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**Economic News**

**Event and Celebration**

**Art & Architecture**

**Sports & Cultural**

**Editorial News**

EDUCATION



# Sahitya Akademi announces awards; *Requiem in Raga Janki* best English work

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Tamil author Rajasekaran (Devibharathi), Telugu writer T. Patanjali Sastry and Malayalam writer E.V. Ramakrishnan are among those named for the Sahitya Akademi awards for 2023.

Nine books of poetry, six novels, five short story collections, three essays and one literary study have won the awards. In the English language category, Neelum Saran Gour has been selected for her novel *Requiem in Raga Janki*, and in Hindi, writer Sanjeev has been named for his novel *Mujhe Pahachaano*.

The awards recommended by the jury in 24 languages were approved by the Executive Board of the Akademi at its meeting on Wednesday. Madhav

Kaushik, President of the Akademi, chaired the meeting. The awards are given to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of the award – that is between January 2017 and December 31, 2021.

Mr. Rajasekaran was chosen for his novel *Neervazhi Padooum*, Mr. Sastry for his short story collection *Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu*, and Mr. Ramakrishnan for his literary study *Malayala Novelinte Deshakalanga*.

Scholar Lakshmisha Tolpadi will get the award for his collection of essays *Mahabharatha Anusandhana-da Bharathayatre* in Kannada. Bengali author Swapnamay Chakrabarti will receive the award for his novel *Jaler Upar Pani*.

Among the authors who

**The award, including a copper plaque and ₹1 lakh prize money, will be presented on March 12, 2024.**

will receive the honour for their poetry collections are Vijay Verma in Dogri, Vinod Joshi in Gujarati, Manshoor Banihali in Kashmiri, Ashutosh Parida in Odia, and Arun Ranjan Mishra in Sanskrit.

The award, comprising an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and ₹1 lakh in prize money, will be presented at a function on March 12, 2024.

The Akademi, founded on March 12, 1954, is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry and is dedicated to the promotion of literature in Indian languages.



# ICFAI Business School (IBS) delivers cutting-edge business education

**S**INCE its establishment, ICAI Business School (IBS), Hyderabad, has consistently upheld a commitment to academic excellence, complemented by top-notch infrastructure for its students. Recognised as a prominent institution, IBS is dedicated to keeping its students well-versed in industry dynamics, empowering them to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios, and providing cutting-edge education for those pursuing careers in business and management.

IBS has a large pool of highly competent faculty members, many of whom hold doctorate degrees and have decades of experience and specialisation in their subjects. They are also articulate and thorough with both theoretical and real-world concepts, which assist better in preparing the students for a better future and make IBS stand out as an educational powerhouse. Faculty use the latest pedagogical tools to transform the learning experiences of students, such as case methods, games, simulations, experiential learning, and group projects.

## **CASE-BASED LEARNING: A CRITICAL COMPONENT**

Set up in 2000, the IBS Case Research Center (IBS-CRC) has indeed gone on to establish itself as one of the top case development centres in the world, both in terms of the number of cases developed and their usage by business schools.

IBS is among the very few institutions in India that have made case-based learning a critical component of pedagogy. Almost all the courses at IBS are taught through case studies. The case studies are tailor-made to the requirements of different subject areas and topics. The Case Research Center (CRC) is a Centre of Excellence of the ICAI Group.

A committed and dynamic team is actively engaged in realising ICAI's mission of creating high-quality case studies for its constituent institutions and sharing cases with other B-schools and organisations through The Case Center, UK. Presently, ICAI's contributions to The Case Center amount to more than 7,000 cases, constituting over 8% of its case repository.

Ranked as the world's second-largest contributor of cases, ICAI follows closely behind Harvard in The Case Center's list of bestselling cases globally. ICAI holds a notable market share in bestselling cases, standing at 13%, while Harvard leads with 21%. ICAI cases are incorporated into the curricula of over 900 B-schools spanning more than 90 countries. Renowned business schools, including IE Business School (Spain), Imperial College London, HEC Montreal, HEC Paris, INSEAD (France), London Business School, London School of Economics & Political Science, SDA Bocconi (Italy), Singapore Management University, and China Europe International Business School (CEIBS),



IBS DISTINGUISHES ITSELF FROM OTHER B-SCHOOLS PRIMARILY THROUGH ITS EMPHASIS ON CASE-BASED LEARNING. THE FACULTY, COMPRISING NUMEROUS HIGHLY QUALIFIED MEMBERS WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND DOCTORATE DEGREES, FURTHER ENHANCES THE INSTITUTIONS' ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

China, and top schools such as IIMs, ISB, SP Jain, and Symbiosis, among others, in India use IBS-CRC case studies.

IBS-CRC had seven of its authors featured in The Case Centre's Top 50 Bestselling Case Authors' List for 2021-22. This is next only to Harvard Business School, with nine authors. Among the top 10 bestselling authors in the world, three are from IBS-CRC. Other authors on the Top 50 list include professors from Harvard, INSEAD, IMD, Stanford, etc.

In 2006, IBS became the first of its kind business schools in South Asia to be SAQS accredited. It was re-accredited in 2020 and was ranked 25th under the management schools category by NIRF and also ranked by CRISIL (A\*\*) and ICRA (E B2) in the same year. The school received AACSB accreditation in February 2020, the highest standard of recognition for business schools worldwide, confirming commitment to high quality and

continuous improvement of management programmes through rigorous and comprehensive peer review.

## **DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS**

The student community at IBS is truly diverse. Students come from different states, social and cultural backgrounds, and all walks of life. They become a part of the IBS community and get unparalleled exposure to different cultures, languages, and ways of living. There are 27 student clubs at IBS Hyderabad, which are managed by IBS students themselves. They organise and participate in various curricular and extracurricular activities.

## **BUSINESS & INDUSTRY INTERFACE**

IBS has a strong, active, and growing interface with business and industry, with experts from a range of leading companies delivering regular guest lectures and serving as members of various advisory boards.

The ten-week summer internship programme bridges the gap between theory and practice. Students work in different organisations under active guidance from faculty and company mentors. The programme offers students a continued learning opportunity, ensuring the knowledge and skills gained remain relevant to modern times.

## **THE SUCCESS STORY OF PLACEMENTS**

IBS boasts an exceptional track record of securing outstanding placements consistently, attracting top-tier companies to its campus for student recruitment each year. The comprehensive training provided to students cultivates well-rounded professionals, and the remarkable placement achievements in esteemed organisations stand as compelling evidence of this commitment. The expanding alumni network of IBS currently pursues accelerated careers in leading companies, both in India and abroad.

The success of IBS alumni in the corporate realm serves as a compelling testament to their skills, capabilities, and diligence. It also reflects the high-quality and rigorous business education imparted at IBS. A great vision coupled with unwavering determination makes IBS a noteworthy example of success.

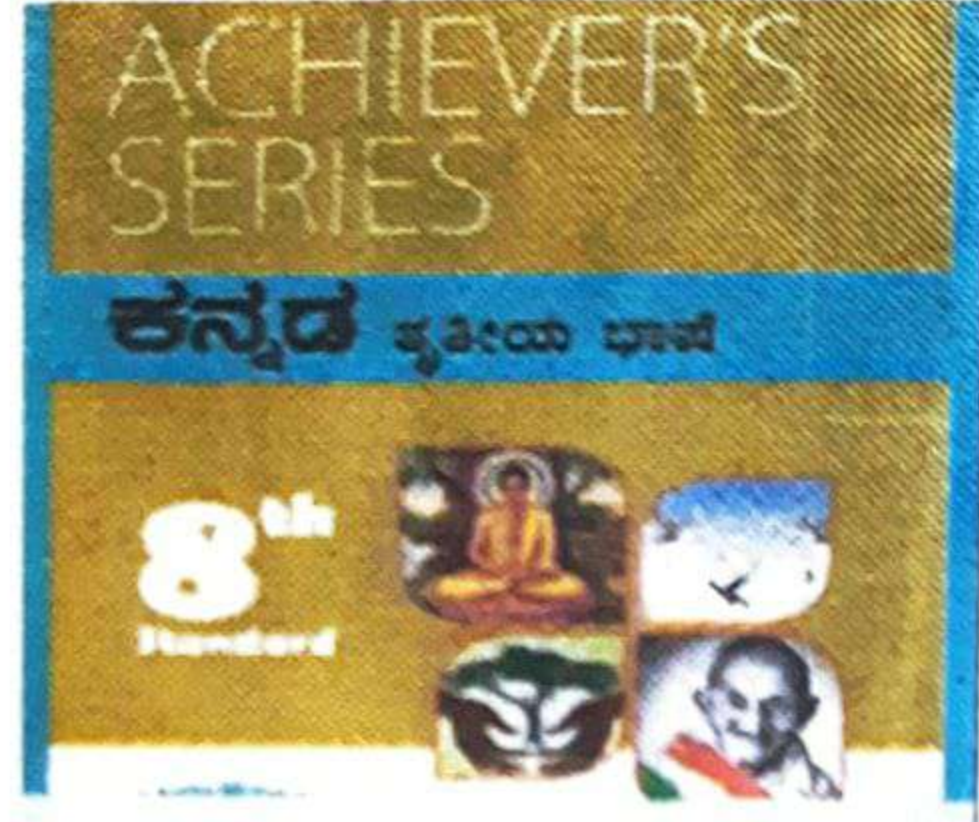


# ಪ್ರೌಢಶಿಕ್ಷಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ತೃತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆ

■ ಎನ್.ಎಲ್. ಶಿವಮಾದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು  
ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಥಮ  
ಹಾಗೂ ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆ ಕಲಿಸಲು ಕಾನೂನು  
ಅಡಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ  
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷಾ ಕಲಿಕಾ  
ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2015ಅನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ  
ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಿಸಲು ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಮುಂದಿನ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ  
(2024-25) 8ನೇ ತರಗತಿಗೆ ತೃತೀಯ  
ಭಾಷೆಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು  
ಬಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ  
ಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಥಮ  
ಅಥವಾ ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಕಲಿಸುವ  
ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತೃತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕ  
ಮುದ್ರಣವನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕ ಸಂಘವು  
ಡಿ.15ರಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ  
2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ  
ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕ, ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಮತ್ತು  
ದಿನಚರಿಗಳ ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.  
ಈ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷಾ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದ  
ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ  
8ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ತೃತೀಯ ಭಾಷಾ  
ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು ಬಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.  
ಅನುಪಯುಕ್ತ ಪಠ್ಯಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳ  
ಬೇಕಾದ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಮುಂದಿನ  
ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಲಾಗು  
ವುದು ಎಂದು ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. ○ ಪುಟ 4



- ಬರುವ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಜಾರಿ
- 8ನೇ ತರಗತಿಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಥಮ / ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಬೋಧನೆ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ
- ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷಾ ಕಲಿಕಾ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2015 ಜಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಆದೇಶ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕಲಿಕಾ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕನ್ನಡವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಥಮ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬೋಧಿಸಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ತೃತೀಯ ಭಾಷೆಯಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಬೋಧಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.  
| ಬಿ.ಬಿ. ಕಾವೇರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತೆ



# ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಮತೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಖರ್ಗೆ

ಸಂ.ಕೆ. ಸಮಚಾರ ವಾಡಿ: ಲಾಡ್ಲಾಪುರ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ಅಡಿಗಲ್ಲು ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದ್ದ ಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ, ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಕುಶಲೋಪಾರಿ ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿದರು.

ಅರ್ಧ ಗಂಟೆಗೂ ಅಧಿಕಕಾಲ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂವಾದ ನಡೆಸಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿದರು. ಸಚಿವರ ಜೊತೆ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ವಿವಿಧ ತರಗತಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು, ಆಟದ ಮೈದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಲ್ಯಾಬೋರೇಟರಿ ಬಲಪಡಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದರು.

ಓದುವುದು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಓದಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ನನ್ನ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅಗತ್ಯಗಳ



ವಾಡಿ: ಸಮೀಪದ ಕೊಂಚೂರು ಏಕಲವ್ಯ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂವಾದ ನಡೆಸಿದರು.

ಪಟ್ಟಿ ನೀಡಿದರೆ ತಕ್ಷಣವೇ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಈಡೇರಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದಾಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹರ್ಷದಿಂದ ಚಪ್ಪಾಳೆ ತಟ್ಟಿದರು.

ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ದೂರ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಕೊಂಚೂರು ಕ್ರಾಸ್‌ಗೆ

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ಲುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪೋಷಕರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ ಉಂಟಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ಎಂದು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹೇಳಿದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಕೆಲವೇ

ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಕ್ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಬಸ್ ಸ್ಟಾಪ್ ನಿಲುಗಡೆಗೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಭರವಸೆ ನೀಡಿದರು.

ನಂತರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮುತುವರ್ಜಿ ವಹಿಸುವಂತೆ ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ನಂತರ ಸಚಿವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಪೋಟೋ ತೆಗೆಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಂತಸ ಪಟ್ಟರು. ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ, ಆಟ ಪಾಠ ಪ್ರವಚನಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಮಕ್ಕಳೊಡನೆ ಮನ ಬಿಚ್ಚಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದರು. ಸವಾಜು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕಿ ಪಿ.ಶುಭ. ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲಕ ಗಂಗಾಧರ್ ಅಂಕಲಗಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸಹ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.



# ಕಲಿತ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ದೇಣಿಗೆ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸ್ಕೂಲ್‌ಗೆ ನೆರವು ನೀಡಿದ ಎನ್‌ಆರ್‌ಐ ವೈದ್ಯ

■ ನಾಗರಾಜ್ ನವೀಮನೆ ಮೈಸೂರು

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ತಾನು ಓದಿದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಮುಚ್ಚಿ ಹೋಗಬಾರದು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮೂಲಸೌಲಭ್ಯದಿಂದ ವಂಚಿತರಾಗಬಾರದು ಎಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಅಮೆರಿಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು 1.5 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಿಟೋರಿಯಂ, ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಕೊಠಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ ರೂಂ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ನೂತನ ಕಟ್ಟಡವೊಂದನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**ಆಡಿಟೋರಿಯಂ, ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಒಳಗೊಂಡ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ**

ನಗರದ ಗಾಡಿಚೌಕದ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಿಭಜಿತ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯನ್ನು 1918ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಲ್ವಡಿ

ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರ್ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಶತಮಾನ ಕಳೆದಿರುವ ಈ ಶಾಲೆಯು ಮೂಲ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಸೋರಿತ್ತು. ಇದನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದ ಇದೇ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಹಳೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ, ಅಮೆರಿಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯರಾಗಿರುವ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರು ಎರಡು ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**ಕನಸು ಟಿಸಿಲೊಡೆದಿದ್ದು ಹೇಗೆ?:** 2021ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದಮೂರ್ತಿ, ತಾವು ಓದಿದ ಶಾಲೆ ಹೇಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸ್ನೇಹಿತನ ಬಳಿ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದರು. ಸ್ನೇಹಿತ ಶಾಲೆಯ ದುಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ನಂತರ ಶಾಲೆಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ಬಳಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ ಎರಡು ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿಕೊಡುವ ಭರವಸೆಯನ್ನು ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ಎಸ್.ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ಈ ವಿಚಾರವನ್ನು ಬಿಇಒ ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದು ನೀಲಿನಕ್ಷೆ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದರು. 2022ರಲ್ಲಿ ಶುರುವಾದ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಮುಂದಿನ ತಿಂಗಳು ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆಯಾಗಲಿದೆ.

**18 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ ಒಂದೂವರೆ ಕೋಟಿವರೆಗೆ:**



ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಗಾಡಿಚೌಕ ಬಳಿ ಇರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ವಿಭಜಿತ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೂತನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.

**ಡಾ.ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅವರ ನೆರವಿನಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ತಲೆ ಎತ್ತಿದೆ. ಜನವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು**

- **ಡಾ.ಎಚ್.ಕೆ.ಪಾಂಡು** ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ 18 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆಯ ನವೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಕೋರಿಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದಮೂರ್ತಿ, "ಕೇವಲ 18 ಲಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಏನೂ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುವ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸವಲತ್ತುಗಳೂ ಸಿಗುವಂತಾಗಲಿ. ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಆಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಶಾಲೆ ನವೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ," ಎಂದರು. ನಂತರ 84 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನ ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದರು. ಆದರೆ, ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಗೊಳ್ಳುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಒಂದೂವರೆ ಕೋಟಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿದೆ. ಇಷ್ಟೂ ಖರ್ಚನ್ನು ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದಮೂರ್ತಿ

**ಶಾಲೆ ಉಳಿಸಿದ ದಾನಿ**

ಡಾ.ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಚಿಕಾಗೋದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಾಕ್‌ಸನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

1958ರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾ.ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ಏಳನೇ ತರಗತಿವರೆಗೂ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಸರಸ್ವತಿಪುರಂನಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಇವರ ತಮ್ಮ, ನಿವೃತ್ತ ಕೆಸಿಎಸ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಓಂಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



**ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಇರುವ ಶಾಲಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಕೂಡ ದುಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅನುಮತಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಅದನ್ನು ನವೀಕರಣಗೊಳಿಸಿ ನೂತನ ಕೊಠಡಿಗಳನ್ನು**

**ಕಟ್ಟಿಸಿಕೊಡಲು ತಯಾರಿದ್ದೇನೆ.**

- **ಡಾ.ಸಚ್ಚಿದಾನಂದ ಮೂರ್ತಿ** ಹಿರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ, ಅಮೆರಿಕ

ಮಿಷಿಯಿಂದಲೇ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

**ನೂತನ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಏನೇನಿದೆ?:** ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ, ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ಆಡಿಟೋರಿಯಂ ಸೇರಿ ಅತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಸಿಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಈ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೆಲ ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ ರೂಂ ಕಟ್ಟಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಜತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಕೊಠಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಇದೆ. ಮೊದಲ ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ 300 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಕೂರಬಹುದಾದ ಆಡಿಟೋರಿಯಂ ಇದ್ದು, ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಸ್ವೀಕರ್, ಶೌಚಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎರಡನೇ ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭೋಜನದ ಹಾಲ್ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.





Most Important Topics For

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# Beware of those 'unmissable deals' that could land you in trouble!

**K V Kurmanath**

Hyderabad

Clickbait articles target readers who are curious about certain topics. They usually have compelling headlines and thumbnails to draw the attention of readers so as to get 'hits', which would fetch them more advertisements.

Sites specialising in clickbait content exist for the sole purpose of generating ad revenue. But, clickbait websites can land readers in trouble as they use unpatched or outdated software to make their websites. Hackers find these websites ideal to sneak into readers' computers.

"Visiting clickbait websites and articles is inherently risky to users, mainly because these sites often use outdated or unpatched software, making them vulnerable to hacking," cybersecurity experts at Palo Alto Networks.

"Some articles are just too tempting to avoid clicking on them. But often, they're the ones you should avoid. With the holiday season around the corner, it's only a matter of time before too-good-to-be-true deals take over," said Anil Valluri, Managing Director and Vice-President (India and SAARC) of Palo Alto Networks, said.

"Unfortunately, a lot of these articles can lead users to pages that deploy outdated code or older ver-



**ALARM BELLS.** The cybersecurity solutions firm said they had found instances of automatically generated clickbait articles on websites running plug-ins that were at least two years out of date GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

sions of plug-ins. Users should be mindful and keep an eye out for suspicious URLs and ensure that their devices and browsers are up-to-date," he said.

Clickbait authors are getting smarter, using Generative AI tools to generate SEO-friendly content and increase site traffic.

The cybersecurity solutions firm said they had found instances of automatically generated clickbait articles on websites running plug-ins that were at least two years out-of-date.

## **MODUS OPERANDI**

To compromise any website, attackers must know the operating system, web-content management software (CMS), and any associated plug-ins. "Threat actors use this data to determine if a server is running out-of-date software or applications. With this information, they can easily

## **Hackers identify sites built on unpatched software to attack computers, say cybersecurity experts at Palo Alto Networks**

find publicly known vulnerabilities. Such details can be gleaned through a website's URL patterns, HTML content and functionality," Valluri said.

## **WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**

He wanted readers to be wary of questionable sites that solely bank on clickbait articles. If a headline is too-good-to-believe, the article should be skipped.

"A 'think before you click' mindset can go a long way in keeping users safe when it comes to clickbait content," Valluri said.



# ShareChat lays off about 200 across verticals

**Jyoti Banthia**

Bengaluru

Mohalla Tech, the parent entity of the vernacular social media platform ShareChat and short video entertainment app Moj, has laid off 200 of its workforce in a bid to streamline costs and achieve profitability within the next four-six quarters.

The Bengaluru-based unicorn has reduced its team size by 15 per cent in a bid to streamline operations, enhance productivity, and position the company for sustainable growth.

The layoffs have impacted



the start-up's product functions, and more across other functions, going by unverified posts online.

## **STRATEGIC VISION**

“In alignment with our strategic vision, the company undertook a comprehensive restructuring effort to

streamline operations, enhance productivity, and position the company for sustainable growth. As a result, the organisation has moved to a flatter org structure and prioritised product initiatives that resulted in a reduction in team sizes by roughly 15 per cent,” the statement added.

The layoff exercise came almost 11 months after ShareChat fired around 500 employees or about 20 per cent of its workforce, on the back of ShareChat parent Mohalla Tech shutting down its fantasy gaming platform Jeet11 in December 2022, which resulted in 100 employees losing their jobs.



# 'India's \$12-b digital media market to grow 3X by 2030'

## Our Bureau

Bengaluru

India's volume of mature internet users is estimated to outpace the US by 2030, as the digital media and entertainment landscape, currently valued at \$12 billion, will triple in size, as per Redseer's research.

The country's current landscape of Internet users consists of a 450-500 million strong cohort of explorers, 300-320 million transactors and 35-40 million mature users.

Moreover, non-real-money gaming (Non-RMG) and the rise of OTT across audio and video are among the contributors to the sector's current growth trajectory, despite the slowdown in digital ad spending and regulatory changes affecting the RMG space.

Going forward, three key



**DIGITAL BOOM.** The current Internet users base comprises a 450-500-million-strong cohort of explorers, 300-320 million transactors and 35-40 million mature users GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

factors will prove to be critical to its growth: the continued increase of paid users across OTT video, audio and gaming; the rise of regional content; and the growing share of digital ad spend across new-age and traditional brands.

In FY23, the media and en-

tertainment sector experienced robust growth in paid user bases and average revenue per paying user (ARPPU) across OTT video, OTT audio, RMG and non-RMG gaming segments. Despite a 90 per cent increase in paid user growth, challenges persist

with higher customer acquisition costs (CAC) and low user retention.

## GAMING DYNAMICS

According to the report, overcoming these challenges through innovative solutions like subscription bundling, low-cost packs and creative monetisation models is crucial for achieving sector profitability in the next 3-5 years. Similarly, India's audio series and audiobooks witnessed a 9X growth in FY23, driven by paid user expansion, engaging content and sachet payment options.

Further, the rise of core gaming, eSports and live streaming has resulted in a 150 million-strong community of mid-core gamers in 2023.

With 40 per cent paid user penetration in the gaming segment, in-game payments for costumes and accessories are

opening new avenues. Additionally, the shift from casual to mature gaming is also boosting livestream viewership and fostering the development of a vibrant domestic eSports ecosystem.

Short-form video platforms in India, with a user base of 250 million, are particularly significant, especially in Tier-2+ cities. Forty per cent of users are online transactors, offering ample scope for monetisation through ad revenue and influencer marketing.

The growth of 'Made for India' content is a driving force in India's digital media and entertainment industry, while the increasing adoption of core gaming further enhances the sector's potential. Effectively addressing challenges such as CAC, user retention and subscription models is key to unlocking exponential growth in the coming years.



# Accenture bets big on GenAI

Firm signed \$450 million of new bookings in the space for the first quarter

SHIVANI SHINDE

Mumbai, 20 December

Amid an uncertain economic growth and slow IT spends, IT services and consulting firm Accenture's first quarter numbers in FY24 showed a significant pick up in generative AI (GenAI) spends.

The company reported that it signed \$450 million of new bookings in GenAI for the first quarter. This is a surge from the \$300 million signed in the whole of FY23.

"We continue to lead our industry in Gen AI — the great accelerator of reinvention — with over \$450 million in new bookings. Demand for GenAI continued to accelerate in Q1. For many of our clients, 2023 was a year of GenAI experimentation. We are now focusing on helping our clients in 2024 realise value at scale," said Julie Sweets, chair and chief executive officer (CEO), Accenture, during an analyst call post the earnings.

Sweets also said that the company will be looking at acquisitions to bolster its AI portfolio.

"We will be doubling our deeply skilled data and AI practitioners from 40,000 to 80,000, with an additional 5,000 practitioners as of Q1," she said. "Clients want to get out of the proof of concept segment and look at scale. The year 2024 will see a

## GROWING ADOPTION



■ Accenture announced \$3 billion investment in data and AI over 3 years

■ Part of this will go in training and acquiring AI capabilities

■ TCS in Q2FY24 said it has over 250 opportunities in pipeline and trained 100,000 employees in GenAI

■ Infosys has trained 40,000 employees and plans to train the entire company on this tech

■ Wipro announced an investment of \$1 billion over 3 years

■ The firm launched Wipro ai360, an AI-first ecosystem; will train 250,000 employees on AI

shift for our clients from experimentation to scale," added Sweets.

The growth trajectory in Q1 for GenAI is of significance for top IT services players, who are eyeing this segment as the next growth area.

During the Q2FY23 results, TCS had said that it has 250 opportunities in the pipeline. The management had stated that most of these are at PoC stage. Similarly, Infosys had stated that its genAI offering through Topaz platform is doing well in terms of acceptance among clients.

Accenture, while maintaining its full

year growth guidance, said that technology spending is increasing. However, the speed of increase is not as fast as in the last few years.

For Q1 of FY24 (company follows a September-August calendar), Accenture reported revenue of \$16.2 billion, up 3 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y). On a sequential basis, it reported a revenue growth of 1.23 per cent. For Q4 of FY23, revenue stood at \$16 billion.

In the US, new bookings during the quarter were at \$18.4 billion, an increase of 14 per cent.



# 'Smartphones with On-device AI to Capture 40% Market by 2027'

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** The smartphone industry is expected to pivot towards generative-AI with shipments of smartphones with on-device GenAI capabilities to reach over 100 million units globally in 2024, which by 2027 is expected to reach 552 million units, or 40% of the market, growing at a cumulative growth rate of 83%, according to a report.

Defined as smartphones that uses GenAI to create original content, GenAI devices will run size-optimised AI models natively on device — instead of relying on pre-programmed responses or performing predefined tasks — to create, in the short run, use cases around information provisioning, image building, live translation, and personal assistant applications, according to a report by Counterpoint Research.

"The share of GenAI smartphones in the overall smartphone market will be in single digits through next year. But those numbers will not accurately reflect the amount of excitement and marketing hyperbole we are expecting to see," said Tarun Pathak, research director, Counterpoint Research.

"Next year is about learning and we expect GenAI smartphones to hit an inflection point in 2026....," he added. Canalys said in a report that the era of 'peak smartphones' used to describe the lack of innovation in smartphones will give way to experiential-based marketing. According to the Counterpoint report, Samsung is expected to capture half of this GenAI market next year, followed by Chinese handset brands such as Xiaomi, Vivo, Honor, and Oppo. The Korean smartphone brand has already announced its entry into the space with an early showcase in functionalities like live translation of phone calls.

Notably, Apple published a research paper this week that makes large-language models more efficient to run on mobile devices.



ANIMISHA

GenAI devices will run size-optimised AI models natively on devices

# Indians Rush to Upskill in GenAI for Better Job Opportunities

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** Indians are in a rush to upskill themselves in generative artificial intelligence (genAI).

Someone in India enrolled in genAI content roughly every three minutes in 2023, according to a study on learner trends by Coursera, which provides online courses.

Searches for GenAI content on the internet grew fourfold in the country compared with the previous year. The study was based on data from more than 22.2 million registered learners, Coursera said.

Raghav Gupta, managing director for India and APAC at Coursera, said: "The renewed focus on lifelong learning, tech and, human skills, and blended learning on campuses will be the key to employability in the AI-driven world."

Amid the surge in interest, global universities and industry educators

launched more than 35 genAI courses or projects in India.

'Generative AI for Everyone', a course authored by AI pioneer Andrew Ng, became fastest growing course in 2023 and had the second highest enrolment from Indian learners on Coursera. Gupta said: "The interest in genAI, leadership, tech and data skills not only reflects the learners' thirst for cutting-edge knowledge but also their commitment to staying at the forefront of the digital revolution."

The data from the study show that Indian learners are keen on courses that provide high-demand tech and data science skills.

The second most popular course in India in 2023 was Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's 'Leadership Skills', which covers topics such as influence, authority, power dynamics, stress management and lessons from the Mahabharata.

The study shows that people are opting for courses that are part of entry-level professional certificate programmes.

Someone in India got enrolled in genAI content roughly every three minutes in 2023



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# HEALTH





# WHO classifies JN.1 as new Covid variant of interest

PT Jyothi Datta

Mumbai

The SARS-CoV-2 sub-variant JN.1 has been classified as a separate variant of interest (VOI) from its parent lineage BA.2.86, due to its rapidly increasing spread, the World Health Organization has said.

SARS-CoV-2 caused the Covid-19 pandemic, and over three years, the latest sub-variant JN.1 was classified as VOI as part of the BA.2.86 sublineages.

Based on available evidence, "the additional global public health risk posed by JN.1 is currently evaluated as low," the UN health agency said. "Despite this, with the onset of winter in the northern hemisphere, JN.1 could increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries," it added.

Addressing a common concern, the WHO said, "Current vaccines continue to protect against severe disease and death from JN.1 and other circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19."

In fact, Covid-19 is not the only respiratory disease circulating. Influenza, RSV and common childhood pneumonia are on the rise, it added.

This week, India's Health Ministry has also advised States to increase their surveillance following the reporting of a JN.1 case from Kerala. Besides mock drills, the Centre had also asked the States to take stock of the inventory required to treat the virus-variant.

## WHO ADVISORY

Meanwhile, the WHO has advised masks in crowded, en-



**GLOBAL ALERT.** Despite a low assessed global health risk, the variant could heighten respiratory infections, especially during northern hemisphere winters PTI

closed, or poorly ventilated areas and a safe distance from others, as feasible. Other features of the advisory include improved ventilation, the practice of respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes), cleaning hands regularly, staying up to date with vaccinations against Covid-19 and influenza, especially if the person has a high risk for severe disease, staying home if you are sick and getting tested if you have symptoms, or if might have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 or influenza.

## CLOSING COVAX

The WHO's classification of JN.1 comes even as it announced the shutting down of Covax, the multilateral mechanism it set up for equitable global access to Covid-19 vaccines. Launched in 2020, this facility would draw to a close on 31 December, the WHO said.

Jointly led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), UNICEF and the WHO, Covax has supplied nearly 2 bil-

lion Covid-19 vaccine doses and safe injection devices to 146 economies, it said. These efforts are estimated to have helped avert the deaths of at least 2.7 million people in the Covax Advance Market Commitment (AMC) low and lower-middle-income participating economies that received free doses through the mechanism, alongside nearly \$2 billion in critical support to turn vaccines into vaccinations, the WHO added.

The 92 lower-income economies that were eligible to participate in the programme with support from the financing mechanism known as the Gavi Covax Advance Market Commitment (Covax AMC) will continue to have the option to receive Covid-19 vaccine doses and delivery support through Gavi's regular programmes, it said.

"So far, 58 lower-income economies have requested a total of 83 million doses in 2024, with plans to focus on the continued protection of priority groups, including health care workers, community workers and older adults," the agency added.



# Karnataka second in active Covid-19 cases, decides to ramp up daily tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA stands second in the country, next to Kerala, in terms of total active Covid-19 cases as on December 20, according to data revealed at a review meeting held by the Union Health Ministry on public health preparedness.

As on December 20, 2,305 active cases were registered across the country. Kerala recorded 2,041 cases while Karnata-

taka had 79. However, a small relief is that these cases are mild.

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who attended the virtual meeting of health ministers from all states and union territories chaired by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, said Karnataka leads the country in the number of tests conducted per day.

The state is conducting more than 1,000 tests a day and by

Saturday, it will touch 5,000.

The Union Health Minister emphasised the need for proactive preparations to tackle the rising Covid-19 cases in the country.

He further stressed the need to ensure sufficient supply of oxygen, medicines and improved storage facilities. He also called for setting up more ICUs and beds in hospitals. Karnataka has taken steps to put these measures in place, Gundu Rao elaborated. **P5**



People wearing masks in Bengaluru on Wednesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

## 3 Covid-19 deaths in Bengaluru since Dec 15

Three people, including a 44-year-old asymptomatic man, who had tested positive for Covid-19 have died since December 15 in Bengaluru. It was found that all three were suffering from comorbidities



# 'India's \$12-b digital media market to grow 3X by 2030'

## Our Bureau

Bengaluru

India's volume of mature internet users is estimated to outpace the US by 2030, as the digital media and entertainment landscape, currently valued at \$12 billion, will triple in size, as per Redseer's research.

The country's current landscape of Internet users consists of a 450-500 million strong cohort of explorers, 300-320 million transactors and 35-40 million mature users.

Moreover, non-real-money gaming (Non-RMG) and the rise of OTT across audio and video are among the contributors to the sector's current growth trajectory, despite the slowdown in digital ad spending and regulatory changes affecting the RMG space.

Going forward, three key



**DIGITAL BOOM.** The current Internet users base comprises a 450-500-million-strong cohort of explorers, 300-320 million transactors and 35-40 million mature users GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

factors will prove to be critical to its growth: the continued increase of paid users across OTT video, audio and gaming; the rise of regional content; and the growing share of digital ad spend across new-age and traditional brands.

In FY23, the media and en-

tertainment sector experienced robust growth in paid user bases and average revenue per paying user (ARPPU) across OTT video, OTT audio, RMG and non-RMG gaming segments. Despite a 90 per cent increase in paid user growth, challenges persist

with higher customer acquisition costs (CAC) and low user retention.

## GAMING DYNAMICS

According to the report, overcoming these challenges through innovative solutions like subscription bundling, low-cost packs and creative monetisation models is crucial for achieving sector profitability in the next 3-5 years. Similarly, India's audio series and audiobooks witnessed a 9X growth in FY23, driven by paid user expansion, engaging content and sachet payment options.

Further, the rise of core gaming, eSports and live streaming has resulted in a 150 million-strong community of mid-core gamers in 2023.

With 40 per cent paid user penetration in the gaming segment, in-game payments for costumes and accessories are

opening new avenues. Additionally, the shift from casual to mature gaming is also boosting livestream viewership and fostering the development of a vibrant domestic eSports ecosystem.

Short-form video platforms in India, with a user base of 250 million, are particularly significant, especially in Tier-2+ cities. Forty per cent of users are online transactors, offering ample scope for monetisation through ad revenue and influencer marketing.

The growth of 'Made for India' content is a driving force in India's digital media and entertainment industry, while the increasing adoption of core gaming further enhances the sector's potential. Effectively addressing challenges such as CAC, user retention and subscription models is key to unlocking exponential growth in the coming years.



# Govt. issues COVID alert, says no clustering of JN.1 cases

WHO classifies JN.1 as a separate variant of interest from the parent lineage of BA.2.86: Health Ministry data says that 92.8% of the cases in India were isolated at home, indicating mild illness

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

Noting that the daily COVID-19 positivity rate in some States such as Kerala, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Karnataka has risen, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday issued an alert and said that no clustering of cases of the new JN.1 variant of SARS-CoV-2 had been reported.

"The variant is currently under intense scientific scrutiny, but not a cause of immediate concern. All JN.1 cases were found to be mild and all of them [patients] have recovered without any complications," the Ministry said.

## Steep rise in a fortnight

NITI Aayog Member (Health) V.K. Paul said India had detected 21 cases of the JN.1 sub-variant till now, and about 92% of those infected were opting for home-based treatment. "Nineteen cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been traced in Goa, and one each in Kerala and Maharashtra. Over the past two weeks, 16 deaths related to COVID-19 were recorded, with many of the deceased having serious



**Taking stock:** Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya during a COVID-19 review meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

co-morbidities," Dr. Paul said.

In the past two weeks, active COVID-19 cases in India, though fewer than the global counts, have seen a steep rise from 115 on December 6 to 614 on Wednesday. Ministry data notes that 92.8% of the cases were home isolated, indicating mild illness.

"No increase in hospitalisation rates has been witnessed due to COVID-19. The cases that are hospitalised are due to other medical conditions – COVID-19 is an incidental finding," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, following a virtual high-level COVID-19 review meeting with State Health

Ministers.

The Union Health Ministry's alert comes after the World Health Organization (WHO) classified JN.1 as a separate variant of interest (VoI) from the parent lineage BA.2.86 in view of its rapidly increasing spread. It was previously classified as a VoI that was part of the BA.2.86 sub-lineage.

"Based on the available evidence, the additional global public health risk posed by JN.1 is currently evaluated as low. Despite this, with the onset of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, JN.1 could increase the burden of respiratory infections in many countries," the WHO said.

The agency said current vaccines continued to protect against severe disease and death from JN.1 and other circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The Health Ministry on Wednesday directed strengthening of the surveillance system for whole genome sequencing of positive case samples to track the variants through the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) network, and ensure timely detection of newer variants circulating in the country. "This would facilitate undertaking of appropriate public health measures in a timely manner," Dr. Mandaviya said.

## 'Ramp up testing'

The States have been requested to ramp up testing and refer large numbers of samples of COVID-19 positive cases and pneumonia-like illnesses to the INSA-COG genome sequencing laboratories daily for sequencing and to track new variants, if any.

India has recorded 614 new coronavirus infections, the highest since May 21, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.





# Business Finance



# Disinflation may pave way for interest rate cut: RBI officials

Central bank officials led by Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra say economic activity in India to be sustained by easing input costs, corporate profitability; CPI inflation will ease to 4.6% in the first three quarters of 2024-25, they add

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

**A** slowing in the rate of inflation could potentially lead to a reduction in global interest rates going forward, central bank officials wrote in an article in the RBI's December Bulletin released on Wednesday.

"The pace of global growth may slow further in 2024 while disinflation at varying pace in different geographies may pave the way for interest rate reductions," RBI officials led by Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra observed in their

## Rate cycle turning

RBI officials believe a slowdown in global growth and easing inflation will cause central banks to cut interest rates

- Officials say that despite global headwinds, India remained the fastest growing major economy in 2023
- India's domestic financial markets had been boosted by the abiding strength of the real economy, they add
- RBI's economic activity index (EAI) now forecasts GDP growth for the third quarter of 2023-24 at 6.7%



article on the 'State of the Economy'.

In India, the broad-based strengthening of economic activity that was underway would likely be

sustained by easing input costs and corporate profitability, they wrote. Stating that CPI inflation rose to 5.6% in November as the recurrence of food price

spikes punctured a brief respite in September and October, they said CPI inflation would ease to an average of 4.6% in the first three quarters of 2024-25 and that domestic financial markets had been lifted by the abiding strength of the real economy. The RBI said the views expressed in the Bulletin articles do not represent its views.

### 'Global headwinds'

"Despite significant global headwinds, the Indian economy remained the fastest growing major economy in 2023. The outlook is one of cautious optimism as con-

sumer confidence remains positive and perceptions about current income turned up in the RBI's latest survey of households in November 2023," the officials wrote.

Emphasising that supply chain pressures in India remained below historical average levels, they said the Reserve Bank of India's economic activity index (EAI) forecasts GDP growth for Q3:2023-24 at 6.7%.

"Looking ahead, growth is likely to be sustained in H2:2023-24 and 2024-25 despite some moderation," they observed.



# Global banks see no recession, but US firms are bracing for a slowdown

**A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.** Companies cautious over 2024 prospects, adjust to sluggish demand by cutting inventories

Reuters  
Singapore

Heading into 2024, analysts say the US recession they had been forecasting for two years isn't coming anymore. Everyone else, from companies to investors, is still bracing for a slowdown caused by tepid consumer demand.

Dissonance between the habitually bullish investment bank analysts and the more circumspect money managers is not new.

What's different this time is the level of prudence and caution from some top companies as they outline their plans for next year.

Real money managers are in no doubt about which side to trust. After months of being wrong footed, sell-side analysts are a bit too bullish about growth prospects, Fed rate cuts and a consumption recovery, they say.

Consensus forecasts from major banks, including Gold-

man Sachs, Morgan Stanley, UBS and Barclays, are for global growth to be constrained in 2024 by elevated interest rates, pricier oil and a weakened China, but with low odds for a recession. A year ago, many banks were forecasting a US recession.

## 'NOT ALARMING'

Businesses are sounding more grim than they did last year. In its collection of management commentary from 150 earning calls in the third-quarter reporting season, Deutsche Bank last month said companies broadly characterised demand as being somewhat weak, but not alarmingly so. Companies have continued to cut inventories as they adjust to sluggish demand for goods.

The words used by companies to describe demand included soft, sluggish, slow, lackluster, choppy, muted, constrained, challenging, weak, pressured and uneven, Deutsche said. Retailer Wal-



**SANTA PLAYS SAFE.** Walmart said that while it has been surprised by the resilience of the consumer this year in the face of rising prices, that behaviour was changing and turning cautious

mart said earlier this month that while it has been surprised by the resilience of the consumer this year in the face of rising prices, that behaviour was changing and it was turning cautious.

Walmart's chief financial officer John David Rainey told a Morgan Stanley consumer and retail conference earlier this month the firm wasn't trying to ring an alarm bell, but that caution was

"certainly a departure from what we saw in the first three quarters of the year".

Consumer giant Procter & Gamble sounded a more optimistic note. Andre Schulten, the company's chief financial officer, recently said P&G was able to grow its share of volume and value in US markets in the latest quarter, noting the "consumer remains strong."

The disconnect does not

perturb fund managers. What matters to them however is whether the Federal Reserve manages to avert recession and yet contain inflation, without hurting consumers.

After leaving markets guessing for months, the Fed's most recent update shows it recognises that need for balance and that officials are sensitive to the risks of over-tightening policy and pushing the economy into a faster than necessary slowdown. Several companies are already feeling the slowdown.

Consumer spending has indeed been cooling, as per surveys from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM). A November survey from the Conference Board showed about two-thirds of consumers still perceived a recession to be "somewhat" or "very likely" to happen over the next year.

## RECESSION IS COMING?

The past two years haven't been easy for macro pundits

trying to reconcile the drivers of a post-pandemic bounce and trillions of dollars worth of stimulus in global markets alongside hawkish central banks.

Indicators from manufacturing surveys to an inverted US yield curve and a bumper fiscal spending plan all screamed slowdown, or even recession.

Reuters polls conducted through 2022 and until mid-2023 consistently showed economists' median probability for a US recession within a year were above 60 per cent. That probability is now closer to 45 per cent.

In 2022, sell-side analysts from major banks expected growth to stumble but for stocks to keep rising. The S&P 500 fell 19 per cent that year.

Forecasts for 2024 are more conservative, and laced with caveats. Even the most bullish Street forecasts for US stocks are for single-digit gains.



# SAT quashes SEBI orders in Karvy case

**LIKELY RELIEF.** Banks may receive ₹1,433 crore from SEBI, NSE, NSDL over pledged shares

## Our Bureau

Mumbai

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Wednesday quashed two separate orders by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) against Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Finance, restricting them from revoking the shares pledged by Karvy Stock Broking.

Axis Bank has been permitted to invoke the shares pledged in its favour. The tribunal directed the SEBI, NSE and NSDL to restore the pledge made in favour of the appellants within four weeks. In the alternative, SEBI, NSE and NSDL have to compensate these lenders with the value of the underlined securities pledged in their favour by

Karvy Stock Broking along with interest at 10 per cent per annum.

The total dues payable to these lenders amount to over ₹1,433 crore, based on the calculations of the earlier 2019 order.

### TO EVOKE PLEDGE

The SAT observed that once a pledge is validly created by a broker in favour of the appellants (the five lenders in this case), and they are recorded as beneficial owners, they become the registered owner under Section 10. Consequently, if a default is committed by the broker, the appellant gets a right to invoke the pledge under the agreement.

“Once a valid pledge is created in favour of a third party then a third-party right is created in the attached property and the same cannot be sold or dis-



**LIMITING OPTIONS.** SEBI's order had earlier restricted Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank and Bajaj Finance from revoking the shares pledged by Karvy Stock Broking

tributed to discharge the liabilities of the broker,” SAT said in its 71-page order on Wednesday. If a transfer of the securities was in contravention to the SCRA or SEBI Act, then the depository has a right to undo the contravention and rectify its register of records by moving an application before the NCLT, the tribunal said.

“If SEBI/NSE/NSDL were

of the opinion that the pledge was wrongly created by Karvy... the appropriate remedy was to file an application before the NCLT for rectification of its register.

“This process was not done and like a highway robber NSDL, through illegal directions from SEBI, transferred the pledged shares to the clients of Karvy,” SAT observed.

SAT said that SEBI's finding that there was lack of due diligence on the part of the appellants during the creation of the pledge and they were not entitled to invoke the invalid pledge, is patently erroneous.

The appeals filed by the five appellants are against the SEBI order dated December 13, 2019. These five lenders had advanced loans to Karvy against securities pledged by the broker. Since Karvy defaulted they wanted to invoke the pledge but prior to that SEBI had passed an *ex parte* ad interim order dated September 22, 2019, directing the depositories not to allow the transfer of securities from a particular DP account. These appellants filed appeals before the tribunal seeking relief to invoke the pledge pursuant to the default committed by Karvy.



# Profit booking, Covid shadow drag markets

**LAGGARDS.** IT, financial services firms led Nifty, Sensex down 1.3%

**Janaki Krishnan**  
Mumbai

The stock markets ended Wednesday's session on a losing note with profit-booking at higher levels. The Nifty50 ended 1.4 per cent down at 21,150.15 points.

There was selling across the board with all sectors ending in the red. VIX, which is the market's volatility index, spiked 4 per cent to 14.45. The broader market indices fell even more than the Nifty with the advance-decline ratio falling to 0.11 to 1, the lowest in almost a year. Cash market volumes on the NSE were below ₹1-lakh crore.

The Nifty Midcap 100 fell 3.3 per cent, the Nifty Smallcap 500 3.3 per cent, and the Nifty 500 ended 2 per cent lower, indicating the broad-based sell-off. The Bank Nifty fell sharply through the day to close at 47,445, down 426 points. The 30-scrip Sensex ended 1.3 per cent, or 930.88 points, lower at 70,506.31.

In terms of sectors, the losses were led by software, financial service companies.

## CORRECTION

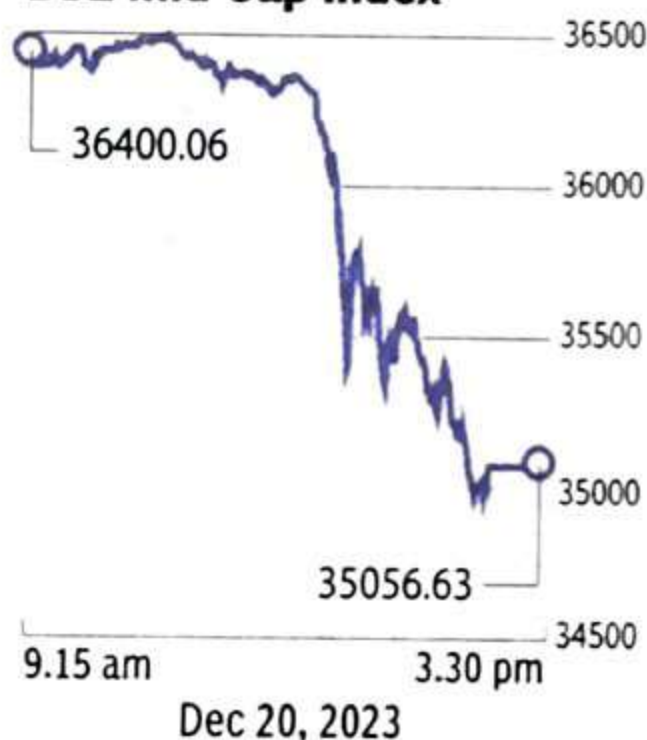
The equity markets have run up over 12 per cent in the last seven weeks and the steep fall is being seen as a much-needed correction and consolidation. This is the biggest one-day fall in the Nifty index in a year.

"We expect the market to consolidate in the near term as investors resort to profit-booking and assess the po-

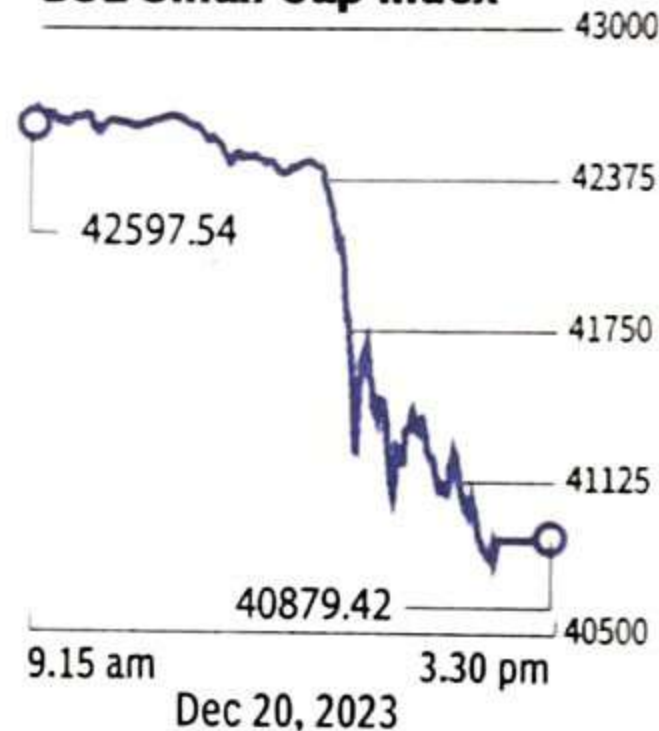
## Sudden scare

	Close	(Pts)	(%)		Close	(Pts)	(%)
BSE Sensex	70506.31	-930.88	-1.3	BSE Utilities	4539.92	-221.48	-4.65
NIFTY 50	21150.15	-302.95	-1.41	BSE Telecom	2106.04	-96.11	-4.36
BSE MidCap	35056.63	-1129.47	-3.12	BSE Power	5548.78	-251.14	-4.33
BSE SmallCap	40879.42	-1448.18	-3.42	BSE Services	1169.74	-51.31	-4.2
BSE 500	29685.12	-618.83	-2.04	NIFTY PSU Bank	5532.85	-232.9	-4.04

## BSE Mid Cap index



## BSE Small Cap index



## Stocks that fell the most

Sensex	Close (₹)	(%)	BSE AllCap	Close (₹)	(%)
Tata Steel	129.7	-4.21	Veranda	278.95	-12.28
NTPC	298.05	-3.79	Texmaco Infra	103.2	-11.38
Tata Motors	704.95	-3.33	Andrew Yule	32.31	-11.29
BSE 100			BSE CPSE		
IRCTC	815.55	-7.46	MTNL	30.3	-10.25
YES Bank	20.52	-7.44	NBCC	75.3	-8.59
Zee Entertainment	251.8	-7.31	Engineers India	151.6	-8.43

tential risk of rising Covid cases especially in Kerala and Karnataka, making them cautious," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The technical charts suggest the possibility of a downward reversal, according to Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

There was a build-up of short positions in Nifty futures, as indicated by the futures open interest position,

pointed out Ashwin Ramani, Derivatives and Technical Analyst at SAMCO Securities.

Parth Nyati, founder of Tradingo, said, "The easy money sentiment buoyed by a bullish primary market may have set the stage for a correction. Additionally, tight liquidity among HNIs due to their involvement in IPOs could have contributed to the selling pressure. The recent rise in Covid cases may also be serving as a convenient excuse for some investors to exit."



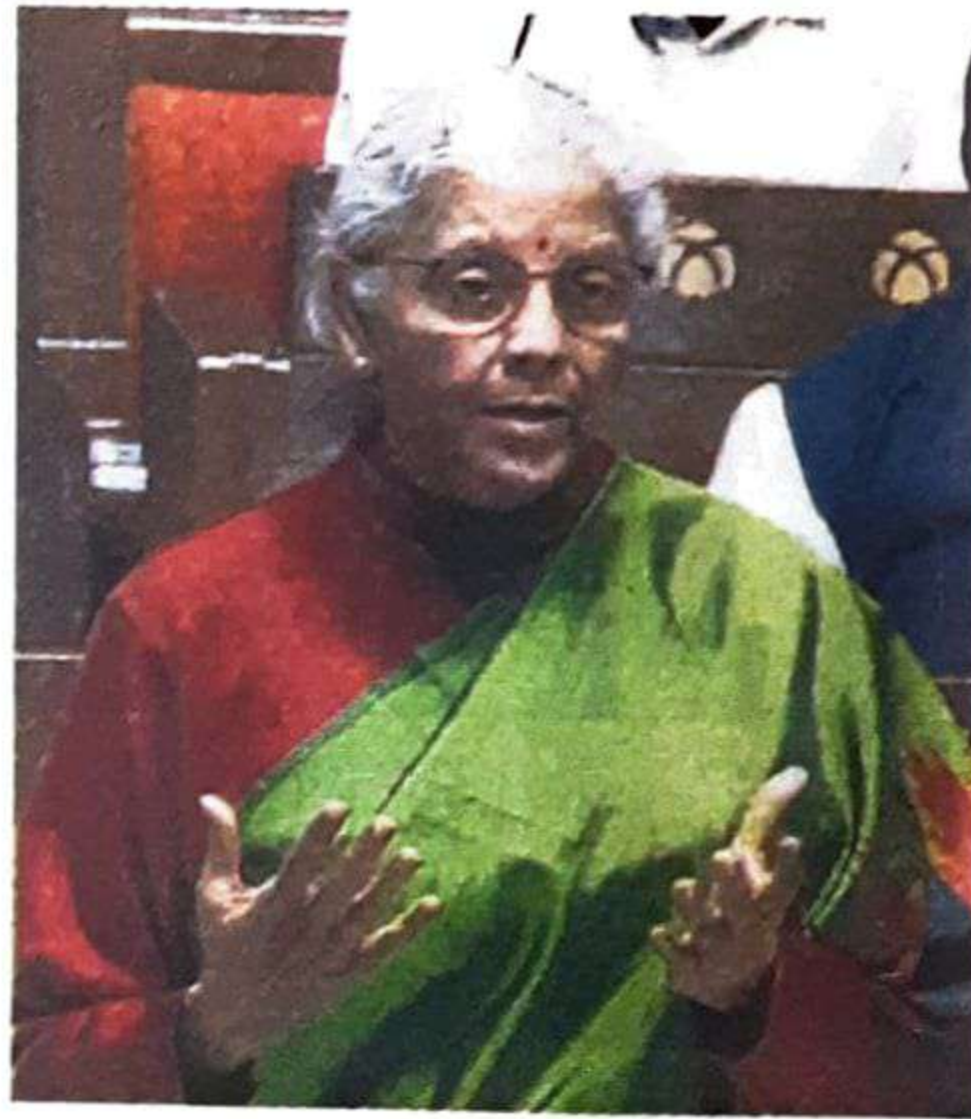
# GST regime brought down prices, says Nirmala as RS returns two taxation Bills

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha considered and returned two Bills – the Central Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill and the Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill – here on Wednesday in the absence of Opposition members, who boycotted the proceedings demanding a statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue of breach in Parliament security.

While the first Bill is to align the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act with the Tribunal Reforms Act “to initiate the administrative process for operationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunals at the earliest”, the Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill is to repeal the 1931 Act of the same name and for imposition or increase of duties of customs or excise, with or



Nirmala Sitharaman

without change in tariff classification.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman piloted both the Bills. The Bills were taken up separately and both were returned to the Lok Sabha.

## ‘Valid suggestion by SC’

Ms. Sitharaman said the amendment to the CGST Bill was brought as suggested by the Chief Justice of India and it makes the law in tune with other regulators. “Since it was a valid suggestion and pointed out

by the Supreme Court, we quickly thought it was important for us to respond and we responded in time. Therefore, we have come up with these two amendments,” Ms. Sitharaman said.

It also seeks to raise the cap on age for president and members of the GST Appellate Tribunals (GSTAT) to 70 years and 67 years respectively. At present, the age limit for the president is 67 and for members is 65.

Replying to the debate, she said that after the introduction of GST, prices of daily items such as toothpaste, brush, and hair oil, have come down. On the issue of bringing petroleum under GST, Ms. Sitharaman said: “I wish the State governments see the point and eventually customers will pay less tax if the GST is brought in; the overlapping, the doubling of tax will not be there.”



# UPI transactions at retail stores soar 118%, cash collections up 65% in 2023

**Anshika Kayastha**

Mumbai

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions at semi-urban and rural retail stores surged 118 per cent in terms of volume and 106 per cent in value terms, reflecting growing adoption of UPI beyond tier-II regions, according to a report by PayNearby.

mPOS (Mobile point-of-sale) acceptance too witnessed a growth of 5 per cent in value, emphasising increasing adoption of cutting-edge technology among small merchants, the data report titled 'Retail-O-Nomics' said.

PayNearby is the country's largest branchless banking and digital network platform. In its third edition, the report covered transactions across over 10 lakh retail touch-points, consisting of *kirana*



stores, mobile recharge stores, medical shops, customer service points (CSPs), travel agents, etc. throughout the country.

## EMI COLLECTIONS

The report highlighted a 65 per cent surge in cash collection at retail counters, reflecting soaring demand for credit and financial solutions, with average monthly collection of ₹1,700 crore. Credit demand was robust, reflected

in the 25 per cent surge in EMI collections for NBFCs, MFIs, and small finance banks.

"This uptick in EMI collections signifies a rising awareness and interest in credit and financial offerings at the grassroots level. Additionally, positive growth in subscriptions for OTTs, online education, and online gaming underlines a latent demand for digital services, indicating *Bharat's* growing affinity towards digital products," the report said adding that there is an urgent need for scalable, affordable credit solutions catering to SMEs' working capital and individual lifestyle upgrades.

The number of new registered digital retailers increased by 9 per cent, leading to 10 per cent rise in transactions both in terms of volume and value.







# Pacers pack a punch at the 2024 IPL Auction

**Amol Karhadkar**

DUBAI

A cricketer's worth is not necessarily determined by his value at an Indian Premier League (IPL) auction. But when it comes to the annual player auction, it is the players with the high price tags that steal the headlines.

Tuesday was no different in Dubai when two Australian pacers – Mitchell Starc (₹24.75 crore, KKR) and Pat Cummins (₹20.50 crore, SRH) – earned the highest bids ever in the history of the IPL auction.

Not too many who occupied the 10 tables at the sprawling Coca Cola Arena were surprised with the prices that hit through the roofs. Kumar Sangakkara, the Rajasthan Royals director of cricket and head coach, was among them.

"We knew it would get breached but not by us," Sangakkara said when asked whether he anticipated the 20 crore mark to be breached.

The amount of money that was splurged on the duo may appear to be madness. But even in a dynamic scenario like a player auction, there was definite-



Mitchell Starc. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

ly a method to this madness. It's not a coincidence that both Starc and Cummins are pacers. After all, "pace bowling" was the buzzword associated with expensive signings at the auction.

Five pacers, including the Australian duo, fetched a sum of ₹10 crore or more. Five more took home more than ₹5 crore. And the ₹4

crore barrier was breached by 14 pacers among the total of 72 players who were bought in the auction. Perhaps it had something to do with the likelihood of the introduction of two bouncers being allowed in an over in IPL 2024.

Daniel Vettori, the Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach, explained the rationale behind going big on Cummins. "Obviously the fast bowlers are targeted. There is only a select few that you can go for. Pat brings in an element of batting as well and and like in all these options, someone else desperately wants them as well," Vettori said.

While Cummins was slotted in the second set, Starc's name came up for bidding in the fourth set. Venky Mysore, the managing director cum chief executive officer of KKR, admitted that the fact that it lost out on acquiring Roman Powell to Rajasthan Royals and Chris Woakes to Punjab Kings resulted in it having an adequate purse to loosen its strings for Starc.

"It wasn't like you came in with that mindset, but obviously was a preferred player from that skill-set," Venky said.



# I was not expecting the Khel Ratna so early: Satwik

**V.V. Subrahmanyam**

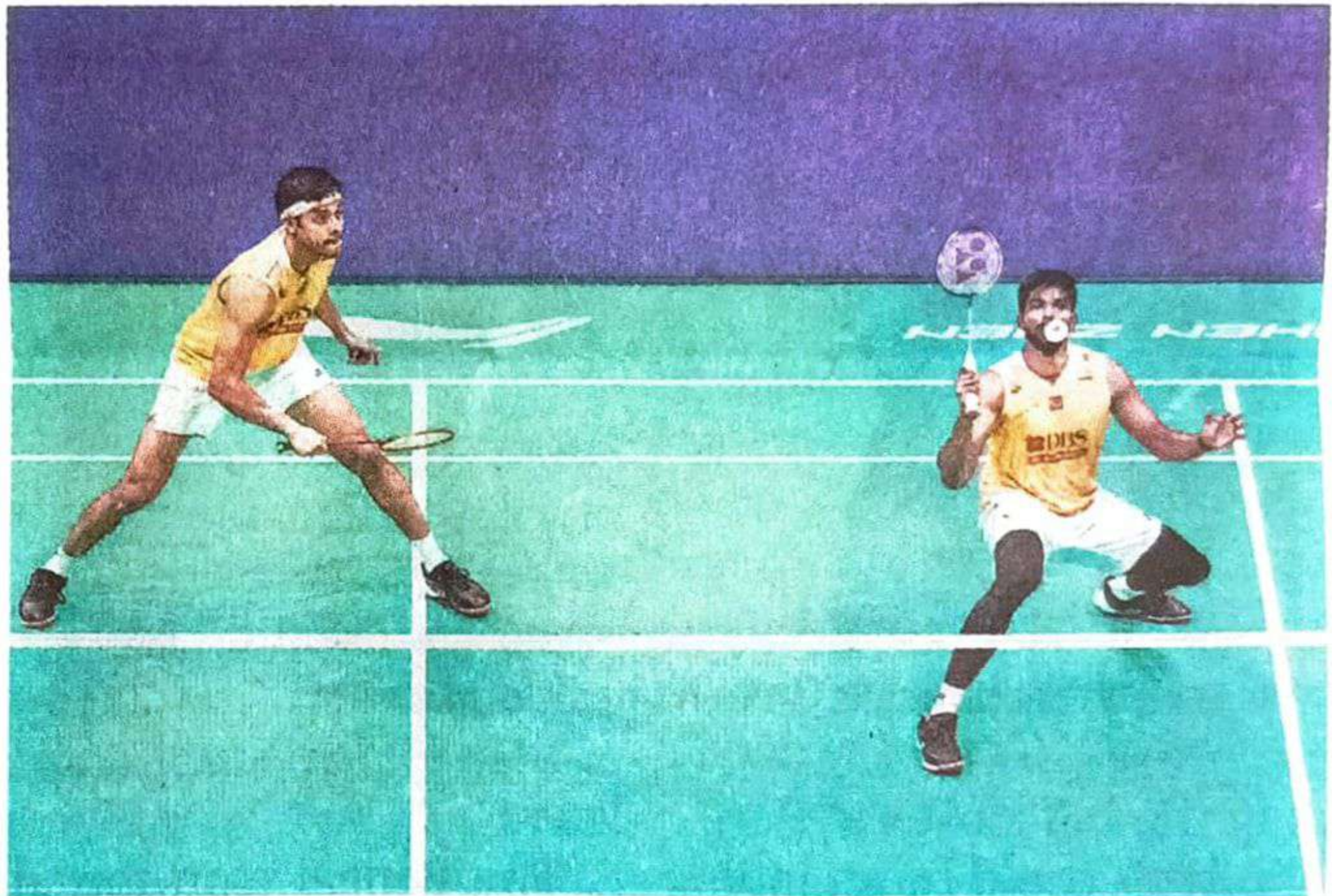
HYDERABAD

The Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is truly special and getting it before the Paris Olympics next year is a huge morale-booster, said Satwik Sairaj Ran-kireddy after he and doubles partner Chirag Shetty were formally named for the prestigious award on Wednesday.

“Honestly, I was not expecting this so early. This is all the more special since we both (Chirag and I) got it. We feel it is a recognition of our achievements and would like to give credit to the family members, coach Mathias Boe, Gopi Sir (chief national coach) and the entire support staff at Gopi Academy,” Satwik told *The Hindu*.

## Thrilled parents

“My parents are really thrilled and this is another unforgettable day for all of us,” he said. “This has been a mixed year so far... I would say 50% good and 50% bad. But definitely the World No. 1 ranking is one



**The target:** Satwik, right, and Chirag have set their sights on winning the gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics. FILE PHOTO

of the most memorable moments besides winning the 2023 Asian Games gold,” Satwik said.

“I don’t think we need to change drastically in any aspect of the game. All we look for is to play to our potential and reduce the number of unforced errors in the run-up to the Olympics as winning the gold there is the ultimate target,” he said.

“It is great to have someone like Boe as our coach. More importantly, Gopi Sir is travelling with us now. I instinctively speak in Telu-

gu and since the understanding is much quicker and better during matches, it is really helping me a lot,” Satwik said.

“Having enjoyed what the feeling of being World No. 1 was, we do target to be the best in the world besides chasing the Olympic gold.

“It is a fact that many players across the world are picking up new things after watching us in action. That itself is a tribute to our support staff and the way we have been playing,” said Satwik.



# Ministry confirms Satwik, Chirag for Khel Ratna; Shami, 25 others for Arjuna award

The ministry also cleared five coaches for the Dronacharya award in the regular category and three in life-time category; the awards will be conferred on the athletes by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 9

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Sports Ministry on Wednesday put its stamp of approval on the nominations for the annual sports awards, confirming the prestigious Khel Ratna honour for badminton players Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty and the Arjuna award for 26 sports persons, including pacer Mohammed Shami.

The awards will be conferred on the athletes by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on January 9.

Chirag and Satwik are Asian Games gold medalists, World Championships bronze winners and Commonwealth Games silver medallists.

On the other hand, Shami, 33, had a spectacular run in the ODI World Cup, where India finished second-best, losing to Australia in the final.

Shami was the leading wicket-taker in the World



**What a feeling!** Chirag and Satwik have been on a remarkable run. AFP

Cup, with 24 wickets to his name in seven outings.

## **Nod for Pathak, Chanu**

The athletes selected for this year's Arjuna award include hockey players Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Sushila Chanu, archers Ojas Pravin Deotale and Aditi Gopichand Swami,

boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin, chess player R. Vaishali, golfer Diksha Dagar, shooters Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Esha Singh, wrestlers Antim Panghal and Sunil Kumar, paddler Ayhika Mukherjee and para archer Sheetal Devi, among others.

The athletes were nomi-

nated for the awards by a government panel on December 13.

The ministry also cleared five coaches for Dronacharya award in the regular category and three in life-time category.

The Dhyan Chand award in the lifetime category will be conferred to

three persons.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar is the recipient of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023, while Lovely Professional University, Punjab and Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra are the first and second runner-ups. National Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports.

**List of National Sports Award winners: Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023:** Chirag Shetty and Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (badminton).

**Arjuna Awards for 2023:** Ojas Pravin Deotale (archery), Aditi Gopichand Swami (archery), Murali Sreeshankar (athletics), Parul Chaudhary (athletics), Mohameed Hussamuddin (boxing), R. Vaishali (chess), Mohammed Shami (cricket), Anush Agarwalla (equestrian), Divyakriti Singh (equestrian dressage), Diksha Dagar (golf), Krishan Bahadur Pathak (hockey), Sushila Chanu (hockey), Pawan Kumar (kabaddi), Ritu Negi (kabaddi), Nasreen (kho-kho), Pinki (lawn bowls),

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (shooting), Esha Singh (shooting), Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu (squash), Ayhika Mukherjee (table tennis), Sunil Kumar (wrestling), Antim (wrestling), Naorem Roshibina Devi (wushu), Sheetal Devi (para archery), Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy (blind cricket), Prachi Yadav (para canoeing).

**Dronacharya Award (regular category) for outstanding coaches:** Lalit Kumar (wrestling), R.B. Ramesh (chess), Mahaveer Prasad Saini (para athletics), Shivendra Singh (hockey), Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar (mallakhamb).

**Dronacharya Award (life-time category) for outstanding coaches:** Jaskirat Singh Grewal (golf), E. Bhaskaran (kabaddi), Jayanta Kumar Pushilal (table tennis).

**Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement:** Manjusha Kanwar (badminton), Vineet Kumar Sharma (hockey), Kavitha Selvaraj (kabaddi).

**Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023:** Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (overall winner university); Lovely Professional University, Punjab (1st runner-up), Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (2nd runner-up).



# Gukesh a draw away from likely Candidates berth

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CHENNAI

Arjun Erigaisi secured the only win of the sixth round – versus Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo – in the Chennai Grand Masters Chess Championship at The Leela Palace hotel on Wednesday.

Arjun now has the chance of finishing only joint-first even if he wins in the final round, which means his qualification through the FIDE Circuit route for the 2024 Candidates tournament has taken a beating.

Speaking of Arjun's game, ChessBase India's Sagar Shah said on the commentary: "Arjun today has found the right opening for himself, and has played it well."

Anish Giri on commentary said that Maghsoodloo's been trying too hard to win in this tournament.

"He's trying very hard to win games here. It's very obvious. He is very fighting



**Making his move:** Gukesh during his drawn encounter with Ukraine's Eljanov on Wednesday.

and taking a lot of risks. But yes, he can't force it. It's only backfiring. Arjun just played a very good game."

Gukesh, playing with white, only managed to draw with Ukraine's Pavel Eljanov. Despite the draw, Gukesh is still the sole leader with 4 points.

P. Harikrishna, who drew with Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov, has 3.5 points and will face Gukesh in the final round on Thursday.

If Gukesh manages to draw, and Arjun and Eljanov either draw or lose, then Gukesh will win the tournament. If Gukesh

wins, he wins the tournament.

Even if Gukesh draws and both or either of Arjun and Eljanov win, Gukesh will still finish joint-first.

So, all Gukesh has to do is avoid losing versus Harikrishna in the final round, and he will most likely secure the FIDE Circuit Candidates berth.

**The results (sixth round):** D. Gukesh (4) drew with Pavel Eljanov (Ukr, 3.5); Levon Aronian (USA, 3) drew with Alexandr Predke (Srb, 1.5); Parham Maghsoodloo (Iran, 2.5) lost to Arjun Erigaisi (3.5); Sanan Sjugirov (Hun, 2.5) drew with P. Harikrishna (3.5).



# ದಾಖಲೆ ಜಯದತ್ತ ಹರ್ಮನ್ ಪಡೆ ಚಿತ್ರ

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಇಂದಿನಿಂದ: ಭಾರತ-ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ಹಣಾಹಣೆ

ಮುಂಬೈ (ಪಿಟಿಐ): ಹರ್ಮನ್‌ಪ್ರೀತ್ ಕೌರ್ ನಾಯಕತ್ವದ ಭಾರತ ತಂಡವು ಗುರುವಾರ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಲಿರುವ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ಎದುರು ಆಡಲಿದೆ.

ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ಎದುರು ಮೊದಲ ಗೆಲುವು ಸಾಧಿಸುವ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಆತಿಥೇಯ ಬಳಗವಿವೆ. ಕಳೆದ 46 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಭಯ ತಂಡಗಳು ಹತ್ತು ಬಾರಿ ಮುಖಾಮುಖಿಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಬಾರಿ ಜಯಿಸಿದೆ. 6 ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳು ಡ್ರಾ ಆಗಿವೆ.

ಉಭಯ ತಂಡಗಳು ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೆರಾರಾದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣಾಹಣೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದವು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತಿ ಮಂದಾನ ಶತಕ ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಪಂದ್ಯ ಡ್ರಾ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಮೊದಲ ಜಯ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲು ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಈಗ ಉತ್ತಮ ಅವಕಾಶವಿದೆ.

ಈಚೆಗೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಜಯ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ್ದ ಭಾರತ ತಂಡವು ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಆ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಿಂಚಿದ್ದ ದೀಪ್ತಿ ಶರ್ಮಾ ಅವರ ಸ್ಪಿನ್ ದಾಳಿಯು ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾಕ್ಕೆ ಸವಾಲಾಗುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ. ವಾಂಖೆಡೆ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದ ಪಿಚ್ ಕೂಡ ಸ್ಪಿನ್ನರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ನೆರವು ನೀಡುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ.

ಆತಿಥೇಯ ತಂಡದ ಮಧ್ಯಮವೇಗಿ ರೇಣುಕಾ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೂಡ ಉತ್ತಮ



ಮುಂಬೈನ ವಾಂಖೆಡೆ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬುಧವಾರ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಭಾರತ ಮಹಿಳಾ ತಂಡದ ಆಟಗಾರ್ತಿಯರು - ಪಿಟಿಐ ಚಿತ್ರ

## ನಾಯಕರಾದ ಗಾಯ: ಹೀಲಿ ಚೇತರಿಕೆ

ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ತಂಡದ ನಾಯಕಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಕೆಟ್‌ಕೀಪರ್ ಅಲೀಸಾ ಹೀಲಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ 2 ತಿಂಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಕೈಬೆರಳಿಗೆ ನಾಯಿ ಕಚ್ಚಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿ ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಅವರು ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ದೂರ ಉಳಿದಿದ್ದರು. ಬಲಗೈ ತೋರುಬೆರಳಿಗೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ಗಾಯಕ್ಕೆ 50 ಹೊಲಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಕಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ತಮ್ಮ ಸಾಕುನಾಯಿ ಸ್ವಾಫರ್ಡ್‌ಶೈರ್ ಟೆರೀರ್‌ನಿಂದ ಕಡಿತಕ್ಕೊಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದರು.

'ಬೆರಳಿನ ಗಾಯ ವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಡಲು ಮರಳುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಖುಷಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಗಾಯದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಬಿಗ್‌ಬ್ಯಾಷ್ ಲೀಗ್ ಟೂರ್ನಿ ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿಕೊಂಡೆ. ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ಟಿವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದೀಗ ಮತ್ತೆ ಆಡಲು ಫಿಟ್ ಆಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೀಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಭಾರತದ ಎದುರಿನ ಏಕೈಕ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ವಿಕೆಟ್ ಕೀಪಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಜ್ಜಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಲಯದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಪೂಜಾ ಪಸ್ತಾಕರ್ ಕೂಡ ಉತ್ತಮ ಬೆಂಬಲ ನೀಡಬಲ್ಲರು. ಬ್ಯಾಟಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗವೂ ಬಲಿಷ್ಠವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಗ್ಲೆಂಡ್ ಎದುರು ಜೆಮಿಮಾ ರಾಡ್ರಿಗಸ್, ಯಶ್ವಿಕಾ ಭಾಟಿಯಾ ಮತ್ತು ನಾಯಕಿ ಹರ್ಮನ್ ಅಮೋಘ ಬ್ಯಾಟಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಆ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಶುಭಾ ಸತೀಶ್ ಗಾಯದಿಂದ ಚೇತರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಪಂದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಅಲಭ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರ ಬದಲಿಗೆ ಹರ್ಲಿನ್ ಡಿಯೊಲ್ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

40 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾ ಮಹಿಳಾ ತಂಡವು ಕೊನೆಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಸ್ಟ್ ಆಡಿತ್ತು. ಇದೇ ವಾಂಖೆಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಪಂದ್ಯ ನಡೆದಿತ್ತು. ದೀರ್ಘ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ತಂಡವು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಈಚೆಗೆ ಮೆಗ್‌ಲಾನ್‌ನಿಂಗ್ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಯ ನಂತರ ನಾಯಕಿಯಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕವಾಗಿರುವ ಅಲೀಸಾ ಹೀಲಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವನ್ನು ಒರೆಗೆ ಹಚ್ಚಲು ಈ ಪಂದ್ಯವು ಮಹತ್ವದ್ದಾಗಿದೆ. ಆ್ಯಷ್ ಗಾರ್ಡನರ್, ಬೆತ್ ಮೂನಿ ಮತ್ತು ತಹಿಲಾ ಮೆಕ್‌ಗ್ರಾ ಅವರಂತಹ ಅನುಭವಿಗಳು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಭಾರತ ತಂಡದ ಪೈಪೋಟಿ ಎದುರಿಸಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುವ ಉತ್ತಮ ದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ಪಂದ್ಯ ಆರಂಭ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9.30  
ನೇರಪ್ರಸಾರ: ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ 18



# ಶಮಿ, ಶೀತಲ್ ದೇವಿಗೆ ಒಲಿದ ಗೌರವ

26 ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜುನ ಪುರಸ್ಕಾರ: ಐವರಿಗೆ ದ್ರೋಣಾಚಾರ್ಯ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ(ಪಿಟಿಐ): ಚೀನಾದ ಹಾಂಗ್‌ಕಾಂಗ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಪ್ಯಾರಾ ಏಷ್ಯನ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಕೂಟದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಅರ್ಚರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿನ್ನ ಗೆದ್ದಿದ್ದ ಶೀತಲ್ ದೇವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಏಕದಿನ ವಿಶ್ವಕಪ್ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಮೋಘ ಬೌಲಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ವೇಗಿ ಮೊಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಶಮಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜುನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಲಭಿಸಿದೆ.

ದೇಶದ ಅತ್ಯುನ್ನತ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಯಾದ ಖೇಲ್ ರತ್ನ ಗೌರವಕ್ಕೆ ಬ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಂಟನ್ ಜೋಡಿ ಚಿರಾಗ್ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾತ್ವಿಕ್ ಸಾಯಿರಾಜ್ ರಣಕಿರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಭಾಜನರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯವು ಒಟ್ಟು 26 ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಸಾಧಕರನ್ನು ಅರ್ಜುನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಏಷ್ಯನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ಯಾರಾ ಏಷ್ಯನ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಕೂಟದ ಸಾಧಕರದ್ದೇ ಸಿಂಹಪಾಲು.

ಜಮ್ಮು-ಕಾಶ್ಮೀರದ ಶೀತಲ್ ದೇವಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಎರಡೂ ಕೈಗಳಿಲ್ಲ. ತಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲುಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಬಿಲ್ಲುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಚಿನ್ನ ಗೆದ್ದಿದ್ದರು. ಮೊಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಶಮಿ ಈಚೆಗೆ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯವಾದ ವಿಶ್ವಕಪ್ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಟೂರ್ನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 24 ವಿಕೆಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಭಾರತ ತಂಡವು ಫೈನಲ್ ತಲುಪಲು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದರು.

ಶೂಟರ್ ಐಶ್ವರಿ ಪ್ರತಾಪ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ತೋಮರ್, ಕುಸ್ತಿಪಟು ಅಂತಿಮ ಪಂಫಾಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸುನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಟೇಬಲ್ ಟೆನಿಸ್ ಆಟಗಾರ್ತಿ ಐಹಿಕಾ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಅವರಿಗೂ ಅರ್ಜುನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಲಭಿಸಿದೆ. ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಚೆಸ್ ಗ್ರಾಂಡ್‌ಮಾಸ್ಟರ್ ಆರ್. ವೈಶಾಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಕೋಚ್ ಆರ್.ಬಿ. ರಮೇಶ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜುನ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ರೋಣಾಚಾರ್ಯ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಲಭಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕಬಡ್ಡಿ ತರಬೇತುದಾರ ಕಾಸರ ಗೋಡಿನ ಈ. ಭಾಸ್ಕರನ್ ಅವರು ದ್ರೋಣಾಚಾರ್ಯ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿಗೆ (ಜೀವಮಾನ) ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



ಶೀತಲ್ ದೇವಿ



ಮೊಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಶಮಿ



ಆರ್. ವೈಶಾಲಿ

ಮೇಜರ್ ಧ್ಯಾನ್‌ಚಂದ್ ಖೇಲ್ ರತ್ನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ	
ಬಿರಾಗ್ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ/ ಸಾತ್ವಿಕ್ ಸಾಯಿರಾಜ್ ರಣಕಿರೆಡ್ಡಿ	ಬ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಂಟನ್

ದ್ರೋಣಾಚಾರ್ಯ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ (ಜೀವಮಾನ ವಿಭಾಗ)	
ಜಸ್ಮಿರತ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಗ್ರಿವಾಲ್	ಗಾಲ್ಫ್
ಈ. ಭಾಸ್ಕರನ್	ಕಬಡ್ಡಿ
ಜಯಂತ ಕುಮಾರ್	ಟೇಬಲ್ ಟೆನಿಸ್

ಧ್ಯಾನ್ ಚಂದ್ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ (ಜೀವಮಾನ ಸಾಧನೆ)	
ಮಂಜುಶಾ ಕನ್ಹರ್	ಬ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಂಟನ್
ವಿನೀತ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ	ಹಾಕಿ
ಕವಿತಾ ಸೆಲ್ವರಾಜ್	ಕಬಡ್ಡಿ

ದ್ರೋಣಾಚಾರ್ಯ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ)	
ಲಲಿತ್ ಕುಮಾರ್	ಕುಸ್ತಿ
ಆರ್.ಬಿ. ರಮೇಶ್	ಚೆಸ್
ಮಹಾವೀರ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಸೈನಿ	ಪ್ಯಾರಾ ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್ಸ್
ಶಿವೇಂದ್ರ ಸಿಂಗ್	ಹಾಕಿ
ಗಣೇಶ್ ಪ್ರಭಾಕರನ್	ಮಲ್ಲಕಂಬ

## ಅರ್ಜುನ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ವಿಜೇತರು

ಓಜಸ್ ಪ್ರವೀಣ್ ದೇವತಾಳೆ; ಅದಿತಿ ಗೋಪಿಚಂದ್ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ (ಆರ್ಚರಿ), ಮುರಳಿ ಶ್ರೀಶಂಕರ್; ಪಾರುಲ್ ಚೌಧರಿ (ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್ಸ್), ಮೊಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಹುಸಾಮುದ್ದೀನ್ (ಬಾಕ್ಸಿಂಗ್), ಆರ್.ವೈಶಾಲಿ (ಚೆಸ್), ಮೊಹಮ್ಮದ್ ಶಮಿ (ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್), ಅನುಷ್ ಅಗರವಾಲ್ (ಈಕ್ವೆಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯನ್), ದಿವ್ಯಾಕೃತಿ ಸಿಂಗ್ (ಈಕ್ವೆಸ್ಟ್ರಿಯನ್ ಡ್ರೆಸ್ರೇಜ್), ದೀಕ್ಷಾ ದಾಗರ್ (ಗಾಲ್ಫ್), ಕೃಷ್ಣನ್ ಬಹಾದ್ದೂರ್ ಪಾರಕ್; ಸುಶೀಲಾ ಚಾನು (ಹಾಕಿ), ಪವನ್ ಕುಮಾರ್; ರಿತು ನೇಗಿ (ಕಬಡ್ಡಿ), ನಸ್ತೀನ್ (ಕೊಕ್ಬ್ಯಾ), ಪಿಂಕಿ (ಲಾನ್ ಬೌಲ್), ಐಶ್ವರ್ಯಾ ಪ್ರತಾಪ್ ಸಿಂಗ್; ಈಶಾ ಸಿಂಗ್ (ಶೂಟಿಂಗ್), ಹರಿಂದರ್ ಪಾಲ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಸಂಧು (ಸ್ವಾಪ್), ಐಹಿಕಾ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ (ಟೇಬಲ್ ಟೆನಿಸ್), ಸುನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್; ಅಂತಿಮ ಪಂಫಾಲ್ (ಕುಸ್ತಿ), ನವೋರಮ್ ರೋಶಿಬಿನಾ ದೇವಿ (ವುಷು), ಶೀತಲ್ ದೇವಿ (ಪ್ಯಾರಾ ಆರ್ಚರಿ), ಅಜಯ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ (ಅಂಧರ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್), ಪ್ರಾಚಿ ಯಾದವ್ (ಪ್ಯಾರಾ ಕನೋಯಿಂಗ್)



# ಭಾರತ vs ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಏಕದಿನ ಪೈನಲ್

ಇಂದು 3ನೇ ಏಕದಿನ ಪಂದ್ಯ: ಪಾರ್ಲ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ ಆತಿಥ್ಯ | 1-1ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಬಲಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಸರಣಿ ಸರಣಿ ಜಯಕ್ಕೆ ಇತ್ತಂಡಗಳ ಹೋರಾಟ | 2018ರ ಬಳಿಕ ಮತ್ತೆ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಣಿ ಗೆಲ್ಲುತ್ತಾ ಭಾರತ?

ಪಾರ್ಲ್: 2018ರ ಬಳಿಕ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಹರಿಣಿಗಳ ತವರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕದಿನ ಸರಣಿ ಗೆಲ್ಲಲು ಎದುರು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಟೀಂ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ, ಗುರುವಾರ ದ.ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ವಿರುದ್ಧದ 3ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊನೆ ಏಕದಿನ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಣಕ್ಕಿಳಿಯಲಿದೆ. ಸರಣಿಯ ಮೊದಲೆರಡು ಪಂದ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಭಯ ತಂಡಗಳು ತಲಾ 1 ಗೆಲುವು ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಪಾರ್ಲ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ಪಂದ್ಯ 'ಪೈನಲ್' ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.



ತಿಲಕ್ ವರ್ಮಾ

ಕೆ.ಎಲ್.ರಾಹುಲ್ ನಾಯಕತ್ವದ ಭಾರತ ಸರಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊನಚು ದಾಳಿ ಸಂಘಟಿಸಿದ್ದ ಭಾರತ, 2ನೇ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿಣಿ ಪಡೆಯ ಮಾರಕ ದಾಳಿ ಮುಂದೆ ತತ್ತರಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಭಾರತ ಪರ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿ ಆಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಸಾಯಿ ಸುದರ್ಶನ್ 2 ಅರ್ಧಶತಕ

ಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಗಮನ ಸೆಳೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಋತು ರಾಜ್ ಗಾಯಕ್ವಾಡ್, ತಿಲಕ್ ವರ್ಮಾ, ಸಂಜು ಸ್ಯಾಮ್ಸ್ ಸಿಕ್ ಅವಕಾಶ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಿದ್ದು, ರಾಹುಲ್ ಮೇಲೂ ಭಾರೀ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಇಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ರಜತ್ ಪಾಟೀದಾರ್ ಪಾದಾರ್ಪಣೆ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಅವಕಾಶ ಸಿಕ್ಕರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಲಕ್ ಜಾಗ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಡಬೇಕಾಗಬಹುದು. ರಿಂಕು ಸಿಂಗ್‌ರ ಟಿ20 ಆಟ ನೋಡಿರುವ ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳು ಅವರಿಂದ ಏಕದಿನದಲ್ಲೂ

ಸ್ಮೂಟಿಕ ಆಟವನ್ನು ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ ಮೊದಲ ಪಂದ್ಯದ ಆಘಾತದ ಬಳಿಕ ದ.ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ 2ನೇ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನದೊಂದಿಗೆ ತಿರುಗೇಟು ನೀಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲೂ ಅಬ್ಬರಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ತವರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಣಿ ಸೋಲಿನ ಮುಖಭಂಗದಿಂದಾ ಪಾರಾಗಲು ಎದುರು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದೆ.

	ಭಾರತ	<b>93</b>	ದ.ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ	
	<b>39</b>	ಫಲಿತಾಂಶವಿಲ್ಲ: 03	<b>51</b>	
ಸಂಭವನೀಯ ಆಟಗಾರರ ಪಟ್ಟಿ				

ಋತುರಾಜ್, ಸಾಯಿ ಸುದರ್ಶನ್, ತಿಲಕ್/ರಜತ್, ರಿಂಕು, ರಾಹುಲ್ (ನಾಯಕ), ಸ್ಯಾಮ್ಸ್, ಅಕ್ಷರ್, ಆರ್‌ಡಿಎಸ್, ಆವೇಶ್, ಕುಲ್ದೀಪ್, ಮುಕೇಶ್.

ಹೆಂಡ್ರಿಕ್ಸ್, ಡೆ ಜೋರ್ಜ್, ಡುಸೆನ್, ಮಾರ್ಕರಮ್ (ನಾಯಕ), ಕ್ಲಾಸೆನ್, ಮಿಲ್ಲರ್, ಮುಲ್ಲರ್, ಬರ್ಗರ್, ವಿಲಿಯಮ್ಸ್, ಕೇಶವ್, ಬ್ಯಾರನ್ ಹೆಂಡ್ರಿಕ್ಸ್.

ಪಂದ್ಯ ಆರಂಭ: ಮು.4.30ಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರ: ಡಿಸಿ+ಹಾಟ್‌ಸ್ಟಾರ್, ಸ್ಟಾರ್ ಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್ಸ್

## ಪಿಚ್ ರಿಪೋರ್ಟ್

ಬೊಲಾಂಡ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣದ ಪಿಚ್ ಬ್ಯಾಟಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ನೇಹಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೊತ್ತ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲು ಬ್ಯಾಟಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಂಡಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಲಾಭವಾದ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯಿದೆ. ಪಂದ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮಳೆ ಭೀತಿ ಇಲ್ಲ.



**EDITORIAL**

**NEWS**



# RECORD SUSPENSIONS POOR OPTICS FOR TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY

THE suspension of a record 143 members of parliament who demanded a statement from the home minister on the recent Lok Sabha intrusion indicates a precipitous decline in the country's parliamentary democracy. Heavens would not have fallen had the government made a statement admitting the seriousness of the breach and that the members ought to wait for the reports of the probe panels set up by Speaker Om Birla and the home ministry. They said as much outside parliament while accusing the opposition of using it to derive political mileage. It shows how competitive our politics has become with the Lok Sabha elections just a few months away. When the winter session began, proceedings appeared normal for more than a week—except for Mahua Moitra's expulsion—before the intruders struck. The nation has a right to seek accountability for the security breach, which was what the opposition was articulating. But the way they went about it—entering the well of the House and displaying placards—was against their commitment not to do so in the new parliament building. Both sides could have explored a middle path through communication, but that was not to be. Ironically, the BJP MP who issued passes to the intruders is yet to face public scrutiny. The mass suspensions forced even disciplined opposition members like Shashi Tharoor to enter the well, lest they be seen as colluding with the treasury benches.

After the suspension, it was legislative business as usual in both Houses. Deliberation is the hallmark of parliamentary democracy, yet a few weighty bills such as the Telecom Bill and laws to replace the old criminal codes sailed through without the benefit of a wider spectrum of opposition views. That has been the problem during this government's tenure, with even the Supreme Court throwing up its hands in exasperation, observing that the legislative intent of bills were not fully clear since they were rammed through without thorough discussions. Overconfidence can be a serious downside of a humongous majority won at the hustings.

The suspensions seemed to have brought closer the INDIA bloc, which was haemorrhaging with Nitish Kumar grumbling, and Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav putting the faces of the Congress leadership, especially the Gandhis, on their dart boards. How well they negotiate seat sharing will determine their ability to give the BJP a real fight.



# A security breach that must lead to sweeping changes

**A**t first glance, the incident, on December 13, of two young men jumping into the chamber of the Lok Sabha from the visitors' gallery, shouting slogans against dictatorship and releasing canisters that emitted yellow smoke, strikes you as yet another form of democratic dissent. But, this breach of security, on the same day, in 2001, when nine personnel of Parliament – of the Delhi Police, Parliament security personnel and a gardener – lost their lives defending the same citadel of democracy from terrorists – has a much wider impact and ramifications.

It is unimaginable that there has been an incident like this in what is now a security fortress especially after the beefing up of security in Parliament House following the attack in 2001. There are spike barriers, bollards, drop gates with the latest technology, scanners, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices, anti-explosive checks, and additional manpower that form the layers of security. A phalanx of men and women from the central police forces are deployed in the outer precincts, while plainclothes men from the Parliament Duty Group, and the Delhi police manning the various stations and checkpoints in the inner environs.

So, how did the security lapse occur? The breach happened all along the various layers of security set up for the personal screening of visitors to Parliament. The door frame and handheld metal detectors check for metals in one's possession. There is personal frisking – a body search for hidden items. But neither door frame metal detectors nor handheld metal detectors can check for plastic or rubber, especially when hidden in one's shoes (as it was in this case). In fact, shoes are never checked in Parliament. The men who did the screening were following the usual standard operating procedure, which failed. Later, in the visitor's gallery, the security personnel were not watchful enough, and the marshals down below in the House, only used to carrying out named Members of Parliament (MP) out of the House, failed to nab the two men hopping across the benches. It was some of the MPs present who were able to nab the intruders.

## The importance of technology

Where does the responsibility lie? Certainly not alone with the men at the screening stations. They were only following the standard protocol. Were they briefed on the significance of the date which called for more intensive checks and innovative measures? Were watchers deployed to observe visitors? Is the new Parliament House equipped with the latest technology to screen visitors? A backscatter scanner can detect substances such as plastic and is being used in airports abroad. In fact, the United States and Europe have moved to using millimeter wave scanners. Those who are watchful move ahead with the technology of the times. There was an



**Yashovardhan Azad**

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The incidents of December 13, 2001 and December 13, 2023 are a grim reminder that the monitoring and upgradation of Parliament's security infrastructure need attention

announcement recently by the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, that Delhi airport is to get full body scanners and computer tomography x-ray (CTX) machines to ensure more thorough but also faster screening.

## The issue of responsibility

So, whose responsibility is the security of Parliament and the induction of new technology? The head of Parliament security is the Joint Secretary, Security – a post that is vacant at present. The posts of the two chiefs of the Central Reserve Police Force and the Central Industrial Security Force involved with Sansad security are vacant too. The inquiry into the breach has been entrusted with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief whose force is involved in the security set-up of Parliament. In the absence of the Joint Secretary, Security, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha each have a 'Director Security' to direct security operations. Are they expected to look around the world for the latest technology and have this introduced in Parliament? It is not like the Special Protection Group (SPG) manned by the best Indian Police Service officers, who are always engaged in daily operations, monitor them for improvements as also scour for the latest technology to induct.

It is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that Parliament turns to for all its security needs. After 2001, it was the MHA which refurbished the security set-up at Parliament House. Even now, at the request of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, it is the MHA that is conducting the inquiry through the ITBP chief. The Joint Secretary, Security, is in overall operational control within the Sansad precincts, but is fully dependent on the MHA when it concerns the latest technology on access control or anti-explosive checks.

The question to ask is whether the MHA ever suggested the need to improve access control and personal screening measures. Whose responsibility was it to introduce the latest technology? It was incumbent upon the MHA to strongly advise the Secretariat on the induction of advanced technology into the set up. But it appears that the critical area of technology upgradation fell between the two stools of administration.

The political slugfest in the aftermath of the breach is helping no one's cause. Neither is the debate on the jurisdiction of the Speaker of the House or the Deputy leader. The issue is about access control failure in Parliament that resulted in intruders getting right into the heart of Lok Sabha in close proximity to Ministers and Members of Parliament. Had the Prime Minister been there in Parliament that Wednesday, the SPG would have had to follow its drill and neutralise the threat by using their weapons while evacuating the Prime Minister from the venue. It was thus a matter of national security and incumbent upon the Home Minister to make a preliminary statement in the House, admitting the graveness of the breach and announcing a

high-level inquiry. More so, as the intruders have been arraigned under Sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act relating to terrorism. And now that an inquiry has been instituted, the Opposition should also wait to have a meaningful discussion on the issue.

The targeting of the MP who recommended the issuance of passes to the intruders may be unfair. Right from 1952, MPs across the parties have been liberal in recommending the names of people eager to witness Lok Sabha proceedings. The visitors' and Speaker's galleries would often be full when the titans Ram Manohar Lohia, Prakash Vir Shastri, Mahavir Tyagi, Pilloo Mody, A.B. Vajpayee or Madhu Limaye were present in debates. Though the MPs give an undertaking of knowing who the visitors are, it is impossible to carry out background checks in a day or a few hours. In some cases, passes are issued in just two hours. The real issue is not who the visitor is, but whether he is "clean" from a security angle, when he enters Parliament. While the pass issue should be streamlined, one should not lose focus of the real lapse – the failure of access control.

The youngsters involved in the incident on December 13 caused no harm, but they inflicted the gravest damage by revealing the gaps in Parliament security to all and sundry. Though the charge of terrorism may not stick, they must be proceeded against for unauthorised entry in a well-guarded place after conspiring to carry out the incident for well over a year.

## Form a committee

A mere inquiry to look into the lapse and corrective measures may not be enough. This should be an opportunity to make sweeping changes in the security set-up using out-of-the-box thinking. The Secretary, Security, in the Cabinet Secretariat who supervises the SPG should also supervise Parliament security. Thus, the latest technology changes for access control and checks can be shared with Parliament too. A committee comprising five MPs from across parties should be formed. The committee could induct specialists from outside and within the security set-up to monitor arrangements regularly. Looking into the array of various forces guarding the Parliament, having its security set-up under the rank of a Director General for better coordination and with full responsibility and accountability on him would be ideal. Finally, MPs themselves should offer their complete cooperation with the enhanced security arrangements in place.

Newer times spawn new technology but also give rise to newer threats. The incidents of December 13, 2001 and December 13, 2023, are a grim reminder that any security arrangement can be breached. To protect the hallowed portals of our democracy, it is imperative that the security infrastructure is constantly monitored and upgraded with resolve.





MADAN SABNAVIS

As is normally the case, everything in the economy cannot go well in any year. There are bound to be several hits and misses. On balance, it can be said that the Indian economy has come out stronger with an even chance to accelerate the growth momentum in 2024.

External shocks that have been known to dislodge the world economy have become less potent as countries have learnt to become more independent. The contagions that typified such crises have been diluted though admittedly Covid-like shocks did bring the world to a standstill. How can the year then be evaluated?

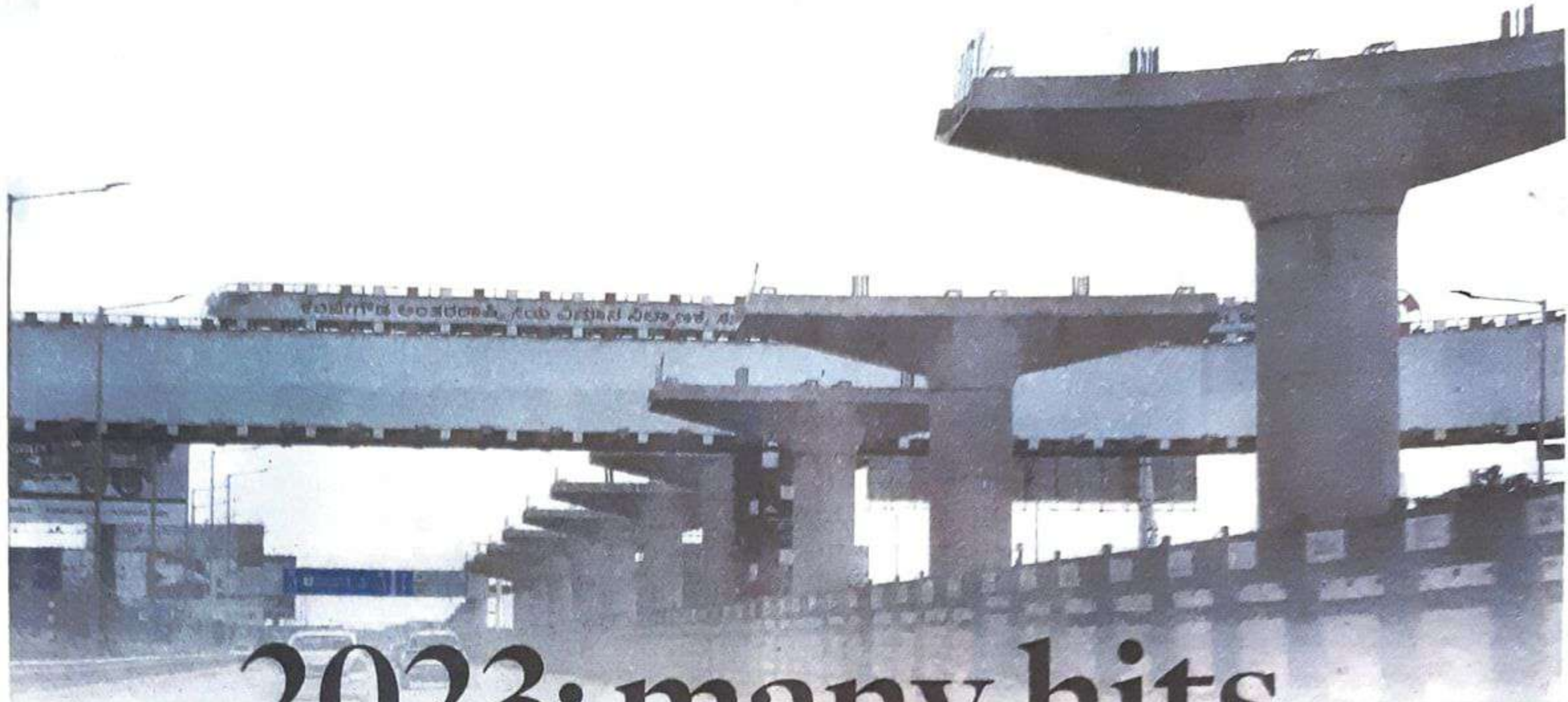
The hits have been quite stark. To begin with India still retains the title of the fastest growing large economy with growth of around 7 per cent expected this fiscal. The significant part is that this growth rate has been achieved even though the monsoon has not been satisfactory with the El Nino effects still leaving its mark on the kharif and rabi harvests. This kind of resilience can be attributed more to the relentless push given by the government to capex and growing private sector interest, albeit in limited sectors linked to infrastructure.

Second, the currency has been a star performer and been range-bound with rather tactful interventions by the RBI using the abundant forex reserves to stabilise the rupee when required. Hence, the rupee has always remained at the median level of change *vis-à-vis* competing countries.

This has ensured that the exports have not been adversely affected by a stronger rupee, and nor has panic set in due to a depreciating rupee. There has been certainty for companies borrowing from global markets in terms of evaluating foreign currency risk.

Third, the overall fiscal situation has been managed well at both the Central and State levels. This is more an outcome of return to normalcy and the overarching influence of the FRBM norms which ensure that States do not breach their fiscal targets, while the Centre has imposed self-discipline on this front. Hence, even though there have been several announcements made by political parties at the time of elections to provide additional sops, the overall fiscal numbers remain unchanged, even while the character of budgets in the form of composition of spending could alter.

This is important because as long as deficits are under control there are few chances of there being pressure on liquidity and the crowding out of the private sector. The RBI has to be given



# 2023: many hits, some misses

**LARGELY UPBEAT.** The economy is in fine fettle, but there are niggles with respect to demand, capex composition and inflation

SHAGYA PRAKASH K

credit again for ensuring this smooth process.

Fourth, the capital market has been extremely buoyant with the stock indices crossing new heights. The optimism regarding the India story has been one driving factor behind this phenomenon. Both the primary (equity and debt) and secondary markets (equity) have kept the sentiment positive even though FPI investments have been volatile.

Domestic institutional investors have played a decisive role here and hence more than made up for the rather fickle FPI flows which have been guided by the decisions of foreign central banks.

Fifth, the banking sector has returned to normal which is what is expected when the economy moves to a higher growth trajectory. We need to have a healthy financial system that can provide funding for investment. It can be said with fair degree of confidence that the system is not just well-capitalised but also has a strong asset quality attribute with NPAs at around 3.5 per cent and a quarterly slippage ratio of less than 0.5 per cent.

## THE PAIN POINTS

How about the misses? The CPI inflation number has been quite volatile with food inflation being the main driver. Interventions through export bans have not helped at all. Increasing imports have only helped to cool down prices at the margin. Putting curbs on stock limits have been counterproductive as it has created more panic in the market.

Onions, tomatoes, dairy products, pulses, spices, rice and wheat among others have been driving up inflation. The only hope is that statistically these numbers would come down due to base effects. The kharif harvest is expected to be lower than last year while the rabi sowing is still underperforming.

Second, rural demand is yet to stand up. There have been differing views here. Corporates have stated quite clearly in their investor presentations that high inflation has affected rural demand and it is mainly the premium products that have sold well. This holds also in the case of automobiles.

However, monthly data from the retail side does indicate that the festival sales, which came in late this year, have picked up. But it should be noted that the exhaustion of pent-up demand post-Covid relaxation and cumulative inflation of nearly 25 per cent in the last three-and-a-half years has come in the way of overall demand.

Third, the private sector investment cycle has not been broad-based. The problem is related more to the second factor, that is, demand. As long as demand is inadequate there is likely to be excess capacity in several

The currency has been a star performer and been range-bound with rather tactful interventions by the RBI using the abundant forex reserves.

consumer-oriented sectors. Therefore, investment has been limited to infra-oriented sectors like cement, steel, chemicals, etc. In fact, curiously the new investment announcements made so far this year are more in the services sector with heavy concentration in airlines followed by power. This has been a nagging issue even before the pandemic and hence is a stumbling block in our growth momentum.

Last, while the external sector on the whole has been well-managed as seen in the build-up of forex reserves as well as stable rupee, the internals have been a worry. FDI was in the region of \$70 billion in FY23 and looks unlikely to be much better in FY24. With monetary tightening now on, the flow of surplus funds has ebbed. Further, exports of both goods and services have been sub-optimal. While the former is understandable given that global trade has slowed down, services, especially software, was supposed to replicate the success of FY23. This has witnessed some setback. One may hope that this is only transient.

Hence, on the whole, the Indian economy would be emerging a winner. The challenges have been mainly exogenous, especially when it comes to food inflation or the external sector. With global conditions also expected to improve in 2024, it would be reasonable to assume that the economy is set to enter a new growth trajectory next year.

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**I**NDIAN federalism is unique. The Constitution does not use the word federalism anywhere. However, it prescribes a federal scheme of governance almost throughout. It tries to strike a balance between the Union and the states. It contemplates the division of powers and responsibilities between the Union and the states. Unlike in the US, Indian federalism was not spontaneous. We have been "holding together" the states which were not "coming together", as it is often said.

Federalism addresses various concerns such as national security, people's welfare, preservation of identity and diversity of communities, and administrative efficiency, among other things. India became a Union according to B R Ambedkar's prescription. In certain areas, unitary features do overshadow the Constitution's federal features. For example, parliament has the power to alter the very scheme of the Constitution. Provisions such as Article 352 on proclaiming Emergency and Article 356 on proclaiming president's rule in the states empower the Union to act over the states. There is no reciprocal power for the states in such contingencies. In the realms of administration, the Centre can appoint governors as the titular heads of states. We also have a fiscal scheme where the Union often enjoys superiority over the states. Thus, Indian federalism is said to possess strong centralist traits.

Because of this centralist character, conscious efforts should be made to maintain the balance of powers and cordiality in Centre-state relation. The Centre should itself be cautious about the perils of centralisation. A situation of the powerful Union taking a hostile attitude to opposition-ruled states should be avoided, as it might create dissatisfaction and a feeling of dismemberment among the people.

The legitimate rights and interests of states should be honoured by recognising their constitutional significance. Justice Jeevan Reddy, in *S R Bommai vs Union of India* (1994) wrote, "The fact that under the scheme of our Constitution, greater power is conferred upon the Centre vis-a-vis the states does not mean that the states are mere appendages of the Centre." He added that "within the sphere allotted to them, states are supreme" and that "the Centre cannot tamper with their powers".

This is the reason why, in our system, state elections are as important as parliamentary ones. Every election is an opportunity to foster plurality, diversity and thereby the spirit of federalism. After referring

The Constitution is not always clear on the balance of power between the Centre and states. The Supreme Court's J&K ruling stopped short of clarifying it

## A MISSED CHANCE TO STRENGTHEN INDIAN FEDERALISM

KALEESWARAM RAJ



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SOURAV ROY

to Justice Reddy's remarks in *Bommai*, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud recently wrote while heading another Constitution bench that the priorities of the central and state governments "are not just bound to be different, but are intended to be different" (*Delhi government vs Union of India*, 2023). The Supreme Court also rejected the argument that the Constitution is unitary. Thus, the idea of collaborative federalism was juridically reiterated.

Many of the recent developments unfortunately do not reflect such a constitutional spirit on the part of the Centre or its representatives while "dealing with" the states. The gubernatorial excess at certain opposition-ruled states is deplorable. The situation in states such as Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Kerala illustrates this point.

The governors themselves often become an obstacle to governance. Despite the Sarkaria and Punchhi commissions' recommendations that the Raj Bhavans should facilitate cordial Centre-state relations, one finds several governments moving the Supreme Court to get assent for bills that their state assemblies have passed based on the people's mandate. The blatant abuse of gubernatorial power has almost become a new normal.

There are also other instances indicating the emergence of an aggrandizing Centre. The Kerala government had to approach the Supreme Court to seek central financial allocations that it is eligible for. Getting due shares of the goods and services tax and other central funds is another issue highlighted by some opposi-

tion-ruled states.

The Centre also uses its police power over dissidents at the state level. The Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation are used in a selective manner in some (read opposition-ruled) states. Selective use of the law demolishes the Rule of Law which, in the Indian context, is also a dominant threat to the nation's federal character.

When opposition members from certain states were suspended after they asked questions about the recent security breach, it gave an impression that even legitimate criticism is thrashed by the sheer majoritarianism of the current regime. The division among the people in states such as Manipur is also a testimony to the Centre's selective apathy. Such instances have caused genuine apprehensions about the future of federalism in India.

It is in this context that the Supreme Court's verdict on the abrogation of Article 370 was delivered. Many were worried what the Centre would do in the future with states which do not share the Centre's political ideology and method of governance. The court's verdict has its pros and cons. It reaffirmed the sovereignty of India, confirming the nation's integrity. It also fixed a time frame for conducting elections in Jammu and Kashmir. These directives are commendable.

But sadly, the court did not fix a time limit for restoring J&K's statehood. Conversion of a state into a Union territory is not contemplated by the Constitution. Article 2 only concerns itself about "admission or establishment of new states". Article 3 is about the "formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states". Conversion of J&K into a Union territory by the Centre was apparently against the constitutional scheme. When this was challenged in court, the Centre cleverly conceded that it will restore J&K's statehood "as soon as possible". Despite clarity in the constitutional scheme, the court did not lay down the law and only recorded the Centre's assurance. By not fixing a time limit and not affirming the law on the point, the court has committed a serious omission. A major criticism against the verdict is that it did not address the federalist concerns. If the court had also directed that statehood should be restored before the election to be held by September 30, 2024, the message would have been loud and clear. It would have been a moral boost for the cause of Indian federalism, which unfortunately didn't happen.

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PRATIP KAR

**W**hat we often declare loudly, we appreciate a little, apply even less. Governance and ethics would fall in this category. How often do most of us talk glibly about the significance of good governance and never lose an opportunity to wax eloquent on the importance of being ethical. But do we always practice what we profess in these areas? Do we realise that the two are intricately intertwined like the yarn of a cloth?

If these are separated, the cloth will cease to exist and all that we will be left with are bits and pieces of yarn.

The year 1992 was early days for corporate governance. These two words were just catching the headlines of the international press. The Cadbury Committee was appointed, the Code of Corporate Governance was published in the UK and SEBI just got statutory powers.

In those early days, corporate governance was treated as the system of rules, practices, and processes by which a company, managed by its board of directors, is directed and controlled; it overarched the people, purpose, processes and performance of the company.

#### BEYOND CORPORATE LAW

Corporate governance evolved and by the time SEBI's NR Narayana Murthy Committee Report on Corporate Governance was published in 2003, it was clearly understood that corporate governance went beyond corporate law. Fulfilment of the requirements of law is a necessary but not a sufficient condition to meet its fundamental objective of ensuring the board's commitment to manage the company transparently to maximise long-term shareholder value, in whatever manner that value may be arrived at.

Forging the relationship between ethics and governance was essential for corporate governance to play effectively, its intended role in an organisation. But was this merely an academic statement, or widely believed then and now to have practical validity?

Ethics is concerned with the code of values and principles that enables a person to make a rational choice between alternative courses of action on the basis of right and wrong. This choice is not as simple as it sounds, because, there are always conflicting interests of the parties, intermingling with the self-interests of the managers, which often further complicate matters. Ethical dilemmas sprout, making decision-making difficult. Managers are



# Ethics as a way of corporate life

**POSITIVE EFFECT.** It is important to understand that ethics goes far beyond adhering to corporate governance frameworks

supposed to keep the long-term interest of the organisation in view, keep self-interest aside, and make decisions based only on principles influenced by the values, context, culture and the belief system of the organisation. But do they always?

The culture and mindset of management are the two key sources from which corporate governance flows. These two cannot be dictated by any regulatory framework; a regulatory framework can only serve as a mere enabler in the process. Corporate governance is all about openness, integrity and accountability. A regulatory framework can only provide a common framework for all companies to ensure common standards. It is the "form". But it is in the "substance" that the mindset and ethical standards of

**Ethics is concerned with the code of values and principles that enables a person to make a rational choice between alternative courses of action on the basis of right and wrong.**

management are discernible. Is this well-understood across all organisations?

Culture in an organisation takes time to develop. Good culture takes more time to set, bad culture spreads very fast. In life, as well as in business, there are bound to be challenges.

The naturally confronting question is whether one would prefer to be expedient and choose corruption to overcome many of the challenges, which will be like riding a tiger, or, be willing to carry the cross and be firm on one's beliefs and convictions.

One difficulty with ethics is lack of clarity of understanding of what ethics is, for unlike corporate governance which can be defined within the available frameworks, and general regulations around it, ethics eludes definability. Nor can ethics at all or ever be a matter of calculation.

#### THE GOOD OF ALL

In his book *The Human Cycle*, Sri Aurobindo says: "The good of others and most widely the good of all is one ideal aim of ethical practice; it is that which the ethical man would like to effect, if he could only find the way and be always sure what is the real good of all... .."

But this does not help to regulate our ethical practice, it is one of the many considerations by which we can feel our way along the road which is so difficult to travel.

Good, not utility, must be the principle and standard of good; otherwise we fall into the hands of that dangerous pretender expediency, whose whole method is alien to the ethical".

"Application of ethics would vary with the individual nature, the habit of mind, individual's outlook on the world. The law of nature of the ethical being is the pursuit of good; not the pursuit of utility. Hence a safe rule for the ethical man, is to stick to his principle of good, his instinct for good, his vision of good, his intuition of good and to govern by that his conduct."

There are examples of sustainable and growing businesses in India and elsewhere, which have realised that ethical leadership is good for businesses, as the organisation is then seen to conduct its business in line with the expectations of all stakeholders.

The writer joined SEBI at its inception in 1988 and was its Executive Director between 1992 and 2006. He was involved with NR Narayana Murthy on corporate governance



# ಗಣ್ಯರು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ ಹೇಗೆ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ?

**ಮೊನ್ನೆ** ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಭೇಟಿಯಾದರಷ್ಟೇ. ಅವರು ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿರಬಹುದು? ಯಾವ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಾಡಿರಬಹುದು? 'ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ನವರೇ, ನೀವು ಸಿಗದೇ ಬಹಳ ದಿನಗಳಾದವು. ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಹೇಗಿದೆ? ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯವರು, ಮಗ ಕ್ಲೇಮುವೇ?' ಎಂದಂತೂ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿರಲಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯನವರು, 'ಮೋದಿಯವರೇ, ಹೇಗಿದ್ದೀರಿ? ತುಸು ಸೋರಿಗದಂತೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತೀರಲ್ಲ? ಡಾಕ್ಟರಿಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಬೇಕೆತ್ತು. ಅಂದ ಹಾಗೆ ಮತ್ತೆಲ್ಲ ಕುಶಲವೇ?' ಎಂದೂ ಹೇಳಿರಲಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾದರೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಅವರು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿರಬಹುದು? ಇಬ್ಬರು ಗಣ್ಯವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದ ಪೋಟೋ ನೋಡಿದಾಗ, ಅವರು ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ, ಯಾವ ವಿಷಯದಿಂದ ತುರು ಹುಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾರೆ ಎಂಬುದು ನನಗೆ ಯಾವತ್ತೂ ಕುತೂಹಲದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯೇ. ಇದು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕುತೂಹಲವೂ ಆಗಿರಬಹುದು.



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ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಹಿರಿಯ ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತರೂ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದೇಶಾಂಗ ಖಾತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ಎಂ.ಜಿ.ಆಕ್ಟರ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿದೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರು, 'ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯ, ಶಿಷ್ಟಾಚಾರಗಳಾಗಲಿ, ನಿಯಮವಾಗಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇದು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಭಿನ್ನ. ಆದರೆ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಗಣ್ಯರು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಅಸಕ್ತಿಯಾಳಿಕೆ ವಿಷಯದಿಂದ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು, ತಕ್ಷಣದ ಪ್ರಸಂಗದಿಂದ ಸಮಯಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ ಮೆರೆಯುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತನ್ನು ತುರು ಮಾಡುವುದು, ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಹೊಗಳಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ನಡೆ. ಸಂದರ್ಭಕ್ಕೆ ಹಾಸ್ಯ, ಹಾಸ್ಯ ಪ್ರಸಂಗ, ಚಾಟಾಕಿ, ದೌಷ್ಟಾಂತಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಇನ್ನೂ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು. ಇಬ್ಬರು ನಾಯಕರು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ ಆರಂಭದ ಐದು ನಿಮಿಷ ಬಿಗು ವಾತಾವರಣವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮೌನವನ್ನು ಮುರಿಯುತ್ತಾರೋ, ಮಾತನ್ನು ತುಂಬುತ್ತಾರೋ, ಅವರು ಬಹುಬೇಗ settle ಆಗುತ್ತಾರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲುಗೈ ಸಾಧಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂಬುದು ಒಂದು ಮಹಾಕಲೆ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಮೇಲುಗೈ ಸಾಧಿಸಲಾರರು' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದರು.

ನೋಡಿದರೆ, ಅದು ಉತ್ತಮ ವಿಷಯವೂ ಹೌದು. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಒಬ್ಬ ಗಣ್ಯ, ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಗಮನಹರಿಸಿ, ವಿಚಾರ ಮಾಡಿ, ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ಡ್ರೆಸ್ ಧರಿಸಿ ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಯಾರೂ ಬೇಕಾದಷ್ಟು ಡ್ರೆಸ್ ತೊಟ್ಟಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ ಅವರ ಡ್ರೆಸ್ ಎಂದು ಕಾಣುವಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಡ್ರೆಸಿಂಗಿನ ಉತ್ತಮವಾದ ವಿಷಯ ಮತ್ತೊಂದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಅಂದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ಅದೇಂಥ ಮಹಾನ್ ನಾಯಕರೇ ಆಗಿರಲಿ, ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ಗಣ್ಯವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗುವ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವತ್ತೂ ಉದ್ದೇಗ (ನರ್ವಸ್)ಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಅವರ ಮನಸಿನ ಮೇಲದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಳಿವಾಡುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲೂ ಇದೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಗಿರಕಿ ಹೊಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೇಗೆ ರಿಹರ್ಸಲ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೂ, ಮುಂದಿನ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಡೈಲಾಗ್ ಬದಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿ ಅವರು ಮಹತ್ವದ ಮಾತುಕತೆಗಾಗಿ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ವ್ಯಸರಾಯ್ ಲಾರ್ಡ್ ಇರ್ವಿನ್ ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದಾಗಲೂ, ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತುಸು ಯೋಚಿಸಿದರಂತೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಡೈರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗೆ ಬರೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ-'ಲಾರ್ಡ್ ಇರ್ವಿನ್ ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಗಹನವಾದ ವಿಚಾರ ಮಾತಾಡಲು ಮನಸ್ಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಲಘು ತಮಾಷೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾತನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ನನಗೆ ಮನಸ್ಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಬಿಗುಮೋರೆ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಶಿಷ್ಟಾಚಾರವಲ್ಲ. ನಾನು ನನ್ನ ದಿನಚರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಹಾರ ವಿಧಾನದ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದೆ. ಅವರೂ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಮಾಡಿದರು'.

'ನಿಮ್ಮ ಡ್ರೆಸ್ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಡ್ರೆಸ್ ನಿಮಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಡ್ರೆಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀವು ಬಹಳ ಚೆಂದವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತೀರಿ' ಎಂದು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ ಹೇಳಿದರೆ, ಸ್ವಾಭಾವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಅತಿಥಿ ಉಬ್ಬಿ ಹೋಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದೇಹವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ತಾನು ಭೇಟಿ ಆಗಲಿರುವ ಅತಿಥಿಯ self esteem ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲು ಅದು ಸಹಾಯಕವೂ ಹೌದು. ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಸಹಜವಾಗಿ ತೆರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅದು ಅನುವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ರೇಗನ್ ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ತಂತ್ರವನ್ನು ಅನೇಕ ಗಣ್ಯ ನಾಯಕರು ಮಾಡುವುದುಂಟು. ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಡೊನಾಲ್ಡ್ ಟ್ರಂಪ್ ಮೋದಿಯವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಮೊದಲ ಮೂರು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಅವರಿಬ್ಬರ ನಡುವೆ (ಮೋದಿ ಧರಿಸಿದ್ದ) 'ಶಾಲು' ಚರ್ಚೆಯ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮೋದಿ ತಾವು ಧರಿಸಿದ್ದ ಶಾಲಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೇ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಿಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರಿಬ್ಬರೂ, ಉದ್ದೇಗವನ್ನು ದೂರ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ನಿರಾಯಾಸವಾಗಿ settle ಆಗಿದ್ದರು.

ಮೋದಿಯವರ ಜತೆ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ದೇಶಗಳ ನಾಯಕರು ಈ ರೀತಿ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಮೋದಿಯವರು ಕೆಲವು ಸಲ ತಾವು ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಲಿರುವ ನಾಯಕರ ದಿರಿಸಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಮಾತನ್ನಾರಂಭಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಡೊನಾಲ್ಡ್ ಟ್ರಂಪ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಮೋದಿಯವರು 'ನೀವೇಕೆ ಸದಾ ಕೆಂಪು ಟೈಯನ್ನೇ ಧರಿಸುತ್ತೀರಿ?' ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದರೆಂದು ವರದಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಲು ಅದೂ ಒಳ್ಳೆಯ ವಿಷಯವೇ. ಟ್ರಂಪ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಬೇರೆ ಯಾರಾದರೂ ಕೇಳಿದ್ದರೋ, ಇಲ್ಲವೋ. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ ಅವರು ಟೈ ಧರಿಸಿದರೆ ಕೆಂಪು ಟೈ ಮಾತ್ರ. ಒಂದು ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಟ್ರಂಪ್ ಅವರು, ರಷ್ಯಾ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪುಟಿನ್ ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಅವರೂ (ಪುಟಿನ್) ಕೆಂಪು ಟೈ ಧರಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆಗ ಟ್ರಂಪ್, 'Mr. Putin, you are free to follow me, but not expected to imitate me' ಎಂದು ಹಾಸ್ಯಚಟಾಕಿ ಹಾರಿಸಿದ್ದು ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದಾಗಿ ಕೆಲವು ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳ ಬಳಿಕ, ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮಾವೇಶವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಉಭಯ ನಾಯಕರು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಪುಟಿನ್ ಬೇರೆ ಒಣ್ಣದ ಟೈ ಧರಿಸಿದ್ದರು. 'ಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಟ್ರಂಪ್, ನಾನು ನಿಮ್ಮಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇಂದು ಬೇರೆ ಒಣ್ಣದ ಟೈ ಧರಿಸಬೇಕಾಯಿತು. ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ಕೆಂಪು ಟೈಯನ್ನೇ ಧರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೆ' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಟ್ರಂಪ್, 'ಮಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಪುಟಿನ್, ನನಗೆ ಆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಇಲ್ಲ ನೋಡಿ. ನಾನು ಯಾವತ್ತೂ ಕೆಂಪು ಟೈಯನ್ನೇ ಧರಿಸೋದು' ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ, ತಮ್ಮ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದ್ದರು.

ತಾವು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಲಿರುವ ದೇಶಗಳ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರಿಗೆ, ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೊದಲೇ ನೀಡಿರಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿದೇಶಿ ನೆಲದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಮಾನ ಭೂಸರ್ತ ಮಾಡುವ ಮೊದಲೇ, ತಾವು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡುವ ನಾಯಕರ ಹೆಸರಿನ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಉಚ್ಚಾರ, ಅವರ ಕುಟುಂಬ, ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ವಿವರ, ಅವರ ಪತ್ನಿಯ, ಇಷ್ಟ-ಅನಿಷ್ಟಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನೆಲ್ಲ ಪಡೆದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಹಸ್ತಲಾಘವ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ, ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಯಾವತ್ತೂ ಸಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದು ಅತಿಶಯವೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಇಬ್ಬರೂ ಯಾವ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಾಡಬೇಕು, ದುಭಾಷಿ ನೆರವು ಆಗುತ್ತವೆಯೋ ಎಂಬುದೆಲ್ಲ ಮೊದಲೇ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಇಬ್ಬರಿಗೂ ಒಪ್ಪಿತವಾಗುವ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಜೀನಾದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಜಿಯಾಂಗ್ ರೈಮಿನ್‌ಗೆ ಹಲವು ವಿದೇಶಿ ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಗೊತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ರಷ್ಯನ್, ಸ್ಪ್ಯಾನಿಷ್, ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್, ರೊಮೇನಿಯನ್, ಜರ್ಮನ್, ಜಪಾನೀಸ್, ಫ್ರೆಂಚ್ ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹತ್ತು ಭಾಷೆಗಳು ಗೊತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಅವರು ಚಿಲಿ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದಾಗ, ನೆಲವತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಸ್ಪ್ಯಾನಿಷ್ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಷಣ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ತಾವು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದ ಚಿಲಿ ದೇಶದ ಗ್ರಾಮ್ಯ ಕತೆಯಿಂದ ಭಾಷಣ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ್ದು ಬಹಳ ಪ್ರಭಾವ ಬೀರಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ಅವರು ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಹತ್ತಿರವಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅದೊಂದು ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಅವರ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು



ಸ್ನಾಂಟಿಯಾಗೋದ ಒಂದು ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಇಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರರ್ಗಳವಾಗಿ ಮಾತಾಡುವ ಜೀನಾದ ಏಕೈಕ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಎಂಬ ಅಗ್ಗಳಿಕೆಗೂ ಅವರು ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿದೇಶಿ ಗಣ್ಯರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಅವರ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಕಿರು ಸಂಭಾಷಣೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. 1987ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಯಾನ್ ಫ್ರಾನ್ಸಿಸ್ಕೊ ಮೇಯರ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, When We Were Young ಎಂಬ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಹಾಡನ್ನು ಹಾಡಿದ ರೈಮಿನ್, ಮೇಯರ್ ಜತೆಗೆ ಡ್ಯಾನ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. 1997ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹವಾಯಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಉಕುಲೆಲೆ ಎಂಬ ವಾದ್ಯವನ್ನು ನುಡಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ರೈಮಿನ್ ಯಾವ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋದರೂ, ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ನಾಯಕರ ಜತೆ ಮುಕ್ತವಾಗಿ ಬೆರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಇಬ್ಬರು ನಾಯಕರು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಭಾಷೆ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಪಾತ್ರವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಲಿರುವ ಅಥವಾ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದ ದೇಶದ ನಾಯಕರ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತಾಡುವುದು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುವುದಾದರೆ ಅದೊಂದು ವರದಾನ. ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ಮೋದಿಯವರ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಉಚ್ಚಾರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂದೇಹಗಳಿದ್ದವು. ಅವರು ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಹೇಗೆ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬಹುದು ಎಂಬ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅನೇಕರು ಸಂದೇಹ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು ಬಹುಬೇಗ ಪಟ್ಟನ್ನು ಕರಗತ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಭಾಷೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತೊಡಕಾಗಲೇ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಜಾಗತಿಕ ನಾಯಕರ ಜತೆ ಭಾಷೆಯಷ್ಟೇ ಪರಿಣಾಮಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಆಂಗಿಕ ಭಾಷೆಯನ್ನೂ ಒಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಅವರ ನಾಯಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವರ ಅತ್ಯವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಮತ್ತು ದೃಢ ನಿಲುವೇ ಕಾರಣ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಇಂದು ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಬಲ

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ನಾಯಕರ ಜತೆ ಸಮಸಮವಾಗಿ ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬಲ್ಲರು. ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೂ ಜಾಗತಿಕ ವೇದಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಸಾಮೀಪ್ಯ ಬಯಸುವುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಯಾರನ್ನೇ ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗಲೂ ಮೋದಿ ಅವರು ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲುಗೈ ಸಾಧಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ರೂಢಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಮಾತು ಸದಾ ಅಸಕ್ತಿದಾಯಕವಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಅವರು ಗಮನಹರಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಭಾರತದ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯಾದವರು ಹಿಂದಿ ಅಥವಾ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸುವುದು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಒಂದು ಭಾಷೆಯಾದರೂ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿರಬೇಕು. ಎರಡರಲ್ಲೂ ನಿರರ್ಗಳವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವೇದಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸುವುದು ಕಷ್ಟವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರೂ ದೇವೇಗೌಡರು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಅದು ಹೇಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದರೋ? ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿ.ವಿ.ನರಸಿಂಹರಾವ್ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮೆಚ್ಚಲೇಬೇಕು. ಅವರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಅಕರ್ಷಕವಾಗಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಬಹುಭಾಷಿಗಳಿಂದ ಬಹುಬೇಗ ಕನಕ್ ಆಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರಿಗೆ ತೆಲುಗು, ಮರಾಠಿ, ಕನ್ನಡ, ತಮಿಳು, ಉರ್ದು, ಒಡಿಯಾ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತದ ಜತೆಗೆ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್, ಫ್ರೆಂಚ್, ಅರಬಿಕ್, ಸ್ಪ್ಯಾನಿಷ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪರ್ಷಿಯನ್ ಭಾಷೆಗಳೂ ಗೊತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿಯವರು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ, ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಅವರು ವಿದೇಶಾಂಗ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಖಾತೆ ಸಚಿವರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯವರ ಜತೆಗೆ ವಿದೇಶಿ ಗಣ್ಯರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಒಂದೇ ಟೇಬಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭೋಜನಕ್ಕೆ ಕುಳಿತಾಗ, ತಮ್ಮ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ನರಸಿಂಹರಾವ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿಯವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ, ಕಲೆ, ಭಾಷೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನರಸಿಂಹರಾವ್ ಅವರು ವಿದೇಶಿ ಗಣ್ಯರನ್ನು ಎಂಗೇಜ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ರಾಜೀವ್ ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ನಟವರ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಕೂಡ ಬಹು ಸಮರ್ಥವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ಒಂದು ಗಂಟೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಸ್ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿ ಕಳೆಯುವುದು, ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಎಲ್ಲೂ ವೇಲುವವಾಗದಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಸಹ ನಾಯಕನಿಗಿರಬೇಕಾದ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಗುಣ, ಲಕ್ಷಣ.

ವಿದೇಶಿ ಗಣ್ಯರ ಗಮನವನ್ನು ಸದಾ ತಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆಯೇ ನೆಟ್ಟಿರುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದಿರಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಎತ್ತಿದ ಕೈ. ಅವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿದೇಶಿ ಗಣ್ಯರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೂ, ಆ ದೇಶದ ಜನಜೀವನ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ, ಇತಿಹಾಸ, ಪರಂಪರೆ ಕುರಿತು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ತಿಳಿಯಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಕಲೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಂದೆ ನೆಹರು ಅವರಿಂದ ಬಹುವಳಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ವಿದೇಶಿ ಗಣ್ಯರ ಜತೆ ಮಾತಾಡುವಾಗ, ತಮಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಿರುವ ಆ ದೇಶಗಳ ಅನೇಕ ಸಂಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಎರಡೂ ದೇಶಗಳ ನಡುವಿನ ಸಾಮ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೇಳುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಬೆಸೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರು ಭಾಷೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಷಯದ ಜತೆಗೆ ಹಾಸ-ಭಾಷ, ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ (Expression)ಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಒತ್ತು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಮಾತಿನ ಕೊನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ pause (ಪ್ರಜ್ಞಾಪೂರ್ವಕ ವಿರಾಮ) ಇರುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರನ್ನು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗ, ಅವರಿಗಿಂತ ಹಿಂದಿನವರ ಜೀವನದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಘಟನೆ, ಸಂಗತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಗೆ ಅಪ್ಪತೆ ಮೆರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರು ಮಾತುಕತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೂ ಮೌನ ಇರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ಬಳಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಗಂಟೆ ಕಳೆಯುವಷ್ಟು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸರಕು, ದೌಷ್ಟಾಂತಗಳು ಇರುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಜಾಗತಿಕ ನಾಯಕರ ಜತೆ ಸಮನಾಗಿ, ಅತ್ಯವಿಶ್ವಾಸದಿಂದ ಬೆರೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಇದು ಗಣ್ಯವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಅಥವಾ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಿಗಷ್ಟೇ ಸೀಮಿತ ವಲ್ಲ. ನಾವು-ನೀವು ಭೇಟಿಯಾದಾಗಲೂ, ಮೊದಲ ಹತ್ತು ನಿಮಿಷ ಹೇಗೆ ಮಾತಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಬಹಳ ಮುಖ್ಯ. 'ಈತ ಯಾವಾಗ ತೊಲಗುತ್ತಾನೋ' ಎಂದು ಅನಿಸುವುದು, ನೀವು ತೀರಾ ನೀರಸವಾಗಿ, ವೇಲುವವಾಗಿ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದಾಗ, ಕೆಲವು ಸಲ ಐದು ನಿಮಿಷದ ನಂತರ ಮಾತಾಡಲು ಎನೂ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂಥ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಜತೆ ಒಂದು ಗಂಟೆ ಕಳೆಯುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಜೈಲುವಾಸವೇ ವಾಸಿ!



# ನಾವು ಸೇವಿಸುವ ತರಕಾರಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ?

**ಭಾ** ತರದಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುವಷ್ಟು ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳು ವಿಶ್ವದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮೂಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ವಿಶ್ವದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಉಪಖಂಡವೆಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ, ವಿವಿಧ ಹವಾಮಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ನಮೂನೆಯ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆದು ದಿನನಿತ್ಯದ ಆಹಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ರುಚಿಗಳ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ಶರೀರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಗ್ರವಾಗಿ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಪೋಷಕಾಂಶಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳಿಂದ ವೇಗವಾಗಿ ದೊರೆಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಗತಕಾಲದಿಂದಲೂ ದಿನಬಳಕೆಯ ಆಹಾರ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅಡುಗೆ ಮನೆಯ ಮೊದಲ ಅದ್ಯತೆಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಹಾಗಾದರೆ ದೇಶಾದ್ಯಂತ ಸದ್ಯ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳು ಎಷ್ಟು ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿವೆ? ಎಂಬುದು ಬಹಳ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಗ್ಧ ಜನರು ತರಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವಾಗ ಅಥವಾ ಬಳಸುವಾಗ ಅವನ್ನು ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವಷ್ಟು ತಾಳ್ಮೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಾಣ್ಮೆಯನ್ನು ತೋರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೀಗೆ, ಆಹಾರಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳ ಬಳಕೆಪೂರ್ವ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇಂದು ಭಾರತದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಜನರನ್ನು ಹಲವು ರೋಗಗಳು ಆಮರಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸುಳ್ಳೇನಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಹಾರದ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಬಹಳ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ತರಕಾರಿ ಸೇವನೆ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಈಗ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸೋಜಿಗವೆನಿಸಿದರೂ ಕಟುಸತ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಟ್ಟಣಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗುವ ಬಹುತೇಕ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶುದ್ಧತೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಕನಸಿನ ಮಾತಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರಣ ಸದ್ಯದ ಬರಗಾಲದ ಸಂದರ್ಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತರಕಾರಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಲವು ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಯಲು ನೀರಿನ ಕೊರತೆಯು ಸರ್ವಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಥ ವೇಳೆ ಶಹರಗಳ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತ ಹರಿಯುವ ಚರಂಡಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ತರಕಾರಿ ಬೆಳೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದು ಬಹಳ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿಯಾದ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿಷಕಾರಿ ಅಂಶಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ ಈ ಚರಂಡಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದ ಹಸಿರು ಸೊಪ್ಪು ಹಾಗೂ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳು ನೋಡಲು ಬಹಳ ಆಕರ್ಷಕವಾಗಿರುವುದಲ್ಲದೆ ಬಳಕೆದಾರರ ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಸೆಳೆಯುತ್ತವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಈ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರುಳಾಗಿ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವ ಮುಗ್ಧ ಜನರು ಮೇಲಿಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯಪೀಡಿತರಾಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂದೇಹವಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರಣ ಈ ನೀರು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ನಿರೂಪಯುಕ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಷಯುಕ್ತವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇಂಥ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುವ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜೀವಸತ್ವಗಳು ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿರದೇ ಮಾನವನ ಶರೀರಕ್ಕೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಅಪಾಯವನ್ನುಂಟುಮಾಡುವ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿವೆ ಎಂಬುದು ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದೆ. ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಇಂಥ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು ದಿನನಿತ್ಯ ಸದ್ದಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಅಮಾಯಕ ಜನರ ದೇಹವನ್ನು ಸೇರುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಇದು ಜನಸಮುದಾಯದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಭಯಾನಕವಾದ ಸಂಗತಿಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಶರೀರದ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗಾಗಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಯಾನುಸಾರ ವಿವಿಧ ಜೀವಸತ್ವಗಳು ಬೇಕಿಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಅವೆಲ್ಲವೂ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಚರಂಡಿ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೋಹಗಳ ಅಂಶವು ಮಿತಿಮೀರಿ ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಂಥ ಮಹಾನಗರಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿಂದಲೂ ಮಾರಾಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಲವು ತರಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೊಪ್ಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನವನ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ



ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣ, ಕ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಯಂ, ಸೀಸ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಕೆಲ್ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿವೆ. ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದಾದರೆ, ಒಂದು ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ಕಾಯಿಪಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು 425 ಎಂ.ಜಿ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣಾಂಶ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಬೀನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 810, ಕೊತ್ತಂಬರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 945, ಈರುಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 592 ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಲಕ್ ಸೊಪ್ಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ 554 ಎಂ.ಜಿ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣಾಂಶ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರಂತೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ತರಕಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಯಂ ಅಂಶವು ಅಂದಾಜು 0.2 ಎಂ.ಜಿ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಆದರೆ ಕೊತ್ತಂಬರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 53, ಬದನೆಕಾಯಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 52, ಪಾಲಕ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 53, ಕ್ಯಾರಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 54 ಎಂ.ಜಿ. ಇರುವುದು ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿನ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕಬ್ಬಿಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಯಂ ಅಂಶವು ಶರೀರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯಪೀಡಿತರಾದಾಗ ಯಾವುದೇ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆಗಳು ಕೂಡಲೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಸಾಧುವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.



ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಡುಬರುವ ಮಿತಿಮೀರಿದ ಕ್ಯಾಡ್ಮಿಯಂ ಅಂಶದಿಂದ ಮಾನವನ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕರುಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಕಾರಕ ಅಂಶವು ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ನೈಸರ್ಗಿಕವಾಗಿ ಶರೀರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿಯಾಗಬೇಕಾದ ರೋಗನಿರೋಧಕ ಶಕ್ತಿಯು ಕುಂಠಿತವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿಷಕಾರಕ ಅಂಶವೆಂದೇ ಗುರುತಿಸಲಾದ ಸೀಸ ಪ್ರತಿ ತರಕಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 0.3 ಎಂ.ಜಿ ಮೀರಬಾರದೆಂದು ಹಲವು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳು ತಿಳಿಸಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಹುರಳಕಾಯಿ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ತರಕಾರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 12.20 ಎಂ.ಜಿ. ಕಂಡುಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಅಪಾಯಕಾರಿ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರಂತೆ ನಿಕೆಲ್ ಎಂಬುದು ಶರೀರಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಮಾರಕವಾಗಿರುವ ಲೋಹದ ಅಂಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ಹಸಿರು ಮೆಣಸಿನಕಾಯಿ, ಕ್ಯಾರಟ್, ಆಲೂಗಡ್ಡೆ, ಹುರಳಕಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಟೊಮೆಟೋಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಇರುವುದು ತಿಳಿದು

ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರೆಂದು ಗುರುತಿ ಸಲ್ಲುತ್ತಿರುವ ಹಸಿರು ತೊಪ್ಪಲಿನ ರಾಜಗಿರಿ, ಮೆಂತ್ಯೆ, ಸಬ್ಬಸಿಗೆ, ಚಕೋತಾ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಹಲವು ಸೊಪ್ಪುಗಳು ಈ ಚರಂಡಿ ನೀರಿನ ಬಳಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮಾನವನ ಶರೀರಕ್ಕೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವಿಷಕಾರಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾರ್ಪಟ್ಟಿವೆ.

ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ ಹೇಳುವುದಾದರೆ, ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರೆಯುವ ಬಹುತೇಕ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳು ಚರಂಡಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸಾಗುವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದಂಥವುಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಕಡಿವಾಣ ಹಾಕಬೇಕು. ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಈ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯ ಗಂಭೀರತೆಯನ್ನು ಅರಿಯದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ದುಷ್ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀಳುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಸಂಬದ್ಧವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ತರಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಗರಗಳ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಗುವಂತೆ ರಾಜಾರೋಷವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಇದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಡೆಯನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿ ಇಂಥ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ನಾಶಪಡಿಸಬೇಕು. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಅತಿಹೆಚ್ಚು ಜನಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಪಾಯ ತಲೆದೋರುವುದು ಕಟ್ಟಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಟ್ಟು ಎಂದು ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಖ್ಯಾತ ವೈದ್ಯರು ಆತಂಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಅಮೆರಿಕ, ರಷ್ಯಾ, ಸ್ವಿಜರ್‌ಲ್ಯಾಂಡ್, ಜಪಾನ್ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿಶ್ವದ ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಆಹಾರಗಳ ಬಳಕೆಪೂರ್ವ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಹಾರಗಳ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಯ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಠಿಣ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳು ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿವೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಆ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಹಾರದ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಗಮನಾರ್ಹ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳು ತಲೆದೋರಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಅರಿಯಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯು 'ಅಟಕುಂಟು ಲೆಕ್ಕಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂಬಂತಿದೆ. ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಕಾನೂನುಗಳ ಸಡಿಲಿಕೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಯಾರು ಬೇಕಾದರೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತರಹದ ಆಹಾರಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರೈಕೆಯನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಭಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗಾದರೆ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಹಾರಗಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳು ಕಾಟಾಚಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇವೆಯೇ? ಆಹಾರಗಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ಭಾರತ ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ವಿಶ್ವದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಶೀಲ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಕೆಗೆ ಯೋಗ್ಯವಲ್ಲದ ಆಹಾರಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರಾಟವು ಎಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮದಿಂದಲೇ ಹೊಸಹೊಸ ರೋಗಗಳು ಈ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಶೀಲ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳಿಂದಲೇ ಮೊದಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುತ್ತಿವೆಯೇನೋ? ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇವಲ 'ಪ್ಯಾಕ್ ಮಾಡಲಾದ' ಆಹಾರಗಳ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದು ಸಹ ಯಾವ ಮಾನದಂಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲ್ಪಡುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅಷ್ಟೊಂದು ತಿಳಿದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕೇವಲ ಆಹಾರದ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್ ಮೇಲಿನ ಅಂಕಿ-ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿ ಬಳಕೆದಾರರು ಖರೀದಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಎಷ್ಟರಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸರಿ? ಒಳಗಿನ ಮರ್ಮವನ್ನು ದೇವನೇ ಬಲ್ಲ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಕೃಷಿಗೆ ಬಳಸುವುದನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲೇಬೇಕು; ಅಂದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮನುಕುಲವು ಆರೋಗ್ಯದಾಯಕ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಅನುಭವಿಸಬಹುದು.

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