

Technology giants Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft have announced the slashing of thousands from their workforce in the last couple of months. This has been described as Big Tech's "midlife crisis." As per some industry insiders, between 30% to 40% of those laid off are Indian IT professionals. A sizeable number of them are now scrambling for options to stay in the U.S. in order to find a new job before their work visas expire.

The advent of the coronavirus pandemic brought along rapid growth for the tech sector as work became increasingly remote, e-commerce grew amid lockdowns and housebound people spent more and more time online. Riding on the accelerating growth, Big Tech companies and even some small ones went on a hiring spree from the start of the pandemic. This growth has since slowed down, as pointed out by the CEOs.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will participate in the meeting of G-20 Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on March 1 and 2, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said on Monday. As part of the Group's activities, India intends to hold more than 200 meetings in 55 locations to showcase its cultural heritage, culminating in the annual G-20 summit scheduled for September 9 and 10 in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had previously said the country's G-20 presidency would be inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action oriented. The G-20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

The Union government will soon kick off the process to set up the 16th Finance Commission, with the Finance Ministry likely to notify the terms of references for the constitutional body, tasked with recommending the revenue sharing formula between the Centre and the States and their distribution among the States, towards the latter half of this year. The 15th Finance Commission was set up in November 2017 with a mandate to make recommendations for the five-year period from 2020-21. While the Constitution requires a Finance Commission (FC) to be set up every five years, the 15th FC's mandate was extended by a year till 2025-26, breaking the cycle.

Opposition parties raised demands for debates during the Budget Session of Parliament on alleged stock manipulation and tax evasion by the Adani Group, and the attack on the federal structure of the country by Governors of many States. Participating in a multiparty meeting on the eve of the session, the Aam Aadmi Party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India demanded a reply from the government on allegations made by U.S. based short seller Hindenburg Research, considering the high exposure of the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India to the Adani Group.

CENTRE SETS UP PANELS FOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST ONLINE PLATFORMS

1. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has established three Grievance Appellate Committees (GAC) under rule 3A of IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Composition of GACs Each GACs consists of a chairperson as Ex-officio, and two whole-time members (one is retired member) for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
2. Role of GACs-Oversee and revoke content moderation-related decisions taken by social media and other internet-based platforms. If a user is unsatisfied with content moderation decision taken by a social company's grievance officer, they can appeal to GACs within one month. GAC will have to resolve the appeal within a month of receipt of appeal. Committees can seek assistance of people with expertise and experience while dealing with users' appeals. They will adopt an online dispute resolution mechanism.
3. Need of GACs-To ensure that Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted, and Accountable. Large numbers of grievances are being left unaddressed by Internet Intermediaries. To create a culture of responsiveness amongst Intermediaries towards consumers.

PRIME MINISTER (PM) SPOKE ABOUT DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY

1. In latest address to Citizens, PM spoke about grassroots-level governance (Uthiramerur inscriptions, Anubhav Mandapam of Lord Basaveshwara and Kakatiya dynasty) that was practiced during ancient and medieval times.
2. **Uthiramerur inscriptions**-This inscription, dated around 920 A.D in reign of Parantaka Chola-I (907-955 AD). It is an ancient Chola village once known as Chaturvedimangalam and is located near Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Chola's self-governance was built upon 'general assemblies' or 'sabhas' or 'maha sabha' of villages. As per Uthiramerur inscriptions on Chola Kudavolai Election System: Every village was categorised as kudumbu (ward in modern day parlance) where representatives of general assembly were elected. Qualification for contesting: Must own land, own a house built on legally-owned site, have knowledge of 'Mantrabrahmana', and above 35 years of age and below 70 years. Disqualification: If elected members proven guilty of misconduct, they were disqualified from contesting future elections. Acts of misconduct included accepting bribes, misappropriating else's property. Committees: Village general assembly resolved to choose member for Annual Committee, Garden Committee, and Water bodies Committee.
3. **Anubhava Mantapa of Lord Basaveshwara**-It was established by Lord Basaveshwara to facilitate gathering for philosophy and experience. Anubhava Mantapa was one of the earliest Parliament in history of mankind. Prabhudeva, a great Yogi of extraordinary achievement, was the President and Lord Basava acted as the Prime Minister. Problems tackled were of various natures covering social, religious, spiritual, yogic psychological, economic, and literary spheres. Only difference between the present-day parliament and Anubhava Mantapa is that members were not elected by people, but were picked up or nominated by higher authorities of Mantapa. Lord Basaveshwara (1105-1167) He was a 12th century poet and born in Karnataka. Known for Socio-Religious Reforms, Anubhava Mantapa, Vachana Literature and Lingayat Movement in south India. Basava Purana, written by Palkuriki Somanatha in 13th-century, holds full account to Basavanna's life and ideas. Who rejected gender and caste discrimination, superstitions, and rituals. A strong promoter of ahimsa (non-violence), he condemned human and animal sacrifices. Basava Jayanthi is an annual event celebrated in his honour of birth.
4. **Kakatiya Tradition**-It ruled the region comprising present-day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from 12th to 14th centuries, with Warangal as Capital. They constructed irrigation tanks that played a critical role in peasantry life. These tanks are in use currently. There were elected committees in the villages to look after installation and maintenance of tanks, canals, and reservoirs.

OBC (OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES) SUB-CATEGORISATION PANEL GETS 14TH EXTENSION

1. Government had constituted the Rohini commission in 2017 under Article 340 to examine issues related to sub-categorisation of OBCs. Article 340 states that President appoints the Commission to investigate conditions of socially and educationally backward classes.
2. Objective of Rohini Commission is to examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation (i.e., 27% reservation in jobs and education) among castes or communities with reference to central OBC list.
3. **Need for sub-categorisation**-OBCs are currently granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under central government. However,

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Monday clarified that topics of national importance and social relevance embedded in programmes broadcast by private TV channels would qualify for their obligation under the “Guidelines for uplinking and downlinking of television channels in India, 2022” to telecast such contents for 30 minutes daily. “Broadcasters have the liberty to modulate their content. The relevant content embedded in the programmes may be accounted for public service broadcasting. However, it should be done in a manner that the overall objective of the public service broadcasting may be achieved,” the Ministry said in a fresh advisory.

70 billion rupees, the exposure Punjab National Bank (PNB) has in Adani Group, according to CEO Atul Kumar Goel. However, the bank is keeping a “close eye” on the developments pertaining to the news flow around Hindenburg’s report, Mr. Goel said. PNB also reported a 44% decline in standalone net profit in the third quarter that ended in December.

133 number of people who have died due to man elephant conflicts in Jharkhand in the last fiscal, a steep climb from 84 the year before. Shrinking animal habitats and fast vanishing corridors amid rampant construction activities have spiked the conflicts in the State. A total of 462 people has died in a span of five years since 2017.

41 percentage by which shares of Adani Transmission have tumbled since Tuesday’s close last week. Adani Total Gas tanked 39.57%, Adani Green Energy declined 37.55% and Adani Ports fell 23.75% on the BSE. Shares of Adani group firms have faced heavy drubbing after U.S. based short seller Hindenburg Research made damaging allegations against the conglomerate.

The crucial hurdle in the way of reforming the United Nations comes from the disunited state of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Csaba Korosi, President of the 77th UNGA, said here on Monday. Speaking at a media stakeout, Mr. Korosi, who arrived here on Sunday on a four-day visit ahead of his trip to China, said the reform of the UN Security Council was a member driven process and for that, the members of the UNGA had to first come together to pass a resolution demanding the reform of the Security Council.

it is perceived that only a few affluent communities in Central List of OBCs have secured a major part of this reservation.

4. **Earlier Commissions**-First Backward Class Commission report, 1955 proposed sub-categorization of OBCs into backward and extremely backward communities. Mandal Commission report, 1979 proposed sub-categorization in intermediate and depressed backward classes. In 2015, National Commission for Backward Classes proposed that OBCs division into; Extremely Backward Classes (EBC-Group A), More Backward Classes (MBC-Group B), and Backward Classes (BC-Group C).

UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) DOES NOT REFLECT TODAY’S REALITIES: UNGA (UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY) PRESIDENT

1. UNGA President, during his visit to India, underscored the shortcomings of UNSC and asserted for need of reforms in it. His remarks came in the backdrop of Russia, a permanent member of UNSC (refer infographics), attacking Ukraine. UNSC, established by UN Charter in 1945, is one of the six principal organs of UN with a primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.
2. UNSC is composed of 15 members (refer infographic). Under UN Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. Security Council has power to make binding decisions on member states.
3. Issues with UNSC-UNSC does not represent contemporary world. Inadequate regional representation. Developing countries are underrepresented, and there are no permanent members from either Africa or Latin America. Lack of transparency and efficiency in decision-making process.
4. Misuse of veto power by permanent members. Russia has vetoed UNSC resolutions on Ukraine. India’s key demand on reforms includes Permanent membership to G4 members (India, Germany, Brazil, Japan and India). Abolition of veto. Equitable geographical representation.

BAIL PROCESS

1. SC presses need for reform on bail processes. Bail refers to the temporary release of the accused in a criminal case in which court has a trial pending and is yet to announce the judgement. Bail is a right if the person accused is detained or arrested for a bailable offence (Section 436 of CrPC).
2. Anticipatory Bail: A person can apply for this if there is a threat that he/she could be arrested for a non-bailable offence (Section 438 of CrPC). Court has power to cancel bail at any stage under sections 437 and 439 of CrPC. Grounds of cancellation of bail: When a person is indulged in criminal activity and misuse of their liberty.

AVIATION GASOLINE

1. In a first, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has started exports of Aviation gasoline. Aviation gasoline powers unmanned aerial vehicles and piston-engine aircraft used by flying schools. It is a higher-octane aviation fuel meeting the product specifications with superior performance, and quality standards and is cheaper compared to imported grades.
2. Fuel that fires the engines of large commercial jets is called aviation turbine fuel (ATF). Global market of Aviation gasoline is about USD 2.7-billion. The Gasoline has been tested and certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.
3. High demand for fuel is in South America, Asia Pacific, West Asia, Africa, and Europe. Currently, great majority (more than 99%) of aviation fuel used in both civil and military aircraft is jet fuel.



“You must have a solid foundation for your edifice of success. It is made up of pure failure.”

DR. KHAN
(KSG)