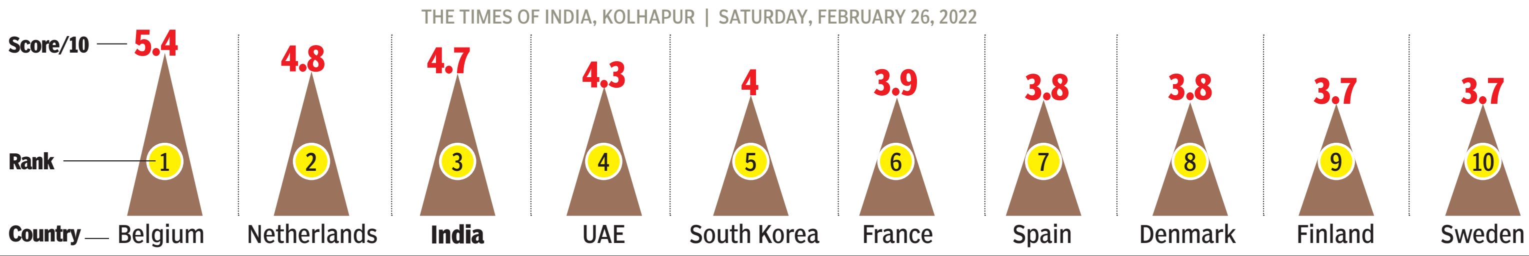
CCI NG 3.17 Product: TOIPuneBS PubDate: 26-02-2022 Zone: Kolhapur Edition: 1 Page: TOIKLP18 User: cci Time: 02-25-2022 21:21 Color:

## India 3rd In Creative Industry Job Demand

Creative work is in high demand due to growth in online connectivity and the digital world. The demand for web designers and mobile app developers is at an all-time high and there are growing opportunities across the world. The report reveals the most in-demand digital industries and India ranks 3rd below Belgium and the Netherlands

# TIMES BUSINESS

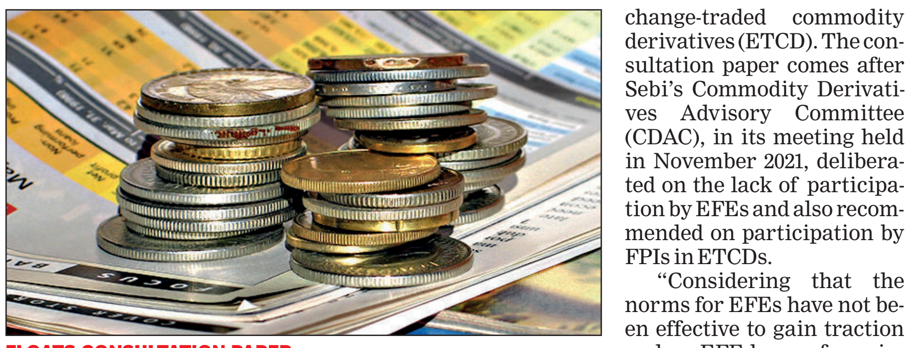
THE TIMES OF INDIA, KOLHAPUR | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022




Source: 2021 Shortlist Report

# Sebi proposes to allow FPIs in commodity derivatives mkt

## Move Aimed At Increasing Depth & Liquidity In The Segment



FLOATS CONSULTATION PAPER

**New Delhi:** Markets regulator Sebi has proposed allowing foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to participate in the exchange-traded commodity derivatives market. In its consultation paper, the regulator has suggested that FPIs should be allowed to trade in all non-agricultural commodity derivatives and a few selected broad agricultural commodity derivatives, to begin with.

The move is aimed at further increasing depth and liquidity in commodity derivative market. "Enhanced liquidity can gradually enable the Indian commodity derivative market to serve as a global benchmark for various commodities thereby shifting India from the role of price taker to a price setter," Sebi said.

In addition, their participation may bring down the transaction costs in the commodity futures segment, owing to economies of scale. Currently, foreign entities having actual exposure to Indian commodity markets, known as eligible foreign entities (EFEs), are allowed to participate in the Indian commodity derivatives market.

FPIs being financial investors with huge purchasing power have not yet been allowed to participate in exchange-traded commodity derivatives (ETCD). The consultation paper comes after Sebi's Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC), in its meeting held in November 2021, deliberated on the lack of participation by EFEs and also recommended on participation by FPIs in ETCDs.

"Considering that the norms for EFEs have not been effective to gain traction and no EFE has so far evinced interest to participate in ETCDs in India, in line with the recommendations of CDAC to enhance institutional participation in Indian ETCDs, there is now, a felt necessity, to permit FPIs registered with Sebi to participate in ETCDs in India," the regulator noted. PTI

# Exporters keep close watch on freight rates

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** With sanctions hitting Russia, exporters are being cautious with their supplies as they keep close tabs on freight rates, which may see a further spike due to higher oil prices as well as uncertainty over insurance cover.

"Some countries have already imposed sanctions against Russia, which will impact business. We are waiting the OFAC guidelines as it provides a winding down period, which will provide clarity on payments," said Ajay Sahay, the director general of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions. While India and Russia had a rupee-rouble trade arrangement earlier, officials fear that it may not be easy now given the US pressure and it would be seen as New Delhi aligning with Moscow.

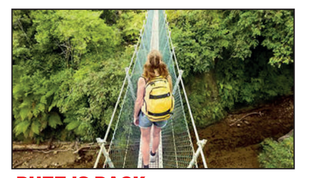
In addition, exporters expect the logistics challenges to increase, especially to Ukraine as war is not covered under insurance policies. Besides, with crude oil prices topping the $100 a barrel level, freight rates are expected to harden further.

Already, container freight rates have hardened. The spot rate for a 40-feet container from Shanghai to Los Angeles rose to $11,030, up 3.3% from a week ago and 125% higher than a year ago, according to the Drewry World Container Index, Bloomberg reported on Thursday.

Freight rates had softened a little over the last few months after a sharp rise due to disruptions and long pileups at several ports in the US.

# Bookings for holiday & biz travel pick up 2x-4x in Feb

Nandini.Sengupta @timesgroup.com



BUZZ IS BACK

**Chennai:** Omicron is over and the desi traveller is busy planning the next holiday or business trip. Tourism and hospitality industry, which took a severe knock due to the Omicron third wave in January, is witnessing a sharp revival in February with destination travel, wedding and MICE bookings all back with a vengeance. "We are witnessing a clear surge in demand which has led to a steady growth in bookings by 2x, week-on-week since February 1, 2022," said Daniel D'souza, president & country head, SOTC Travel.

Bookings are booming for home-destinations like Kashmir, North east, Uttarakhand and the Andamans even as spiritual-minded travellers are looking at Char Dham, Shirdi, Vaishno Devi or Kashi Vishwanath. "While we started witnessing green shoots since the end of January, the last 15-20 days have witnessed a surge of almost 4x in demand, for both domestic and international destinations. As per our internal survey, over 45% of our customers are keen to explore India," said Rajeev Kale — president & country head, holidays, MICE, Visa — Thomas Cook (India).

Not surprisingly hotels are buzzing too with room occupancies showing an uptick. "While January was a complete loss the occupying percentage for February is over 80% of pre-Covid 2019 levels. And April-February, it's at 75% of 2019," said Zubin Songadwala, GM ITC Grand Chola & area manager- ITC Hotels, South. "We have seen a steady recovery in the first two weeks of February in our leisure and business hotels across cities and enquires for Mice conference and exhibitions for physical events have also started as restrictions have eased," Shubhangi N, GM sales and marketing, GRT Hotels & Resorts added. Already the window for Mice bookings has come down so queries are coming within 7-14 days.

# Accenture now in tier-2 cities for better employee flexibility

Shilpa.Phadnis @timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Accenture, which has primarily operated in India's metros, is setting up offices in Jaipur and Coimbatore, as part of a move to access more talent and give employees greater flexibility with respect to where they want to work from.

Accenture had sent a note to employees late last year about creating a new model that provides employees more choice on their work location. In a statement to TOI, Accenture said, "We believe that when it comes to the future of work, there is no "one size fits all," and our approach to how, when and where we work will vary by business, team, and the type of work our people do. For example, at our Advanced Technology Centres in India, people have the option to choose their own work location from any of the cities where Accenture has a presence."

Accenture's website currently lists opportunities in Jaipur for finance operations, on collecting operational data. "In Jaipur, we are hiring for a variety of in-demand technology skills, in addition to domain and functional experts. A physical office space will be announced soon," the company said in response to TOI's query.

Accenture said, "Our people have also told us that while they value the flexibility provided by virtual working, some-in-person connection time is vital to them, and we are setting up offices in select cities to provide them with work options that fulfil both needs. The new locations will also help strengthen and grow our already rich and diverse talent base."

Accenture did not confirm Coimbatore, but some of the listings on job portals are for BPO roles and application developers in that city. India has about 2.5 lakh of Accenture's 624,000 employees. Experts say Accenture's push towards new locations is also accelerated by the large number of resignations that IT companies are seeing.

# FDI equity inflows down 16% in Apr-Dec

**New Delhi:** Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 16% to $43.2 billion during the April-December 2021 period, according to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The inflows had stood at $51.5 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The total FDI inflows (which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital) aggregated at $60.3 billion during the nine month period of the current fiscal year as against $67.5 billion in the year-ago period.

The equity inflows in the third quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021) also declined to $12 billion. PTI

# Sunflower oil supply may be hit, wheat exporters to gain

John Sarkar & Sidhartha | TNN

**New Delhi:** The Ukraine conflict is expected to hit supply of sunflower oil in the domestic market, pushing up prices, but may create an opportunity for Indian wheat exporters to tap global markets at a time when prices are elevated.

The government, however, believes that the impact of higher sunflower oil price may result in substitution to other edible oils limiting the impact on household budgets. And, with a bumper mustard harvest, even companies expect the impact on prices to be muted.

India consumes around 3.5 million tonnes of sunflower oil, which is 20% of the total portfolio of its edible oils.


Around 90% of sunflower oil in the world is exported by Russia (20%) & Ukraine (70%), rest comes from Argentina

"Typically, a manufacturer would have surplus stocks of around 45-55 days (spread over ports, factories and with trade). Loading from Russia and Ukraine slowed down over the last four days. Today, it has stopped. Adani Wilmar had stocked up earlier due to early signals. If situation continues for a long time, companies will look towards Argentina and Russia (unless there is an embargo)," said Adani Wilmar MD & CEO Angshu Mallick.

Official statistics estimated that during April-December, nearly 65% of India's imports of around $2 billion from Ukraine were accounted for by crude sunflower oil seeds. Ukraine's share of animal and vegetable fats and oils in India's total import of the product segment is pegged at around 10%, prompting government sources to argue that the current situation will not adversely impact India's trade position.

# Inflation worry to mount as supply chains get disrupted

Surojit.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to accelerate price pressures in the country as supply chains are getting disrupted and prices of crude oil, metals and other key commodities soar higher in global markets.

The surge in prices is likely to add more pressure on household budgets reeling under impact of the blows of the pandemic. The uncertainty triggered by the conflict and heightened price pressures are likely to pose fresh challenges for the authorities battling to revive growth and add fresh momentum to the ongoing economic recovery.

Both retail and wholesale prices have been firm in the country. Retail inflation jumped to a seven-month high in January on the back of higher food and beverages prices, while the wholesale price inflation eased marginally during the month but remained in double digits for the 10th month in a row. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das had said that 6% retail inflation should not surprise or create any alarm as the central bank had taken it into consideration. But, the war in Ukraine is likely to upset most of the calculations.

"Russia is a key energy exporter to rest of the world and hence its involvement in the geopolitical crisis with Ukraine has led to a jump in energy prices globally. This will impact India's fuel inflation. If price of crude oil stays close to $100 per barrel (significantly higher than Economic Survey's assumption of $70-75 per barrel), then change in average price of oil in FY23 vs FY22 could get close to 27-28%. This would impart a statistical upside of 80-85 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) on CPI inflation," said Vivek Kumar, economist at data analytics firm QuantEco. "If the crisis simmers for long, then overall impact on inflation would also include disruption impact from supplies of sunflower oil (an important edible oil consumed in the country), fertilisers (farm input) and palladium (input for EVs and gems & jewellery). We continue to stick to our above consensus call of 5.3% CPI inflation in FY23 and closely review signs of persistence in commodity prices," said Kumar.

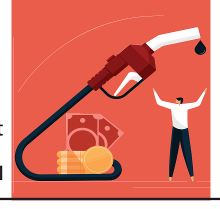
It is estimated that a $10 per barrel increase in price of oil reduces growth by 0.2-0.3 percentage points, increases WPI inflation by about 1.7 percentage points and worsens CAD (current account deficit) by $9-10 billion. According to an RBI estimate, a 10% change in crude oil prices impacts retail inflation by 30bps. Edible oil prices, which have been ruling higher, are likely to face the brunt of supply disruptions, leading to high domestic prices.

### TO PUSH FUEL INFLATION

**Retail inflation jumped to 7-month high in January on higher food and beverages prices**

- ➤ Wholesale inflation remained in double digits for 10th month in a row
- ➤ 6% retail inflation should not surprise or create any alarm, says RBI

**But, war in Ukraine is likely to upset most of the calculations**



**Russia is a key energy exporter and its involvement has led to a jump in energy prices globally**

- ➤ This will impact India's fuel inflation
- ➤ According to RBI estimate, a 10% change in crude prices impacts retail inflation by 30 basis points

# Ukraine's tech work could shift partly to India

Shilpa.Phadnis @timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Many Indian IT firms have expanded their presence in Eastern Europe in the last few years, tapping into the pockets of great engineering and tech talent in these regions. With the Russia-Ukraine faceoff turning volatile, IT companies have triggered business continuity plans. Some experts believe this could lead to more offshoring to India.

GlobalLogic has nearly 8,000 employees in Ukraine. Infosys set up development centres in Karlovac in Croatia and Moscow in Russia to support Ansaldo Energia, a producer of thermoelectric power plants. Recently, Tech Mahindra bought Com Tec Co IT (CTC), a software solutions and service provider with development centres in Latvia and Belarus. Wipro has a subsidiary in Ukraine. The tech talent is concentrated in the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Lviv.

Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO of IT advisory Everest Group, said the war in Ukraine is clearly going to cause both customers and vendors to shift production, at least temporarily, out of Ukraine and into other destinations. "We expect India to be the major recipient of this work as there are no other labour markets able to absorb work at this scale on short notice. We expect the engineering services sector to be most affected as much of the Ukraine delivery centres are focused on engineering and more specifically digital engineering. We can also expect firms with centres in Russia to move work as sanctions hit," he said.

Hansa Iyengar, an analyst at London-based IT advisory Omdia, said Ukraine has always been a volatile region and many Ukraine headquartered firms had moved out of the country years ago (Luxoft moved from Kiev to Zug, Switzerland). "Those companies that do have a presence there will surely experience disruption, but most systems have a failsafe where workloads are moved to other locations as part of a continuity plan. So, most businesses and vendors will be insulated in the short term. However, in the long run this will be a critical factor impacting outsourcing decisions," she said.

Pareekh Jain, founder of engineering services advisory Pareekh Consulting, said there are over 1,200 GICs in Eastern Europe and more than 100 delivery centres of service providers. "Ukraine IT services generated $6 billion revenue in 2021 and wanted to increase to $16 billion in 2025 which could have been 10% of Ukraine's GDP. Now that will be uncertain and some of that work might be in other regions including India," he said.

Bendor-Samuel said the supply impact will likely increase the pricing power of the service providers.

# सकल मराठा समाजाचे आजपासून साखळी उपोषण

## आझाद मैदानातील खा. संभाजीराजे यांना पाठिंबा म्हणून दसरा चौकात आयोजन

**कोल्हापूर : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा**

मराठा समाजाच्या न्याय्य मागण्यांसाठी खा. संभाजीराजे शनिवार (दि. २६) पासून मुंबईतील आझाद मैदानावर आमरण उपोषणाला बसणार आहेत. या आंदोलनाला पाठिंबा म्हणून आरक्षणाचे जनक लोकराजा राजर्षी छत्रपती शाहू महाराज यांच्या कोल्हापुरातही साखळी उपोषण करण्यात येणार आहे. दसरा चौकात सकल मराठा समाजाच्या वतीने हे आंदोलन होणार असून, याची सर्व तयारी पूर्ण झाली आहे. दरम्यान, छत्रपती शिवाजी पुलावर सकाळी ११ वाजता चक्काजाम आंदोलन करण्यात येणार आहे.

मराठा समाजासाठी सुरू असणाऱ्या आंदोलनाची दाहकता सोशल मीडियाच्या माध्यमातून देश-विदेशात असणाऱ्या मराठा बांधवांपर्यंत पोहोचली असून, त्यांच्याकडून 'आम्ही खा. संभाजीराजे यांच्यासोबत' अशा आशयाच्या पोस्टस् व्हायरल होत आहेत. उपोषणाला पाठिंबा म्हणून राज्यातील विविध जिल्हे, तालुके, शहरे व ग्रामीण भागात साखळी उपोषण, ठिय्या आंदोलन, निवेदनांचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे.

### शिवशाहिरांचा फटका

उपोषणाला पाठबळ म्हणून कोल्हापुरातील शाहिरांनीही कंबर कसली आहे. आंदोलनात सहभागी मराठा बांधवांना प्रोत्साहन देण्यासाठी शाहीर दिलीप सावंत यांनी विशेष कवण लिहिले आहे. यात 'हक्कासाठी लढतोया छत्रपती राजं, भगव्याची शपथ तुला लढायचं आज... तू लढायला शिक, मराठा मावळ्या तू लढायला शिक,' या ओळींचा समावेश आहे. तसेच शाहीर विशारद डॉ. आझाद नायकवडी व त्यांच्या पथकाने 'गोरगरीब मराठ्यांना न्याय देण्याला, सामान्य जनतेचा कैवारी आला. रयतेच्या सुखासाठी उपोषणाला अन्न घेण्याचा त्याग हा केला,' हे विशेष गीत तयार केले आहे.

# पारगाव पूरग्रस्तांचा आत्मदहनाचा प्रयत्न

## पोलिस-आंदोलकांत झटापट; इचलकरंजी प्रांत कार्यालयाला पोलिस छावणीचे स्वरूप

**इचलकरंजी : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा**

महापुराच्या धोक्यापासून सुरक्षितस्थळी पुनर्वसन करण्यास चालढकल झाल्याने वैतागलेल्या जुने पारगाव येथील पूरग्रस्तांनी शुक्रवारी इचलकरंजी प्रांत कार्यालयाच्या आवारात सामूहिकपणे पेटवून घेण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. यावेळी रॉकेल, डिझेलच्या बाटल्या हिसकावून घेताना पोलिस आणि आंदोलकांत झटापट झाली. त्यामुळे प्रचंड तणाव निर्माण झाला होता. या आंदोलनाच्या पार्श्वभूमीवर प्रांत कार्यालयाच्या परिसरात कडक बंदोबस्त ठेवल्यामुळे पोलिस छावणीचे स्वरूप आले होते.

इचलकरंजी : प्रांत कार्यालयाच्या आवारात रॉकेल ओतून पेटवून घेण्याचा प्रयत्न करताना पारगाव येथील पूरग्रस्त. यावेळी पोलिस-आंदोलकांत अशी झटापट झाली.

दरम्यान, आंदोलकांची समजूत काढून प्रांताधिकारी डॉ. विकास खरात यांनी तातडीने पर्यायी व्यवस्था करू, असे आश्वासन दिल्यानंतर आंदोलन तात्पुरते स्थगित करण्यात आले.

१७८ पूरग्रस्त कुटुंबांतील पुरुष महिला, लहान मुलांसह एका ट्रकमधून अचानकपणे प्रांत कार्यालयाच्या आवारात दाखल झाले. ट्रकमधून उतरत हातात रॉकेल, डिझेलच्या बाटल्या घेऊन घोषणाबाजी करीत प्रांत कार्यालयाच्या दिशेने चाल केली. पोलिसांनी आंदोलकांना गराडा घालून त्यांच्या हातातील रॉकेल, डिझेलच्या बाटल्या हिसकावून घेण्याचा प्रयत्न केला. यावेळी जोरदार झटापट झाली. दरम्यान, दहा ते पंधरा आंदोलकांनी रॉकेल, डिझेल अंगावर ओतून घेतले. त्यामुळे स्फोटक स्थिती निर्माण झाली. मात्र, रॉकेल ओतून घेतलेल्या आंदोलकांना पोलिसांनी गराडा घालून पोलिस व्हॅनमध्ये कोंबल्यामुळे पुढील अनर्थ टळला. प्रांत कार्यालयासमोर आत्मदहनाचा प्रयत्न करणाऱ्या जावेद मुल्ला याच्यासह तिघांना शिवाजीनगर पोलिसांनी ताब्यात घेऊन नंतर सोडून दिले.

यावेळी तहसीलदार कल्पना ढवळे, पोलिस निरीक्षक महादेव वाघमोडे यांच्यासह आंदोलकांच्या वतीने संघटनेचे जिल्हाध्यक्ष वैभव कांबळे, अभिषेक पाटील, संपत पोवार, शिवाजी आंबेकर, पांडुरंग इंगळे, राजाराम कदम, अनिल माळी, रमेश गायकवाड, विनायक घाटगे, जावेद मुल्ला, विष्णू भांडवले, विश्वास बालिघाटे आदी उपस्थित होते.

### जागा अपुरी असल्याचे कारण

पुराच्या त्रासामुळे प्रशासनाने जुने परगाव येथील ३९५ पूरग्रस्तांची यादी केली होती. यापैकी २७६ जणांना प्रत्येकी दीड गुंठ्याप्रमाणे भूखंड दिले आहेत. अद्याप १७८ पूरग्रस्त भूखंडाच्या प्रतीक्षेत आहेत. मात्र, पूरग्रस्तांच्या पुनर्वसनासाठी जागा अपुरी असल्याचे कारण देत प्रकरण रेंगाळत ठेवल्याचा आरोप पूरग्रस्तांनी केला.

कोल्हापूर : 'सारथी' संस्थेच्या कामाचा आढावा घेण्यासाठी पालकमंत्री सतेज पाटील यांनी शुक्रवारी बैठक घेतली. यावेळी 'सारथी'चे अशोक काकडे, अशोक पाटील, मराठा संघटनांचे प्रतिनिधी वसंतराव मुळीक, ॲड. गुलाबराव घोरपडे, हर्षल सुर्वे, प्रताप नाईक आदी उपस्थित होते. (छाया : पप्पू अत्तार)

# 'सारथी'च्या योजना विद्यार्थ्यांपर्यंत पोहोचवा

## उपकेंद्रे, कर्मचारी नेमणुकीसाठी प्रयत्न करणार : पालकमंत्री

**कोल्हापूर : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा**

'सारथी' संस्थेतर्फे राबविण्यात येणाऱ्या योजनांची माहिती मराठा समाजातील विद्यार्थ्यांपर्यंत पोहोचविण्यासाठी व्यापक प्रयत्न आणि समाजमाध्यमांचाही प्रभावी वापर करा. कोल्हापूरसह राज्यातील आठ उपकेंद्रांच्या निर्मितीसाठी महसूल विभागाकडे पाठपुरावा करू, या केंद्रांसाठी २७३ कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या नियुक्तीसाठी मुख्य सचिवांची भेट घेणार असल्याचे पालकमंत्री सतेज पाटील यांनी सांगितले.

मराठा सामाजातील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या पाठबळासाठी स्थापन केलेल्या छत्रपती शाहू महाराज संशोधन, प्रशिक्षण व मानव विकास संस्था (सारथी) च्या कामकाजाचा आढावा शुक्रवारी 'अजिंक्यतारा' कार्यालयात पालकमंत्री सतेज पाटील यांनी घेतला. यावेळी 'सारथी'चे व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक अशोक काकडे, निबंधक अशोक पाटील, मराठा महासंघाचे राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष वसंतराव मुळीक, ॲड. गुलाबराव घोरपडे, इतिहास संशोधक इंद्रजित सावंत, हर्षल सुर्वे, अवधूत पाटील, प्रताप नाईक, 'सारथी'चे संशोधक अमर पाटील, प्रकल्प अधिकारी श्रीकांत देशमुख, स्वरूप यादव आदी उपस्थित होते.

'सारथी' संस्थेचा भविष्यकालीन आराखडा तयार करण्याचे काम सुरू आहे. यात सन २०२२ ते २०३० या कालावधीसाठीची योजना तयार करण्यात येणार असल्याचे काकडे यांनी सांगितले.

# पोर्ले तर्फ ठाणे येथे गव्याकडून चार एकरांतील पिकांचे नुकसान

**पोर्ले तर्फ ठाणे : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा**

पोर्ले तर्फ ठाणे (ता. पन्हाळा) येथे येथील दोन दिवस गव्यांच्या मोठ्या कळपाने धुडगूस घातला आहे. यामध्ये परिसरातील चार ते पाच एकर शेतातील पिकांचे मोठ्या प्रमाणात नुकसान झाले आहे.

गेल्या दोन दिवसांपासून गव्याचा एक मोठा कळप येथील परशुराम मंदिराच्या परिसरात चरण्याच्या डोंगरावर तळ ठोकून आहे. या कळपात पंधरा ते सोळा गवे आहेत. गुरुवारी सायंकाळी काही तरुण व्यायामासाठी डोंगरावर गेले होते. तिथे त्यांना गव्याच्या कळपाचे दर्शन झाले. गुरुवारी रात्री गव्याच्या कळपाने पंडित चौगुले, महादेव चौगुले, दीपक चौगुले, शहाजी चौगुले यांच्या डोंगरावरील शेतातील शाळू पिक फस्त करून मोठे नुकसान केले आहे. तसेच त्याच रात्री डोंगरावरून खाली उतरून मसाई मंदिर परिसरातील खोरी नावाच्या परिसरात मेंढपाळाच्या घोड्याला मारले आहे. तसेच चार ते पाच एकर शेतातील खोडवा व लागण केलेल्या ऊस पिकांचे नुकसान नुकसान केले आहे. गव्याचा कळप आल्यामुळे परिसरात भितीचे वातावरण आहे. वन विभागाने त्वरित गव्याच्या कळपाचा बंदोबस्त करावा, अशी ग्रामस्थांकडून मागणी होत आहे.

# भुयेवाडी परिसरात गव्याचा वावर

**शिरोली एमआयडीसी :** भुयेवाडी (ता. करवीर) येथील चौगले मळा परिसरात गव्याचा वावर असल्याचे शेतकऱ्यांच्या निदर्शनास आले. त्यामुळे परिसरात प्रचंड घबराट पसरली आहे. येथील शेतकरी दत्तात्रय धोंडिराम चौगले हे रात्री साडेआठच्या सुमारास चौगले मळा येथील शेतात पाणी देण्यासाठी गेले होते. यावेळी त्यांना गवा दिसला. हा गवा चौगले मळा, केरू पाटील मळा, संतू पाटील मळा, चिखल वाडा, या परिसरात दिसला आहे. या परिसरातील शेतकऱ्यांनी काळजी घ्यावी असे आवाहन भुयेवाडी ग्रामपंचायतीने केले आहे.

# मंत्र्यांची विनंती स्वाभिमानीने फेटाळली

## मंत्री मुश्रीफ, पालकमंत्री पाटील यांची आंदोलनस्थळी भेट; चौथ्या दिवशीही आंदोलन सुरूच

**कोल्हापूर : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा**

स्वाभिमानी शेतकरी संघटनेने शेतीसाठी दिवसा वीजपुरवठा सुरू करण्याच्या मागणीसाठी महावितरण कार्यालयासमोर बेमुदत धरणे आंदोलन सुरू केले आहे. या आंदोलनाला शुक्रवारी ग्रामविकासमंत्री हसन मुश्रीफ व पालकमंत्री सतेज पाटील यांनी भेट दिली. यावेळी त्यांनी शेतकऱ्यांना दिवसा वीज मिळावी, असे आमचेही मत असून त्यासाठी निश्चित पाठपुरावा करू. त्यामुळे आंदोलन मागे घ्यावे, अशी विनंती त्यांनी केली; परंतु त्याला माजी खासदार राजू शेट्टी यांनी स्पष्ट नकार दिला. त्यामुळे चौथ्या दिवशीही बेमुदत धरणे आंदोलन सुरूच राहिले.

कोल्हापूर : स्वाभिमानी शेतकरी संघटनेच्या आंदोलनास ग्रामविकासमंत्री हसन मुश्रीफ यांनी भेट देऊन राजू शेट्टी यांच्याशी चर्चा केली. सोबत जिल्हा राष्ट्रवादीचे अध्यक्ष ए. वाय. पाटील, जि.प. सदस्य युवराज पाटील, मनोज फराकटे, भैया माने आदी.

मंत्री मुश्रीफ यांनी शेट्टी यांच्याशी चर्चा केली. यावेळी मुश्रीफ यांनी शेट्टी यांना मुंबईत मंत्रालयात ऊर्जामंत्री व वरिष्ठ अधिकाऱ्यांची बैठक घेऊन यावर चर्चा करू. तोपर्यंत आंदोलन थांबवावे, अशी विनंती केली; परंतु शेट्टी यांनी बैठकीतून काही ठोस निर्णय होत नसल्याचे सांगत पुराच्यावेळी जाहीर केलेल्या मदतीचा अनुभव वाईट आहे, असे म्हणत शेतीला दिवसा वीज मिळत नाही तोपर्यंत आंदोलन सुरूच ठेवण्याचा निर्णय घेतला.

शेट्टी व शेतकऱ्यांशी चर्चा केल्यानंतर मुश्रीफ यांनी ऊर्जामंत्री नितीन राऊत, महावितरणचे कार्यकारी संचालक विजय सिंघल, सचिव वाघमारे यांना फोन करून त्यांची व शेट्टी यांची चर्चा घडवून आणली. या सर्वांशी शेट्टी यांनीही सविस्तर चर्चा केली. मात्र, दिवसा वीज सुरू झाल्याशिवाय आंदोलन मागे घेणार नसल्याचे स्पष्ट केले.

पालकमंत्री सतेज पाटील यांनीही आंदोलनस्थळी भेट देऊन शेट्टी यांच्याशी चर्चा केली. यावेळी जि.प.सदस्य पांडुरंग भांदिगरे, अमर पाटील, भुजगोंड पाटील आदी उपस्थित होते. शनिवारी करंजफेण परिसरातील शेतकरी चालत आंदोलनात सहभागी होण्यासाठी येणार आहेत.

मंत्र्यांच्या समर्थनासाठी राज्याचे संपूर्ण मंत्रिमंडळ रस्त्यावर उतरले आहे; परंतु शेतीसाठी दिवसा वीज मिळावी म्हणून सुरू असलेल्या आंदोलनाच्या चौकशीस सरकारला वेळ नसल्याची टीका शेट्टी यांनी केली.

यावेळी राष्ट्रवादीचे जिल्हाध्यक्ष ए. वाय. पाटील, जि.प.सदस्य युवराज पाटील, मनोज फराकटे, भैया माने आदी उपस्थित होते.

### मंत्र्यांची भेट अन् स्वच्छता

महावितरण कार्यालयासमोर शेतकऱ्यांचे आंदोलन सुरू आहे. पण, तेथील स्वच्छतेकडे मनपाने लक्ष दिले नाही; परंतु शुक्रवारी मंत्री आंदोलनाला भेट देणार असल्यामुळे या परिसरातील स्वच्छता करण्यात आली.

# वळिवडे येथे पंचगंगेच्या पात्रात मृत माशांचा खच

## परिसरात प्रचंड दुर्गंधी; 'प्रदूषण नियंत्रण'चे दुर्लक्ष

**गांधीनगर : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा**

पंचगंगा नदीच्या प्रदूषणाचा प्रश्न ऐरणीवर आला असतानाच शुक्रवारी वळिवडे (ता. करवीर) येथील सुर्वे बंधाऱ्याजवळ पंचगंगेच्या पात्रात हजारो मृत माशांचा खच पडल्याचे समोर आले आहे. या मृत माशांमुळे परिसरात प्रचंड दुर्गंधी पसरली आहे.

पंचगंगा नदीचा गांधीनगर घाट परिसर, निगडेवाडी येथील घाट व वळिवडे घाट परिसरात मृत मासे पाण्यावर तरंगताना दिसत आहेत. वळिवडे बंधाऱ्यानजीक तर माशांचा मोठा खच पडला आहे. या परिसरात दुर्गंधी इतकी पसरली आहे की आंघोळीसाठी आलेले नागरिक आंघोळ न करताच परतले. या दुर्गंधीमुळे आरोग्याचा प्रश्न निर्माण होणार आहे. हे मासे मृत्युमुखी पडण्यास कोणते कारण घडले, हे प्रशासनाने शोधून काढून संबंधितावर गुन्हे दाखल करावेत, अशी संतप्त प्रतिक्रिया अनेक नागरिकांनी व्यक्त केली. शिवसेनेचे विभागप्रमुख वीरेंद्र भोपळे यांनी नदी परिसराची पाहणी केली. वारंवार घडणाऱ्या मृत माशांच्या प्रकारावर प्रशासनाने उपाययोजना करावी; अन्यथा शिवसेनेला आंदोलन करावे लागेल, असा इशारा भोपळे यांनी दिला. दरम्यान, रात्री उशिरापर्यंत प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळाच्या कर्मचाऱ्यांना या प्रकाराची पाहणी करण्यासाठी सवड मिळाली नव्हती. त्यामुळे हे मंडळ नेमके कशासाठी आहे, असा प्रश्नही उपस्थित होत आहे.

### तीन दिवसांत दुसरा प्रकार

तीन दिवसांपूर्वी शिये पुलाजवळ मृत माशांचा खच पडला होता. त्यानंतर आता गांधीनगरपासून वळिवडेपर्यंतचे मासे मृत झाले आहेत. प्रदूषणाची तीव्रता वाढत असून ती जलचरांच्या जीवावर बेतत असतानाही प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ झोपेचे सोंग घेऊन बसल्याचे चित्र आहे.

# PM to discuss Gati Shakti with India Inc Monday

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 25 February

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host a virtual meet on Monday that will see participants of states, top industrialists, especially from the infrastructure space, to apprise them of the government's latest push towards its ambitious Gati Shakti approach.

Heads of companies such as Cube Highways, Tata Chemicals, Flipkart, TVS, Bain and Company, among others, are expected to be present. Besides, officials from states have also been invited, a senior government official told *Business Standard*.

The official said that over a period of time, the larger idea is to give access to the Gati Shakti or the national masterplan platform for multimodal connectivity to private players to ensure speedy implementation of infrastructure projects across the country.

Gati Shakti, a digital portal, is currently in a testing phase but officials said that a full-fledged launch should be done by the end of March. "Right now, the portal is still being developed. Some layers of data integration are yet to be done," the official cited above said. He added that the prime minister's virtual meeting will ensure the Centre is able to keep up with the momentum of the Budget announcement.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host a virtual meet with heads of top companies and officials from states**

In the Union Budget 2022-23, the finance minister had said Gati Shakti would not only be a tool to give impetus to economic growth but will also be one of the four priorities for the government next fiscal year.

Most central government departments have already started using the digital portal. The Centre is also coordinating with all state governments, handholding them to integrate state-wise data. Among states, Gujarat is already on board.

"Once we have the entire data (including from states), we will also let private companies use the portal with nominal fees. Meanwhile, we need to prepare protocols for private users' access, keeping the data security in mind," the official said.

Launched in October, Gati Shakti is being developed into a digital platform, integrating the existing portal and data of key infrastructure ministries, as well as state governments.

It has been prepared depicting the economic zones and the infrastructure linkages needed to support them. It will help in reducing project planning and implementation time with the availability of more data on the platform, fill in the missing gaps in logistics, and draw more investments into the country.

# Bitcoin legal or not? SC seeks Centre's response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 25 February

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre to make its stand clear on whether cryptocurrency trade involving Bitcoin or any other such currencies is legal in India or not.

A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant, which was dealing with a case related to the quashing of multiple FIRs registered against one Ajay Bhardwaj and others for allegedly duping investors across India by inducing them to trade in Bitcoin and assuring them high returns, said that the accused were booked for their involvement in Bitcoin trade.

The Bench told Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for Centre and Enforcement Directorate, "We want you to tell us on affidavit whether cryptocurrency trade involving Bitcoin or any other such currencies is legal in India or not? What is the regime for Bitcoin trade at present?" Bhati said she would file an affidavit on the legality of the cryptocurrency trade and added that the accused, who is seeking quashing of proceedings, has not been cooperating with the investigating agency after being granted bail by the court in 2019.

She said that 47 FIRs have been registered against the accused of duping people across the country and the issue involves a trade of 87,000 Bitcoin worth ₹20,000 crore.

The Bench ordered, "We direct the petitioner to appear before the investigating officer of Directorate of Enforcement within two days and thereafter cooperate with the investigation as and when called upon to do so. The investigating officer shall file a fresh status report before this court on or before four weeks, indicating the progress of the investigation and whether there has been any cooperation on the part of the accused. List after four weeks".

The bench said the adinterim order restraining the arrest of Bhardwaj shall continue till the next date of listing of the matter.

At the outset, Advocate Shoeb Alam, appearing for one of FIR informant Vipin Kohli, said that he has filed an application seeking cancellation of bail granted to Bhardwaj on the ground that he has not disclosed true facts of the matter to this court and concealed material in his writ petition thereby misleading this court.

The advocate said that Bhardwaj has deliberately suppressed the fact that Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Patiala House Court through court notice had issued a proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused under section 82 of Criminal Procedure Code.

"These material facts were not disclosed to the court when the bail was granted to him. Hence, we are seeking cancellation of bail granted to the petitioner," Alam submitted.

# ESIC scheme adds 1.52 mn new members in Dec

Around 1.52 million new members joined the ESIC-run social security scheme in December 2021 against 1.03 million in the previous month, the official data showed on Friday, giving a perspective on formal sector employment in the country.

The latest data is part of a report released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Gross new enrolments with Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) were 1.07 million in April, 894,000 in May, 1.1 million in June, 1.32 million in July, 1.35 million in August, 1.36 million in September and 1.2 million in October 2021, the latest data showed. **PTI**

# Govt plans to buy record 44 mt wheat next year

India plans to procure a huge 44.4 million tonnes (mt) of wheat from farmers in the forthcoming 2022-23 season that will start from April, which is 2.44 per cent more than the purchases made during the current season, an official statement said on Friday.

Of this, Punjab will contribute the maximum 13.2 mt, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 12.8 mt and Haryana at 8.5 mt. Wheat production in the 2022-23 marketing season is projected at a record 111.32 mt, up 1.58 per cent from last year. **PTI**

# FDI equity inflows dip 16% during Apr-Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 25 February

Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 16 per cent to \$43.17 billion during the April-December 2021 period, according to data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The inflows had stood at \$51.47 billion during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The total FDI inflows (which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital) aggregated at \$60.34 billion during the nine month period of the current fiscal year as against \$67.5 billion in the year-ago period.

The equity inflows in the third quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021) also declined to \$12 billion as against \$21.46 billion in the corresponding period of 2020, the data showed.

The total FDI inflows fell to \$17.94 billion during the third quarter as against \$26.16 billion in the year-ago period.

The equity inflows in the third quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021) also declined to \$12 billion as against \$21.46 billion in the corresponding period of 2020, the data showed.

The total FDI inflows fell to \$17.94 billion during the third quarter as against \$ 26.16 billion in the year-ago period. During April-December 2021, Singapore was at the top with \$11.7 billion worth of investments. It was followed by the US (\$7.52 billion), Mauritius (\$6.58 billion), Cayman Islands (\$2.74 billion), Netherlands (\$2.66 billion) and UK (\$1.44 billion).

The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows of \$ 10.25 billion during the nine-month period of this fiscal. It was followed by the automobile industry (\$ 5.96 billion), services sector (\$ 5.35 billion), construction (infrastructure) activities (\$ 1.6 billion) and pharma (\$ 1.2 billion), the data showed.

FROM PAGE 1

## Threat to global peace..

The Union Budget 2022 has provided the largest ever capital expenditure outlay at ₹7.5 trillion for FY23, although ₹1 trillion out of this is in the form of long- term loan to states to support capex needs.

"The third element I will put money into is health and education," Sitharaman said, adding that success of all these three planks required seamless coordination between the Centre and states.

## CBI arrests...

The CBI has also questioned Chitra Ramkrishna, former managing director (MD) and former chief executive officer (CEO) of the exchange, and Ravi Narain, also former CEO of the NSE.

A report of the Securities and Exchange Board of India earlier this month showed that Ramkrishna took key decisions at the NSE from 2013 to 2016 on the advice of a "Himalayan yogi", whom she had never met and who instructed her to appoint Subramanian group operating officer. Subramanian was offered a salary of ₹1.68 crore a year to join the NSE as chief strategic advisor on April 1, 2013, when he was vice-president at Leasing & Repair Services of Transafe Services Ltd, a subsidiary of Balmer Lawrie & Co. His salary was less than ₹15 lakh per annum.

Sebi, in its report earlier this month, said the best practices were not followed in Subramanian's appointment.

In less than three years, Subramanian's salary jumped to ₹4.2 crore a year for working as consultant for four days in a week. Subramanian was later re-designated group operating officer and advisor to the MD with effect from April 1, 2015, but was never declared key management personnel by the exchange.

Sebi had penalised the NSE, Ramkrishna, and Narain for governance lapses in hiring Subramanian. Ramkrishna was told to pay ₹3 crore, and Narain, Subramanian, and the NSE ₹2 crore each.

Ramkrishna and Subramanian were restrained from associating themselves with any market infrastructure institution or Sebi-registered intermediary in any capacity for three years. For Narain the bar was two years.

The four-year-old FIR of the CBI was primarily against Sanjay Gupta, MD of OPG Securities. It also named his brother-in-law Aman Kokrady and Ajay Shah, a data specialist and researcher employed by the NSE, along with unknown officials of the NSE and Sebi for their role in the controversy.

Between June 2010 and March 2014, the NSE had deployed the so-called tick-by-tick (TBT) architecture at its colo facility. TBT disseminated data feed sequentially, giving preference to trading members (TM) that had connected first to the colo server.

Taking advantage of the system, OPG Securities frequently obtained first access to the exchange system in connivance with certain NSE staffers. The issue was brought to light by a whistleblower, Ken Fong, who sent three complaint letters to Sebi in January, August, and October 2015, following which the regulator initiated multiple investigations and forensic audits into the matter.

In April 2019, Sebi directed the exchange to disgorge ₹625 crore, along with an interest of 12 per cent annum since 2014, for lapses at its colo facility, which allowed unfair access to certain brokers. Sebi also told Narain and Ramkrishna, who were at the helm when the exchange servers were exploited, to disgorge a fourth of their salary for a specific period.

The market regulator directed OPG Securities, Gupta, and three others to disgorge ₹15.6 crore, with an interest of 12 per cent per annum since April 2014.

All of them have moved the Securities Appellate Tribunal against the order, where the matter is currently being heard.