaugural Formula One race.

Altman, who had parlayed the success of OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot into personal stardom beyond the tech world, had a meeting lined up that day with Ilya Sutskever, chief scientist of the AI startup. But when the call started, Altman saw that Sutskever was not alone—he was virtually flanked by OpenAI's three independent board members. Instantly, Altman knew something was wrong.

Unbeknown to Altman, Sutskever and the three board members had been behind his back for months. They believed Altman had been dishonest and should no longer lead a company that was driving the AI race. On a call the previous afternoon, the board members had voted one by one to push Altman out of OpenAI. Now they were delivering the news. Shocked that he was being



Split over the leadership of Sam Altman, board members and executives at OpenAI turned on one another. Their brawl exposed the cracks at the heart of the AI movement. — Hokyong Kim/The New York Times

fired from a startup he had helped found, Altman asked, "How can I help?" The board members urged him to support an interim CEO. He assured them that he would.

Within hours, Altman changed his mind and declared war on OpenAI's board. As divisions deepened, the organisation's leaders sniped and turned on one another. That led to a boardroom brawl that ultimately showed who has the upper hand

in AI's future development: Silicon Valley's tech elite and deep-pocketed corporate interests. The drama embroiled Microsoft, which had committed \$13 billion to OpenAI and weighed in to protect its investment. Many top Silicon Valley executives and investors also mobilised to support Altman.

**WHAT DID SAM DO**

When news broke of Altman's fir-

ing on November 17, a text landed in a private WhatsApp group of more than 100 CEOs of Silicon Valley companies, including Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and Dropbox's Drew Houston. "Sam is out," the text said.

The thread immediately buzzed with questions: What did Sam do?

In a statement, OpenAI's board had said that Altman "was not consistently candid in his communications" with the board.

The board members said that Altman had lied to the board but that they couldn't elaborate for legal reasons. Even as the board considered bringing Altman back, it wanted concessions. That included bringing on new members who could control Altman. The board encouraged the addition of Bret Taylor, Twitter's former chair. As insurance, the board also sought another interim CEO in case talks with Altman broke down.

By late November 21, they had a deal. Altman would return as CEO, but not to the board. Summers, D'Angelo and Taylor would be board members, with Microsoft eventually joining as a nonvoting observer. Toner, McCauley and Sutskever would leave the board.

## Muted Demand This Year

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Avneet Singh Marwah, chief executive of SPPL, which has the licence to sell Kodak, Thomson and Blaupunkt television brands in India, said discount in the ecommerce platforms already is 20% more than the usual period. This is more than the discounts given during big sale events like Republic or Independence Day sales, he said.

"Apart from liquidating the stock, it is like a last effort to make up for the lost revenue targets before the year ends considering demand has been soft this year except for the festive season," he said.

Amazon Fashion India vice president Saurabh Srivastava said customers are offered up to 80% off on more than 4.5 million styles across 1,200-plus brands for its on-going fashion sale which will coincide with the wedding season. Amazon is also running a discount on electronics offering up to 75% off on laptops, smartwatches, headphones and tablets on brands like Sony, Samsung, Dell, HP and Boat.

Several leading apparel brands and retailers like Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail, Shoppers Stop and V-Mart Retail have recently said in analyst calls that they had been liquidating most of the unsold stock in the last one year through longer tenure end-of-season sales and higher discounts than usual.

V-Mart CEO Lalit Agarwal told analysts he expected to completely liquidate last year's unsold winter stock this year.

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## Boon for Car Makers

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re to around 25% this year from last year's level of 12%.

**FIRST TIMER PREFERENCE**  
Tarun Garg, chief operating officer of Hyundai Motor India, said the percentage of first-time buyers preferring SUVs continues to go up in the country. The Korean carmaker, which has a range of SUVs across price segments, saw its entry SUV Exter receive more than 100,000 bookings in just six months. "The adventure edition in Creta, Alcazar, and the knight edition of Venue have all helped increase SUV contribution in our total sales from 53.2% last year to 60% this year," Garg said. "We anticipate further growth in SUV contribution."

For Tata Motors, too, SUVs accounted for over 60% of passenger vehicle sales with its recently launched new Nexon, Harrier and Safari finding many buyers.

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## Global Slowdown also Hurting Business

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"Funds for overseas activities need to be stepped up. We need to comprehensively improve our planning with funds clearly allocated for each activity and it would be great if the prime minister's office takes things under its wings. India also needs to look at a more liberal visa regime taking a leaf out of the books of Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam," he added.

The main concern is the lack of marketing and promotions by India in overseas markets, said Joyti Mayal, president of Travel Agents Association of India. Concurred

minds of our fellow citizens. So we need to do it and win," imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said.

Putin, 71, announced on Friday that he will run for president again, to pile another six years onto his two dozen in power. He could even run again in 2030.

### ANOTHER TERM

Some activists agree there is no point in trying to influence the election's outcome



REUTERS

The vote is scheduled for March 15-17, with his victory all but assured. The vast majority of opposition figures are either imprisoned or have fled the country, almost all news outlets have been blocked, and any criticism has been muted by a slew of repressive laws adopted over the last decade. Some activists agree there is no point in trying to influence the election's outcome.

COSTLIER AIRFARES

"Compare this to the aggressive promotions other countries are doing in India. Most major markets had surpassed 2019 levels last year. Airfares for India are very expensive. But that's true for other destinations too. They are also more

expensive than before. Our teams have travelled to markets such as US, Australia and Latin America and unfortunately we don't see a demand for India," he added.

To be sure, in addition to geopolitical developments, slowdown in several economies also has a bearing on incoming tourist traffic, industry insiders said. "The foreign inbound business for us is about 55-60% of the 2019 levels currently. We just lost two groups from Israel for December after receiving full payments," said Sunil Gupta, MD of Travel Bureau.

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## Effective Waste Management Practices

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"It aligns with Capgemini's overall sustainability goals," said Chandramohan.

At Infosys, quantity of food waste generated each day is displayed at the plate drop area to sensitise employees. Food waste at the IT major follows a local circular economy where waste generated in food courts is sent to biogas plants, where the biogas generated is again piped into the food court kitchen to replace a part of the LPG used for cooking. For locations where the food waste generated is less than 200 kg/day, composting is followed.

"The potential for adoption of effective waste management practices at scale is immense in our cities and can lead to transformation across aspects like health, hygiene, and cleanliness, in addition to creating value," said Guruprakash Sastry, regional head-infrastructure, Infosys.

At Flipkart's Haringhata warehouse, the company is implementing tangible measures like installing an organic waste composter to transform food waste into manure. Employee awareness is further heightened through placement of posters and banners, emphasising the urgency of controlling food waste. "Currently, we don't dispose of any food from our facility. Our on-site organic waste composter, with a 100 kg per hour capacity, transforms food waste into manure, enriching our landscaping efforts," said Nishant Gupta, head-sustainability, Flipkart.

Food wastage is one of the world's biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and plays a key role in the rising climate crisis. Industry reports indicate that India incurs an annual loss of over ₹2,000 crore due to food waste.

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## Ease of Doing Biz Factor

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In July, the World Bank had said that India gave hope amid global challenges. In March, the Australian Prime Minister had said India was in a strong position to provide leadership. The World Economic Forum had said some months back that India had cut red tape and that the investment climate had become better.

"The whole world has pinned its hopes on India—this has not happened just like that," Modi said. "It is a reflection of the strengthening economy and the transformative reforms undertaken in the last 10 years. These reforms have made our economic foundations strong. During the pandemic, when most countries were focusing only on fiscal and monetary relief, we focused on long-term growth and expanding our economic capacity."

## Israel Bombs Gaza Targets after US Vetoes Ceasefire Bid

Aid workers say Gaza's humanitarian system is on the verge of collapse

AFP

**Gaza City:** Israel bombed targets in Gaza on Saturday after the United States blocked an extraordinary UN bid for a ceasefire in the war with Hamas that has triggered alerts of an "apocalyptic" humanitarian situation.

Aid workers say Gaza's humanitarian system is on the verge of collapse, as disease and starvation threaten. Washington's veto was swiftly condemned by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, whose health ministry put the latest death toll in Gaza at 17,490, mostly women and children.

An Israeli strike on the southern city of Khan Yunis killed six people, while five others died in a separate attack in Rafah, the ministry said Saturday. It added that, over a 24-hour period, 71 dead and 160 wounded had arrived at Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah city following persistent bombings. Repeated volleys of automatic weapons fire was heard Saturday in Gaza's north, in live footage aired by AFP TV.

The Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, said it fired rockets on Saturday towards Reim in southern Israel, where Hamas gunmen killed 364 people, Israel says. At a musical festival on October 7, Israel has vowed to eradicate Hamas after its unprecedented attacks of that day, when militants broke through Gaza's militarised border to kill around 1,200 people and seize hostages, 138 of whom remain captive, according to Israel.

Fast areas of Gaza have been reduced to rubble and the UN says about 80% of the population has been displaced, with dire shortages of food, fuel, water and medicine reported.

The United States on Friday vetoed the Security Council resolution. US envoy Robert Wood said it was "divorced from reality" and "would leave Hamas in place to repeat what it did on October 7".

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said the ceasefire "would prevent the collapse of the Hamas terrorist organisation, which is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, and would enable it to continue ruling the Gaza Strip". Humanitarian groups swiftly condemned the veto.

Hamas denounced it as "a direct participation of the occupation in killing our people", while Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Shtayeh called it "a disgrace and another blank cheque given to the occupying state to massacre, destroy and displace".

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**W**alk into the 'SRR 4' building at Intel's sprawling 40-acre Sanjapur Ring Road campus in Bengaluru, and you will spot a welcome board. But that's not the only purpose it serves. The board, unlike others, displays a live feed of the sustainability metrics of the building—carbon dioxide reduction, water conservation, alternative energy usage, etc.

On the day ET visited the campus where 8,000 employees work, the display board said that the smart lighting had saved 2,750 MWh till date (since the building became operational in 2019)—enough to run 573K computers for 10 days'. Further, 131 mega litres of water had been recycled, which is enough water for 188K homes per day', it said.

Intel is not alone. Several tech companies with a presence in India are getting increasingly conscious, of not just their top line and bottom lines, but also the green line—their environmental impact. Companies like Intel, SAP Labs and Coforge have been leaning into the idea of a green campus, which has become part of their sustainability goals.

And technology plays a key role here. Take for instance Intel India, which uses more than 10,000 sensors to track and optimise temperature, lighting, energy consumption and occupancy in its buildings, the company told ET. The 24x7 data is analysed to improve building performance and conserve resources.

For SAP Labs India, technology not only provides for smart building management systems, energy-efficient equipment and digital solutions for waste management, but is also crucial to enable data-driven decision-making for sustainable outcomes. Sindhu Gangadharan, senior vice-president and managing director, SAP Labs India, told ET.

#### SUSTAINABLE MINDSET

Intel India has been a net water positive site for the past two years, and about five million gallons of water are recycled every year on its campuses, the company said. Water from rainwater harvesting and in-house sewage treatment facilities are used for landscape irrigation, flushing toilets and industrial purposes.

Alternative energy is another focus area. "We started out with a 75:25 ratio, where we drew 75 per cent of power needs from the grid electricity and 25 per cent from alternative energy sources. We're now at 35:65, using the grid to meet less than 35 per cent of our campus's power needs and generating 65 per cent from alternative energy sources like solar panels and fuel cells," Intel said.

# Green Shoots

For tech companies in India, sustainability is now part of corporate agenda. So accordingly, apart from their products, the likes of Intel and SAP Labs have also invested in green campuses, finds Annapurna Roy



Apple said its corporate headquarters in Cupertino, US, is the "greenest building on the planet".

The Bengaluru campus has a solid oxide fuel cell installation to meet the power needs of the buildings, labs and data centres. Food and landscaping waste are recycled into organic manure and used in gardening. Food waste is converted into biogas—20 kg per day—which partially meets kitchen gas requirements. "Intel has a long history of leadership in corporate responsibility and

#### WATER CONSERVATION

Intel has worked with NGO partners and local communities on projects to restore Bengaluru's Dyvasandra lake, with restoration benefit of 67 million gallons per year, and Nanjapura lake, which can restore 34 million gallons per year



A plantation drive being undertaken by Coforge employees

sustainability. Through our RISE (responsible, inclusion, sustainable and enabling) strategy, we strive to create a more responsible, inclusive, and sustainable future, enabled through our technology and employees," said Gokul Subramaniam, Intel India president and vice-president, client computing group.

By 2030, Intel aims to achieve net-positive water use by conserving 60 billion gallons of water and funding external water restoration projects,

100 per cent renewable energy

use across global manufacturing operations and conserve 4 billion kWh of energy, a 10 per cent reduction in scope 1 and scope 2 (direct and indirect) carbon emissions and zero total waste to landfills and circular economy strategies for 60 per cent of manufacturing waste streams.

#### MORE THAN COMPLIANCE

The buildings in Coforge's Greater Noida campus and SAP Labs India's facilities are LEED (Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design) certified as per US Green Building Council standards, which lay down the framework for sustainable design, construction and operation and aligned with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Coforge's 25-acre campus, which has around 60 per cent green cover, can accommodate up to 15,000 employees. It has 15 rainwater harvesting pits to recharge ground water, decomposers and effluent plants for waste management, high-efficiency air conditioning chillers for low greenhouse gas emissions and sensor-based low-energy-consuming LED lighting systems and water fixtures.

Waste from the cafeterias and food court are recycled, making it a zero-food-waste campus. On-campus compost plants make manure for the lawns.

"Sustainability is everybody's job," said Gautam Samanta, president and chief sustainability officer, Coforge. "It is our endeavour not to just take action but also create a culture and set in place systems to protect and maintain our natural resources, prevent global warming, improve environmental systems that support life on earth and drive equality in the society we live in."

Samanta said the company reduced scope-1 greenhouse gas emissions by 19 per cent in FY23 and converted

their entire fleet service to run on CNG. It replaced lights with low-energy LED units and installed double-glazed high-efficiency reflective glass to reduce heat.

"All our e-waste, like computers, laptops, printers, servers, batteries, etc, is being disposed through authorised recyclers or given as charity to local accredited establishments," Samanta said.

#### CORPORATE AGENDA

Both Intel and SAP Labs campuses have electric vehicle charging infrastructure installed to facilitate and encourage employees to adopt green mobility.

"We recognise the impact businesses have on the environment and society and we aim to lead by example. We aim to reduce our ecological footprint, minimise resource consumption and inspire others to follow suit," Gangadharan said.

A green campus is therefore important to embody the value SAP places in sustainability. Located in Whitefield, Bengaluru's tech hub, what stands out in the sprawling

campus is the ample green and open space. The campus has 60 per cent green cover and is free of single-use plastic. Home to 9,400 employees, it operates with 98 per cent green energy sources. SAP Labs's new campus, to come up by 2025 in Devanahalli, is being designed to be water positive and carbon positive.

Solar panels installed in the campus contribute 11 per cent of energy requirements and have reduced about 680 tonne of carbon dioxide emissions every year, SAP Labs said. The buildings have heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems in place to minimise energy and water consumption, apart from lighting systems powered by ethernet for energy efficiency.

SAP Labs's carbon neutrality targets are on track, "marking a significant milestone in our sustainability journey", Gangadharan said. This has been driven by innovations on campus to go green in everyday activities, like transitioning away from paper food coupons to an app-based system, a digital printing and stationery request system, sourcing food from local farmers and communities and putting an internal carbon price on business flights.

A larger goal is to achieve net-zero emissions along the value chain by 2030, in alignment with global goals of keeping temperatures within 1.5°Celsius of pre-industrial levels.

The green campus initiatives are funded from the company's operational budget, capital investments and strategic sustainability planning, rather than from the corporate social responsibility budget. "We believe in integrating sustainability into our core business operations rather than viewing it as a charitable endeavour," Gangadharan said.

#### IMPRESSIVE BENEFITS

But is creating a green campus economical? "While the initial costs of some sustainability projects may be significant, the long-term benefits in terms of reduced operational costs, improved environmental performance and positive stakeholder engagement make these initiatives economically viable," said Gangadharan.

It has also become a significant factor in attracting talent. As people become increasingly conscious of environmental and social causes, they seek out employers with whom their personal values align.

"While we do not consciously work towards it [campus sustainability] to enhance brand reputation, but we have noticed that it makes SAP Labs India an attractive workplace for individuals who want to make a meaningful impact through their work," Gangadharan said.

Intel has a sustainability-focused employee resource group with over 50 employees. They lead and run different programs and contests, and volunteer for energy and environment conservation activities, the company said. Last year, employees planted 3,000 saplings on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

"Sustainability requires collective action, and we support our passionate employees and ecosystem partners to achieve our shared goals," said Intel's Subramaniam.

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Smart lighting at Intel's SRR 4 building

## Playing on Numbers: Making Sense of India's Gaming Boom



PICT: GETTY IMAGES  
gaming revenue worldwide. The real money gaming (RMG) sub-segment constitutes 82.8 per cent of the market share in FY23, with more than 400 RMG start-ups. RMG is expected to contribute around ₹6,500 crore to ₹6,500 crore as

direct tax revenues (comprising TDS and corporate tax) and ₹75,000 to ₹76,000 crore as indirect tax or GST. The gaming sector is expected to draw ₹22,931 crore investments between FY20 and FY24 from both domestic and foreign sources.

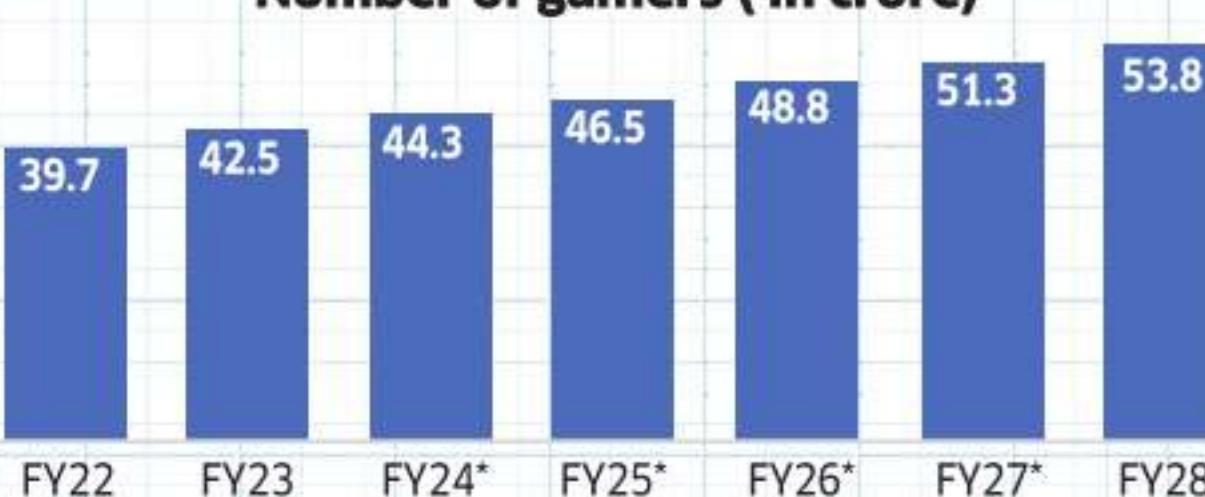
Currently employing around one lakh people, the sector shows potential to expand job opportunities to 2.5 lakh people by 2025.

The percentage of paying gamers among the total gamer base is about 25 per cent currently, and is anticipated to reach 34 per cent by FY28.

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AI GENERATED

#### Number of gamers (in crore)



Source: As per the letter written by E-Gaming Federation (EGF) and the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) to the GoI; industry discussions

#### India's gaming market size (in ₹crore)



\* Expected numbers

## BACK TO THE FOLD

The OnePlus Open is raising the bar – and the price – in the foldable phones category

Aabhas Sharma



It is not easy to make a good foldable phone and even harder to sell them. Foldables do make for an enticing idea, yet questions remain about their durability in the rugged world of pockets and purses.

The cost doesn't help—they might be coveted by a select few but hardly have been embraced by the masses. Furthermore, the software landscape for foldables is still in its nascent stages, like a toddler learning to walk. Yet, the market is slowly gaining traction and the latest entrant is OnePlus with its first foldable phone—OnePlus Open (costs ₹1,39,999) and is one of the most expensive phones you can buy.



#### TWIST AND TURNS

The OnePlus Open follows the design template set by Samsung but with a twist of its own. The OnePlus Open boasts a dual-display setup—a slender 6.3-inch outer screen and a flexible 7.8-inch panel tucked inside. Both panels, slightly larger than the Samsung Galaxy Z Fold 5's, flaunt dazzling 120Hz refresh rates. OnePlus takes the brightness game to new heights, hitting around 1,400 nits in standard use and 2,800 nits in HDR content scenarios. Does it feel like an overkill? Perhaps, but nevertheless, brightness woes were non-existent.

Staying true to Samsung's folding blueprint, OnePlus has an inward folding design. The Open is certainly bigger than the Galaxy Z Fold 5 but is surprisingly sleek.

Hinge and crease are the Achilles heel of foldables. OnePlus tackles these concerns adeptly. A subtle groove graces the main display's middle, noticeable but only at acute angles.

#### IMPRESSIVE SPECIFICATIONS

OnePlus Open houses a Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 chip, delivering excellent performance. The Open boasts 16GB of RAM (12GB on the Z Fold) and a generous 512GB of base storage. During our testing, the day-to-day performance was smooth, lag-free and impressive.

But a foldable phone isn't just about routine performance, is it? It is the multitasking that it has to really shine. Enter Open Canvas software. OnePlus has given its own twist to the software experience. You can easily open three apps simultaneously and it works rather well. The UI is very much like OxygenOS on other OnePlus phones.

The rather large camera bump at the back has a 64MP main sensor from Sony. The picture quality is impressive, and it does a good job in handling HDR. The low-light photos are good but not really top of the line level.

OnePlus Open borrows a lot from Samsung but offers refinements in design, hinge and camera performance. As far as foldable phones are concerned, the Open makes a promising start.

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# Older and Wiser, A Songwriter Is Still Looking Ahead



Peter Gabriel

PIC: GETTY IMAGES

Peter Gabriel's first full-length album in 21 years discusses issues of time, mortality and reconciliation

**The New York Times**

"If I was a butterfly, 21 years would be an eternity," Peter Gabriel observed in an interview recently. "And if I was a mountain, it would be a little flash. So, it's all relative."

It's been 21 years since Gabriel, the thoughtful, perpetually forward-looking English songwriter, last released an album of new songs. But last week finally saw the

"I also wanted to do a bit of living rather than just be a professional musician. I kept making music, but I didn't get to finishing stuff."

official rollout of *I/O*, his first full-length album of new material since 2002. In a dozen tracks discussing issues of time, mortality and reconciliation, Gabriel contemplates the future while cherishing the human qualities of love and belonging. "There are a few good things about getting old," he said. "Knowing yourself better and learning to say no."

Gabriel, 73, describes himself as a perfectionist, meaning making the album was a protracted process. "I also wanted to do a bit of living rather than just be a professional musician," he said. "I kept making music, but I didn't get to finishing stuff."

Gabriel is a happy anomaly among today's musicians. He writes elaborate, seven-minute songs in an

era of TikTok snippets. And though he released these 12 tracks month by month, he respects the album as a form. "The experience of being taken on a ride is something I love and I would love to give other people," he said.

#### A NEW APPROACH

Since January, Gabriel has been releasing a new song each month on the date of the full moon, honouring a natural cycle. He also paired each song with an image. For instance, a painting by Micallef — who captures "both the horror and hopefulness of humanity" — was turned into an animated video for "Love Can Heal", a rippling, glimmering promise of absolution in Gabriel's gentlest tones.

When Gabriel announced the

album's full-moon schedule in November 2022, it was still a work in progress. The finished album deliberately offers alternatives. Each song arrives in two distinct versions:

A "bright-side" mix by Mark Spike Stent and a "dark-side" mix by Tchad Blake. Stent's mixes are glossier and three-dimensional; Blake's offer close-up physical grain and intimacy.

Gabriel has hardly been idle since 2002. He's been on tour; released albums featuring



cover versions and re-recorded his older songs; founded humanitarian organisations; even been consulting with scientists about brain imaging technology. All these projects reflect on *I/O*, which has exuberance balancing out against inevitable losses.

Gabriel doesn't expect to have another two-decade gap between albums. His "brain project" is taking shape, and "there's a lot of stuff in the can", he said. "They're not finished, of course. But I don't think it will be 21 years before the next one."

## TEST YOUR PROTEIN KNOWLEDGE

**The New York Times**

Protein-rich foods play a starring role in any satisfying meal. And for good reason: Protein is essential for every function in your body. But how much protein do you really need? What are the best food sources? And how can you be sure you're getting enough? Take this quiz to see how much you know.

#### 1. WHAT IS PROTEIN?

- a. Meat, fish or tofu
- b. A complex molecule made up of sugars
- c. A complex molecule made up of amino acids
- d. The main way the body stores energy

#### 2. MOST PEOPLE GET MORE THAN ENOUGH PROTEIN IN THEIR DIETS.

True or false

#### 3. WHAT MIGHT INCREASE A PERSON'S PROTEIN NEEDS?

- a. Being pregnant or breastfeeding
- b. Having an illness or injury



#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- Proteins are made up of building blocks called amino acids. When you eat protein-rich foods, you supply yourself with the raw materials that give every tissue in your body strength and structure. Proteins play many other essential roles, too, including serving as hormones, helping to digest food and fighting infections.
- True. On average, people consume plenty of protein, although this can vary considerably. Those who don't get enough are usually consuming fewer calories overall or have more dietary restrictions.
- E. Those who are pregnant need more protein to support the growth and development of the foetus, and those who are breastfeeding need extra protein to produce milk. Protein is also important when recovering from an illness or injury, and during strength and endurance training for building and repairing muscles.
- True. It's a common myth that plant-based foods are missing some important
- F. False. To build muscle, you'll need strength training. You'll also want to be sure to get enough protein, and research suggests that an athlete needs about twice as much as someone who is inactive. Protein powders can be convenient, but experts say that it's best to get your protein from whole foods.
- A. 1 cup of cottage cheese contains 23 grams of protein, whereas a can of tuna contains 22 grams. 2 hard-boiled eggs contain 12 grams and 1 cup (8 ounces) of reduced-fat milk contains 8 grams.
- B. A 2-slice serving of processed meat has 5.5 grams of protein, whereas 2 tablespoons of peanut butter has 7 grams, 2 slices of whole wheat bread has 8 grams and half a cup of cooked lentils has 9 grams.

- c. Training for a marathon  
d. Lifting weights several times per week  
e. All of the above

#### 4. YOU CAN MEET ALL OF YOUR PROTEIN NEEDS WITH PLANT-BASED FOODS ALONE.

True or false

#### 5. PROTEIN POWDER SUPPLEMENTS CAN HELP YOU BUILD MUSCLE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T DO STRENGTH TRAINING EXERCISES.

True or false

#### 6. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FOODS HAS THE MOST PROTEIN?

- a. One cup of cottage cheese
- b. Two hard-boiled eggs
- c. One cup of milk
- d. A can of tuna

#### 7. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FOODS HAS THE LEAST PROTEIN?

- a. Two tablespoons of peanut butter
- b. Two slices of processed meat
- c. Half a cup of cooked lentils
- d. Two slices of whole wheat bread

Why the Parthenon Marbles fuelled a 200-year dispute between UK and Greece

# Greek Drama



**U**K Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's last-minute cancellation of a meeting with his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis in London brought renewed attention to the centuries-old dispute over the ownership of the Parthenon Sculptures, sometimes referred to as the Elgin Marbles.

Both countries claim ownership of the pieces housed in London's British Museum, but in recent years, the two sides had appeared close to a deal in which they would be loaned to Athens in exchange for other artefacts. Here's an exploration of the history of the dispute and why it's continued for so long.

#### WHAT ARE THE PARTHENON MARBLES?

The Parthenon Marbles are a collection of sculptures and friezes that were created by ancient Greek sculptor Phidias in the 5th Century BC to adorn the Parthenon and other parts of the Athens Acropolis. They are widely considered to be among the world's finest examples of classical sculpture. They were removed from the Acropolis by agents of the 7th Earl of Elgin who had been the British ambassador to Constantinople — then the capital of the Ottoman Empire — at the start of the 19th century, when Greece was controlled by the Ottomans.

#### WHY ARE THE PARTHENON MARBLES SO SPECIAL?

On top of their exceptional beauty and craftsmanship, they are a vital part of Greek cultural heritage. They have symbolic importance as a vestige of the ancient city-state of Athens, which after the

Enlightenment came to be considered the birthplace of Western civilisation.

#### WHEN AND WHY WERE THE MARBLES REMOVED FROM THE ACROPOLIS?

Elgin's agents removed the marbles from the Acropolis in the first years of the 19th century, and later sold them to the British Museum, where they have been on display since 1817. Elgin, who was both a diplomat and an art collector, said he removed them out of concern that the Ottoman authorities weren't looking after them properly. He was later accused of stealing the stones, and of vandalism and pillaging. Lord Byron wrote a poem accusing him of defacing the Parthenon.

#### WHY ARE THEY SO CONTROVERSIAL?

They are controversial



Kyriakos Mitsotakis

because the British and Greek governments disagree on who owns the marbles and whether they should stay in London. Since Greece gained independence from the Ottomans in 1832, it has repeatedly asked for them back. As minister of culture, Greek actress Melina Mercouri was responsible for publicising the cause internationally in the 1980s. A few months after Mercouri visited London in 1983, the Greek government made a formal request for the marbles' return, which the UK government formally rejected the next year.

#### WHY WON'T BRITAIN RETURN THE PARTHENON MARBLES?

The trustees of the British Museum say that they legally own the marbles and that they cannot be permanently returned to Greece because of the museum's "legal and moral responsibility to preserve and maintain all the collections in their care and to make them accessible to world audiences". They are considered to be the most important items in the British Museum, which attracts more than four million visitors a year.

The British Museum Act 1963 also forbids the museum from disposing of any of its collection, meaning that the UK government would have to change the law to send them back. The law, which neither Sunak nor the leader of the opposition say they have plans to change, may also complicate a loan agreement.

**The Parthenon Marbles** were created by ancient Greek sculptor Phidias in the 5th Century BC to adorn the Parthenon and other parts of the Acropolis

they should be displayed in the Acropolis Museum, which houses some of the original Parthenon sculptures as well as plaster copies of those in the British Museum.

Greece ruled out taking legal action against the UK in 2015, saying it would pursue a "diplomatic and political" approach to securing their return. In 2013, it proposed a mediation process with the help of UNESCO that would include the British Museum and UK government. Both of those parties rejected the idea in 2015.

#### DID THE EARL OF ELGIN LEGALLY TAKE THE MARBLES?

The British Museum says Elgin took and transported the marbles to England "with the full knowledge and permission of the legal authorities of the day in both Athens and London", and cites an 1816 UK parliament hearing which cleared him of stealing them. The Greek government says that their removal was illegal, and disputes the authority of those Ottoman-era permissions.

#### WHO SHOULD HAVE THE PARTHENON MARBLES?

Most British people think the marbles belong in Greece, not Britain, according to a YouGov poll conducted in 2021 by the Parthenon Project. It found that 64 per cent of all British people say they belong there rather than London. Among Conservative Party voters, 28 per cent think they belong in Britain. Yet many prominent politicians from that party, including former prime minister Liz Truss, have said they oppose returning the marbles.

**WHAT'S THE POSITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT?**

The Greek government's position is that the marbles were stolen by Elgin and that



Rishi Sunak

# Raising a Red Flag About Amaranth with Politics

## FOOD FABLES



VIKRAM DOCTOR

Red amaranth seems an unlikely political symbol. It is more purple than revolutionary red. Its tiny edible seeds are consumed during religious fasts, but it is mainly grown for its leaves which are cooked like spinach. As *tambdi bhaji*, it is a favourite in Goa, a delicious and nutritious addition to our plates. But recently *tambdi bhaji* was used for a protest against produce from

Karnataka. A very large part of Goa's vegetables comes from Karnataka, but Manohar Ajaonkar, an ex-MLA and deputy chief minister, decided to take a stand on *tambdi bhaji*. It was, he declared, undercutting leaves grown in Goa, and he decreed a ban on its sale in the Madgaon wholesale market.

Cynics might suggest it has more to do with Ajaonkar's hopes to contest from Madgaon, after his defection to the BJP wasn't rewarded by renomination from his old Pernem seat. But it was interesting how in reports, Goans readily took to *tambdi bhaji* as a local symbol. They lauded the special taste of leaves grown in Goa and how it was grown without pesticides, presumably unlike the suspect product from Karnataka. It helps that its colour makes it so identifiable in fields, where its long purple

red rows are often intercropped with other plants.

It was also a reminder how certain leaves can become emblematic of a community and its cuisine. One example is mulukhiyah, the leaves of

a plant used to make jute fibre. It is cooked in Bengal, but really obsessed about in Egypt, where soup thickened by mucilage from the leaves is a national dish. Claudia Roden, the great expert on Middle Eastern food, grew up in Egypt and writes on the nostalgia felt for mulukhiyah by Egyptian exiles. "At the last minute, they fry crushed coriander and garlic," she says and adds "and this is the smell of Egypt".

The Welsh feel similarly about leeks, the relatives of onions which have a tall column of tightly packed green leaves. There are stories of how these were placed in helmets of Welsh warriors during battles to enable them to be distinguished from the enemies. Welsh soldiers are still presented with leeks on certain occasions and it is used in national symbols like

coins as an emblem of Wales.

Collard greens, a loose leafed relative of cabbages, has become a symbol of the food of both African-Americans from the south of the USA and, as *haakh*, of Kashmiris. Gongura, the brightly sour leaves of roselle, are relished by many communities, but are particularly identified with Andhra food, where they make an essential pickle. Malabar spinach, a thick leafed creeper, is claimed by

Amaranth was once central to Aztec and other Mesoamerican civilisations. They used its seeds to make ritual offerings, which their Spanish Catholic conquerors tried to ban

It is this link with the land — or fertile river silt, in the case of mulukhiyah — that roots these plants in local food and memories. Meats are less tied to particular places, even if ways of cooking them are. Greens are more tied to a place and climate, and more universally consumed, by men and women, rich and poor, old and young. In their bitter, sour or sharp tastes, we sense the taste of home, in all its complexities.

Amaranth was once central to Aztec and other Mesoamerican civilisations. They used its seeds to make ritual offerings, which their Spanish Catholic conquerors tried to ban. But the grain seems to have travelled with them, and eventually reached the West coast of India, where it found fertile ground in the red soils of the ghats. It is not a bad symbol for Goa, with its global links and deeply rooted local culture. Perhaps there may be a point to the politics of *tambdi bhaji*.



PIC: GETTY IMAGES



Mangaloreans, perhaps because, as one of them explained to me, it is always planted near the place outside kitchens where fish are cleaned. The fish waste nourishes the plant, which grows across the walls and roofs of home, leaves always ready to be plucked and cooked.



### New Zealand Edge Bangladesh in Low Scoring 2nd Test to Level Series

New Zealand beat Bangladesh by four wickets on the fourth day of the second test on Saturday to level the two-match series at 1-1 as Ajaz Patel ripped through the Asian side with six wickets before his batting colleagues secured victory. Chasing 137 to win on a treacherous track at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla Stadium after Bangladesh's Zakir Hasan hit a batting 59, the tourists rode on Glenn Phillips' unbeaten 40 and Mitchell Santner's 35 not out to prevail. Phillips was dropped on nought by skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto but maintained his composure after the Black Caps were reduced to 69-6 before tea to build a seventh-wicket stand of 70 and earn his team a first Test win in Bangladesh in 15 years. Bangladesh had resumed on their overnight score of 38-2 but lost wickets cheaply in the morning as spinners Patel (6-57) and Santner (3-51) took advantage of the turn on offer to heap pressure on the batsmen. **Reuters**

#### BRIEF SCORES

**Bangladesh** 172 (Mushfiqur 35; Phillips 3/31, Santner 3/65) and 144 (Zakir 59; Ajaz 6/57, Santner 3/51) lost to **New Zealand** 180 (Phillips 87; Mehidy 3/53, Taijul 3/64) and 139/6 (Phillips 40\*, Santner 35\*; Mehidy 3-52) by four wickets

#### Tennis Great Evert Reveals Cancer Recurrence

Eighteen-time Grand Slam champion Chris Evert has been diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer and is undergoing treatment, she said in a statement on Friday. "While this is a diagnosis I never wanted to hear, I once again feel fortunate that it was caught early," Evert said in a statement released through ESPN. "Based on a PET CT scan, I underwent another robotic surgery this past week. Doctors found cancer cells in the same pelvic region. All cells were removed, and I have begun another round of chemotherapy." Evert, 68, said in January of 2022 that she had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Her younger sister, Jeanne Evert Dubin, died of the same disease in February of 2020 at the age of 62.

#### Salah's 200th Liverpool Goal Helps Beat Palace

Mohamed Salah scored his 200th goal for Liverpool before Harvey Elliott's last-gasp winner sealed a dramatic 2-1 victory against Crystal Palace that sent the Reds to the top of the Premier League on Saturday. Jürgen Klopp's side were in danger of a damaging defeat in the title race after Jean-Philippe Mateta's penalty put Palace ahead in the second half at Selhurst Park. But Palace's Jordan Ayew was sent off with 15 minutes left and Liverpool took full advantage to erase a previously sputtering performance with a blistering finale. Salah's 14th goal this term made him the fifth player to score 200 for Liverpool in all competitions after Ian Rush (346), Roger Hunt (285), Gordon Hodgson (241) and Billy Liddell (228). In his 247th Premier League appearance, the Egypt star also reached 150 goals in the competition, including two scored for Chelsea, putting him in the all-time top-10 list level alongside Michael Owen. Despite Salah's landmark, a point would have been a disappointing result for Liverpool, but young midfielder Elliott came off the bench to seal the points in stoppage time. **AFP**

#### WATCHOUT! TONIGHT

**ISL** NorthEast United v Hyderabad 8pm (Sports18) • **LEAGUE** Shillong Lajong v Aizawl 2pm; TRAU FC v Inter Kashi 4:30; Churchill Brothers v NEROCA 7pm (FanCode) **Premier League** Everton v Chelsea 7:30pm; Luton Town v Man City 7:30pm; Tottenham v Newcastle United 10pm (Star Sports) **LA LIGA** Atletico Madrid v Almeria 6:30; Barcelona v Girona 1:30am (Sports18)

#### Paul Newberry

So much for peace and harmony in the world of golf. Jon Rahm's surprising defection from the PGA Tour to Saudi-funded LIV shows just how fractured the sport remains, even as it faces an end-of-the-year deadline to finalize an agreement that was supposed to make everything kumbaya.

Only one thing is clear: The idea that two tours can somehow co-exist to the benefit of both is ludicrous.

It's never worked in any other sport, and there's no reason to think that the PGA Tour and LIV can somehow walk this perilous tightrope.

There's too much money involved, too many egos, too much potential power. Forget the idea of everyone coming together with two different visions of how the game should look. There will be a winner — and a loser — at some point.

A few months of relative tranquility following an apparent agreement to end the feud — though initial talk of a full-blown merger was clearly overblown

Rahm's desertion feels different from those who went before him

# CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY

For India's next-gen batters, South Africa T20I series is a chance to further strengthen their case for the T20 World Cup

#### Amit Chaudhary

Soon, the Indian cricket team can turn a corner, at least in the T20 format. Or it may decide not to, and continue down the same road that has got them success but no trophy in a decade, for some more time.

When it comes to deciding the direction the team should take, the buck stops with the BCCI and the selectors. Last week, when the squads for the tour of South Africa were announced, they had the opportunity to take that decision, but they decided to shoulder arms and let the moment pass by utilised.

So, here they are, with a cup (not the one they are looking to get over a decade) overflowing with young batting talent and an old guard that is refusing to fade away.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, two superstars of this era, who haven't played a single T20 since India's loss to England in the T20 World Cup semifinal last year, were once again not included in India's T20I squad that would face South Africa in a three-match series starting today. It may seem as clear an indication as possible that Rohit and Kohli are not part of the BCCI's plans for the T20 side that will represent India in the T20 World Cup in June-July next year.

But then, the fact they requested not to be named in the white-ball squads so that they could take an extended break after the 50-over World Cup heartbreak indicates that they remain a possibility for the T20 World Cup.

To be fair to the BCCI and the selectors, they cannot behave like news and social media experts and commentators and sideline the players who have been stellar performers for several years, especially right after they had done well at the World Cup, even if in a different format. Any decision regarding Rohit's and Kohli's T20 future needs to be taken after discussion with the two. That the discussion hasn't happened points to a serious lack of planning on the BCCI's part.

What could make the BCCI's job easier (or tougher), however, is how well the young contenders for a spot in the team have been performing. They gave a very good



account of themselves in the recent series against Australia, winning four out of five matches, to announce their readiness to take over the mantle from the seniors.

Their approach to batting is a refreshing departure from the old. Yashavini Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Ishan Kishan and Jitesh Sharma are the true T20 batters with abilities to go after the bowlers from the first ball regardless of their position in the batting order. Ruturaj Gaikwad, during his maiden T20I century, showed he could build an innings after early wickets and still score at a rapid pace. Tilak Varma couldn't do much in the series but he is a special talent. Add Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav and you have a group of batters that can match any team in terms of firepower.

One could argue that Australia weren't full strength, hence the performances should be taken lightly. Also, these young guns haven't played enough matches against top full-strength sides so far in their careers. This is true and that's where this South Africa series can be a real challenge and opportunity for the young suitors.

In South Africa, they will be exposed to foreign conditions against a fairly strong home side who themselves are looking to finalise their own T20 World Cup personnel and plans. It could be the next step in the development of India's next-gen batters and further assure the decision-makers that they can trust the young crop to do the job for the team.

That they can turn the corner.

#### SA vs IND

#### First T20I

Kingsmead, Durban

#### RANKING

1	6
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#### FORM

SA	L	L	L	W
IND	W	W	L	W

#### HEAD TO HEAD

SA	IND	NR
10	13	1

#### IN SOUTH AFRICA

SA	IND	NR
2	5	0

#### LAST 5 MATCHES

SA	won	by 5 wickets
	OCT 2022	

SA	won	by 49 runs
	OCT 2022	

IND	won	by 16 runs
	OCT 2022	

IND	won	by 8 wickets
	SEP 2022	

	No result	JUN 2022
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LIVE On Star Sports, 7:30pm

We have played a lot against the new faces (in domestic cricket), but I suppose you'd like to know them better on a deeper level before going into a series with them. But we have had a few good days together getting to understand what gets them to tick

**AIDEN MARKRAM**

South Africa captain on new faces in the side

#### SQUADS

**India:** Yashavini Jaiswal,

Shubman Gill, Ruturaj

Gaikwad, Tilak Varma,

Suryakumar Yadav (C),

Rinku Singh, Shreyas

Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk),

Jitesh Sharma (wk),

Ravindra Jadeja (VC),

Washington Sundar, Ravi

Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav,

Arshdeep Singh, Mohn,

Siraj, Mukesh Kumar,

Deepak Chahar

**South Africa:** Aiden

Markram (c), Ottieni

Baartman, Matthew

Breetzke, Nandre

Burger, Gerald Coetzee,

Donovan Ferreira, Reeza

Hendricks, Marco Jansen,

Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav

Maharaj, David Miller,

Beuran Hendricks, Andile

Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz

Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs,

and Lizaad Williams

# Kashvee, Vrinda Make a Big Splash

**WPL AUCTION** Sutherland most expensive overseas player, Athapaththu goes unsold yet again



**Kashvee Gautam**  
₹2 cr  
GUJARAT GIANTS



**Vrinda Dinesh**  
₹1.3 cr  
UP WARRIORZ

#### PLAYERS BOUGHT

##### DELHI CAPITALS

Annabel Sutherland (₹2 cr)  
Aparna Mondal (₹10 lakh)  
Ashwani Kumari (₹10 lakh)

##### GUJARAT GIANTS

Phoebe Litchfield (₹1 cr)  
Meghna Singh (₹30 lakh)  
Trisha Poojitha (₹10 lakh)  
Kashvee Gautam (₹2 cr)

##### ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

Georgia Wareham (₹40 lakh)  
Kate Cross (₹30 lakh)  
Ekta Bisht (₹60 lakh)  
Shubha Sathesh (₹10 lakh)  
S Meghana (₹30 lakh)  
Simran Bahadur (₹30 lakh)  
Sophie Molineux (₹30 lakh)

##### UP WARRIORZ

Danni Wyatt (₹30 lakh)  
Vrinda Dinesh (₹1.3 cr)  
Poonam Khemnar (₹10 lakh)  
Saima Thakor (₹10 lakh)  
Gouher Sultan (₹10 lakh)

##### BIG NAMES GO UN SOLD OVERSEAS

Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka); Deandra Dottin (West Indies); Kim Garth (Australia); Amy Jones (England); Tammy Beaumont (England); Bass Heath (England); Alana King (Australia); Lea Tahuhu (New Zealand)

##### Indian capped

Priya Punia, Devika Vaidya, Punam Raut and Sushma Verma

appearance in WPL for the 32-year-old who recently completed 150 T20s for her country.

Royal Challengers Bangalore went for Australia's Georgia Wareham, paying ₹40 lakh for the deal. Wareham had played in the last edition for Gujarat Giants.

"We obviously have got a balanced squad anyway. If we were to improve one area, it would be our starting eleven, subject to the playing conditions," said Delhi Capitals' head coach Jonathan Batt.

"Annabel is a multi-skilled player, obviously she could bat anywhere between No 3-7. She bowls in all phases of the match and is an out-and-out batter. For us, she was going to be our No.1 pick from the start..." he added.

Gujarat Giants went for the left-handed 20-year-old Litchfield, who has made her debut across formats for Australia.

South Africa fast bowler Shabnim Ismail was added to Mumbai Indians squad for ₹1.20 crore, three times her base price. "Shabnim is the fastest bowler currently in women's cricket. She has vast amounts of experience, we wanted an out-and-out pacer," said Mumbai Indians' mentor and bowling coach Jhulan Goswami.

UP Warriorz also added England batter Dani Wyatt to their roster at a base price of ₹30 lakh. This will be the first

WPL IN FEBRUARY

The turnaround time between World Cup and South Africa tour was so short that despite giving Rahul Dravid and his team extension, the tenure couldn't be formalised, something that will happen once they are back from the Rainbow Nation. "We have given the extension but we are yet to finalise the contract. We did not get time at all after they finished (with the World Cup). I had a meeting with them and we agreed mutually that

they will continue. We will sit down and decide once they return from South Africa," he said.

##### SUPPORT STAFF TENURE

The turn-around time between World Cup and South Africa tour was so short that despite