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INDIA DOWN

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TRUMP NAMES 2 LAWYERS TO
IMPEACHMENT DEFENCE TEAM

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Ranjana Dixit | Pioneer

REININVIGORATING SHOT

Budget aims to revive economy hit by Covid; doubling farmers' income; strong infrastructure, healthy India, good governance, opportunities for youth, inclusive development among Sitharaman's 8 focus areas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Spurred by the Covid-19 wake-up call, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman kept her focus on reinvigorating the growth in her third Union Budget with a massive allocation for health and infrastructure sectors and measures to boost agriculture infrastructure with agri infra cess on many products.

While leaving the tax slabs unchanged in the first paperless Union Budget on Monday, the FM provided little joy to the salaried class, but she did open up her purse for the poll-bound States.

The Budget gave a huge push for disinvestment by aiming to garner ₹1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions, including 2 PSU banks and one insurance company, in the next fiscal year.

The FM spelled out eight key areas in the Budget as the "Sankalp of NATION FIRST". These include doubling farmers' income; strong infrastructure; healthy India; good governance; opportunities for youth; education for all, women empowerment, and inclusive development.

There was some good news for senior citizens of 75 years and above. They will be exempted from filing income tax returns for the financial year beginning April 1. They will also not be required to have pension income and interest from fixed deposit in the same

bank. "For senior citizens who only have pension and interest income, I propose exemption from filing their income tax returns. The paying bank will deduct the necessary tax on their income," Sitharaman said.

Addressing reporters, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the exemption from filing income tax returns would be available only in case where the interest income is earned in the same bank where pension is deposited. "Persons whose age is above 75 years and who have pension income and interest from fixed deposit comes in the same bank and who has only interest income, they need not file income tax return."

"Bank will deduct the income tax which he has to pay and deposit to the Government. The condition is the person should have only pension income and interest from fixed deposit should accrue in the same bank," he said at the post-Budget Press conference.

He added that if the senior citizen person has other incomes, he/she would be required to file income tax return (ITR). "Generally, persons of 75 years or more have mostly pension income and the money is parked in fixed deposit from which he earns interest. For them, filing return used to be complicated. So, we have made it simpler and said banks will deduct their income tax and they need not file ITR," Pandey added.

Laying out the plan for disinvestment of banks, Sitharaman said, "For start ups, we are allowing 1 person company to grow without any restriction on their paid up capital. Other than IDBI we plan to take up two more banks for disinvestment. LIC IPO will come in 2022. All divestments announced so far, including Air India, BPCL, CONCOR, Pawan Hans, to be completed

by 2022."

The entire focus of the Budget is on reviving growth with levying additional tax burden. To achieve this, the Budget proposed to give boost to infrastructure and domestic manufacturing. The FM has raised the capital expenditure in the Budget by 26 per cent over the revised capital expenditure of FY21.

Continued on Page 2

Sensex zooms up by 2,315 pts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Markets roared back to life on Monday after six days of deep declines as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented an expansionary Union Budget for 2021-22 which sought to pull the economy out of the pandemic-induced slump through increased

spending on infrastructure, health-care and farm sectors without resorting to higher taxation.

The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 2,314.84 points or 5 per cent to finish at 48,600.61. This was its second-biggest single day jump in absolute terms and the best day in almost 10 months.

Detailed report on P8



- A separate ₹2,217 crore for 42 urban centres to tackle air pollution and the much-awaited voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and polluting vehicles
- ₹35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccine
- Cess on petrol, diesel, gold, other items to fund agri infra development
- ₹18,000 crore scheme to augment public transport in urban areas
- Rlys allocated ₹1.10 lakh crore; to monetise DFC; focus on National Rail Plan 2030
- In a marginal hike of around 1.4 per cent, the Defence Budget has been increased to ₹4.78 lakh crore
- Overall capital expenditure is ₹ 5.54 lakh crore. FM proposed a new centrally sponsored scheme, PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, with ₹64,180 crore over 6 years
- Budget outlay for Health and Wellbeing is estimated to be ₹2,23,846 crore for FY 2021-22, which is a rise by 137% year on year basis
- Senior citizens of 75 yrs and above need not file ITR if pension, FD interest arise in same bank
- Assessment proceedings in cases shall be reopened only up to three years, against the earlier time limit of six years

- The tax holiday for startups has been extended by one more year up to 31st March 2022
- Provision is made for faceless proceedings before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) in a jurisdiction less manner. It will reduce the cost of compliance for taxpayers, and increase transparency in the disposal of appeals
- In case the employee's PF contribution was deducted but not deposited by the employer, it will not be allowed as a deduction for the employer
- The stamp duty value can be up to 120% (earlier 110%) of the consideration if the transfer of "residential unit", which means an independent housing unit is made between 12th November 2020 and 30th June 2021
- The affordable housing additional deduction has been extended till 31st March 2022. The tax exemption has been granted for affordable rental projects
- Section 50 of the CGST Act is being amended to provide for a retrospective charge of interest on net cash liability with effect from the 1st July 2017
- Section 35 and 44 amended: Mandatory requirement of furnishing the GST reconciliation report signed by the specified professional is relaxed by allowing the filing of annual return on a self-certification basis. The Commissioner can exempt a class of taxpayers from the requirement of filing the annual return

137% hike for health, ₹64K cr PM Swasth Yojana launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Positioning health as one of the six crucial pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), the Government on Monday proposed a Budget outlay of ₹2,23,846 crore for the sector to be spread over the next six years, a massive increase of 137 per cent from the previous year, which include ₹35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccine and ₹64,180 crore for newly-announced PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Yojana.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who presented the Budget in the Lok Sabha, said the investment on public health, infrastructure has been increased substantially in the Budget. Taking a holistic approach, the Government is committed to strengthening three areas — preventive, curative and well-being, she said.

Sitharaman said the Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar Swasth

Yojana will be launched for developing capacities for primary, secondary and tertiary health-care systems, strengthening existing institutions and creating new institutions for detection and cure of new emerging diseases. This, she said, will be an addition to the National Health Mission.

The funds under the Atmanirbhar Swasth Mission will be used to support 17,000 rural and 11,000 urban well-nest centres, setting up integrated public health labs in all districts, over 3,800 block public health units in 11 States and establishing critical care hospital blocks in over 600 district hospitals and 12 central institutions, she said.

Similarly the money will be spent on strengthening National Centre for Disease Control and its five regional units, 20 metropolitan health surveillance units and on expansion of national health information portal, she said.

Continued on Page 2

Govt sends message to kisan with agri cess, 1K APMCs to join e-NAM

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid raging farmers' protest on the outskirts of Delhi over the farm laws, the Modi Government on Monday proposed an Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on certain items to boost agriculture infrastructure and also announced that 1,000 more agriculture product marketing committees (APMCs) or mandis will be linked to e-national agriculture market (e-NAM) and commitment on the minimum support price (MSP).

By this, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has tried to send a message to the agitating farmers groups that the Government has no intention of dismantling an established APMC system and MSP and will further be strengthened in the country.

The item coming under cess ambit are petrol, diesel, gold, alcoholic beverages, apples, Bengal Gram, and some

imported agricultural goods.

As per the Budget document, the agriculture cess of ₹2.5 per litre has been imposed on petrol and ₹4 per litre on diesel and 100 per cent on alcoholic beverages. The AIDC is a new cess introduced by the Government in the Union Budget 2021-22 which was presented in Parliament on Monday, which seeks to shore up resources for improvement in agriculture infrastructure in the country. The Government expects ₹30,000 crore through agri infra cess.

However, prices for petrol and diesel won't change because of reduction in other duties. Consequently, unbranded petrol and diesel will attract basic excise duty of ₹1.4, and ₹1.8 per litre respectively. Proposing the introduction of an agri infra development cess while presenting the Union Budget 2021-22, Sitharaman said it would not affect the consumers of most of these goods.

Continued on Page 2

Focus on rail, road infra to spur growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget has proposed massive impetus on infrastructure-building to spur growth. The Budget also gave special attention to the poll-bound States of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and allocated separate packages for infrastructure development in these States, particularly roads and highways.

The FM also announced a "National Rail Plan for India - 2030" under which a "future-ready" railway system will be created by 2030. To strengthen urban infrastructure, a new scheme will be launched at a cost of ₹18,000 crores to support the augmentation of public bus transport services.

Allocating an enhanced outlay of ₹1.18 lakh crore for the highways sector for 2021-21, execution of flagship highways corridors, as well as projects, are bound to speed up. An allocation of ₹91,823 crore was made to highways for 2020-21, which was revised to ₹1.01 lakh crore.

More than 13,000 km of roads at a cost of ₹3.3 lakh crore has already been awarded under the ₹5.35-lakh crore Bharatmala Pariyojana, of which 3,800 km have been constructed. "By March 2022, we would be awarding another 8,500 km and complete an additional 11,000 km of national highway corridors," she said.

The flagship projects that are to be expedited include Delhi-Mumbai Expressway; while for Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, 278 km will be initiated in the current financial year and construction will begin in 2021-22. The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor work will be initiated in the current financial year, while the Kanpur-Lucknow Expressway work will be initiated in 2021-22. A 277-km Chennai-Salem corridor will be awarded soon and construction would start in 2021-22.

Amritsar-Jamnagar road construction will start in 2021-22, and Delhi-Katra road construction will start in 2021-22.

Continued on Page 2

FM sets ball rolling for ₹1.75 lakh crore from disinvestment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday budgeted ₹1.75 lakh crore from stake sale in public sector companies and financial institutions, including two PSU banks and one general insurance company, in the next financial year beginning April 1.

The amount is lower than the record ₹2.10 lakh crore which was awarded from CPSE disinvestment in the current fiscal year. However, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the Government's CPSE stake sale programme, and the target has been lowered to ₹32,000 crore in the Revised Estimates. So far this fiscal year, the Government has mopped up ₹19,499 crore from CPSE stake sale and share buyback.

For fiscal year 2021-22, out of the total ₹1.75 lakh crore, ₹1 lakh crore is to accrue from selling Government stake in public sector banks and financial institutions. Rs 75,000

crore would come as CPSE disinvestment receipts.

Unveiling the Disinvestment/Strategic Disinvestment Policy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said four sectors — atomic energy, space and Defence; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services — would be strategic sectors. There will be bare minimum presence of the public sector enterprises. The remaining CPSEs in the strategic sectors will be privatised or merged or subsidised with other CPSEs or closed. In non-strategic sectors, CPSEs will be privatised, otherwise shall be closed.

The Minister said that the policy aims at minimising the presence of Central public sector enterprises, including financial institutions and creating new investment space for the private sector.

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This Budget will bring several positive changes for industries, investors, industry and infrastructure sector. I congratulate FM Nirmala ji and her team on this Budget
—NARENDRA MODI

This will pave the way for a self-reliant India, a \$5 trillion economy and double the income of farmers
—AMIT SHAH

The Budget is neither for the people nor for the much publicised V shaped revival of the economy, but for a K-shaped — rich becoming richer, poor poorer
—SITARAM YECHURY

Forget putting cash in the hands of people, the Modi Government plans to handover India's assets to his crony capitalist friends
—RAHUL GANDHI

They (BJP) lecture others on nationalism, but in practice, they are the ones who sell the nation. They are selling everything from PSUs, insurance, Railways to ports. This is a Budget to deceive the masses. It's anti-farmer, anti-people and anti-country Budget
—MAMATA BANERJEE

This Budget is a benefit to a few big companies. It will work to increase the problems of common people with inflation
—ARVIND KEJRIWAL

- COSTLIER**
- Refrigerators/AC compressors
 - LED lamps, printed circuit board, Solar inverters and lanterns
 - Raw silk and cotton
 - Automobile parts: Safety and toughened glasses, windshield wipers, signalling equipment
 - Mobile phone parts like camera module, connectors, back cover
 - Mobile phone charger components, — Inputs or raw materials of Lithium-ion battery
 - Ink cartridges and ink spray nozzle
 - Finished leather products, Nylon Fibre and Yarn
 - Plastic builder wares, cut and polished synthetic stones, cut and polished cubic zirconia
- CHEAPER**
- Gold and gold dore
 - Silver and silver dore
 - Platinum and palladium
 - Medical devices imported by international organisation and diplomatic missions

CAPSULE

NEW SETBACK FOR TMC AS TWO-TIME MLA QUILTS
Kolkata: Amid ongoing exodus from TMC, two-time MLA from Diamond Harbour Dipak Haldar Monday quit the party accusing the TMC leadership of not allowing him to work.

WILL PUNISH ATTACKERS: MODI TO NETANYAHU
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday and asserted that India will deploy all its resources to find and punish the perpetrators.

Farm protest sites in Delhi turn fortresses

Farmers announce NH blockade on Feb 6

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With hundreds of protesters pouring at Delhi's Ghazipur and Singhu borders on a daily basis, the Uttar Pradesh and Delhi Police put up cemented nails on the road near the protest sites in a bid to prevent movement of vehicles,

amid heavy deployment of security agencies personnel. Farmers announced nationwide agitation on February 6, issuing calls to block roads.

At Singhu border, security personnel from the paramilitary forces, Rapid Action Force and Central Reserve Police Force remained deployed in large numbers on Monday to maintain law and order.

Continued on Page 2

Military coup in Myanmar, Suu detained

AP ■ NAYPYITAW

Myanmar's military staged a coup on Monday and detained senior politicians including Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi — a sharp reversal of the significant, if uneven, progress toward democracy the Southeast Asian nation has made following five decades of military rule.

An announcement read on military-owned Myawaddy-TV said Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing would be in charge of

the country for one year. It said the seizure was necessary because the Government had not acted on the military's claims of fraud in November's elections — in which Suu Kyi's ruling party won a majority of the parliamentary seats up for grabs — and because it allowed the election to go ahead despite the coronavirus pandemic.

The takeover came the morning the country's new parliamentary session was to begin and follows days of concern that a military coup was coming.

The military maintains its actions are legally justified — citing a section of the constitution it drafted that allows it to take control in times of national emergency — though Suu Kyi's party spokesman as well as many international observers have said it amounts to a coup.

It was a dramatic backslide for Myanmar, which was emerging from decades of strict military rule and international isolation that began in 1962. It was also a shocking fall from power for Suu Kyi, a

Nobel peace laureate who had lived under house arrest for years as she tried to push her country toward democracy and then became its de facto leader after her National League for Democracy won elections in 2015.

While Suu Kyi had been a fierce antagonist of the Myanmar army while under house arrest, since her release and return to politics, she has had to work with the country's generals, who never fully gave up power.

Continued on Page 2

Mamata slams Union Budget

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has slammed the Union Budget 2021 calling it "fake, anti-farmer, anti-people, anti-country."

Speaking at a rally in North Bengal Banerjee on Monday said the Budget has been prepared with an eye on the elections adding it would bear no fruit but only hardship for the people of the country.

Singling out the Government's disinvestment and FDI initiative Banerjee said "they are selling away the LIC, BSNL, Rail, SAIL, GAIL... the jobs of people are not

secure... like Notebandi (demonetization) one day they will introduce Bankbandi (closure and privatization of banks) throwing out the entire economy asunder." The BJP will finally sell out the entire country Banerjee said asking the people to "sell (defeat them) before they sell out the country."

Attacking the BJP Government for introducing cess on petro products Banerjee said "such an exercise will finally lead to tremendous inflation... the price of eatables including food grains will go up incredibly and this Government will remain responsible for that."

Budget manifesto for poll-bound States: MVA

Mumbai: The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders in Maharashtra on Monday charged that the Union Budget for 2021-22 read like a manifesto for the Assembly election-bound States or a sale plan for the Government's assets, it had nothing for the State and Mumbai and it was a big disappointment for farmers, entrepreneurs, youth, women or children and the Covid 19-affected people in the State. In a castigation of the Union budget for 2021-22 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee President and state Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said: "The budget speech of the FM makes us question whether this budget is an election manifesto or a sale plan for the government assets.

Another TMC MLA quits party

Kolkata: Amid reports that the BJP had for the time being decided to not to take in more Trinamool Congress deserters into its fold another TMC MLA Dipak Haldar on Monday left the Bengal ruling outfit.

Haldar is a legislator from Diamond Harbor the parliamentary constituency of Trinamool MP and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee. Haldar who would not quit his MLA post however said that he had yet not decided about his future course of action though sources said he was in close touch with BJP leader Sovan Chatterjee. Earlier sources quoting Bengal BJP observer Kailash Vijabargiya said that the saffron outfit had for the time being decided not to take in more politicians from the TMC. PNS

Maha: 12 kids given sanitiser instead of polio vaccination, 3 nurses suspended

Three nurses at a Primary Health Centre in Ghatanji's Kapsi-Kopari village in Yavatmal district in eastern Maharashtra were suspended late on Monday evening, after a shocking lapse of administering hand sanitizers to 12 children instead of the oral polio vaccine drops came to light.

The Yavatmal district authorities initiated action against the three nurses after taking after a preliminary investigation into their alleged act of negligence. The incident took place on Sunday morning when the district authorities launched the polio vaccination programme under the national immunization drive.

FM sets ball...

From Page 1

"Post disinvestment, economic growth of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)/ financial institutions will be through the infusion of private capital, technology, and best management practices. Will contribute to economic growth and new jobs," the Budget said.

In her 2021-22 Budget speech, she said strategic disinvestment of BPCL, Air India, Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, IDBI Bank, BEML, Pawan Hans, Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd, among others would be completed in 2021-22.

"Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatisation of two public sector banks and one general insurance company in the year 2021-22. This would require legislative amendments and I propose to introduce the amendments in this session itself," she said.

Also the legislative amendments required for launching IPO of LIC would be brought in the ongoing session of Parliament.

To fast-track the disinvestment policy, NITI Aayog would work out on the next list of Central public sector companies that would be taken up for strategic disinvestment.

Also to similarly incentivise States to start disinvestment of their public sector companies, the Government will work out an incentive package of Central funds for States. Besides, to ensure timely completion of closure of sick or loss making CPSEs, a revised mechanism would be brought in, she said.

"Idle assets will not contribute to Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The non-core assets largely consist of surplus land with Government Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Enterprises.

Focus on rail...

From Page 1

In addition, Raipur-Vishakhapatnam 464-km project passing through Chhattisgarh, Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh will be awarded in the current year and construction will start in 2021-22.

Terminating a pragmatic one, Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari said the provisions for augmenting infrastructure will go a long way in laying a sound infra for the country.

While proposing investment in infrastructure projects in the four poll-bound States, Sitharaman also provided Rs 1,000 crore for the welfare of tea workers especially women and their children in Assam and West Bengal for which a special scheme will be devised.

Sitharaman announced Rs 25,000 crores Budget for roads and national highways (NH) in West Bengal with emphasis on upgradation of the road from Kolkata to Siliguri. Besides she announced 3,500 km corridor in Tamil Nadu, 1,100 km in Kerala at an investment of Rs 65,000 crore and 1,300 km in Assam in the next three years.

The 3500 kms of national highway works in Tamil Nadu would involve an investment of Rs 1.03 lakh crore. Assembly election in Tamil Nadu is due to be held in April-May this year as along with West Bengal where the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to wrest the power from Mamata Banerjee and is focusing to retain power in Assam. The Left Democratic Front-led Kerala Legislative Assembly goes to polls also by April-May.

A 1,100 km of NH in Kerala with an investment of Rs 65,000 crore, including 600 km

section of the Mumbai-Kanyakumari corridor has been announced. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is a Lok Sabha MP from Waynad in Kerala.

Sitharaman also announced increased allocation for rural infrastructure development to Rs 40,000 crore for the next fiscal from Rs 30,000 crore in FY21. She said the operation green scheme will cover 22 more perishable commodities while announcing the development of five major fishing hubs.

The Centre also announced a Rs 18,000 crore scheme to augment public transport in urban areas. She said the Government would work towards raising the share of public transport in urban areas through the expansion of the metro rail network and the augmentation of city bus service. It will facilitate the deployment of innovative public private partnership (PPP) models to enable private sector players to finance, acquire, operate and maintain over 20,000 buses.

The metro train services are expanding all across the country at a rapid pace. Total 702 km of conventional metro is operational and another 1,016 km of metro and regional rapid transit system (RRTS) is under construction in 27 cities. Sitharaman said the Government plans to deploy two new technologies -- 'MetroLite' and 'MetroNeo' -- to provide metro rail systems at much lesser cost with same experience, convenience and safety in tier-2 cities and peripheral areas of tier-1 cities.

The Budget proposed Central counterpart funding to Kochi Metro Railway Phase-II of 11.5 km at a cost of Rs 1,957.05 crore, Chennai Metro Railway Phase-II of 118.9 km at a cost of Rs 63,246 crore.

Farm protest...

From Page 1

The Police however also installed iron rods on the main highway to restrict movement of vehicles.

The farmers protest site at the Ghazipur border had also been turned into a fortress with multi-layer barricades and hundreds of security personnel including the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and RAF.

As people including farmers from Western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan continued to join the protestors at Ghazipur border, the police also used drones to monitor the situation. Police during the day also checked vehicles standing in the area. A senior police official said police is on alert and it is taking every step to avert any kind of incident. "We are focused towards the protection of every citizen," he said.

Apart from the barricades, barbed wire has been installed to stop people moving on foot. Ghaziabad District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey and Senior Superintendent of Police Kalandi Naithani reviewed the situation on the ground as they visited Ghazipur, Seemapuri and Dilshad Garden areas amid the ongoing farmers' stir at Delhi-UP borders," an official statement said.

Pandey and Naithani also

held meetings with senior officers of the Delhi Police and the administration to discuss the situation and review preparedness, it added.

Inspector General (Meerut Range) Praveen Kumar toured Ghaziabad, where he visited the UP Gate protest site and the Kaushambi police station, officials said.

"The IG has issued necessary instructions to the local police and the police officials deployed at the protest site," an official said.

Meanwhile, the police in Shahdara district police have been given iron batons, just like shape of word, and metal hand guard to protect themselves from attacks by sharp-edged weapons

According to a senior police official, the initiative was taken by station house officers (SHOs) of all 11 police stations falling under the jurisdiction of Shahdara district.

"Each police station distributed around 12 iron batons to its personnel. The aim is to protect our personnel from attacks by any sword or sharp-edged weapon. It is for their self-defence. This initiative was taken by SHOs of the respective police stations of Shahdara district," he said.

Farmer leaders at the site, however, asserted that the barricades won't cage their spirit.

137% hike for...

From Page 1

She also proposed to roll out the pneumococcal vaccine, which is currently limited to only 5 States, across the country, helping the country to avert more than 50,000 child deaths annually.

In the Union Budget, ₹71,268.77 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as against ₹65,011.8 crore allocated in 2020-2021. However, later the budget was revised and increased to 78,866 crore because of Covid-19.

An allocation of ₹2,663.00 crore has also been made to the Department of Health Research in the 2021-22 Budget. The Ministry of AYUSH has been allocated Rs 2970.30 for the next fiscal as against Rs 2,122.08 crore proposed for 2020-2021 fiscal.

Investment in health infrastructure in Budget 2021-22 has increased substantially, Sitharaman said.

Hailing the Budget proposal, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the allocation of Rs 35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccines and commitment to providing further support will help end this pandemic and expedite economic recovery while the Minister of State for Health

Ashwini Choubey termed the budget "historic" and said it was for the welfare of the public.

Poonam Khetrpal Singh, the Regional Director WHO South-East Asia Region, said, "The thrust and focus to health in India's Budget announcement is a testimony to the country's commitment to not just fight back the Covid-19 pandemic, but to build a stronger and resilient health system. India has been demonstrating this."

However, Kapil Banga, Assistant Vice President, ICRA Limited felt that the budgetary allocation for the healthcare sector for the fiscal year 2022 will translate into a 10 percent drop in the allocation, if compared to the revised estimate for 2021.

Nonetheless, the allocation translates to a growth of 11 per cent, if it is compared to the Budget estimates for 2021.

"The Government has launched PM Atma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMANSBY) and has also allocated Rs. 35,000 crore towards the cost of the vaccine. However, as the total allocation towards the healthcare sector has come down vis-a-vis revised estimates for 2021, this could translate into cutting of expenditure on other avenues within the sector.

Military coup in Myanmar, Suu...

From Page 1

While the 75-year-old has remained widely popular at home, Suu Kyi's deference to the generals — going so far as to defend their crackdown on Rohingya Muslims that the United States and others have labeled genocide — has left her reputation internationally in tatters.

For some, Monday's takeover was seen as confirmation that the military holds ultimate power despite the veneer of democracy.

New York-based Human Rights Watch has previously described the clause in the constitution that the military invoked as a "coup mechanism in waiting." The embarrassing poor showing of the military-backed party in the November vote may have been the spark.

Larry Jagan, an independent analyst, said the takeover was just a "pretext for the military to reassert their full influence over the political infrastructure of the country and to determine the future, at least in the short term," adding that the generals do not want Suu Kyi to be a part of that future.

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NOTICE
 NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 the meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday the 12th day of February, 2021 at its Registered office at 10-A Under Hill Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 to consider and approve the Standalone unaudited financial results of the company for the 3rd quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2020.

By Order of the Board
 Sd/-
 Place : Delhi Sanjay Seth
 Date : 01.02.2021 Whole Time Director
 DIN : 00359518
 ADD: 10-A, Under Hill Lane, Civil Lines, Delhi -110054

Govt sends ...

From Page 1

The cess will be applied with effect from February 2. Later addressing a press conference, Sitharaman said a component to develop farm infrastructure has been added to the cost of petrol and diesel.

"Consequent to imposition of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on petrol and diesel, basic excise duty and special additional excise duty rates have been reduced on them so that overall consumer does not bear any additional burden," Sitharaman said.

The FM announced nine measures for the agriculture sector including making available the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to APMCs for augmenting their infrastructure facilities, increasing the agriculture credit target from Rs 15 lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs 16.5 lakh crore in 2021-22 and extension of the Swamitva scheme to all states and Union territories.

During her third Budget speech, which lasted around one hour and 50 minutes, Sitharaman said the Government is committed to the welfare of farmers and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime has undergone a change.

The statement of Finance Minister is significant at a time when a large number of farmers are protesting for a legal guarantee to minimum support (MSP) price fearing that the Government will end the MSP system after implementation of the three farm laws aimed at freeing up the agriculture markets.

The reforms are being seen as steps to support the agriculture sector and were introduced amid constant disruption from opposition parties. The Opposition as well as farmer leaders had been skeptical that the BJP-ruled states were trying to weaken APMCs by throwing agriculture markets open for private participants, triggering protests from

farmers.

The Finance Minister reiterated that the Government is ready for talks with the protesting farmers as discussion is the only way forward. "We can understand why farmers are sitting at the border. If any farmer has any question, Agriculture Minister (Narendra Singh Tomar) has never denied opportunities for talk," Sitharaman said in reply to a query during her post Budget briefing. The Government is open for discussion. The Prime Minister before the commencement of Parliament session said the offer is still on the table," she said.

In an attempt to address the concerns of farmers demanding the repeal of the three controversial farm reform laws, Sitharaman presented data on rising Government spending for purchasing grains and pulses at support prices, and promised to strengthen the State-regulated markets, or APMCs, further.

The Budget promised to add 1,000 more regulated markets to the electronic national agriculture market, or e-NAM platform, where 17 million Indian farmers have already been registered. Besides, the Finance Minister said regulated wholesale markets, or APMCs, will be allowed to tap into the Rs 1 trillion agriculture infrastructure fund to upgrade and strengthen their facilities.

"In case of wheat, the total amount paid to farmers in 2013-2014 was Rs 33,874 crores. In 2019-2020 it was Rs 62,802 crores, and even better, in 2020-2021, this amount, paid to farmers, was Rs 75,060 crores. The number of wheat growing farmers that were benefitted increased in 2020-21 to 43.36 lakhs as compared to 35.57 lakhs in 2019-20. For paddy, the amount paid in 2013-14 was Rs 63,928 crores. In 2019-2020 this increased Rs 1,41,930 crores. Even better, in 2020-2021, this is further estimated to increase to Rs 172,752 crores.

Reinvigorating...

From Page 1

To finance infrastructure building, the Budget proposes to set up a Development Finance Institution. The focus on monetising existing assets will also provide greater funds for growth.

The Budget has also taken up the much-debated issue of setting up a "bad bank", details of which will be announced soon. The increase in the FDI limit in insurance to 74 per cent and laying out of a roadmap to privatise the public sector companies as against the "disinvestment" are twin measures that could go a long way in meeting fund for infrastructure building.

Sitharaman said the Government will borrow about Rs 12 lakh crore in 2021-22. She said expenditure for the next fiscal year has been pegged at Rs 34.83 lakh crore, which includes Rs 5.54 lakh crore of capital spending. Sitharaman also said States will get 41 per cent share of taxes as per the 15th Finance Commission recommendation and the Government has accepted the recommendation. From Rs 1.03 lakh crore highway projects for Tamil Nadu to Rs 65,000 crore works for Kerala - four poll-bound States found special mention in the Budget speech of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday.

Sitharaman in her speech specifically announced Rs 2.27 lakh crore highway projects for four States - Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and Kerala amid approaching Assembly elections.

The Finance Minister said the Government will infuse Rs 20,000 crore into public sector banks (PSBs) in 2021-22 to meet the regulatory norms. For the current financial year also, the Government had made a provision of Rs 20,000 crore for recapitalisation. "To further consolidate the financial capacity of PSBs, further recapitalisation of Rs 20,000 crores is proposed in 2021-22," she said while presenting the Budget 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha.

The Budget also proposed to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to 49 per cent, a move aimed at attracting greater

seas capital inflows to help enhance insurance penetration in the country.

Sitharaman said under the new structure, the majority of directors on the board and key management persons would be resident Indians, with at least 50 per cent of directors being independent directors, and specified percentage of profits being retained as a general reserve.

Drawing inspiration from the recent performance of the Indian cricket team in Australia under trying circumstances, the Finance Minister Nirmala asserted that India is well-poised to truly be the land of promise and hope in the post-Covid-19 world.

The FM said as it had happened after the two World Wars, there are signs that the political, economic, and strategic relations in the post Covid-19 world are changing. She noted that the country's fight against the pandemic continues into 2021 and the country is all set to bring in two more vaccines for the infectious disease. "Today, India has two vaccines available, and has begun medically safeguarding not only her own citizens against Covid-19, but also those of 100 or more countries. It is an added comfort to know that two or more vaccines are also expected soon," Sitharaman said.

The Budget proposed that individuals whose provident fund contribution is Rs 2.5 lakh or more in a financial year, will not be able to seek tax exemption on the interest earned from the next financial year. While presenting Budget Sitharaman said, "In order to rationalise tax exemption for the income earned by high income employees, it is proposed to restrict tax exemption for the interest income earned on the employees' contribution to various provident funds to the annual contribution of Rs 2.5 lakh."

Currently, interest earned on provident fund is exempted from income tax. "EPFO is for welfare of workers and workers will not be affected by this move. It is only for big ticket money which comes into EPFO which has tax benefit and also assured 8 per cent return," Sitharaman said while addressing the post-Budget Press conference.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice No.: 02/2021 **Date:** 27.01.2021

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost ₹
1.	AGRA-ST-2021-04	Provision of Remote monitoring system for SPDs and Survey & assessment of lighting protection system through software in Agra Division.	11,89,904.00
2.	AGRA-ST-2021-05	Replacement of Overaged VDU with Embedded System over Agra Division.	16,96,376.64

Tender closing date: 25.02.2021 For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irreps.gov.in Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids through web portal www.irreps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

127/21(D)
 North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

National Health Mission
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Government of Madhya Pradesh

OPPORTUNITY FOR NURSING & AYURVEDIC PROFESSIONALS

Requirements of 3570 Community Health Officers (CHOs)

SN/NHM/HWC/MP/2020-21/..... Bhopal Date.....

The National Health Mission (NHM), Madhya Pradesh invites online applications for the vacant seats of 6 months Certificate in Community Health and Post of Community Health Officers (CHOs). This is a part of an initiative under the Ayushman Bharat to Strengthen Sub-Health Centres as Health and Wellness Centres (H&WCs) for improved implementation of public health programmes and to enable comprehensive primary health care service delivery, including disease prevention and health promotion. Successful candidates shall undergo 6 months training or posted at Sub-Health Centres as CHOs to lead a primary health team consisting of frontline workers such as Female Health Workers (ANMs), Male Health Worker (MPWs) and ASHAs.

NHM, M.P. is seeking applications from eligible candidates for approximately 3,570 contractual seats and vacancies (actual number may vary as per the requirement) to be filled over the period from April to December 2021.

Please visit www.nrhmpmp.gov.in or www.sams.co.in for detailed information for category and training batch wise bifurcation of vacancies, general instructions, written exam date and online admit card/hall ticket information.

Receipt of Online Applications shall commence from 12:01 am on February 2, 2020, and concludes at 11:59 pm on February 17, 2020.

Essential Eligibility Criteria:

- For 6 months Certificate in Community Health Training - B.Sc. (Nursing) / Post Basic B.Sc. (Nursing) / GNM / BAMS.
- For Direct Recruitment for the position of CHO - B.Sc. (Nursing) with Integrated curriculum of Certificate in Community Health (CCH) / Post Basic B.Sc. (Nursing) with Integrated curriculum of Certificate in Community Health (CCH) by recognized Institute/ University by Indian Nursing Council or Madhya Pradesh Nursing Council.

Students pursuing Final Year of B.Sc. (Nursing)/ Post Basic BSc (Nursing) along with Integrated Certificate in Community Health (CCH) curriculum from Institute/ University recognized by Indian Nursing Council or Madhya Pradesh Nursing Council, may also apply.

Training Seats and Direct CHOs Posts:

SN	Entrance Test	Total Seats	UR - 27%	UR-EWS - 10%	ST - 20%	SC - 16%	OBC - 14%*	PH - 6%								
1	CCH	1680	M 150	F 150	56	224	112	180	88	158	78	0	0	100	0	
2	Direct Recruitment	1890	342	168	126	63	253	125	202	100	177	88	0	0	113	0
GRAND TOTAL		3570	645	318	238	119	477	237	382	188	335	166	0	0	213	0

Note: (1) The remaining 13% seats/posts shall be allotted after the decision of Hon. High Court.
 (2) 33% seats/posts shall be reserved for female candidates.

Age Limit: 21-40 Years (as on 01/02/2021). Upper age limit 45 years for OBC, SC, ST, EWS, Physically Handicapped and Women candidates who are domicile resident of Madhya Pradesh.

Salary and Performance Based Incentive:

- After selection, the candidate shall be appointed as Community Health Officer on contractual basis and paid Rs 25,000 per month salary plus up to Rs 15,000 per month performance-based incentive on successful completion of training/internship period.
- A bond paper of Rs. 2,00,000/- on the stamp paper of Rs. 500/- must be submitted by the candidates before joining as CHO to serve for minimum three years at Sub Health Centre H&WC in Madhya Pradesh.

Important Instructions:

- Only online applications shall be considered valid. Applications received through any other sources, shall not be considered.
- Vacancy shall be subject to State Reservation Policy of Madhya Pradesh.
- Incomplete details in application form or application submitted without photograph, signature/ supporting documents shall be rejected.
- If at any stage of recruitment, it is found that candidate does not fulfil the eligibility and/ or s/he has furnished incorrect/ false information/ certificates/ documents or has suppressed any material fact(s), his/ her candidature will stand cancelled. The decision of the NHM, MP in any matter related to the recruitment, at any stage of the recruitment process, will be final and binding upon the candidates.
- Selection shall be purely based on Online Written Test.
- Candidates applying for 6 Months Certificate in Community Health Training (CCH) must have registration from any Central/ State Nursing Council or Central/ State Ayurveda, Unani Medical System and Naturopathy Medical Board at the time of submission of online application form.
- Candidates applying for the position of CHO (Direct Recruitment) must upload prescribed Appendix (as mentioned in the Rule Book) at the time of submission of online application form.
- National Health Mission reserves the right to change the number of vacancies, amend the rules and process at any time of the selection. Any such amendments shall be valid and binding upon.
- Please note, 01.02.2021 shall be taken as the reference date for computing age.

Mission Director, NHM, Madhya Pradesh

National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh
 Link Road No-3, In front of Patrakar Colony, Madhya Pradesh 462016
 Website: www.nrhmpmp.gov.in or www.sams.co.in
 HelpLine No.011 4081 9900; Email: mpcho@sams.co.in

G-18305/20



Budget will make things costlier, benefit a few firms: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that the Union Budget 2021-22 will benefit few companies only and will increase the woes of common people making things costlier for common man.

According to the Budget 2020-21, the national Capital received ₹325 crore as grants in lieu of share in Central taxes and duties.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia said the Budget bypass education and health sectors, spells dooms for poor, middle class and farmers.

Targeting Central Government, Sisodia said the main focus of the Budget is to



spend more by selling off Government assets without the common man benefiting at all.

Taking it to Twitter, Sisodia tweeted: "BJP ruled Central government disappointed Delhi as it received only Rs 325 crore despite Delhi people pay

Rs 1.5 lakh crore amount to the union government via taxes. They (BJP govt) haven't pay single rupee to BJP ruled MCD in Delhi however during MCD elections, the BJP had announced that they will give money to corporations."

Taking jibe on the Central government's 'Self reliant India', Sisodia said history tells us that be it a family or the country, only those who invest in the education of their children become "Atmanirbhar".

"Reducing spend on Education by Rs 6000 Cr shows that the call for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" was a mere joke," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said, mentioning, "The budget has shockingly reduced spending of Education Ministry by six percent from last year, seems like no lesson has been learnt from the Corona pandemic."

Slamming the budget, the minister said, "One thing that was obvious during the pandemic was the crumbling public healthcare system of the country. One would have

expected the Government to substantially increase the healthcare allocation. Instead, the Union Budget has shockingly reduced the healthcare budget of India by 10 percent - showing that not a single lesson has been learnt from the Corona pandemic."

Comparing and analysis the union budget with previous financial year's -2020-21, Sisodia said, "A careful analysis shows that Ministry of Health budget has reduced by ten percent which is almost Rs 8000 Crore from 2020-21 to 2021-22 - from Rs 82,445 Crore to Rs 74,602 Crore.

Sisodia said, "Finance Minister's announcement of 137 percent increase in budget for "Healthcare and Wellbeing" is misleading and an attempt to

hide the reality that this government doesn't care for the health of the people. It clubs non-health schemes like clean air programme, water supply programme etc. to show an overall increase in Health expenditure."

On the reduction of education budget amount, Sisodia who also holds the portfolio of education minister in AAP cabinet said schools and colleges have been shut for almost one year. This has led to a serious setback in the learning of students. "Any government that cares for our children should have provided additional allocation in Education to take care of this loss. What we see is a reduction in Ministry of Education budget by six percent (Rs 6000 Crore) - from Rs

99,312 Crore in BE 2020-21 to Rs 93,224 Cr in BE 2021-22."

Sisodia took to micro blogging site, he tweeted: "While NEP 2020 promises an allocation of six percent of GDP to Education, the Union Budget has allocated only 0.6 percent of the GDP to education. This shows the government's real commitment to education. History tells us that be it a family or the country, only those who invest in the education of their children become "Atmanirbhar". Reducing spend on Education by Rs 6000 Cr shows that the call for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" was a mere joke."

On inflation, Sisodia said, "There has been an unprecedented rise in the prices of petrol and diesel under the cur-

rent government. Rising fuel prices also result in high food inflation. In the last year alone, prices of petrol have increased from Rs 75 to Rs 86 a litre - an increase of Rs 11 in just one year. Diesel prices have increased from Rs 68 to 77 - increase by Rs 9. By further adding a cess of Rs 2.5/litre on petrol and Rs 4/litre, the government has shown it doesn't care for the middle class or the economy." "Prices of LPG in Delhi have increased from Rs 594 in November 2020 to Rs 858 today - an increase by 30 percent in three months. There was no plan, no announcement regarding controlling prices of LPG in the Union budget," Sisodia added mentioning the plea of middle class recovering from income shock of Corona.

Sisodia upset with Budget, alleges step-motherly treatment from Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia on Monday said that Delhi continues to get step-motherly treatment from the Government of India as budget saw no increase in share in Central Taxes.

Sisodia said that the BJP ruled Central Government again disappointed Delhi as it received only ₹325 crores however citizens of Delhi pay ₹1.5 lakh crores as tax.

"The Municipal Corporations have again been left high and dry with zero allocation against the demand of Rs.12,000 crore. BJP government has given Rs 2 lakh crores to all other municipal bodies across India but not to BJP ruled MCDs, before 2017 MCD elections BJP promised to bring money from the Centre," Sisodia added.

Comparing the national

capital with other Union Territories (UTs) of India, he said that UT of Jammu & Kashmir, which is constitutionally on similar footing with the NCT of Delhi, has been provided grant of ₹30,757 crore as against ₹957 crore to Delhi.

Sisodia tweeted, "The central government under the BJP has again disappointed Delhi in the budget. Delhi has got only ₹325 crores in the budget whereas the people of Delhi pay ₹1.5 lakh crores to the centre."

He also tweeted, "The BJP government did not even give a single penny to the BJP-ruled MCD, while it has given Rs 2 lakh crore to the municipal corporations across the country. During the MCD election, BJP had said that they would bring the money directly from the Centre to the MCD."

Sisodia added, "Union Budget is a vision document of any government and spells out its economic agenda for the

next financial year. This year there was great anticipation around the Union Budget and people of Delhi had high hopes from the Central government that justice would finally be done to them, particularly amid the Covid-19 pandemic which has devastated lives of many people."

He said, "Delhi continues to get step-motherly treatment from the Government of India. The grant in lieu of share in Central Taxes provided in the Union Budget 2021-22 has been kept unchanged for two decades at ₹325 crore. The total grants/loans/transfer from Government of India to Delhi has been reduced from Rs.1116 crore to ₹957 crore."

He said, "Grant towards Disaster Response reduced from ₹161 crore to ₹5 crore. Additional Central Assistance for projects reduced from ₹150 crore to zero."

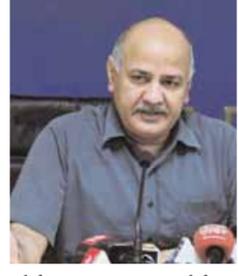
Dy CM: Nothing for poor in Budget

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst farmers' protest against the new farm laws, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said there is absolutely nothing in this Budget for the poor, the unemployed and farmers.

Calling out the Union Budget's lack of concern for the poor, Sisodia said, "It is well accepted that boosting demand by focusing spending directly on the poor is going to be critical for revival of the economy. But there is absolutely nothing in this Budget for poor, the unemployed and farmers. Outlays of several major schemes for the poor and unemployed have been reduced - NREGA reduced by ₹38,000 Crore, Social welfare schemes reduced by ₹5000 Cr and even PM Kisan scheme allocation is reduced by Rs 10,000 Crore."

Sisodia added, "At a time when there is an unprecedented



farmer agitation and farm crisis all over the country, the Agriculture Ministry's budget has been reduced from ₹1.55 lakh crores to ₹1.48 lakh crores - a reduction by ₹7000 Cr. A time when unemployment is at the highest, the budget for Jobs and Skills Ministry has also been reduced from Rs 5400 Cr to 3500 Cr - a reduction of 35 percent. This shows the government is completely apathetic towards the pain of the jobless."

Experts: Budget boosts startups, automobiles, textile sector

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

After the presentation of the Union Budget in the Parliament on Monday, Economic experts and intellectuals in Gurugram said that it is a very balanced and development oriented budget.

They said that this budget will strengthen the economy of the country which has been derailed due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

It will also give a boost to small industries and start-ups, along with the automobile and textile sectors.

The experts said that the most important thing is that through this budget, the government has made a concerted effort to take the country on the path of progress, while not trying to please any particular region or class.

On the other hand, the people associated with the industry said that the budget as a whole is quite impressive.

"This budget is a balanced budget. It is promoting small industries, startups, automobile and textile sectors. Through this budget, the Central Government may not have made any concrete provision for industries directly, but indirectly this budget will encourage industrial expansion, development and investment much

easier. Government should reduce the rate of GST," said J N Mangla, President Gurugram Industrial Association.

Meanwhile, people associated with the corporate sector said that this budget is better. In the era of the Corona epidemic, there cannot be a better budget than this. This is a time when the government is also short of funds. Reducing corporate tax is a good decision.

"The kind of attention given to the health sector in the budget is commendable and futuristic. The lesson from the Covid-19 epidemic is that our health services should be better. The government took this message and increased the health sector by 137 percent, which is a record in the country's budgetary history. Soon the government is also going to establish revenue portal for Corona vaccine as the vaccine is being exported to other countries which will help to increase economy of our country," said Dr. Swati Maheshwari, a health expert.

Meanwhile, FDI in insurance sector has been increased from 49 percent to 74 percent. This will increase employment prospects. Special attention has also been paid to education sector and creation of employment for youth and their skill development.

ment. "This is a commendable budget; this will speed up the pace of development in the country. The provisions made in this regard for infrastructure development are welcome. Through this budget, the weakness of the health sector will be removed and the dream of a healthy India will be realized. This budget will also reduce the dependency on China. Arrangements have been made in this budget to make the agriculture sector also dynamic. The steps taken to promote quality of life will benefit," she said.

Amandeep Negi, Economic expert Covid-19 brought in crisis this budget will prove to be balanced as well as boosting growth. There is one thing that is not good for the textile industry. That is to increase the import duty on cotton fibre by five percent. This will increase the cost of production. The government should consider it again.

"There is a lot in the budget for health, education, agriculture, industry, transport and infrastructural development. The scope of income tax exemption was expected to increase but nothing happened. Anyway, the government is short of funds at this time," Anil Lamba, a financial affairs expert said.



Farmers' stir: Delhi's borders remain closed at multiple points

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

There was long queues of vehicles on Monday as Delhi's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh remained closed at several points due to the farmers' protest against the Centre's farm laws.

Following the traffic jams, the Delhi Traffic Police alerted commuters about the traffic affected areas and suggested alternative routes.

In a series of tweet Traffic police said that traffic will remain affected on Road No. 56 from ISBT Anand Vihar to Ghazipur due to closing of border.

"The suggested diversion points include Akshardham Setu towards Akshardham, NH-9, Max Hospital cut NH-24 towards Hassanpur depot, Ghazipur roundabout towards Anand Vihar, Paper market towards Mayur Vihar Phase-3 to avoid Murga Mandi, Kondli Pul towards Ghazipur roundabout," Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

"The suggested diversion point have been open at 10.05 AM and from the point of National Highway No 9, National Highway No 24 open from the Upper side UP Gate towards Ghaziabad, Meerut and Hapur," said traffic police.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation stated that the entry/exit gates of Brigadier Hoshiar Singh, Bahadurgarh City, Pandit Shree Ram Sharma and Tikri Border stations were closed.

From last two months, thousands of farmers have been protesting at Delhi's borders, Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders, with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, demanding a rollback of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. The protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that these laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

However, the government has maintained that the new laws will bring better opportunities to farmers and introduce new technologies in agriculture.

Delhi Police gets ₹8,644.12 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has been allocated Rs 8644.12 crore in the Budget 2020-21, an increase of Rs 25.12 crore from the budget outlay in the last fiscal year. In the last fiscal year, they received Rs 8619 crore.

According to official, Rs 8100.20 crore has been earmarked for Establishment related expenditure while Rs 237.92 crore shall be incurred for up gradation and expansion of communication infrastructure, modernization of equipment, installation of traffic signals, upgradation of training and procurement of vehicles for policing. "Police have got Rs 306.00 crore which they shall be spent exclusively for police infrastructure for construction of office buildings, residential buildings and development of new Police Headquarter building," said the official.

"The government has allocated Rs.10.14 crore separately under the Scheme for Safety of Women (Financed from Nirbhaya Fund) in addition to the total allocation for Construction of building for SPUWAC/SPUNER and various other activities for awareness and gender sensitization," said the official.

Budget 'disappointing' for Delhiites: Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Termining the Union Budget 'disappointing' for Delhiites, Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that there was no financial bailout package for Delhi in the budget despite the Capital suffering the worst economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, including the ill-planned lock and unlock.

The Congress president said that the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman has disappointed on several fronts.

"There was a heavy reduction in the Nirbhaya Fund which has been slashed from Rs 855 crore to Rs 100 crore. The drastic cut in the Nirbhaya Fund is proof enough that Prime Minister Modi's "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" cam-

paign, which aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls, has turned out to be a hollow campaign" he said.

Kumar said that despite the Delhi BJP boasting about getting funds from the Modi Government to tide over the financial crunch in the Corporations, the Union Budget has yet again ignored the plight of the MCDs.

Kumar further added that there was no financial bailout package for Delhi Metro either in the budget, despite the Metro suffering heavy losses due to the Corona lockdown. "The metro has always been a profit-making venture and it can get back on rails only if the Central Budget had extended a helping hand.

Record ₹1,10,055 cr allocated for Railways

2021-2022 Railway Budget at a Glance



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman on Monday, Indian Railways received a record outlay of Rs 1,10,055 crore, of which Rs 1,07,100 crore is for capital expenditure in the Union Budget 2021-22.

Indian Railways has now highest ever total Plan capex of ₹.2,15,058 Crores this year with ₹7,500 Crores from internal resources, ₹1,00,258 Crores from extra budgetary resources and ₹1,07,100 Crores for capital expenditure allocation given in the general budget.

"The gross budgetary allocation is ₹37,050 cr (53 per cent higher than BE 2020-21. In spite of the Covid-19, this is a remarkable vindication of the progress being undertaken in Infrastructure projects," the railways said in a statement.

With the increase in Capex, Indian Railways is expected to be the driver of Indian economy. The thrust of Annual Plan 2021-22 is on infrastructure development, throughput enhancement, development of terminal facilities, augmentation of speed of trains, signaling systems, improvement of passengers/users' amenities, safety works of road over/under bridges etc.

National Projects of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and North Eastern region have been allocated highest ever outlay of Rs 12,985 cr. in BE 21-22 against the RE 20-21 of Rs 7535 cr i.e. increase of 72 per cent. Rs.37,270 Cr of GBS allocated for investment in PSU/JV/SPVs, with allocation for DFCCIL of Rs. 16,086 cr, NHRSL of Rs. 14,000 cr and KMRL of Rs. 900 cr.

"Intense monitoring, better management and engagement with all the stakeholders is ensuring that work is going on at unprecedented speed at the project sites now," it said.

Some projects will be commissioned by March 2021 are redevelopment of Gandhinagar and Habibganj stations, Ahmedabad - Botad Gauge Conversion (170 km), Pilibhit - Shahjahanpur Gauge Conversion (83 km), Utrertia - Raebareilly Doubling (66 km), Ghazipur-Aunihar Doubling (40 km), Ajmer - Bengurgram Doubling (47 km), and Nirmali - Sairagram New Line including Kosi bridge (22 km). Key Railway Electrification projects that are also expected to be completed by March 2021 include: Mumbai - Abu Road, Mumbai - Ratnagiri, Howrah-New Cooch Behar section via Malda, Connectivity to

Pipava Port, Ratlam/Mathura-Jaipur and Pune - Satara, Sonapat - Jind.

Last Financial year Railways faced unprecedented Covid related challenges. Passenger services had to be stopped to prevent the spread of the virus. Railways, however, kept the national supply chain running and moved many numbers of migrants in the most adverse conditions.

The lockdown period was used as an opportunity by the Railways to complete more than 200 critical maintenance projects including massive track maintenance exercise, overhauling the freight business and fast tracking of the ongoing infrastructure projects like Dedicated Freight Corridors, J&K and North-East connectivity etc.

"In the post lockdown phase, remarkable revival in IR's freight loading has been observed especially in the last five months, which shows the economic revival in the country as well as modal shift to Railways. This is due to doubling of average speed of freight trains from 23 kmph to 46 kmph, various tariff and non-tariff measures, as well as a first time ever "Freight Business Development Portal" for online booking of freight. The year is likely to close with higher loading over last year," it said.



DEFENCE BAGS ₹4.78L CR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite continuing hostilities at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Defence Budget got a modest hike for the next fiscal. The overall outlay for 2021-22 was pegged at ₹4.78 lakh crore as against ₹4.71 lakh crore for the ongoing financial year.

However, the armed forces were assured of no shortage of funds during the coming year as it happened when tensions with China escalated since May last year.

It is evident from the fact that while the Budget estimate for 2020-21 for capital allocation was ₹1,13,734 crore, the revised estimate saw a jump of more than 17 per cent with the armed forces getting ₹1,34,510 crore. The additional finances were allocated during last year for the armed forces to maintain operational readiness while facing China all along the 4,000-km-long LAC.

The total budgetary allocation announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday included pension

amounts to ₹4.78 lakh crore. If the burgeoning pension bill is kept aside, the capital and revenue budget along with civil heads comes to ₹3,62,345 crore.

In order to sustain the pace of modernisation, the capital budget for the coming financial year is ₹1,35,060 crore. This will enable the armed forces to meet ongoing contractual obligations besides going for new weapon platforms. The capital allocation for the last fiscal was ₹1,34,510 crore. Incidentally, the entire capital budget for the current financial year was utilised indicating a healthy trend.

There are some weapons systems to be procured in the coming years including 114 multi-role fighter jets to be built within the country under the strategic partnership programme. This contract is worth over ten billion dollars. Similarly, the Navy is to acquire six conventional submarines and the deal is worth over ₹50,000 crore. These submarines will also be built in the Indian dockyards.

Besides these big ticket



items, the army is carrying on with its plan for fast modernisation of the infantry by procuring rifles, machine guns and other close quarter battle weapons. Moreover, the induction of the long-range artillery guns is also on the cards in the coming year and the capital outlay will to some extent enable the Army to sustain the tempo.

However, the major share of the budget like previous years was taken by revenue expenditure including expenses on payment of salaries and maintenance of establishments. The revenue budget for 2021-22 is now ₹2,21,027 crore while that in 2020-21 was ₹2,09,312 crore. The pension bill for the ongoing fiscal is ₹1, 25,000

crore while for the next financial year it is ₹1,15,850 crore.

The break-up of the capital allocation for the three Services indicated that the IAF got the major share with a budget of ₹53,214 crore. The Army got ₹36,481 crore while the Navy was given ₹33,253 crore.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for increasing the defence budget to ₹4.78 lakh crore, which includes capital expenditure worth ₹1.35 lakh crore. "It is nearly 19 per cent increase in Defence capital expenditure. This is highest ever increase in capital outlay for Defence in 15 years," the Defence Minister said.

Voluntary vehicle scrapping policy announced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday announced in its annual Budget the much-awaited voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and polluting vehicles. Presenting the Budget for 2021-22 in Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said under voluntary vehicle scrapping policy, personal vehicles would undergo fitness test after 20 years while commercial vehicles would require it after completion of 15 years.

Welcoming the policy, Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs Minister Nitin Gadkari said the policy will lead to new investment of around ₹10,000 crore and create as many as 50,000 jobs. He further said the policy would cover over 1 crore light, medium and heavy motor

vehicles. "The policy would cover an estimated 51 lakh light motor vehicles (LMVs) that are above 20 years of age, while another 34 lakh LMVs are above 15 years. It would also cover 17 lakh medium and heavy motor vehicles, which are above 15 years, and currently without valid fitness certificates," Gadkari said.

These vehicles are estimated to cause 10-12 times more pollution than the latest vehicles, he said. Outlining the benefits of the policy, Gadkari said it would lead to recycling of waste metal, improved safety, reduction in air pollution, lower oil imports due to greater fuel efficiency of current vehicles, and stimulate investment.

He said the finer details of the policy will be unveiled within 15 days. During her speech, Sitharaman said that details of

the scheme will be separately shared by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry. "We are separately announcing a voluntary vehicle scrapping policy to phase out old and unfit vehicles. This will help in encouraging fuel efficient, environment friendly vehicles, thereby reducing vehicular pollution and oil import bill. Vehicles would undergo fitness tests in automated fitness centres after 20 years in case of personal vehicles, and after 15 years in case of commercial vehicles," she added.

President of Automotive Refinishes and Wood Coatings, Nippon Paint India, Sharad Malhotra said our sector has got a favorable boost in form of FM's voluntary vehicle scrapping policy announcement. "Fitness testing for both PVs and CVs is a positive move that will not only generate employment oppor-

tunities but also ensure a cleaner environment," Malhotra said.

On July 26, 2019, the government had proposed amendments to motor vehicle norms to allow scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years in a bid to spur adoption of electrical vehicles. "We have submitted the proposal and I am expecting that we will get approval as early as possible for the scrapping policy," Gadkari had said on January 15.

The minister had also said that once the policy is approved, India will become an automobile hub and there will also be reduction in the prices of automobiles. He had said recycled material from old vehicles will help reduce the prices, adding that the automobile industry's turnover, which is ₹4.5 lakh crore with ₹1.45 lakh crore exports, will get a boost.



EDUCATION RECEIVES ₹93,224.31 CRORE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Setting up a Central university in Leh, 100 new Sainik schools and Higher Education Commission of India, increasing collaboration with foreign institutions as well as strengthening over 15,000 schools as per new the New Education Policy (NEP), are among the major announcements from the education sector in the Budget for 2021-22 announced on Monday. The Ministry of Education has received a total of ₹93,224.31 crore this year. In 2020-21, it was allocated ₹99,311.52 crore.

In order to promote enhanced academic collaboration with foreign higher educational institutions, the budget has also proposed to put in place a regulatory mechanism to permit dual degrees, joint degrees, twinning arrangements

Setting up a Central university in Leh, 100 new Sainik schools and Higher Education Commission of India, increasing collaboration with foreign institutions as well as strengthening over 15,000 schools as per new the New Education Policy (NEP), are among the major announcements from the education sector in the Budget

ments and other such mechanisms. Sitharaman also announced that the CBSE board exam reforms will be implemented from 2022-23 academic session in a phased manner.

"For accessible higher education in Ladakh, I propose to set up a Central University in Leh," Sitharaman said. While 15,000 schools will be qualitatively strengthened, establishment of 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership with NGOs, private schools and State governments are on the anvil.

"In Budget 2019-20, I had mentioned about the setting-up of Higher Education Commission of India.

We would be introducing legislation this year to implement the same. It

will be an umbrella body having 4 separate vehicles for standard-setting, accreditation, regulation, and funding," Sitharaman mentioned.

In the Budget, the blanket exemption in annual receipts for charitable trusts running educational institutions, has been increased from ₹1 crore to 5 crore. "Many of our cities have various research institutions, universities and colleges supported by the Government of India. Hyderabad for example, has about 40 such major institutions. In nine such cities, we will create formal umbrella structures so that these institutions can have better synergy, while also retaining their internal autonomy. A Glue Grant will be set aside for this purpose," Sitharaman said.

"The FM rightly said youth of the country have abundant skills and it needs proper channelisation. The education budget and steps announced for effective implementation of NEP, increased focus on the role of technology will provide further opportunities for growth and sustained development of the sector and students," said Rishi Ahuja, founder of Klip VR Immersive Tech.

Centre allots over ₹257 cr for Personnel Ministry

For domestic, foreign training of bureaucrats and augmented provisions of necessary infrastructure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday allocated over ₹257 crore in the annual Budget for the Personnel Ministry for the next financial year for domestic and foreign training of bureaucrats and augmented provisions of necessary infrastructure.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said of the total allocation of ₹257.35 crore for 2021-22, ₹178.32 crore has been earmarked for upgradation of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie to a centre of excellence, augmentation of training facilities at the Delhi-based Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), and the National Programme for Civil Services & Capacity Building — Mission Karmayogi, among others.

The LBSNAA and the ISTM conduct several training programmes for Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers and all other levels of secretarial functionaries with exposure to rules, regulations and aptitude.

The Union Cabinet had in September last year given nod to the Mission Karmayogi, dubbed as the biggest bureaucratic reform initiative, aimed at capacity building to make Government employees more

"creative, proactive, professional and technology-enabled".

A total of ₹79.03 crore has been provided for to the ministry for 2021-22 to meet establishment-related expenditure of the ISTM, the LBSNAA and training division of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

A sum of ₹136.69 crore has been allocated under the "autonomous bodies of DoPT" head. The provision includes grants-in-aid assistance to Grih Kalyan Kendra, the Central Civil Services Cultural & Sports Board and the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).

The Union Cabinet had in August 2020 decided to set up the NRA, a multi-agency body, for conducting a Common Eligibility Test (CET) to screen or shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts in the central government. The Central Administrative Tribunals (CATs), which are entrusted with the redressal of grievances of public servants, have been allocated ₹122.03 crore for 2021-22 to meet establishment-related expenditure.

"This also includes provision for purchase of

land and construction of building for various benches of CAT," the Budget document says. It has been given ₹121.03 crore for the current financial year, as per the revised estimates for 2020-21.

The Staff Selection Commission (SSC), which conducts various recruitment examination for central government jobs, has been allocated ₹382.59 crore for 2021-22 to meet establishment-related expenditure, including those on the conduct of examinations for recruitment of staff in central ministries or departments. It has the revised estimated budget of ₹382.40 crore for the current fiscal.



MHA BUDGET dips by ₹703 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has allocated about ₹1,66,547 crore to the Union Home Ministry for the 2021-22 fiscal, a dip of ₹703 crore as compared to the allocation for the last financial year when it had received ₹1,67,250 crore.

A major part of the funds will go to the police forces and a substantial amount for census related works.

According to the budget, ₹30,757 crore has been allocated to Jammu & Kashmir and ₹5,958 crore for Ladakh — the two newly created Union Territories.

The Ministry has been allocated ₹1,66,546.94 crore for the next fiscal with ₹1,03,802.52 crore for the central armed police forces like the CRPF, BSF, CISF etc. and ₹3,768.28 crore for census operations. The work for the census 2021 has been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Central sector schemes and projects of the Ministry got ₹1,641.12 crore, while ₹481.61 crore has been allocated for disaster management. The Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been allocated ₹5,317.41 crore, Chandigarh ₹4,661.12 crore, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu ₹2,204.59 crore, Lakshadweep ₹1,440.56 crore and Puducherry ₹1,729.79 crore.

The Central security forces guarding the India-Pakistan, Indo-China and other frontiers have received an increased amount of funds amidst continuous tension with India's western and northern neighbours. The Centre has allocated a total of ₹1,03,802.52 crore to the Central Armed Police Forces which is an increase of 7.1 per cent from the last budget when the paramilitary forces got ₹92,848.91 crore.

₹20,729.54 crore has been allocated to the BSF in 2021-22, in comparison to ₹19,377.83 crore allocated in 2020-21 — an increase of 6.97 per cent.

The BSF secures the frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh. Infiltration of militants and cross border firing from Pakistan have been regular features along the 3,323 km-long frontier of which, barring the 740 km-long Line of Control, all are guarded by the BSF.

The 4,096 km-long Indo-Bangladesh border, guarded by the BSF, also witnesses illegal infiltration, smuggling of cows, contraband and other items.

The air wing of the BSF received ₹140.15 crore in comparison to ₹54.75 crore received last year — an increase of 155 per cent. The ITBP, which guards 3,488 km-long Sino-Indian border, received ₹6,567.17 crore in comparison to ₹6,150.15 crore received last year — an increase of 6.78 per cent.

The CRPF, which is deployed for internal security, maintenance of law and order and anti-terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir, received ₹26,197.90 crore in comparison to ₹24,788.28 crore allocated in 2020-21 which is an increase of 5.6 per cent as compared to last year's allocation.

Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Investigation, which is under the Ministry of Personnel, received ₹835.39 crore in the Union Budget on Monday, a nominal cut from ₹835.75 crore it received as per revised estimates for 2020-21. The CBI had received ₹802.19 crore initially in the last budget and it was increased to ₹835.75 crore in the revised estimates for 2020-21.

The agency has been allocated ₹835.39 crore to manage its affairs in 2021-22, a nominal dip of ₹36 lakh, according to the Budget.



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Already hit hard by Covid-19, the tourism sector had more disappointment coming its way on Monday as the budgetary allocation for the ministry of tourism was slashed from ₹2,500 crore in 2020-21 to ₹2026.77 crore this year, a 19 per cent decline.

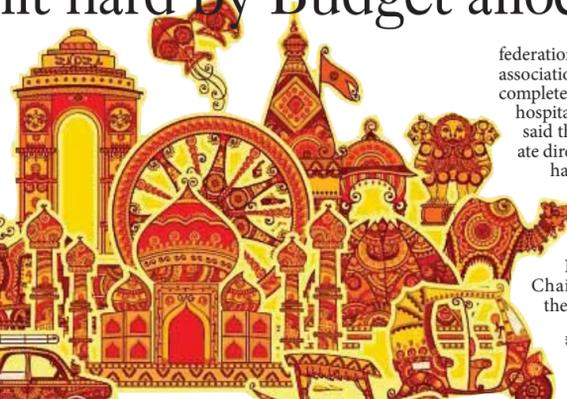
With the coronavirus crisis bringing the tourism sector to its knees, the union budget has allocated a sum of ₹63.65 crore for capacity building for service providers and ₹138.65 crore for training and skill development.

Tourism hit hard by Budget allocation!

Out of the ₹668.72 crore allocated towards promotion and publicity, ₹524.02 crore is for the overseas market and ₹144.70 crore has been kept for domestic tourists.

With the coronavirus crisis bringing the tourism sector to its knees, the union budget has allocated a sum of ₹63.65 crore for capacity building for service providers and ₹138.65 crore for training and skill development.

FAITH, the policy



federation of all the national associations representing the complete tourism, travel and hospitality industry of India said that "lack of immediate direct support in budget has disappointed the Indian travel and tourism industry".

In a statement, Nakul Anand, Chairman-FAITH said there was a need of corpus of at least ₹2,500 crore for global branding budget to enable sub branding

of three tourism segments — Indian MICE, Indian adventure, Indian Heritage under the Incredible India main brand to enhance each of these verticals' global outreach.

"Not addressing any of these critical measures in the budget announcement has thrown the industry into a state of shock and deep dismay. The tourism, travel and hospitality industry is battling the worst in century crisis from the impact of Covid 19, revival from which will not be seen minimum for the next financial year till vaccination is fully undertaken with no observed side effects in all source and destination markets," the statement said.

MARGINAL INCREASE FOR ENVIRONMENT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the Budget 2021-22, the Union Environment Ministry got a marginal increase in funds, up by nearly five per cent from 2020-21, with no change in the amount allotted to pollution abatement and climate change action plan.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated ₹3,100 crore for the Ministry out of which ₹460 crore were allotted to control pollution, which is the same as the money it received in the last budget. Control of pollution has

been conceptualised to provide financial assistance to Pollution control Boards/Committees and funding to National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Similarly, the budget for pollution abatement, which was cut by 50 per cent last year from 2018-19, remained unchanged at ₹10 crore. The minister also announced that states, which are formulating and implementing plans for ensuring cleaner air in cities above one million population should be encouraged.

"Parameters for the incentives to be notified by the

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change and the allocation for this purpose is ₹4,400 crore for 2020-21," Sitharaman said.

However, a top official from the environment ministry said this amount has not reflected in the budget yet. For Climate Change Action Plan, an amount of ₹40 crore has been allocated, which is the same as last fiscal.

The budgetary allocation for National Mission for Green India has been raised from ₹240 crore in the last financial year to ₹311 crore this time

with the national afforestation programme alone being allotted ₹246 crore, higher than last year's amount of ₹179 crore.

In the wildlife arena, the government-initiated projects — Project Tiger and Project Elephant — saw some changes with the former getting reduced by ₹50 crore and the other being raised by ₹5 crore.

The fiscal's allocation of ₹350 crore for Project Tiger, an initiative for conserving the wildcat, reduced to ₹300 crore and ₹30 crore for Project Elephant, which was launched to conserve jumbos across the

country, is now ₹35 crore.

The budget for National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under the ministry responsible for tiger census and conservation of wild cats, saw a minor raise of ₹50 lakh from ₹10 crore last year to 10.5 crore for 2020-21.

The budget for National Coastal Mission aimed to ensure livelihood security of coastal communities was also raised slightly with the Government allotting it ₹103 crore this year, compared to ₹95 crore in the last fiscal.

However, the total allocation

for the five autonomous institutes under the Ministry has been reduced in the Union Budget 2021-2022. The bodies in question are GB Pant Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute and Wildlife Institute of India.

The allocation of ₹305.5 crore announced in Union Budget 2021-22 is not just lower than the previous Budget (₹340 crore), it is also lower than the

actual expenditure in 2019-20 (₹326.5 crore). It is, however, higher than the revised estimate for 2020-2021 (₹289.45 crore), said an official.





WRONG DIAGNOSIS & PRESCRIPTION: CONG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the Union Budget as "directionless", the Congress on Monday said it was a case of "wrong diagnosis and prescription", and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman could have been "brave" by extending help to the poor, but chose to be "timid". Asserting that the Union Budget was a "let down like never before", the grand old party claimed that it will unravel soon, and described the imposition of cess on petrol and diesel in the budget as "vengeful act" against the thousands of farmers who took out the tractor rally.

While former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi hit alleged that the Narendra Modi government plans to handover India's assets to crony capitalists, party colleague former finance minister P Chidambaram said the FM "deceived" those who were listening to her speech, especially the MPs, had no clue that she has imposed cesses on a large number of products including petroleum and diesel. "Forget putting cash in the hands of people, Modi government plans to handover India's assets to his crony capitalist friends," Rahul said after the presentation of the Union Budget.

Chidambaram also took a

jibe on Sitharaman saying that the FM used the same Tamil Tirukkural couplet used by him in one of his budget speech in UPA tenure. He also pointed that Sitharaman made a reference to the prime minister 14 times and to the farmers 11 times.

Reading out a party statement at a AICC press conference, Chidambaram said Sitharaman did not mention defence at all, "as if the Chinese had vacated occupied Indian territory". The opposition party said it was a case of "wrong diagnosis and prescription", and that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman could have been "brave" by extending help to the poor, but chose to be "timid".

"It was a vengeful act against the thousands of farmers who took out the longest tractor rally in history. It was also a cruel blow to federalism because the states do not get a share of the revenue from cesses," the former finance minister said while addressing a Press conference. He said this was a "cruel blow" to the average citizen, including farmers.

"She deceived the people of India, especially the poor, the working class, the migrants, the farmers, the industrial units that had been closed down permanently, and those who had lost their jobs, both regular and informal, and are still



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, with MPs from Punjab, poses for a group photograph, as they arrive to attend the Budget Session on Monday

looking for jobs," he alleged.

Chidambaram did not mention that the defence expenditure in 2021-22 will not see any significant rise. "The FM had promised a budget 'like never before'. Her mandate was to present an annual statement of revenue and expenditure for 2021-22. What she did, however, was to estimate that expenditure over 2 years or 3 years or 4 years or, in one case, over 5 years," he said.

Senior Congress leader and

'Nothing' in it, says Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many Opposition parties criticised the Budget on Monday saying it had nothing for the common man.

The CPI(M) and CPI blamed the Government for going on a "selling spree" of public sector institutions while the Samajwadi Party said the Budget proposals will increase problems for farmers and the common. The BSP said there is nothing attractive in the Budget for the common man and workers even as BJP's one-time ally Shiv Sena said that the budget failed and disappointed the common man.

"The Union Budget 2021-22 is a betrayal of the people caught in the double crisis of pandemic and recession," CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

The CPI(M) polit bureau in a statement said: "It is a classic illustration of the Modi Government's unshakeable commitment to promoting the interests of a handful of big business houses at the expense of increasing distress and misery for the working people. This is reflected in the refusal of the Government to increase public

expenditure notwithstanding its bombastic claims. The budgeted Central Government's total expenditure of 34.8 lakh crores in 2021-22 is identical in nominal terms to that in 2020-21 - which amounts to slashing expenditure in real terms. This represents the complete abrogation by the Government of its responsibility towards the people but shoring up the fortunes of a privileged few including through their greater control over the nation's productive assets."

The CPI(M) said that the panacea for "this Government is to sell off India's national assets and privatize even profit making public sector companies. The monetisation project announced in the budget included sale of valuable land held at present by public sector companies. The target is to mobilise 1.75 lakh crores through disinvestment. The increase in FDI in insurance to 74 per cent is highly objectionable. This drive for privatisation is a subversion of the national interests and a mockery of the slogan of atma nirbharta, said CPI(M).

CPI general secretary D Raja said: "This budget is the

continuation of the aggressive, pro-corporate economic policies the Modi government has been pursuing. It is a pro-corporate, pro-big businesses budget. It is pro-international finance capital, the FDI. So, this budget has nothing for the poor, for the suffering masses."

Reacting to the Union Budget Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati said that crores of poor people, farmers and working class of the country are tired of attractive promises and hollow claims. She said it would be better if the government implemented its stated policies on the ground. "Will the budget of the Central Government presented in Parliament today be able to deal with poverty, unemployment and inflation, etc? On this basis, the activities of the government and this Budget will be judged," Mayawati said in a tweet.

The Samajwadi Party said that the Modi government has "lost its credibility" and accused the BJP of working for corporates. "Its (BJP's) every move is aimed at snatching away everything from the common man and giving it to the corporate groups. Its budget is also direct-

ly and indirectly dedicated to corporate groups," Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly and senior SP leader, Ram Govind Chowdhury, alleged in a statement.

Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi said the budget is disappointing and fails to address the concerns of the citizens of the country - be it farmers, entrepreneurs, youth, women or children. "The government has yet again overlooked the Aam Janta which was the most affected due to the COVID impact and the lockdown," Chaturvedi said.

She alleged the push to creating new infrastructure and boost connectivity is appreciable but was sadly reduced to concentrate only on the election going states of 2021 very similar to free COVID vaccine promised during the Bihar elections. She also alleged there has been a step motherly treatment to Mumbai after taking away IFSC from the financial capital of the country. "For the first time in a budget speech the Finance Minister chose not to mention Defence at all when more surprising as our Indian soldiers continue to face off China and they continue to illegally occupy and build on our territory," she added in Press statement.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dedicated to welfare of all: BJP

Senior Central ministers and BJP leaders called the Budget growth-oriented and the one that "increased ease of living". BJP president JP Nadda said, "The budget 2021 has been presented in an unprecedented situation. It is inclusive and is dedicated to the welfare of all people of India."

Several BJP leaders praised the focus on capital investment and health care. Senior BJP leader and defence minister

Rajnath Singh welcomed the budget presented by Nirmala Sitharaman as the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" budget, arguing that it would strengthen the economy.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Union Budget 2020-21 will contribute significantly in fulfilling the Modi government's resolve to double the income of farmers and provide unprecedented

relief to the taxpayers.

In a series of tweets, Shah also said world-class highways, railways, ports, airports, metros will be built in the country with the allocation of ₹100 lakh crore. "In this budget, the Modi government has taken effective steps to rationalise the tax system, boost the basic infrastructure, strengthen the banking system, promote investment and ease of doing busi-

ness, which will further the Modi government's resolve to make India a five trillion-dollar economy," he said.

Shah said the budget will contribute significantly in fulfilling the Modi government's resolve to double the income of farmers by making provision for irrigation and grain storage to the farmers of the country, as well as a fair price for their produce.

The home minister said with the allocation of ₹100 lakh crore for basic infrastructure in the country, world-class highways, railways, ports, airports, metros will be built in the country, which will not only improve the lives of common people but also give a significant boost to economic activities.

"Taking forward the campaigns like home, electricity, toilets, gas and health facilities to all, I welcome Modi ji's resolve to provide clean drinking water to everyone. The allo-

cation of ₹3.60 lakh crore in this scheme shows the commitment of Modi ji, which will improve the life and health of common people," he said.

Shah said through 'Kisan Rail' and 'Kisan Udaan Yojana', the farmers will join the national and international markets and their products could be sold at a better price at the right time without damage. This scheme will especially benefit fruit and vegetable growers, particularly our tribal and northeast farmers.

"In this budget, by providing a provision of ₹85,000 crore for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes and ₹53,700 crore for Scheduled Tribes, the Modi Government has shown its sensitivity towards the development of the neglected section of the society and connecting them to the mainstream," said Shah.

BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia said the Finance Minister had presented a well-planned plan to get the economy back on track while

₹35K crore allocated for Covid-19 vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India entered 16th day of an nationwide vaccination programme wherein two vaccines - Covaxin and Covishield - are being administered to healthcare workers and frontline workers, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Monday said ₹35,000 crore has been allocated for Covid-19 vaccine in BE 2021-22 as she shared that two more vaccines against the pathogen will be announced soon.

Sitharaman said the Government has already provided ₹35,000 crore for Covid-19 vaccine in the coming fiscal and is "committed to provide further funds if required".

Though, she did not name the vaccines, her announcement comes days after the maker of Covishield, Serum Institute of India (SII) said it will soon launch Covovax, another jab against the pathogen.

"Today, India has 2 vaccines available and has begun safeguarding not only her own citizens against Covid-19 but also those of 100 or more countries. It has added comfort to know that 2 more vaccines are also expected soon," Sitharaman said during her

Budget speech in the Lok Sabha.

Presently, Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech have not only been given to Indians but have been exported to other countries too.

"We hope the arrival of other two vaccines may bring some relief, she said adding that India already has two jabs available. India currently also has one of the lowest death rates and active cases in the world," said the Minister.

Welcoming the separate fund for the Covid vaccines, Dr Krishna Ella from Bharat Biotech said, "The Government commitment providing more funds in order to contain the coronavirus pandemic provide an effective, smooth path for the vaccination scheme and will help lead our nation towards accomplishing a covid-19 disease free Bharat."

He added the allocation to vaccines signals a shift to preventive health care, a validation of the fact that vaccines are the most cost effective health care interventions.

Adar Poonawalla from the

SII too hailed the vaccine budget. "Globally, spending on healthcare infrastructure and vaccine have given countries and their economies the best bang for their buck. Investments in these areas have prevented hospitalizations and resulted in a healthier and more productive workforce, thereby leading to an efficient economy".

Dr KK Aggarwal, President, Heart Care Foundation of India (HCFI) however, felt that the ₹35,000 crore allocation for the vaccination is lower than what was needed. "The Government also needs to boost research in the field of genomics whether it is by the private or the public sector. This will help in early detection of new virus mutations in animals and the likelihood of cross-species transmissions, develop diagnostics and track transmission of infections," he added.

₹50K cr earmarked for Jal Jeevan Mission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its thrust on piped water supply to all, a whopping ₹50,000 crore has been earmarked for the Jal Jeevan Mission in Budget 2021-22, even as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Monday announced the scheme's urban segment that aims to provide tap water connections to 2.86 crore households.

The Drinking Water and Sanitation Department under the Jal Shakti Ministry has been allocated ₹60,030 crore while ₹9,022.57 crore has been earmarked for the Department of Water Resources, the River

Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The DWS has seen a hike of more than three times in its budget allocation. In 2019-20, the DWS was allocated ₹18,264.26 crore.

It came down marginally to ₹17,023.50 in 2020-21. In the coming fiscal year, the DWS has been earmarked ₹60,030 crore.

Launched in 2019, the Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship programme of the Modi Government, aims to provide tap water connections to rural households by 2024. So far, tap water connections have been given to 3.3 crore rural households.

In this budget, ₹50,000

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Commuting to be easier. In a major boost to public transport in urban areas, the Union Budget 2021-22 proposed a new scheme of ₹18,000 crore for public bus transport services, central funding for Kochi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Nagpur and Nashik metro rails, new technologies 'MetroLite' and 'MetroNeo' to be deployed in tier-2 cities and peripheral areas of tier-1 cities at much lesser cost with same experience, safety and convenience.

Major boost for public transport

The government has also allocated 23,500 crore for the projects related to Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) and Metro services in the country. The National Capital Region Transport Corporation, which is executing the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project, has been allocated ₹4,472 crore as against 2,487 crore in the revised 2020-21 estimates.

Presenting her first ever paperless Union Budget in the parliament for the financial year 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the metro rail network of 702 km is already operational across the country, and another 1,600 km of the metro rail network is under construction in 27 cities.

"MetroLite and MetroNeo will be deployed to provide metro rail systems at much lesser costs with the same experience, convenience and safety in Tier 2 cities and peripheral areas of Tier 1 cities also," she said.

Sitharaman pointed out

that central counterpart funding would be provided to Kochi Metro Railway Phase 2 of 11.5 kms at a cost of ₹1,957.05 crore and Chennai metro railway Phase 2 of 118.9 kms at a cost of ₹63,246 crore. The Bengaluru Metro Project Phase 2A and 2B of 58.19 kms will be provided funding of ₹14,788 crore. While the Nagpur Metro Project Phase 2 and the Nashik Metro Project would be provided amounts of ₹5,976 crore and ₹2,092 crore respectively, she added.

Sitharaman further said that

the government will work toward raising the share of public transport in urban areas through expansion of metro rail network and augmentation of city bus service.

"A new scheme will be launched at a cost of ₹18,000 crore to support the augmentation of public bus transport services. The scheme will facilitate deployment of innovative PPP models to enable private sector players to finance, acquire, operate and maintain over 20,000 buses. The scheme will boost the automobile sector, provide a fillip to economic growth, create employment opportunities for our youth and enhance ease of mobility for urban residents," she added.

FOR FIRST TIME, BUDGET GOES PAPERLESS!

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There were quite a few firsts during the presentation of the Union Budget - the first in a new decade in the new millennium - in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The House also saw the MPs, meeting after a prolonged period, indulging in some chit-chats post-Budget presentation.

For the first time, the Budget went paperless and members were provided soft copies of the speech and documents. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman read out her 110-minute speech from a tablet even as the House had seating arrangements in tune

with social distancing norms during the pandemic.

Clad in a red and cream-hued saree with patterns, Sitharaman continued with the practice of carrying the red-coloured 'bahi khata'.

Only that this time around, tablet replaced papers in the red bag.

Unlike earlier occasions, the minister stood in the second row of the Treasury benches as she read out the speech from a tablet placed on a short lectern. During the 110-minute-long speech, she paused a few times to sip water and a plate with candies was kept near the lectern.

It was also the shortest

speech by Sitharaman, who had delivered the longest Budget speech in July 2019 went on for around 137 minutes and in 2020, it went on for more than 160 minutes and was cut short after she felt unwell.

With seats demarcated to ensure adequate social distancing among members, some of the Union ministers, including Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, were sitting in Rajya Sabha during the Budget speech.

Reading out her third straight Union Budget speech, the minister quoted from works of Rabindranath Tagore

and Tamil classic Thirukkural while some Opposition members made certain remarks during the speech.

Many of the Budget announcements, including some related to taxation, were greeted with thumping of desk by the ruling party members. After the presentation of Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was wearing a blue mask, went to the minister and congratulated her. Many other members were also seen chatting with Sitharaman after completion of her speech.

Next to Sitharaman was Union Minister Harsh Vardhan and on the same row was min-

isterial colleague Pralhad Joshi. Apart from Prime Minister Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh were also seated in the front row.

Amid the ongoing farmers' protests against the three new farm laws, Shiromani Akali Dal leaders - Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Sukhbir Singh Badal - along with RLP's Hanuman Beniwal sought to raise the matter. They were seen holding posters demanding that the Centre take back the 'black' laws.

All of them, who were till recently part of the ruling NDA, stood in the aisle for a few minutes and later walked out of the House soon after the

finance minister started her speech.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah and various other people from the Opposition were present in the House.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was absent.

BJP members - Jai Oram and Dharambhir Singh - were sitting on the Opposition side. Mulayam Singh Yadav's was also seen chatting with some members as he was walking out of the House mid-way through the Budget speech.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

A decent Budget?

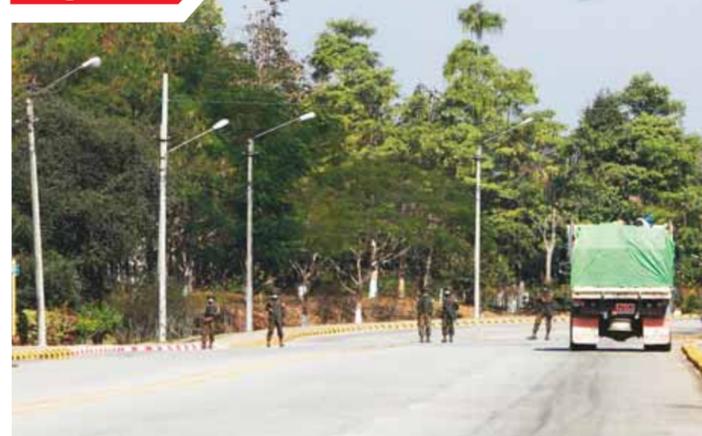
How should we judge this year's Union Budget by Nirmala Sitharaman?

The first thing everybody worries about in every Budget is how much their income taxes have been altered; will they end up paying the Government more? Well, on that front the news is not bad as things have remained unchanged. But on all other fronts, this was one of the most challenging Budgets in recent history, with the Government dealing with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fiscal deficit is close to 10 per cent for fiscal year 2021 and a projected percentage of 6.8 does not make for pretty reading. With a target of 4.5 per cent by 2025, an era of elevated deficits is upon us. Also, the Government does not appear to be going aggressively into disinvesting Public Sector Units with a reduced disinvestment target, although it is clearly saying that it will disinvest two Public Sector Banks and an insurance company and is almost certain to go ahead with the sale of the Life Insurance Corporation. And, of course, politics came into the picture with a major infrastructure push in poll-bound States like Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Major spending on the Railways was also announced, the biggest ever allocation for the steel tracks that criss-cross our country. Some even described the Budget as Keynesian, using the major infrastructure push to generate jobs and demand.



Now, there are several major questions surrounding announcements in the Budget. The first is the concept of a 'Bad Bank' where distressed assets with non-performing loans can be put into an Asset Management Company and an Asset Reconstruction Company which, on the face of it, is a great idea. But the challenge here might be one of human capital. Will the bankers in such a State-owned 'bad bank' be brave enough to take the haircuts needed to help distressed assets recover? There are positive moves such as the announcement to put assets into Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT) such as transmission lines of the Power Grid and highways of the National Highways Authority of India. This might allow companies like these to better deploy their capital onto new projects. The tax breaks announced for foreigners, who invest in these InvIT and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT), should give an innovative and fairly secure way for foreign investors, particularly pension and sovereign funds, to invest into the India story. On the expenditure front, the most interesting spending is particularly in healthcare. If every country has learnt anything from the pandemic, it is that public healthcare spending has to go up; there is no guarantee that this will be the last global pandemic to hit us. India might have recovered from the worst but better healthcare is needed for the future. Sure, there are disappointments on the Defence and education fronts, although the former will probably have additional announcements made through the year and the latter also might be opened up for more private (and foreign) investment. All in all, given how much her hands were tied, this is not a bad Budget from Nirmala Sitharaman.

PICTALK



Soldiers stand guard on a road in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, on Monday

AP

Booster for health

The Government has made a slew of big-ticket announcements for the healthcare sector

They say that every crisis hides within itself an opportunity and teaches us some vital lessons. If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it is the need for self-reliance and the importance of having a robust healthcare infrastructure. Obviously, the Government has taken these lessons to heart and, despite an ailing economy made sicker by the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made some big-ticket announcements for the healthcare sector in the Union Budget. The Minister allocated ₹2,23,846 crore to the sector, which is an increase of 137 per cent over last year's Budget. Of the amount, the focus of the spending will be vaccination, with a whopping ₹35,000 crore set aside for it. Strengthening healthcare institutions and capacity building will also get the lion's share. Sitharaman also proposed an Aatmanirbhar Swastha Bharat Scheme with an outlay of ₹64,180 crore over the next six years and the main interventions under the scheme will support over 17,000 rural and 11,000 urban wellness centres. As the Government comes to terms with the reality that "we will have to live with the virus" as environmental degradation, deforestation and a burgeoning population will make zoonotic diseases and Corona and Zika-like pandemics a regular feature, it has realised that there is a need to focus on developing the capacity of primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, strengthen national institutions and create new ones.

With this in mind, the Centre has put curative and preventive health and well-being on the forefront. The proposals would make quality healthcare accessible and affordable, besides standardising infrastructure across the country. However, the Budget is silent on the critical aspect of insurance. As health insurance premiums are increasing, raising the premium amount for tax exemption would have been a great initiative to bring more people under the cover. Increasing the Foreign Direct Investment limits in the sector and the proposed IPO of Life Insurance Corporation will surely strengthen the insurance sector. The Government also needs to prepare itself for the next crisis of non-communicable diseases, which will be responsible for 80 per cent of deaths and cause a \$3.8 trillion burden by 2030. Increased allocation for other social determinants like clean fuel, air and water will have a greater impact on health. If there is a silver lining in the dark cloud that is the pandemic, it is the realisation that solid healthcare infrastructure is key for a nation that harbours the ambitions of becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

Stop running India down

It is unfortunate that leaders like Rahul Gandhi have failed to appreciate simple truths and are undermining the efforts of the Centre and State Govts

World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has thanked India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the country's "continued support to the global COVID-19 response". In a recent tweet, he said: "Only if we act together, including sharing of knowledge, can we stop this virus and save lives and livelihoods." The WHO chief was lauding India's decision to despatch COVID-19 vaccines to several neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal, besides Saudi Arabia, Brazil and others.

This was the fourth time in the past year that the WHO chief had hailed the Government's decisions to contain the pandemic. Last July, he praised India's efforts to contain the outbreak in Dharavi — considered the biggest slum in the world. He cited this as an example of how, even when the outbreak was very intense, it could be brought under control. Last September, he again praised Modi for his speech to the UN General Assembly in which he said that as the largest vaccine-producing country, India would utilise this strength to distribute it across the world and help the global community. In November 2020 when Modi spoke to the WHO chief, the latter praised India's efforts and the Ayushman Bharat programme. In fact, way back in May 2020, the WHO representative in India had described India's efforts as being "enormous, very impressive". The WHO also lauded the Uttar Pradesh Government's COVID management and contract-tracing efforts and said they are worthy of emulation by other States.

Many other international entities are lauding India's efforts. The United States described India as a "true friend" for deploying its advantage in the pharma sector to meet the vaccine needs of other countries. The State Department said: "We applaud India's role in global health, sharing millions of vaccine doses in South Asia." Applauding India, Congressman Brad Sherman tweeted: "Great to see our ally India purchasing and



supplying millions of doses of COVID vaccines, manufactured in India, to its neighbours and nations around the world."

It is important for all citizens to know and digest these facts if only to ward off the negativity that is being spread indiscriminately and irresponsibly by some politicians and, in particular, by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

In fact, while developed nations like the US, the UK, France and Spain are floundering in their efforts, the Modi-led Union Government and the Governments in all States and Union Territories, which are run by a variety of parties, have done remarkably well to join hands and tackle the biggest health crisis in centuries.

Rahul first criticised the lockdown imposed in March 2020 and later ridiculed the Modi Government for lifting it. To buttress his argument, he put out graphs of COVID-19 prevalence in countries like Germany, France and the UK to claim that the virus incidence had come down in those countries after they lifted the lockdown, but in India it had shot up. Thereafter, he has been persistently criticising India's efforts to tackle COVID-19. What Rahul does not realise is that his petty political attacks are hurting our

WHILE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE THE US, FRANCE, THE UK AND SPAIN ARE FLOUNDERING IN THEIR EFFORTS, THE UNION AND ALL OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE DONE REMARKABLY WELL TO JOIN HANDS AND TACKLE THE BIGGEST HEALTH CRISIS IN CENTURIES

image. Looking at the plight of these nations today, one wonders what he has to say now.

Thus far, over 100 million people have been affected globally. India accounts for 10 million cases, but has managed better control. It reported 13,044 new cases a day on January 30 after touching a high of 97,894 cases per day on September 14, 2020. The last four months have seen a steady decline in cases. Against this, the countries Rahul was praising are in a real mess. Currently, the UK and France have two million and 2.7 million active cases, respectively, as against 1.78 lakh in India. The US has reported 25 million cases, of which nearly 10 million are active.

Strangely, even as the cases are declining, Rahul again attacked the Centre for its "failure" to tackle COVID-19. The "unplanned lockdown" destroyed millions of lives, he says, but the truth is that India has one of the lowest death rates in the world during this pandemic. As against 10 million patients, India has reported 1.53 lakh deaths, accounting for around 1.5 per cent fatalities. Fortunately, most Chief Ministers are not toeing his line.

Meanwhile, the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the

WHO Health Emergencies Programme has submitted an interim report in which it has criticised "the rising politicisation of the pandemic response", which means reckless attempts like the ones being made by Rahul are harming the cause.

The WHO panel has rightly observed that a successful response "hinges on inter-connected global systems and networks" and scientific expertise, and contends that the WHO can't succeed without unified global political support during the next phases of the pandemic. It says the world is "at a critical juncture" and will "not defeat this virus without greater global solidarity and stronger multilateral cooperation".

It is tragic that the leader of India's oldest political party is consistently out to undermine the efforts of the Centre and all State Governments and lakhs of health workers, who have staked their lives to serve COVID patients. This is destructive politics at its worst. Fortunately, there are wiser men and women in his party, including Chief Ministers, who are not toeing his line and working selflessly to rid the country of this terrible scourge.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EXERCISE CAUTION IN FILMMAKING

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'No laughing matter' (February 1). Our nation is a secular country where pluralism flourishes and there is peaceful coexistence of people belonging to various religions, faiths, regions, castes and creed. The age-old tradition of peacefully living together for centuries has won India the 'Unity in Diversity' epithet that it really merits.

However, the Indian Constitution provides no room for the laceration of religious sentiments of any individual or community. As far as showing controversial scenes in movies or serials is concerned, it must be kept in mind that the huge unaccounted money invested by the filmmakers and directors in their movies makes them try every trick so as to attract the media and public attention. However, out of apprehension that their efforts will not pay them expected dividends at the box office or when any controversy arises, they willy-nilly render apologies given that their goal is achieved after all, even if the controversial scenes are cut.

The writers, producers and actors should ideally be wary that their money, labour and precious time do not go in vain following unwarranted controversies. Their intention should be to entertain their fans and not to hurt the religious feelings or sentiments of any community or society at large.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

CHALLENGES FOR THE AAP

Sir — Arvind Kejriwal's national ambition to systematically make inroads into other States is laudable. He has announced that the party would contest elections in six States, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat, which will go to polls in the next two years.

The AAP cadres can focus on the poll-going States without having to bother about Delhi. Kejriwal is hoping that the "anti-incumbency" factors in all the election-going States might benefit his party. The Delhi Chief Minister is not a novice look-

Teachers are the real victims



This refers to the editorial 'Back to School' (February 1). The Government should take effective measures to increase the footfall of students in schools. However, the condition of teachers, especially in Government schools, continues to remain pitiable. The poor teachers are subjected to bullying and harassment not only by the school management but also by the principals. They are used as "puppets" who are not

allowed to take any important or significant decision on their own. They are paid less and deployed for other purposes like making electoral roll, on election duty, collecting data, conducting door-to-door survey and so on. Teachers who have rarely been allowed to use computers in schools have managed to keep the classes going through online mode for nearly 10 months during the COVID-19 pandemic and they would feel good to see their students back in the real classroom.

It is sad that neither the Government nor parents are bothered about the plight of teachers. For more than six months soon after 40 days of summer vacation, the teachers were being made to attend school and take classes with very few computers and with poor network. As a result, they were forced to use their personal mobile data. The safety of children is important, but what about those who make their future? We all must take care of teachers.

N Nagarajan | Secunderabad

ing at Government-formation in these States, a far-fetched proposition. However, a remote possibility of turning into king-maker in at least one of these States cannot be ruled out. Time and power have mellowed an argumentative Kejriwal, much to the glee of his supporters who were worried that he would throw away the hard-earned gains in politics. However, the AAP has already increased its activities in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, which go to polls early next year.

In these States, the AAP will hard-sell its Delhi governance model. The party will also have to increase its presence at the ground-level politics in these States for which it must increase the number of party workers and volunteers. The AAP must not forget that its fight is with regional satraps and traditional parties like the Congress and BJP.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

WONDERFUL UNION BUDGET

Sir — For the first time Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman has not been constrained by self-imposed norms of fiscal deficit. The NDA Government has rightly surmised that the private sector will not invest. They will keep going back to the Government for all kinds of support. The Government has taken the onus to put serious money into infrastructure, health and wellness and generally into development. It has actually gone the other way and is improving tax administration to ensure better compliance.

Budget 2021 is pragmatic and committed to the healthcare sector which needed a deliberate boost after the COVID-19 outbreak last year. The announcement of a centrally funded scheme—Aatmanirbhar Health Yojana—with an outlay of ₹64,180 crore over six years in addition to the National Health Mission is a welcome step.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

SOUND BITE

High-density rail networks and highly utilised rail routes will be provided with indigenously developed automatic train protection system which will eliminate train collisions due to human error.



Finance Minister
— Nirmala Sitharaman

The existing Opposition parties have failed to achieve the confidence and trust of the people due to lack of leadership. No doubt that a powerful Opposition is a must for democracy.

Bangladesh PM
— Sheikh Hasina

Madhuri is like a dream to work with. She is one of the best co-stars I have ever worked with and she is such a nice human being. I feel that most of her talent has still not been tapped.

Actor
— Renuka Shahane

It is always a pleasure to play with Dhoni. Have been playing with him for the last three years. For me, he is a great, great human being. He understands everybody, respects everybody.

Cricketer
— Imran Tahir

This time in the Budget, the BJP Government must make provisions for the restoration of the nation's unity, social harmony, respect of farmers and workers.

SP leader
— Akhilesh Yadav

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

HARNESSING NARI SHAKTI FOR SPORTS

While only 86 women were part of the TOPS programme in 2018, today we have 190 girls



KIREN RIJJU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's simple mantra for the youth, "Khelega India toh khilega India", has been the driving force behind the transformation of the perception of sports in the last few years. Sports, once perceived as just an extracurricular activity in India, is now taking centre stage. Strong schemes adopted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, like 'Khelo India', 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)' or 'Fit India Movement', have played a significant role in motivating youngsters to pursue a career in sports and the number of sportsmen/women is on a steady rise. Specifically for girl athletes, empathy and inclusiveness have been key drivers for game-changing reforms. This is in line with the Government's myriad initiatives to encourage the girl child's emancipation. Over the years, sterling performances by women athletes have ensured them a place in the Indian sporting world's hall of fame and turned them into legends. Most importantly, they showed the global sporting community that "Bharat ki Mahila" is up for the challenge and can take on the world. These spirited performances, coupled with reforms led by the Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports in recent years, have promoted inclusivity, created an ecosystem of awareness towards women in sports and inspired a generation of young girls to actively take part in sports. I can proudly say that 43 per cent of the Indian athletes who have qualified for the forthcoming Tokyo Olympics are women.



The crucial point in ensuring that India achieves sporting excellence is to increase participation at the grassroots. A wide participation base will ensure there are a good number of children who continue to play sports professionally. It is important to note that girls form 50 per cent of this participation base, and at no cost can they be left behind. The 'Khelo India Scheme', with the objective of infusing a sporting culture and achieving sporting excellence in the country has played a vital role in the last three years. An exclusive component of the 'Khelo India Scheme' focuses on barriers faced by girls/women in participating in sporting activities and creating mechanisms to overcome these and increase participation. We have had a 161 per cent increase in women's participation at the Khelo India Games from 2018 to 2020. From 657 identified female athletes being supported under the 'Khelo India Scheme' in 2018, the number has now gone up to 1,471. TOPS focuses on high-performance sports where we provide international training exposure, world-class physical and mental conditioning, scientific research, day-to-day monitoring and counseling and ample financial assistance to athletes who could potentially win Olympic gold medals. While only 86 women athletes were part of the TOPS programme in September 2018, it is heartening to note that today we have 190 of them.

Promotion of girls/women in sports needs to deal heavily with changing social mindsets. Allowing girls to participate in physical activity in a safe environment, with good quality coaching and infrastructure, has to be a combined effort from both the Government and society. Many women champions have taken proactive steps to establish sports academies with a focus on excellence and a number of such initiatives have been supported and fostered by the Sports Ministry under the National Sports Development Fund. The Usha School of Athletics, Mary Kom Boxing Foundation, Ashwini Sports Foundation, Sarita Boxing Academy, Karnam Malleshwari Foundation and Anju Bobby George Sports Foundation, are all examples of such initiatives. Let us all pledge to collectively work towards ensuring that girls play a lot more sports, so that we as a country march ever nearer to the great Olympic ideal of 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' meaning 'Faster, Higher, Stronger.' (The writer is Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports. The views expressed are personal.)



KALYANI SHANKAR

Anniversaries are a day we look back and also look to the future. The world remembered one year of the COVID-19 outbreak on January 21, when the first case of the Novel Coronavirus was reported in Wuhan. As it spread to other countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared it a pandemic. The Novel Coronavirus was indeed novel and scientists and doctors cannot find the real reason for its spread till today. Now millions of people are getting vaccinated amidst myths and truth about the efficacy of various vaccines doing the rounds of social media.

The Corona story in India began last January with a student who returned from Wuhan. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan took many measures to arrest the spread of the virus. The Narendra Modi Government also imposed a

The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.

Reinvigorating growth: Where is the money?

The FM wants to boost growth, but it will be at the cost of fiscal de-stabilisation. One is not sure whether a sustained, rapid surge will come as a huge resource gap remains



UTTAM GUPTA

Taking a cue from the prescription that the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA), Krishnamurthy Subramanian gave in the *Economic Survey: 2020-21* that "the Government should come up with more fiscal measures for short-term support to the economy and businesses", Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman has gone ahead with some "big bang" measures. She has not just attempted to give a boost to industries and businesses in the short-term but has also given an indication of her intent to put them on a high growth trajectory in the medium to long-term.

Apart from giving a boost to the healthcare infrastructure (₹64,180 crore allocated for new health schemes besides ₹35,000 crore for the COVID vaccine) and education, this push is manifested in big plans in the field of infrastructure such as roads, highways, railways, ports, gas pipelines and so on; production-linked incentive schemes (PLI) for 13 sectors; launch of seven Mega Textile Investment Parks over the next three years and measures to give a boost to start-ups and so on.

Sitharaman has tried to demonstrate that the Government is really serious about pumping more money into the economy. Hence, the Budget has provided for capital expenditure of ₹5,54,000 crore during 2021-22 which is an increase of 35 per cent over the Budget Estimate (BE) for 2020-21 at ₹4,12,000 crore. Unfortunately, even at this level, it is minimal when compared to the mammoth requirement of over ₹100 lakh crore over five years or ₹20 lakh crore per annum under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project.

For garnering resources, the FM has outlined a detailed blueprint for asset monetisation — both greenfield projects as well as brownfield ones — covering almost every infrastructure sector one could think of like roads, highways, railways, ports, power transmission lines, gas pipelines and so on. She has also mooted setting up of a new Development Financial Institution (DFI) termed the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill, 2021.

This is intended as a provider, enabler and catalyst for infrastructure financing and as the main financial institution and development bank for building and sustaining a supportive ecosystem across the life cycle of infrastructure projects. The Government will infuse ₹20,000 crore in NaBFID as budgetary support which will be leveraged to generate a financing capability of over ₹5,00,000 crore.

Given the cumbersome processes involved in undertaking sale of State assets as also lack of market appetite, it is unlikely that these would materialise soon. As regards raising resources via setting up of a DFI, the idea — abandoned decades ago (then, we had IDBI and ICICI as institutions involved in long-term lending) — is a welcome move, all the more because it is free from the kind of asset-liability mismatch which banks suffer from. But it will take long before the NaBFID will be able to contribute in a meaningful way.

In the *Economic Survey*, the CEA has asked the Government to remain focused on propelling growth even if it means the Fiscal Deficit (FD) getting out of control. The irony is that during 2020-21, despite the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracting by 7.7 per cent, the FD has spiraled to a whopping 9.5 per cent of the GDP. This is almost



Photo by Ranjan Dimri



IN THE ECONOMIC SURVEY, THE CEA HAS ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN FOCUSED ON PROPELLING GROWTH EVEN IF IT MEANS THE FISCAL DEFICIT GETTING OUT OF CONTROL

The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.

three times the Budget estimate of 3.5 per cent, which itself was 0.5 per cent higher than the three per cent threshold required as per Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) and justified by Sitharaman in terms of the "far-reaching structural reforms with unanticipated fiscal implications."

At 9.5 per cent, FD is even higher than a widely expected figure of around 7.5 per cent. This is largely because the Government has taken on its balance sheet the so-called off-Budget liabilities or loans taken by State agencies (on its behalf) including from the Food Corporation of India (FCI). Since 2016-17, the FCI has been borrowing from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) to finance unpaid food subsidy dues from the Centre.

As on March 31, 2020, its cumulative borrowings from the NSSF stood at ₹3,30,000 crore. All of this, plus the loans taken during 2020-21 get transferred to the Centre's balance sheet. For the future also, the FCI will not have to borrow from the NSSF.

The FD for 2021-22 is put at 6.8 per cent of the GDP. Considering that the nominal growth of the GDP is projected to rebound to over 15 per cent and correspondingly the tax revenue — both direct and indirect — will also increase sharply, this figure seems to be pretty high. With this, the FM has also drastically altered the trajectory of fiscal consolidation by targeting a FD of 4.5 per cent during 2025-26. Compare this with 2.5 per cent for 2022-23 as recom-

mended by the NK Singh Committee on review of the FRBM. To legitimise this fiscal splurge, the Government will have to make further amendments to the FRBM Act (it was last done through the Finance Bill 2018-19 prescribing a FD target for 2020-21 as three per cent plus 0.5 per cent for unanticipated events).

The announcement of a policy on investment of the Government's shareholding in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) that aims at selling all CPSUs in "non-strategic" sectors and restrict its presence in "strategic" sectors to the bare minimum has been in the works for nearly five years. It was started by NITI Aayog who will now have to work on the details. It does not instil confidence as the current approach of linking investment to the FD target simply won't work.

Faced with a sharp increase in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) post-pandemic (according to India Ratings and Research, as proportion of the outstanding debt, NPAs will increase from 11.57 per cent to 18.21 per cent by the end of 2021-22), the Budget has resurrected the idea of "bad bank" recommended in 2018, by a committee headed by the former Chairman, Punjab National Bank, Sunil Mehta. A "bad bank" buys the NPAs of other banks and thereby helps clear their balance sheets. It does not solve the problem but merely transfers the stress from the latter to the former.

The proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, to delicense the distribution business,

bring in competition and give power to the consumer to choose his/her suppliers does not inspire. The Electricity Act (2003) also had provisions to empower consumers but it never worked. Further, the real intent behind the ₹3,00,000 crore electricity distribution reform programme is to give money to the beleaguered power distribution companies or discoms so that they can clear dues to power generators and other suppliers; it has little to do with improving their efficiency, as stated.

The FM has enumerated all that is being done to help farmers; that includes massive increase in buying by State agencies at the MSP. But, majority of small and marginal farmers (they are 86.2 per cent) don't benefit from it. Likewise, agricultural credit (now raised to ₹16.5 lakh crore) is cornered mostly by large farmers i.e. those with farms over 10 hectares.

On the taxation front, the Budget proposes minor changes such as extension of tax holiday for start-ups by one more year; exempts dividend payments to Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts from tax deduction at source; deduction of tax on dividend income for Foreign Portfolio Investors at the lower treaty rate and so on.

To conclude, even as the FM wants to go for the kill in terms of reinvigorating growth, she wants to do it at the cost of fiscal de-stabilisation; even then, one is not sure whether the sustained rapid growth will come as a huge resource gap remains.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE GOVERNMENT IS A PHONE CALL AWAY AND THE OFFER TO SUSPEND THE NEW AGRICULTURE LAWS UP TO 18 MONTHS STILL STANDS
—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RELEASE OUR MEN AND PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE FOR TALKS. A RESPECTFUL SOLUTION SHOULD BE REACHED.
—FARMER LEADER
NARESH TIKAIT

Vital lessons learnt from the Corona contagion

India hasn't fared as poorly as many had feared and the lessons learnt will go a long way in handling future health emergencies

Anniversaries are a day we look back and also look to the future. The world remembered one year of the COVID-19 outbreak on January 21, when the first case of the Novel Coronavirus was reported in Wuhan. As it spread to other countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared it a pandemic. The Novel Coronavirus was indeed novel and scientists and doctors cannot find the real reason for its spread till today. Now millions of people are getting vaccinated amidst myths and truth about the efficacy of various vaccines doing the rounds of social media.

The Corona story in India began last January with a student who returned from Wuhan. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan took many measures to arrest the spread of the virus. The Narendra Modi Government also imposed a



KALYANI SHANKAR

hard nationwide lockdown on March 25. However, the lockdown was not without economic cost to the country. In line with global measures against the virus, the Government banned domestic and international travel. It also ordered shutting up of shops, malls, cinema halls, schools, colleges, offices and all factories and construction activities. Millions of jobs were lost and the Gross Domestic Product shrank, resulting in a massive economic collapse. The Government started easing the hard lockdown in June and announced many booster doses for reviving the economy. The country recorded the highest number of Coronavirus cases in the world after the US and India reported 10.7 million infections and 1,54,147 deaths. Fortunately, India started its immunisation programme on January 16. Though the inoculation drive

began much later than in other countries, our rate of vaccination has been higher. This is because India has learnt many important lessons from its polio immunisation drive and is one of the world's most effective vaccine and drug makers. This is why many countries have already approached it for vaccine supply. According to the Health Minister, nearly two million doses of Covishield vaccine manufactured in India were dispatched to Brazil and another two million doses were sent to Morocco last week. Half a dozen neighbouring countries, including Nepal and Myanmar, were also supplied with vaccines.

As it happens during any pandemic of this kind, some things did not go right. It was mostly due to poor administrative decisions or the lack of effective communication. For instance, the lockdown could



have been handled much better. The handling of migrant labour was another big mess up that led to untold suffering for lakhs of workers and embarrassed the country.

However, as each crisis teaches us something, the important lesson learnt this time was the need to ramp up the crumbling healthcare infrastructure, become self-reliant and prepare the country to deal with future pandemics, which the Government did effectively. The Government used telephone messages to reach out to

117 crore people and urge them to adhere to Coronavirus protocols like social distancing, hand washing and masking up. The message was conveyed fast, even in rural areas.

On the political front, Modi rightly took all the Chief Ministers into confidence, held over six meetings and addressed the nation more than half a dozen times. The Prime Minister and Chief Ministers worked together, keeping aside their political differences. After all, it is the States which implement central regulations and their support is very necessary. The Government strengthened the medical staff, converted most hospitals to COVID facilities and spent more on the healthcare sector.

Harsh Vardhan says, "The most important lesson we learnt is that you have to be vigilant all the time and innovative. The Government also simultane-

ously activated scientists and medical researchers. At one point, almost a million Covid tests a day were being done."

Telemedicine, too, received a boost and became the new way of getting medical help. It is good that this year's Union Budget has allocated more funds for the Health Ministry and, for the first time, the Finance Commission also had a separate chapter on health.

Overall, India hasn't fared as poorly as many had feared at the start of the outbreak, and the lessons learnt will go a long way in handling health emergencies in the future. Many doctors say that we have to live with the Coronavirus as we live with other viruses. Avoiding a future pandemic, developing an effective vaccine and medications as well as reliable data are some of the precautions for India and the world in a post-Corona world.

FOREIGN EYE



TIME FOR KHAN TO INTROSPECT

Prime Minister Imran Khan may want to dwell more on factors that inhibit long-term planning in order to get answers that fit more neatly into the constitutional structure of Pakistan. If indeed we want to benefit from continuity and longer-term vision for governance, we need to ensure that elections are held regularly in a free, fair and transparent manner so that stability and legitimacy are embedded in the democratic fabric of our electoral and governance system.

(Dawn editorial)



CENTRAL GOVT DEPTS TO ADD OVER 1.4 LAKH JOBS

Budget documents have given a break-up of jobs estimated to be created in Central Government departments between 2019 and March 2021

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1.4 lakh jobs are estimated to be created between March 2019 and March 2021 in various Central Government departments, according to the Union Budget presented on Monday.

The strength of Government establishments was 32,71,113 as on March 1, 2019, which is estimated to increase to 34,14,226 by the first day of next month — an increase of 1,43,113, it said.

The Budget documents have given a break-up of the jobs estimated to be created in Central Government departments between 2019 and March 2021.

As many as 2,207 jobs are estimated to be created between March 2019 and March 2021 in the Department



of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare. Its actual strength of 3,619 as on

March 1, 2019, has been estimated to be increased to 5,826 by March 1, this year.

Similarly, 1,058 jobs are estimated to be created in the Ministry of Civil Aviation by

THE STRENGTH OF GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS WAS 32,71,113 AS ON MARCH 1, 2019, WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO INCREASE TO 34,14,226 BY THE FIRST DAY OF NEXT MONTH — AN INCREASE OF 1,43,113, IT SAID

the beginning of next month. Its actual strength of 1,254 on March 1, 2019, would increase to 2,312 by March 1, 2021, it said.

As many as 12,537 new civil jobs are likely to be created in the Defence Ministry. Its strength was 80,463 in March 2019 and is estimated to increase to 93,000 by March 1, 2021.

The Culture Ministry is

estimated to add 3,638 jobs, 2,859 by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, 2,263 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, 2,204 by the Ministry of External Affairs, 2,139 by the Department of Commerce and 1,452 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, between this two-year period, according to the Budget 2021-22. A total of 4,072 jobs are esti-

mated to be created in the Department of Health and Family Welfare, as its actual strength of 20,907 on March 1, 2019, will be 24,979 by March 1, this year, it said.

As many as 2,419 jobs are estimated to be created by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, 1,848 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 1,456 by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, 995 by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and 651 jobs in the Department of Fisheries between March 2019 and March 1, 2021, the documents said.

A total of 5,305 jobs are likely to be created in the Ministry of Mines, as its actual strength of 7,980 as on March 1, 2019 is estimated to

be 13,285 by March 1, 2021, it said.

As many as 2,684 jobs are likely to be created in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions between 2019 and 2021, according to the Budget documents.

The Prime Minister on Monday hailed the Union Budget, saying it has the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' (self reliance) and addresses all sections of society, while keeping farmers and villages at its heart.

The Budget will bring several positive changes for individuals, investors, industry and the infrastructure sector, the Prime Minister said in his televised remarks on the Budget 2021-22 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament.

Budget: Govt allocates ₹830 cr for Fund of Funds for Startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has allocated ₹830 crore for the Fund of Funds for Startups in the Budget 2021-22, which is higher than the revised estimate of about ₹430 crore.

The Government has set up a Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for the FFS.

The allocation for the fund of funds in Budget 2020-21 was ₹1,054.97 crore, but it was revised to ₹429.99 crore.

According to the Budget documents, the allocation for Startup India programme has been increased marginally to ₹20.83 crore for 2021-22 from the revised estimate of ₹20 crore in 2020-21.

Startup India initiative aims at fostering entrepreneurship and promoting inno-



vation by creating an ecosystem that is conducive to the growth of budding entrepreneurs.

On the other hand, the government has earmarked Rs 300 crore for credit guarantee fund.

The cumulative allocation for the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been hiked to ₹7,782.24 crore for 2021-22 as against the revised estimate of ₹7,583.06 crore in 2020-21.

Similarly, the cumulative allocation for the department of commerce has also been increased to ₹4,986 crore for 2021-22 as against the revised estimate of ₹4,600 crore in 2020-21.

The total allocations for export promotion schemes, such as Market Access Initiative and Interest Equalisation Scheme, has been increased to ₹2,365 crore for 2021-22 as against the revised estimate of ₹2,175 crore in 2020-21.

Blockbuster reforms to boost development: Berlia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget presented by Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, on Monday is focused on lives & livelihood in the backdrop of economy ravaged by Covid-19 Pandemic, said Nikhil Sawhney, Chairman, CII Northern Region. At CII, we appreciate the fine balancing done to soothe the economy as well as boost it by way of increased capital expenditure, focus on creating physical infrastructure, healthcare spending.

"The Government has continued on its path of blockbuster reforms to boost development, the economy and investment sentiment, and delivered an excellent Budget in the middle of a crisis" said Aditya Berlia, Chairman-CII Delhi State.

"My compliments to the Government for the BOLD, forward looking Union Budget 2021. This is the direction towards going for becoming 5



Aditya Berlia

Trillion Economy" said Kanwaljeet Jawa, vice chairman, CII Delhi State. Budget will certainly revive growth with big push on health sector and infrastructure development be it Roadways or Railways. India is truly moving towards becoming "Self-Reliant Bharat", he further added.

CII Northern Region is happy to note that the Budget ticked all the right boxes of lives, livelihood and growth which would propel the economy to an inclusive growth tra-

FOCUS ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WILL GO LONG WAY IN CONNECTING NORTH WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD: NIKHIL SAWHNEY, CHAIRMAN, CII NORTHERN REGION



Kanwaljeet Jawa

jectory. We expect the reform process to continue beyond the budget announcements. We welcome the ₹1,18,452 cr grant to meet the Revenue Deficit to



Nikhil Sawhney

17 States during the year 2021-22, as this will help the states in meeting their development and capital expenditure plan which suffered due to lower GST collections.

Speaking on the Budget announcements for the Northern states, he said may northern states are the hub of MSMEs, and there are many positives for the sector such as rationalisation of custom duty structures will boost the sector. Another Budget proposal to establish 7 textile parks will

help many textile hubs in North India such as Ludhiana, Bhilwara, Gurgaon, Panipat in their technological upgradation and export competitiveness.

The Northern Region of the country is land locked, and the stress on expansion of physical infrastructure will go long way in connecting North with the rest of the world. CII welcome the deadline to complete the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors by June 2022. These Corridors will link Northern Region states with ports in Western & Eastern India.

Announcement of bringing 1,000 more mandis under the e-NAM umbrella and enhancing agricultural credit target to ₹16.5 lakh crore in FY22 will greatly benefit the agrarian states of Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan etc. The announcement for setting up of Central University in Leh (Ladakh) will greatly help in meeting the aspirations of the youth of newly carved UT, Sawhney added.

For every rupee in Govt kitty, 53 paise to come from taxes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

For every rupee in the government coffers, 53 paise will come from direct and indirect taxes, 36 paise from borrowings and other liabilities, 6 paise from non-tax revenue like disinvestment and 5 paise from non-debt capital receipts.

According to the Union Budget 2021-22 presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday, goods and services tax will contribute 15 paise in every rupee revenue, while corporation tax will contribute 13 paise to each rupee earned.

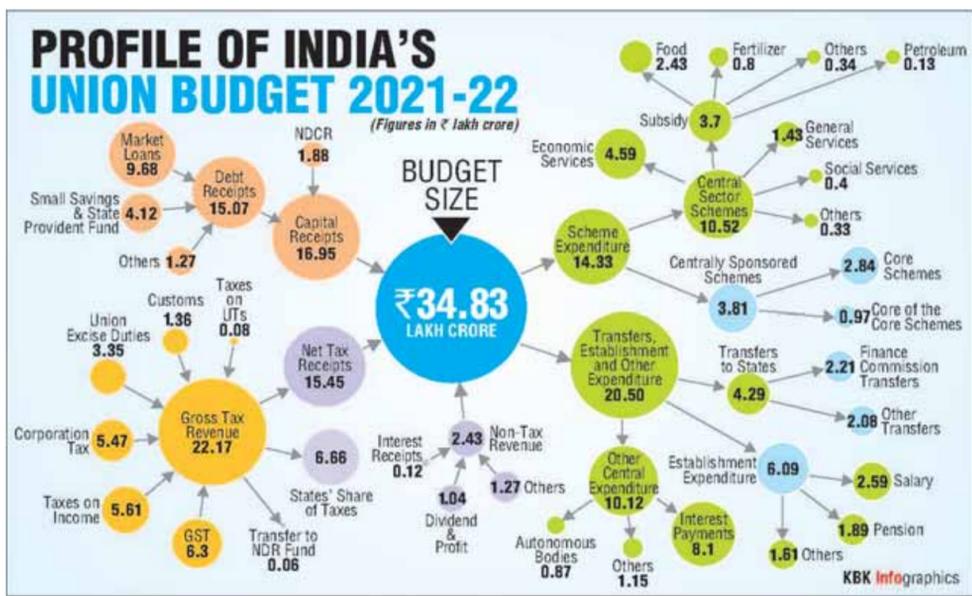
The government is also looking to earn 8 paise for every rupee from Union excise duty and 3 paise from customs duty. While, income tax will yield 14 paise to every rupee collection. The collection from borrowings and other liabilities will be 36 paise, as per the Budget 2020-21.

The collection from borrowings and other liabilities will be 36 paise, as per the Budget 2020-21

On the expenditure side, the biggest outlay component is interest payments at 20 paise for every rupee, followed by the states' share of taxes and duties at 16 paise. Allocation for the defence stood at 8 paise.

Expenditure on central sector schemes will be 14 paise, while the allocation for centrally-sponsored schemes will be 9 paise. The expenditure on the Finance Commission and other transfers is pegged at 10 paise. Subsidies and pension would account for 8 paise and 5 paise, respectively, in each rupee spending.

The Government will spend 10 paise in every rupee on other expenditures.



Budget 2021 has cleared all confusion regarding new farm laws: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Monday hailed the Union Budget 2021-22 allocation to agriculture sector saying this Budget has cleared all the confusion regarding new farm laws and the minimum support price (MSP) and the Government is fully committed towards development of agriculture sector while farmers unions termed it anti farmers' as the budget has proved their apprehensions right — that this government is on a path of withdrawing support to agriculture, not strengthening it.

Farmers said they are only concerned about their common goal of having the three farm laws repealed, and what has been offered to the agriculture sector in the Union Budget does not matter. Tomar said that the

Narendra Modi is committed to working for the interest of farmers. "Every year the focus is not only on increased budget allocation, but also the implementation of schemes," he said. Tomar further stated the budget will help in doubling the farmers' income. It has the required provisions to raise the income of farmers," he said.

The Budget is focused on developing infrastructure in agriculture sector. He said that the budget has given APMCs access to agriculture infrastructure fund (AIF) for development of marketing infrastructure in mandis.

"I appeal to the political parties to not engage in politics every time. Those who play politics on every matter meet the same fate as that of opposing parties presently," he said adding it's a common man Budget.

Income tax relief on affordable housing loans extended

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to boost real estate sector amid pandemic of Covid-19, the Modi Government on Monday extended the additional tax deduction of ₹1.5 lakh on interest paid on housing loan for purchase of affordable homes by one more year to March 31, 2022, tax exemption for migrant workers for affordable housing, tax holiday for one more year for affordable housing projects.

The additional deduction of ₹1.5 lakh over and above ₹2 lakh was introduced in the 2019 Budget. This was allowed for those buying homes for the first time and of up to ₹45 lakh. In the Budget speech for 2021-22 fiscal year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government sees 'Housing for All' and affordable housing as priority areas. "In the July 2019 Budget, I provided an additional deduction of interest,

amounting to ₹1.5 lakh, for loan taken to purchase an affordable house. I propose to extend the eligibility of this deduction by one more year, to 31st March 2022," she said.

The Minister said the additional deduction of ₹1.5 lakh shall therefore be available for loans taken up till March 31, 2022, for the purchase of an affordable house. Now, a person purchasing an affordable house will get an enhanced interest deduction of up to ₹3.5 lakh. "Further, to keep up the supply of affordable houses, I propose that affordable housing projects can avail a tax holiday for one more year — till 31st March, 2022," Sitharaman said.

The Minister said that the Government is committed to promote supply of affordable rental housing for migrant workers. "For this, I propose to allow tax exemption for notified Affordable Rental Housing Projects." These two Budget proposals are aimed at increas-

Corp Affairs Ministry gets over ₹712 crore Budgetary allocation for next fiscal

New Delhi: The Corporate Affairs Ministry has been allocated ₹712.13 crore for the financial year 2021-22, slightly higher than the revised allocation in the current fiscal.

While initially, the allocation was ₹727.62 crore for this financial year, it was later revised downwards to ₹680 crore. The ministry has been allocated ₹712.13 crore for the financial year starting April 1, according to the Union Budget tabled in Parliament on Monday.

As per the Budget document, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has been allocated ₹39 crore, while the amount is ₹46 crore for the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

PTI

Budget reformist, will drive economic revival post Covid: India Inc

PTI/PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc on Monday hailed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget for 2021-22 as a reformist one that reimagines India's self-reliance like never before and will drive revival of the economy from the impact of the pandemic with enhanced spending.

The focus on growth over fiscal consolidation, healthcare spending and steps to further help the startup ecosystem came in for praise from industry leaders across different sectors.

"Coming in the backdrop of a global pandemic of the century, it boldly spells the government's growth agenda and a march towards building a new and prosperous India. The budget clearly has the stamp of our Prime Minister with a clarion call for 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' and 'Vocal for Local'," Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Sunil Bharti Mittal said.

The first budget of this new decade reimagines India in the form of Aatmanirbhar Bharat like never before, he added.

Echoing similar views, Vedanta Resources Executive Chairman Anil Agarwal tweeted, "Congratulations to @narendramodi and PM @nsitharaman for a very reformist #Budget2021 with many big ideas including strategic disinvestment of two public sector banks & one insurance company. Thrust on infrastructure will boost growth."

Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra said in a time of unprecedented economic stress, the government's responsibility was to spend enough to revive the economy or else face enormous human suffering. "So I had one expectation from this budget: that we

should be very liberal in terms of the targeted fiscal deficit. Box ticked," Mahindra tweeted.

Lauding the finance minister for the focus on healthcare spending and immunization especially for Covid-19 and the pneumococcal vaccines, Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla said this will help India recover rapidly from this pandemic. "Hopefully, this will also encourage more innovation and expansion in the sector," he added.

Apollo Hospitals Group Chairman Prathap C Reddy said Sitharaman's announcements to develop primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems will provide access to medical care for all in India, fuel job creation and boost economic momentum.

Bringing in the cricketing angle, RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka tweeted, "Combination of Pujara & Pant innings - consistency and flamboyance! Steady focus on infra, commercial lands, ease of business with big shots of monetising PSU assets, new investments, insurance FDI. India won in Australia. Now India shall rise above in new world order."

Terming the budget visionary and growth-oriented, ITC Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Puri said it provides further impetus to build India's competitiveness as also foster inclusive growth.

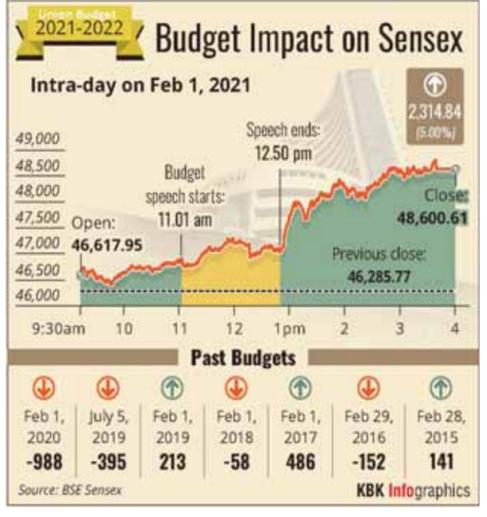
"The courageous move for higher borrowing for capital expenditure along with including, but not limited to, focused investments, monetization, incentives for FDI and a method to clean up stressed assets along with a focused tax regime signals liberal direction on fiscal management, encouraging free and fair competition, and general welfare," said Lal Bhatia, Chairman of David & Goliath Group and Hilshaw Group.



PRO-GROWTH BUDGET UNLEASHES ANIMAL SPIRITS

SENSEX SKYROCKETS 2,315 PTS

Markets roared back to life on Monday after six days of deep declines as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented an expansionary Union Budget for 2021-22 which sought to pull the economy out of the pandemic-induced slump through increased spending on infrastructure, healthcare and farm sectors without resorting to higher taxation.



The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 2,314.84 points or 5 per cent to finish at 48,600.61. This was its second-biggest single day jump in absolute terms and the best day in almost 10 months.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty soared 646.60 points or 4.74 per cent to finish at 14,281.20.

The benchmarks were propelled by across-the-board buying, with banking and finance stocks leading the charge. IndusInd Bank topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 14.75 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, SBI, L&T and HDFC.

Only three index components closed in the red — Dr Reddy's, Tech Mahindra and HUL, shedding up to 3.70 per cent. Tabling the Budget for 2021-22 in Parliament, the finance minister proposed more than doubling healthcare spending, enhancing capital expenditure to ₹5.54 lakh crore

petrol and ₹4 per litre on diesel was also slapped but this was offset by a reduction of an equivalent amount in the excise duty — making it price neutral for consumers.

The Government projected a fiscal deficit of 9.5 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal, hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, and 6.8 per cent in 2021-22 as it sought to strike a balance between supporting growth and maintaining fiscal discipline.

"It has been a great Budget in the current pandemic. Market has given a clear thumbs-up. One couldn't have asked for more, of the total borrowings of ₹1,50,000 crore a whopping ₹1,20,000 crore is going for investment. Clearly the government has sacrificed fiscal deficit for growth.

"No tinkering on taxes, including personal tax and a giant leap of divesting two state-run banks and opening up of market by making way for the LIC IPO and foreign ownership in insurance companies has been a welcome move and the primary reason for the rise in stock market," said Jaideep Hansraj, MD & CEO, Kotak Securities.

Gold tanks ₹1,324; silver jumps ₹3,461

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Monday tumbled ₹1,324 to ₹47,520 per 10 gram on a day when the Government announced cut in import duty on gold and silver, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹48,844 per 10 gram. Silver, in contrast, jumped ₹3,461 to ₹72,470 per kilogram from ₹69,009 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading in the green at \$1,871 per ounce and silver also quoted with gains at \$29.88 per ounce. The Government on Monday announced a cut in import duty on gold and silver, a move that will help bring down prices of these precious metals in the domestic market and boost exports of gems and jewellery.

₹ drops by 6p to 73.02 on fiscal deficit concerns, strong dollar

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated by 6 paise to close at 73.02 against the US dollar on Monday due to fiscal concerns after the government projected a higher fiscal deficit for 2020-21 and increased borrowing in the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

A stronger dollar in overseas markets and firm oil prices also weighed on the rupee sentiment. A strong rally in equity markets, however, limited the rupee losses.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 72.89 against the US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.84 and a low of 73.15. The local unit finally settled at 73.02, registering a fall of 6 paise over its previous close, even as the domestic equity market settled with significant gains on the Budget day.

TO FUND AGRI INFRA DEVELOPMENT

Govt imposes cess on petrol, diesel, gold, other items

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid raging farmers' protest on the outskirts of Delhi over the farm laws, the Modi Government on Monday proposed an Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on certain items, including petrol, diesel, gold, alcoholic beverages, apples, Bengal Gram, some imported agricultural products to boost agriculture infrastructure by restructuring custom duties in the Union Budget 2021-22.

As per the Budget document, the agriculture cess of ₹2.5 per litre has been imposed on petrol and ₹4 per litre on diesel. The AIDC is a new cess introduced by the Government in the Union Budget 2021-22 which was presented in the parliament on Monday, which seeks to shore up resources for improvement in agriculture infrastructure in the country.

However, prices for petrol and diesel won't change because of reduction in other duties. Consequently, unbranded petrol and diesel will attract basic excise duty of ₹1.4, and ₹1.8 per litre respectively. Proposing the introduction of an agri infra development cess while presenting the Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman said that it would not affect the consumers of most of these goods. The cess will be applicable with effect from February 2. Later addressing a press conference, Sitharaman said that a component to develop farm infrastructure has been added to the cost of petrol and diesel. "Consequent to imposition of Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on petrol and diesel, basic excise duty and special additional excise duty rates have been reduced on them so that overall consumer does not bear any additional burden," Sitharaman said.

To make up for the cess, basic excise duty on petrol has been revised to ₹1.4 per litre from ₹2.98 per litre and on diesel from ₹4.83 per litre to ₹1.8 per litre. Further, special excise duty has been brought down by ₹1 per litre each on the two fuels to ₹11 per litre on petrol and ₹8 per litre on diesel. Prices of the two fuels have risen to all time highs in the last fortnight thanks largely to a steep hike in taxation by the Government in the last one year. Currently, a litre of petrol in Delhi costs ₹86.30 per litre with excise duty which goes to the centre accounting for ₹32.98 per litre and VAT, which goes to the state, accounting for another 19.92 per litre.

Snippets

GOVT PEGS FISCAL DEFICIT AT 6.8% IN FY22

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the government estimates fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the next financial year beginning April 1. However, the fiscal deficit in 2020-21 is estimated to soar up to 9.5 per cent due to rise in expenditure on account of the outbreak of Covid-19 and moderation in revenue during this fiscal year.

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR STRENGTHENS

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector activity strengthened in January as companies scaled up production at the quickest pace in three months in response to faster expansions in total sales and new export orders, a monthly survey said on Monday.

SEBI TO BE NOTIFIED AS GOLD EXCHANGE REGULATOR: FM

New Delhi: The Government on Monday said capital market watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) will be the designated regulator for gold exchanges, which will infuse transparency in gold transactions.

BANK CREDIT GROWS BY 6.36%, DEPOSITS BY 11.41%

Mumbai: Bank credit grew 6.36 per cent to ₹106.41 lakh crore, while deposits increased by 11.41 per cent to ₹146.25 lakh crore in the fortnight ended January 15, RBI data showed. In the fortnight ended January 17, 2020, bank credit was at ₹100.04 lakh crore and deposits stood at ₹131.27 lakh crore.

EDIBLE OIL INDUSTRY WELCOMES AGRI CESS

Mumbai: The edible oil industry on Monday welcomed the announcement of agricultural development cess and the increase in import duty of crude palm oil in the Union Budget 2021-22, saying that the measures are expected to protect the interests of mustard farmers.

Budget focuses on wealth, wellness; has villages, farmers at its heart: PM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that villages and farmers are at the heart of the Union Budget presented on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it has put a lot of emphasis on strengthening the farming sector and increasing farmers' income while making an allocation to further empower agriculture mandis. In televised remarks after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget, Modi said it has many provisions for the agriculture sector, including for making loans easier for farmers.

His comments came amid long-running protests by a section of farmers against three agri laws, with protesting farmer unions demanding their repeal and the government insisting that they are for the good of farmers but offering to put them for 18 months.

Lauding the budget, Modi said one hardly comes across a budget that elicits so much positive response within an hour or two of its presentation, and noted that this was tabled under extraordinary circumstances when many experts were of the view that the government will put more burden on the common man.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers his statement on the Union Budget 2021-22 in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

The budget carries the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) and lays a strong foundation as a new decade begins, he said. "This budget has a feel of reality and confidence of development as well and showcases India's self-belief. It will also infuse new confidence in the world in these difficult times," he said, in reference to the Covid pandemic hitting the global economy hard.

"We have taken the approach of widening new opportunities for growth, creation of new opportunities for our youth, giving a new dimension to human resources, develop new sectors for infrastructure development, and moving towards technology and bringing new reforms in this Budget," he said.

It's a pro-active budget that gives a boost to wealth as well as wellness, Modi said. This budget talks of all-around development for all parts of the country with a focus on southern and North East India besides Ladakh, he said, adding that it is a "big step" towards making coastal states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal a "business powerhouse".

Senior citizens of 75 yrs and above need not file ITR if pension, FD interest arise in same bank

New Delhi: Senior citizens of 75 years and above having pension income and interest from fixed deposit in the same bank will not be required to file income tax returns for the financial year beginning April 1.

In the Budget Speech 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that in the 75th year of Independence of our country, the government shall reduce compliance burden on senior citizens who are 75 years of age and above. "For senior citizens who only have pension and interest income, I propose exemption from filing their income tax returns. The paying bank will deduct the necessary tax on their income," she said.

Addressing reporters, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the exemption from filing income tax returns would be available only in case where the interest income is earned in the same bank where pension is deposited.

"Persons whose age is above 75 years and who have pension income and interest from fixed deposit comes in the same bank and who has only interest income, they need not file income tax return. "Bank will deduct the income tax which he has to pay and deposit to the government. The condition is the person should have only pension income and interest from fixed deposit should accrue in the same bank," he said at the post-Budget press conference.

He added that if the senior citizen person has other incomes, he/she would be required to file income tax return (ITR).

"Generally, persons of 75 years or more have mostly pension income and the money is parked in fixed deposit from which he earns interest," Pandey added.

Ship Recycling capacity to double by 2024, generate 1.5 lakh jobs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said ship recycling capacity will be doubled by 2024 and efforts are being made to bring more ships from Europe and Japan. While presenting the Union Budget 2021-22 in Parliament, the Finance Minister said this, in turn, will generate 1.5 lakh jobs.

"Efforts will be made to bring more ships to India from Europe and Japan. Recycling capacity of around 4.5 Million Light Displacement Tonne (LDT) will be doubled by 2024. This is expected to generate an additional 1.5 lakh jobs for our youth," Sitharaman said.

India has enacted Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 and acceded to the Hong Kong International Convention. Sitharaman said post-enactment of the law, around 90 ship recycling yards at Alang in Gujarat have already achieved HKC-compliant certificates. Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has recently said that India aspires to grab at least 50 per cent of the global ship recycling business.

The country's share in the ship recycling business is around 30 per cent at present.

SC seeks WhatsApp reply on plea for non-sharing of UPI data with any 3rd party

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday asked instant messaging app WhatsApp to file response on a plea seeking a direction to the RBI and the NPCI to ensure that data collected on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platforms is not shared with their parent company or any other third party under any circumstances.

A Bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said if WhatsApp does not file its reply, then the averment made in the writ petition filed by petitioner Rajya Sabha MP Binoy Viswam will be taken as accepted.

Auto makers report sales growth in Jan amid supply issues regarding parts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reflecting a seemingly sustainable market recovery amid concerns oversupply of certain parts, auto majors Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor, M&M, Tata Motors, Honda and MG Motor on Monday reported growth in their domestic passenger vehicle sales in January.

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) reported a 2.6 per cent rise in domestic sales to 1,48,307 units last month as against 1,44,499 units in January 2020.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through e-Tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	221-S/4/2/WBP/MTC/ML-IV(2020)
Name of work and its location	"Round the Clock Transportation of Drivers Line Boxes of Diesel & Electric Drivers & Guards from Engine/Train/B.Van to Running room/Lobby/Station/Yard and vice-versa at Meerut City station under Sr. Crew Controller, Meerut City Station for the period of two years from the date of execution of work (as per detailed scope of work).
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 13,61,323.62/- (Thirteen Lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three and Sixty Two Paise only) plus GST as applicable
Earnest Money	Rs. 27,230/-
Completion period of work	Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/buy post	Rs. 2360/- including GST @18%
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 12.00 hrs on 26-02-2021. Opening of Tender at 12.15 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on line i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 221-S/4/2/WBP/MTC/ML-IV(2020) Dated: 01.02.2021 238/2021
Serving Customers with a Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

General Public is hereby informed that one woman (depicted in the photo) namely Sunita W/o Lt. Toni Ram R/o H. No. A-28, Double Story, Motiya Khan, Pahar Ganj, Delhi Aged-44 Years has been reported missing since 11.01.2021 from the area of P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 60-A Dated 12.01.2021 lodged at Police Station Pahar Ganj, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Pink coloured shirt & pyjama and slipper in her feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing woman, may inform to the following E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-23014046(Direct), 011-3015229 & 23015218 extn. 210
FAX No. : 011-23011334
DP/626/CD/2021

Sd/-
SHO, Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Tel.: 011-23524746, 23520787
Mob.: 8750870427

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)
No.SSA/MIS/Fibre Connectivity/537/2020/4170 Date: 01-02-2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-procurement process from Telecom Service Providers having valid UASL & NLD License for Assam for providing high speed internet bandwidth connectivity over OFC/RF/4G for 628 schools which may be increased. To participate in this EOI through e-procurement, applicant should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class- II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The applicants who have downloaded the EOI schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam and payable at Guwahati. The EOI should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Executive Director,
SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog /CF/5362/20

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Shiva, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 65 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Light Brown Sweater and Grey Lower was found in park behind Hanuman Murti near Jhandewalan Metro Station, New Delhi on dated 27.01.2021 at 11:25 pm and he was declared brought dead by LHMC Hospital Doctor vide MLC No. 215/2021

In this regard a DD No. 21-A, dated 27.01.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi.

Dead Body has been kept preserved in LHMC Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification.

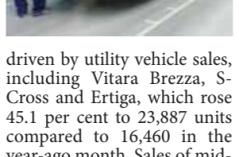
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23364100, 23366730
DP/215/NDD/2021.

Auto makers report sales growth in Jan amid supply issues regarding parts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



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MYANMAR COUP

A decade after junta's end, Myanmar military back in charge

Bangkok: The man installed by army leaders as Myanmar's president after Monday's military coup is best known abroad for his role in the crackdown on 2007 pro-democracy protests and for his ties to still powerful military leaders. Myint Swe was the army-appointed vice president when he was named on Monday to take over after the military arrested civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders of her party. Immediately after he was named president, Myint Swe handed power to the country's top military commander, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing.

Under Myanmar's 2008 constitution, in cases of national emergency the

president can hand power to the military commander in chief. That is one of many ways the military is assured of keeping ultimate control of the country. Min Aung Hlaing, 64, has been commander of the armed forces since 2011 and is due to retire soon. That would clear the way for him to take a civilian leadership role if the junta holds elections in a year's time as promised. The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party's humiliating loss in last November's elections would likely have precluded that. The military justified the coup by saying the government failed to address claims of election fraud. **AP**

Suu Kyi's party urges Myanmar's people to oppose coup

Naypyitaw: Aung San Suu Kyi's political party is urging Myanmar's people to oppose Monday's "coup" and any return to "military dictatorship." The National League for Democracy released a statement on the Facebook page of its party head, Suu Kyi, saying the military's actions were unjustified and went against the constitution and the will of voters. It was not possible to confirm who posted the message as NLD members were not answering phone calls. Myanmar military television said Monday that the military was taking control of the country for one year, while reports said many of the country's senior politicians including Suu Kyi had been detained. **AP**

India expresses deep concern, monitoring situation closely

New Delhi: India on Monday expressed deep concern over the military coup in Myanmar and detention of its top political leaders, and said the rule of law and the democratic process must be upheld in the country. In its reaction to the fast-paced developments in Myanmar, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India is monitoring the situation closely and that it has been steadfast in supporting the democratic transition in that country. According to reports from Myanmar, the country's powerful military grabbed power in a coup against the civilian government and imposed a state of emergency after detaining Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD) in the early hours on Monday. "We have noted the developments in Myanmar with deep concern. India has always been steadfast in its support to the process of democratic transition in Myanmar," the MEA said. **PTI**

World condemns military coup

Washington/Dhaka: Myanmar's military on Monday seized power after detaining de-facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other top members of her governing party, triggering an avalanche of condemnation and a demand for the restoration of democracy in the coup-prone country from leaders and organisations across the world. The announcement on military-controlled Myawaddy TV came after an earlier declaration that because national stability was in jeopardy, all government functions would be transferred to military chief Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing. It was also announced that the military had taken control of the country for one year and Myanmar's leader Suu Kyi and other senior figures from the ruling party have been detained in an early morning raid, the spokesman for the governing National League for Democracy (NLD) was quoted as saying in the media. **PTI**

Pak SC rejects Govt's request to suspend release of accused in Daniel Pearl murder case: report

Islamabad: The Pakistan Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Government's request to suspend the order to release British-born al-Qaeda terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and his three aides in the brutal murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl, days after it announced to formally join the review proceedings against the acquittal of the accused amid mounting international pressure. The court, however, extended the interim detention order of main accused Sheikh and his aides - Fahad Naseem, Sheikh Adil and Salman Saqib - by one day to hear the government's position on the case. During the hearing on Monday, the Attorney General of Pakistan requested the Supreme Court to suspend the decision to release the accused so that he could argue the case in detail. The apex court rejected the request, according to a report in The Express Tribune. The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the release of the accused by dismissing appeals against their acquittal by the Sindh High Court. The judgement was denounced by Pearl's family as "a complete travesty of justice". **PTI**

Trump names 2 lawyers to impeachment defense team

Washington: Former President Donald Trump announced a new impeachment legal defense team just one day after it was revealed that he had parted ways with an earlier set of attorneys with just over a week to go before his Senate trial. The two representing Trump will be defense lawyer David Schoen, a frequent television legal commentator, and Bruce Castor, a former district attorney in Pennsylvania who has faced criticism for his decision to not charge actor Bill

Cosby in a sex crimes case. Both attorneys issued statements through Trump's office on Sunday saying that they were honored to take the job. "The strength of our Constitution is about to be tested like never before in our history. It is strong and resilient. A document written for the ages, and it will triumph over partisanship yet again, and always," said Castor, who served as district attorney for Montgomery County, outside of Philadelphia, from 2000 to 2008. **AP**

Somali forces end jihadist siege of Mogadishu hotel, 5 dead

Mogadishu: At least five people have died in the attack on a Mogadishu hotel by Somalia's al-Shabab rebels that was ended early Monday by security forces, according to the Somali police force. The siege of the Afrik hotel ended after a gun battle that lasted for more than eight hours, and all four rebel attackers were killed, Somali police spokesman Sadiq Adan Ali said. The rebels exploded hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades in their attempt to repulse the police forces who were closing in on them, he said. **AP**

Court fines Navalny's wife after protests in Moscow

Moscow: A Moscow court on Monday has ordered the wife of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny to pay a fine of 20,000 rubles (about USD 265) for violating protest regulations after she attended a demonstration in the Russian capital to demand his release. Tens of thousands took to the streets in dozens of Russian cities on Sunday, chanting slogans against Russian President Vladimir Putin and demanding that authorities free Navalny, who was jailed last month and faces a prison term. His wife, Yulia Navalnaya, joined a protest in Moscow that took place despite unprecedented security measures that city authorities took ahead of the rally. She was quickly detained and charged with participating in an unauthorized rally. A court on Monday ordered Navalnaya to pay a fine, her lawyer Svetlana Davydova told the Interfax news agency. Davydova said the defense plans to appeal the ruling. In the largest outpouring of discontent Russia has seen in years, mass protests engulfed dozens of Russian cities for the second weekend in a row despite efforts by Russian authorities to stifle the unrest triggered by the jailing of 44-year-old Navalny, the Kremlin's fiercest critic. **AP**

WHO team in Wuhan visits provincial disease control centre

Wuhan: A World Health Organisation team investigating the origins of the coronavirus pandemic visited a provincial disease control center that had an early hand in managing the outbreak. The WHO investigators arrived in the Hubei provincial capital, Wuhan, last month to look for clues and have visited hospitals that treated many of the earliest patients and a seafood market where cases of infection with the then-unknown virus emerged in December 2019. The team's visit to the Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Control comes amid tight Chinese controls on access to information about the virus. China has sought to avoid blame for alleged missteps in its early response to the outbreak, while promoting alternative theories that the virus originated elsewhere and may have even been brought to Wuhan from outside the country. The evidence the team assembles will add to what is expected to be a years-long quest for answers. Pinning down an outbreak's animal reservoir requires massive amounts of research including taking animal samples, genetic analysis and epidemiological studies. **AP**

Prince Harry accepts apology, 'substantial' damages from UK publication

PTI ■ LONDON Britain's Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, has accepted an apology and "substantial" damages from Associated Newspapers over the publication of what he described as "baseless, false and defamatory stories" about him in the 'Mail on Sunday' and 'MailOnline', the High Court in London heard on Monday. The 36-year-old grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, who stepped back from frontline royal duties last year, had sued the newspaper group for libel over two "almost identical" articles published in October 2020, which claimed he had snubbed the Royal Marines after his royal exit. "The baseless, false and defamatory stories published in the 'Mail on Sunday' and on the website 'MailOnline' constituted not only a personal attack upon the Duke's character but also wrongly brought into question his service to this country," Jenny Afia, Harry's lawyer, told the court in a remote hearing. She said that Associated Newspapers had accepted the allegations were false, "albeit after considerable damage was already done". **AP**

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
The following tenders may be read with changed EMD amount (1) Tender No. BCT/20-21/306. Dated: 08.01.2021 DOP: 16.02.2021 Existing EMD: ₹ 2,45,800/- Revised EMD: Nil (2) Tender No. BCT/20-21/310 Dated: 08.01.2021 DOP: 16.02.2021 Existing EMD: ₹ 2,39,500/- Revised EMD: Nil (3) Tender Notice No.: BCT/20-21/311 Dated: 08.01.2021 DOP: 16.02.2021 Existing EMD: ₹ 2,48,700/- Revised EMD: Nil Note: All other terms and conditions will remain same. P-6522
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Kuljit Singh & his wife Kulddeep Kaur, R/o H.No. RZ-1/3A, Gali No. 4, Tuglakabad Extn., Kalkaji, Ali South Delhi, Delhi-110019 has disowned/debarred his son Prjitpal and his wife Indereet Kaur and their daughter Harsimar Kaur from all movable-immovable properties and broken all relations from them. Anyone dealing with them shall be doing so at own risk and consequences.
Pandit Budhiraja (Advocate)
Ch. No. 405, C-Block, 4th Floor, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

कार्यालय-नगर पालिका परिषद्, मुनिकिरेती-ढालवाला, टिहरी गढ़वाल।
पत्रांक: 636/निविदा/कुम मेला/2020-21 दिनांक: 01/02/2021
Online Re Tender are invited form Selection of Contractors for supplying equipment and machinery for collection & transportation of solid waste and Selection of Contractor for supplying Manpower for managing solid waste at Muni ki Reti-Dhalwala, Tehri Garhwal Uttarakhand under Maha Kumth Meila 2021. The Tender Documents can be purchased against payment of Rs.4800.00 Each in form of DD favor of ADHISASHI ADHIKARI NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD Muni ki Reti-Dhalwala, Payable at Muni ki Reti. The Tender Document can be downloaded from Website-www.uktenders.gov.in. The officer of the tenders, who do not submit the cost of the tender skill he rejected. The last date for submission of online and offline bid is 08/02/2021 Upto 2.00 PM and the technical bids will be open on 08/02/2021 at Nagar Palika Parishad, Munkireti-Dhalwala office at 03.00 PM. Other Terms & Conditions may be seen from RFP document.

S. No.	Descriptions	EMD	Tender Document
1.	Selection of Contractors for supplying equipment and machinery for collection & transportation solid waste	Package 1	BoQ I INR 54,000.00
		Package 2	BoQ II INR 2,500.00
		Package 3	BoQ III INR 19,200.00
		Package 4	BoQ IV INR 48,000.00
		Package 5	BoQ V INR 1,26,000.00
		Package 6	BoQ VI INR 19,000.00
2.	Selection of Contractor for supplying Manpower for managing solid waste	Rs. 1.81 Lacs	4800/-

(B.P. Bhatt) Executive officer, Nagar Palika Parishad, Muni ki Reti -Dhalwala Tehri, Uttarakhand
(Roshan Raturi) Chairman, Nagar Palika Parishad, Muni ki Reti -Dhalwala Tehri, Uttarakhand

US watchdog: Taliban attacks increased in Afghan capital

Kabul: Taliban attacks in the Afghan capital of Kabul are on the rise, with increasing targeted killings of Government officials, civil-society leaders and journalists, a report by a US watchdog said on Monday. It comes as the Biden administration plans to take a new look at the peace agreement between the US and the Taliban signed last February under President Donald Trump. The report said Taliban-initiated attacks across Afghanistan during the last quarter of 2020 were slightly lower than in the previous quarter, but exceeded those of the same period in 2019, according to numbers provided by US forces in Afghanistan. "Enemy attacks in Kabul were higher than during the previous quarter," the report quoted US forces. "They were much higher than in the same quarter last year." **AP**

Lebanon's Hezbollah group says it shot down Israeli drone

Beirut (Lebanon): Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said its fighters shot down an Israeli drone on Monday over a southern village near the border with Israel. The Israeli military did not confirm the shootdown but said a drone had crashed on Lebanese territory. Tensions in the region have been rising over the past months amid Israeli airstrikes on Iranian-backed fighters in neighboring Syria. Hezbollah has also vowed to respond for the killing of one of its fighters in an Israeli strike in Syria last year. Hezbollah's al-Manar TV said the drone was shot down after it entered Lebanon's air space and crashed in the village of Bliida, near the border with Israel. **AP**

Libya's future in balance in UN-backed leadership vote

AP ■ GENEVA Delegates from Libya's opposing sides kick off a five-day meeting on Monday to choose an interim prime minister and a three-person presidency council, in a crucial bid to reunite the troubled oil-rich country before an election in December. The Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, including envoys from around Libya, meets under U.N. Mediation in an undisclosed site outside Geneva in hopes of stabilising a largely lawless country since Moammar Gadhafi's fall and killing in 2011. **AP**

THE BATALA CO-OP SUGAR MILLS LTD
G.T Road, Batala, District Gurdaspur- 143505
Website:- www.smbatala.com Email:- batalacsm@rediffmail.com
PART-II E-Tender Notice
Ref.No. BCSM/SUGAREXP/2020-21/01 Date:- 01.02.2021
The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Govt. of India has vide its circular F.No. 1(6)/2020-SP-1 dated 29th December, 2020 has decided to allow export of all grades of sugar namely raw, plantation white as well as refined sugar under MAEQ (Maximum Admissible Export Quota).
Batala Cooperative Sugar Mills on behalf of all nine Cooperative Sugar Mills of Punjab invites e-Tender for export of approx. 35979 MT sugar, lying in Nine Cooperative Sugar Mills of Punjab under MAEQ from experienced overseas buyers/ Export Houses/ Merchandisers and Govt./ Cooperative Institutions (in which State Govt./ Central Govt. has/ have invested share capital) having valid Import Export code and experience of sugar export from 31.12.2020 onward to purchase the aforesaid quantity of sugar from all Cooperative Sugar Mills of Punjab and arrange its export as per above mentioned notifications under MAEQ and stipulated norms on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".
The documents can be downloaded from the e-Procurement website portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or from the Batala Sugar Mill's website www.smbatala.com. Online tender will have to be submitted in two bid system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid on or before 15.02.2021 at 11:00 AM on the e-tender portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> along with EMD and other documents. Other details (e-Bid document) for submission of e-bids along with eligibility criteria, date & time of submission of e-Bids, opening of Technical Bids/ Financial Bids, amount of EMD, experience and other terms & conditions will be available on e-Procurement website portal as mentioned above from the date 01.02.2021 onwards. The Bidders will have to deposit e-tender document fee (Non Refundable) of Rs.1000/- +18% GST = Rs.1180/- and earnest money of Rs. 50,000/- per Quintal (Rupees Fifty Per Quintal) of Sugar to be exported, through RTGS/ NEFT/ Net-Banking in the account as shown on e-Procurement website portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Tender without e-tender document fee and EMD will not be accepted. The Govt./ Cooperative Institutions are exempted from deposit of EMD. The stipulated norms for export and other terms and conditions are annexed along with the e-Tender form.
The undersigned reserves the right to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
GENERAL MANAGER

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) III
OVER HEAD TANK ASHOK VIHAR DELHI
PRESS NIT NO. 47 (2020-21)

Item No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by regarding of the existing sewer line 400/450 mm dia SN-8/HDPPE pipes by open Trenching / Trenchless Technology from H. NO. 1454, Rani Bagh to main road opposite mother dairy Sant Nagar in AC- 15 under EE (NW) III.	Rs. 39.47,109/-	Tender ID No: 2021_DJB_199392_1 on 30.01.2021 at 03:20 PM	15.02.2021 Up to 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 357 (2020-21) Sd/ (Mukesh Jindal) Ex. Engineer (NW) III

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
(See proviso to rule 8(6))
Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Nidhi Garg (Borrower), Vikas Garg (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00001803519	Plot No SH- 207, F/F, Block-H, Sec-16, GMP Shastri Nagar, Ghaziabad	Rs. 92,07,533.80/- (as on 28th January 2021)	Rs. 21,00,000/- Rs. 2,10,000/-	February 20, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	March 04, 2021 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagees/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **March 03, 2021 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005**, and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **March 03, 2021 before 05:00 PM** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005** on or before **March 03, 2021 before 05:00 PM** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9372730494** or **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/9810029926/01244233933**
Please note that Marketing agencies 1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Props AMC have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s
Date: February 02, 2021 Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Tuesday, 9th February, 2021**, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on **31st December, 2020**. The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website www.cubicalrealtors.com as also on the website of the Stock Exchange viz. BSE Limited - www.bseindia.com.
For Cubical Financial Services Limited Sd/ (Ashwani Kumar Gupta) Managing Director
Place: New Delhi (Ashwani Kumar Gupta) Date: 01-02-2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that my client Abhay Tandon and Ameta Tandon are the owners of Ground Floor Portion of Property No. 4648 out of kharsa no. 63 situated at 21, Darya Gani, Delhi-02, having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 28/5/90 (Doc. No. 2887) and Relinquishment Deed dated 15/9/99 (Doc No. 1536). Whereas Alabhaya Tandon prop. of M/s Embcore Technologies is in process to avail the credit facility/loan from HDFC Bank against the said property. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-91, 9810063551

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a child namely Dablu, S/o: Mohd. Sonu, R/o: Village & P.O. Fulwadi Sharif, Distt. Patna, Bihar has been reported missing since 09.01.2021 at about 03:00 PM from Footpath, Meena Bazar, Urdu Park, Jama Masjid, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 14/2021, dated 27.01.2021 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi. The description of missing child is as under:
Name: Dablu, Age: about 10 Years, Height: 3'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Red colour T-Shirt, and Blue colour Jeans Pant.
If anyone have any information about this missing child may please inform to the following:-
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Jama Masjid, Delhi Ph: 011-23261625, 23269777
DP/622/CD/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publically notified that the Residential EWS Flat No. 256-A, Block-Z, Sector-12, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., allottee of Mr. Nakli Ram Gupta S/o Late Sh. Jhanda Mal R/o Vill. & Post Harola, Sector-5, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., had sold on the basis of General Power of Attorney to the following persons.
The General Power of Attorney was registered on dated 06.01.1994, in the name of Mr. Hari Dutt Joshi S/o Sh. Pramanand Joshi R/o V-190, Sector-12, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., and agreement is also executed in his favour which is not registered.
Because agreement to sell is not registered so it is Publically notified that the transfer of the property bearing Residential EWS Flat No. 256-A, Block-Z, Sector-12, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., is going to be transfer through G.P.A. in the name of Mrs. Renu Rathi S/o Late Pradeep Kumar Rathi R/o V-256-B, Sector-12, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P., if some one has any objection he/she file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Housing Department (H) of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice.
Signature
Mr. Hari Dutt Joshi
S/o Sh. Pramanand Joshi
R/o V-190, Sector-12, Noida,
Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all Men that Plot No.14, U-62 located in DLF Qutub Enclave, Situated in Village Nathupur ad measuring 50 Sq.mtrs., was registered in the name of Shri Suresh Chander Mehta, S/o Late Shri P.D. Mehta, R/o H. No. DB-118 A, G-8 Area, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110064 and last residing at B-6/134-135, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, who has expired on 07.05.2019 without leaving any will. The said Shri Suresh Chander Mehta is survived by his wife Smt. Madhu Bala Mehta who is his only legal heir and they did not have any biological or adopted child. Accordingly the name of Smt. Madhu Bala Mehta is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned plot / property. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach M/s. DLF Limited or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this Notice. Issued on behalf of, and under instructions from Smt. Madhu Bala Mehta.
N.K. Bhatnagar (Advocate)
Ph. No. :-9810039263
1st Floor, Tolstoy Lane, 50 Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi -1

HEALTH

AlternateWay

An underused type of knee surgery in younger patients shows considerable success in reducing the need for total knee replacement, a new study suggests. The surgery, named high tibial osteotomy, is a knee surgery aimed at younger patients in the earlier stages of knee osteoarthritis, according to the study published in CMAJ



FOR FRESH & AGELESS SKIN



An ageing skin is characterised by slower generation of collagen. DR SHOMA SARKAR tells

you ways to prevent or at least delay the signs of ageing

Ageing is a natural process brought about by a combination of physiological and environmental factors. As we age, the skin's natural ability to repair and regenerate itself slows down. At the same time, the body's capability to generate the vital elements of a youthful skin also starts declining. The skin's extracellular matrix weakens with the loss of its scaffolding proteins. Collagen being a primary one of them. In fact, collagen is one of the most abundant proteins in the human body that plays multiple functions. As a component of the connective tissues of the bones, muscles, ligaments and the skin, it is essentially the protein that holds the body together.

An ageing skin is characterised by slower generation of collagen. Less collagen directly translates into sagging or lax skin which loses its youthful firmness and tightness. Not just natural ageing, but environmental factors such as exposure to smoking and UV radiation also results in collagen decline. At the same time, mental stress is also associated with collagen breakdown, wrinkle formation and loss of elasticity.

If you are worried about appearance of signs of ageing such as skin laxity, sagging and loss of volume, loss of collagen might be the cause. Here are few ways you can boost collagen generation in your body:

Anti-oxidant rich foods: Oxidative stress that results from oxidation and production of free radicals is a daily process. Ageing, mental stress and other environmental stressors accelerate the process of oxidation in the body. The free radicals released due to these chemical reactions are unstable atoms that damage cells and accelerate the ageing process. Antioxidants are compounds that inhibit this oxidation process by neutralising free radicals. They play a vital role in fighting off the ageing process. Antioxidants are primarily vitamins, polyphenols and flavonoids found abundantly in fruits and vegetables, which help contain collagen degeneration by eliminating free radicals from tissues. Vitamin C or ascorbic acid, Vitamin B3, and Vitamin E are among the most important antioxidants for skin health and collagen protection.

Aloe vera: Aloe vera gel or the pulp of aloe plant has long been known for its ability to accelerate wound healing or soothe skin burn. A series of researches have also established aloe vera's ability to boost collagen generation, precisely how it helps wound healing. Whether consumed orally or applied topically, aloe vera gel strengthens the skin's extracellular matrix and helps slow down wrinkle formation through its collagen boosting ability.

Hyaluronic acid products: Hyaluronic acid is another critical component of healthy and youthful skin. A hydrophilic substance, hyaluronic acid strengthens the skin's extracellular matrix and boosts generation of collagen and elastin. If you want to boost your skin's collagen generation capacity, HA-based products must be an intrinsic part of your skincare routine.

The writer is Celebrity Cosmetic Dermatologist

INBRIEF

Skincare these days is incomplete without a serum. To solve the woes of finding a good serum, L'Oréal Paris brings to you the ultimate skincare ingredient loved by dermatologists Hyaluronic Acid. Introducing the L'Oréal Paris 1.5% Hyaluronic Acid Serum — an international bestseller loved by skincare enthusiasts around the world.

Validated by dermatologists, this serum is a potent formula that effectively replenishes the moisture levels in your skin making it look and feel more hydrated, plump and radiant!

Hyaluronic acid is a naturally occurring molecule in the skin responsible for the skin's hydration. It acts like a sponge for the skin and retains up to 1000 times its weight in water, allowing the skin to lock in maximum moisture. This plumps up the skin from inside out and makes it look smooth, bouncy, radiant and youthful.

Post the age of 20, the natural hyaluronic acid levels in the dermis of the skin starts to drop resulting in the loss of moisture. This in turn leads to loss of plumpness, making your skin dry and dehydrated.

The key features of this serum are that it is paraben and fragrance free, does not contain alcohol and is non-comedogenic. It is a non-sticky and lightweight formula that absorbs quickly into the skin leaving behind no residue. And last but not the least, it is suitable for all skin types including sensitive and acne prone skin.

The writer is Ayurveda Expert, The Himalaya Drug Company



World Cancer Day is on February 4, 2021. Doctors tell you that during COVID cancer patients need extra care and explain whether people undergoing chemotherapy can take the COVID jab

CANCER & COVID WOES

2020 around 150 cancer patients caught COVID; surely they need extra care in regard to COVID and cancer both. Also not reporting to hospital in the fear of catching COVID infection will only cause progression in disease and stages of cancer.

As countless researches are taking

place across the world in regard to COVID infection there is no strong study available yet covering every aspect of disease itself. Hence till we come up with any valid confirmation the COVID infected cancer patients' chemotherapy is stopped and they are kept quarantine for few days and then treatment is started again after obser-

vation. As far as the vaccine is concerned:-

Chemotherapy and COVID Vaccine: patients undergoing chemotherapy should wait to get vaccinated till their Chemotherapy is over.

Immunotherapy and COVID Vaccine: This type of cancer treatment has been giving very much satisfactory results which works with patient's immune system. Patients undergoing this treatment also are advised to go for vaccine after completing their immunotherapy till there is strong data available which confirms about taking vaccine during such treatments.

The writer is Dr J B Sharma, HOD and Senior Consultant, Medical Oncology, Action Cancer Hospital

Keep in mind

Cancer patients have decreased immunity and also have multiple co-existing co-morbidities. So surgery during COVID times may exacerbate complications and also if they are undergoing chemotherapy they may be at increased risk of neutropenia and decrease in blood counts. Also the COVID infection may cause more complexities in such condition. But not reporting to the hospital and delaying treatment may make it more advanced and hence increase chances of incurability.

Factors like severity of infection, stages of cancer, co morbidities etc influence the right direction of the treatment and the concerned doctor's take all these factors into consideration before deciding the treatment for the patient.

Hence instead of getting anxious, be regular with your treatment, keep your information source right and share every detail with your doctor. Keep positive approach towards life as not taking treatment, delaying it or leaving the treatment will only make the situation worse.



Always report to the hospital with COVID appropriate care and follow all required precautions:

- Bring all your documents so that multiple visits can be avoided.
- Go with only one responsible adult to take care of other things in order to avoid more crowd at hospital.
- These days caregivers should be more attentive and careful when

patient is on chemotherapy or radiotherapy, ensure safety at every possible level.

Considering the tough time we are living in any disease can cause anxiety or stress, consult psychologist without hesitation if required.

The writer is Dr Indu Bansal, Director and Senior Consultant — Radiation Oncology, Narayana Hospital, Gurugram

While cataract is purely an ocular condition, there are certain non-eye related factors that aggravate the risk of getting this disease. For instance, if you expose your eyes excessively to the sun or any radiation without protection, you risk making things worse. Or if you have been taking steroids or if you are a smoker, the risk for getting cataract increases. At the same time, some non-communicable lifestyle diseases such as diabetes can also accelerate development of cataract.

In the early stages, regular eyeglasses can help. Lifestyle modification measures such as getting the room or the place better lighting, wearing anti-reflective glasses during night driving can help to a certain extent

room or the place better lighting, wearing anti-reflective glasses during night driving can help to a certain extent when the cataract is at an early stage of development. However, even after these measures if you are having difficulty in reading, or in driving or any regular household or official activity, you need to go for surgery. The most commonly performed surgery in the current times, particularly in the urban areas is Phacoemulsification which can be done with or without the assistance of Femtosecond Laser for added precision. A safe and low cost alternative in the rural scenario is the Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS). Cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed surgeries in India.

Barriers to care: As regards barriers to care, while cost has been one big barrier, lack of awareness is another major reason behind such high prevalence of cataract in the country. Also, poor infrastructure or non-availability of equipped operation theatre for ophthalmic microsurgery in rural and remote areas and the low presence of trained ophthalmologists in the country are other barriers to access care.

Therefore, while it is up to the healthcare authorities to improve infrastructure and mount awareness campaigns to address cataract, lay people should also be equally alert to this condition. That it is preventable and timely intervention can forestall blindness, a most debilitating life condition, must be uppermost in everyone's mind.

WARMFOODS

COFFEE: It goes without saying that a warm cup of coffee on a chilly winter day can not only help keep you warm and cozy, but will also help in enhancing your mood. Studies suggest that drinking coffee may help protect against Type II Diabetes. Also, various studies have shown that caffeine, which is present in coffee and many other beverages, may help protect against Parkinson's disease. One team concluded that men who drink over four cups of coffee per day might have a fivefold lower risk of Parkinson's than those who do not. While another study showed moderate amounts of coffee each day had an 11 per cent lower risk of heart failure than those who did not. And last but not the least, coffee beans also contain polyphenols, a type of antioxidant. Antioxidants can help rid the body of free radicals, a type of waste product that the body produces as a result of certain processes.



DadiKaKehna

Ear infections are common and can be extremely painful and annoying too.

ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help relieve the pain and discomfort



Waking up due to a sharp pain in the ear might have happened to most of us at least once. It is not only painful but also leaves you in a lot of discomfort. While it is always advisable to visit your doctor, here are a few home remedies that can come in handy.

One, use warm and cold compress. A heating pad or damp washcloth can be used to relieve pain. This method is safe for both children and adults. Place the ice pack or warm compress over the ear and alternate between warm and cold after 10

minutes. If you prefer either cold or warm, you can use just one compress. Two, olive oil. Olive oil has been used to treat earaches for decades. While there's no proper evidence to back the belief, but putting a few warmed drops of olive oil in the ear can help soothe the pain. Three, mind your sleep position. Some sleep positions will aggravate pain from ear infections, while some can help relieve it. Sleep with the affected ear raised instead of having it faced down toward the pillow. This can help the ear drain better if necessary.



DOCYARD

DR TUSHAR GROVER

Medical Director

VISION EYE CENTRE, NEW DELHI



It's an eye opener



In a country which has the unenviable record of having the largest number of blind people in the world, Cataract has often been cited as being most responsible for this life-crippling ocular condition. With estimates attributing 50 to 80 per cent of the bilateral blindness cases in India to cataract, this must be treated as a matter of utmost and even exigent concern. In fact, cataract is also said to be the biggest cause behind what is called avoidable blindness. Globally too, cataract is the single most important cause of blindness, and the second most common cause of moderate and severe vision impairment (MSVI).

Cataract implies an eye condition which entails clouding of the lens in the eye which could occur on account of protein in the lens breaking down and clumping together leading to a blockage and weakness in vision. If not intervened at the opportune moment, it can even cause permanent blindness. Because it develops slowly, chances of being identified earlier is slim and as such it poses a silent threat to the long-term health of our eyes. It can occur in either one or both eyes. Some of the symptoms include blurry vision, sensitivity to bright lights, frequent perception of halos and rings around light entering the eye, dim and hazy colours, double vision or diplopia, frequent changing of power for glasses and lenses etc.

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Treatment: In the early stages, regular eyeglasses can help. Lifestyle modification measures such as getting the room or the place better lighting, wearing anti-reflective glasses during night driving can help to a certain extent when the cataract is at an early stage of development. However, even after these measures if you are having difficulty in reading, or in driving or any regular household or official activity, you need to go for surgery. The most commonly performed surgery in the current times, particularly in the urban areas is Phacoemulsification which can be done with or without the assistance of Femtosecond Laser for added precision. A safe and low cost alternative in the rural scenario is the Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS). Cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed surgeries in India.

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Misbah warns Pak against complacency

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Pakistan head coach Misbah-ul-Haq doesn't want his team to get complacent ahead of second Test against South Africa.

The home side fought back from 27-4 in its first innings at Karachi to beat the Proteas by seven wickets and take a 1-0 lead the two-match series. The second Test starts at Pindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Yasir Shah and 34-year-old left-arm spinner Nauman Ali, playing in his first match, shared 14 wickets between them against a struggling South Africa batting line-up.

"It was a much-needed victory," Misbah said. "The team came back from a difficult position, but we don't want to be complacent. South Africa is a tough team and we know they will come back hard at us."

Since taking over as head coach in 2019, Misbah has lost three away Test series — against Australia, England and New Zealand — but his Pakistan side has beaten less formidable teams like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at home.

Misbah and bowling coach Waqar Younis were summoned by the Pakistan Cricket Board after the team lost a Test series 2-0 in New Zealand last month. Both coaches were given another chance, but their longer-term futures were tied to the outcome of the current home series against South Africa.

"My focus is on this series," Misbah said. "We will put all our energies in this Test match and see how we can win. Other things are uncontrollable and there is no point in thinking about it."

The conditions in Rawalpindi will be much cooler than they were in Karachi and Misbah said the team may change its bowling lineup to include four fast bowlers and only one spinner.

If Pakistan opts for a fourth fast bowler, Haris Rauf is a possible option to make his Test debut in his hometown.

"Haris is bowling well with the old ball," Misbah said. "If the need arise we will see him."

50% CROWD FOR 2ND TEST

Media also allowed to cover from press box

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The BCCI and the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association have decided to allow 50 per cent spectators at the second India-England Test to be held at the M A Chidambaram stadium here, a top TNCA official said on Monday.

The issue was discussed by the TNCA members after fresh Covid-19 guidelines on easing of public movement and entry of spectators into sporting venues were issued. The move was cleared in a meeting between TNCA and BCCI officials.

"We discussed the issue of allowing spectators for the second India vs England Test following fresh Covid-19 guidelines by the Central Government permitting

Moeen can trouble Indian batsmen: Panesar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Monty Panesar, the man who co-plotted India's last defeat at home in 2012, feels England would be making a mistake if they don't play the experienced Moeen Ali alongside left-arm spinner Jack Leach in the first Test beginning in Chennai on Friday.

Leach and offie Dom Bess, both of whom have played 12 Tests each but none in India, featured in England's 2-0 series sweep in Sri Lanka. Ali, who has played 60 Tests, was infected with Covid-19 ahead of the Sri Lanka series and did not get a game.

"Jack Leach is likely to play since India have a lot of right handers and I will pick Moeen Ali over Dom Bess as the off-spinner in the eleven as he has done well in India and has the required experience. He can also bat," Panesar said.

"Having not played in Sri Lanka, Ali is fresh and hungry. India would not like facing Ali, they would be happy facing Leach and Bess."

Ali has a six-wicket haul against India, his second best figures coming in the home series back in 2014. Of late, he has not been a regular in the Test line-up with his last appearance coming during the Ashes almost 18 months ago.

The expectations are more from a formidable England pace attack, like they were in 2012, but Panesar and Graeme Swann then rose to the occasion to ensure a rare series win in India.

The cricketer of Indian origin said he would want to see England spinners consistently flight the ball and avoid bowling flatter lines.

"They should be aiming to bowl good length but how it is getting there also matters. Bowling too flat will make things easy for the batter, so I would flight the ball. The margin of error also increases if you flight the ball on a good length," said Panesar, who picked up 17 wickets from



England's Moeen Ali celebrates after taking wicket of Indian batsman during India-England 2018 Test series AP/File Photo

three Tests in the 2012 tour of India.

"Give the ball some air and bring the batsman forward. You can bowl arm balls and cross seamers to mix things up but not too frequently especially when the ball is soft."

Panesar also stressed on the importance of field placements, something that was key in his success in 2012.

"Joe Root should tempt the Indian batsmen to step out and go for big hits. You have men in the deep and have close in fielders at the same time. Have long on, man on the drive, have your close in fielders."

"The more the Indian batters try to accelerate, the bat acceleration will increase and probability of getting the edge increases. I would also want to ensure the Indians defend with hard hands. That will happen when you will encourage them to go aerial."

"Our spinners are used to bowling with the much harder ducks balls so lets see how they fare with the SG Test," added Panesar.

Leach looking forward to 'ultimate challenge'

Chennai: Bowling quicker in the air brought success to Monty Panesar in the 2012 tour of India but England left-arm spinner Jack Leach feels the same tactic may not work for him on his maiden series against the mighty hosts.

Panesar and Graeme Swann bowled quicker than their Indian counterparts in 2012, engineering a famous away Test series win for England.

However, Leach said he would like to stick his strengths.

"Monty and Swann are two bowlers I love to watch. I watch a lot of spin videos to try and take things from the spinners. Monty bowled at a quicker pace in India and that could be very tricky on a spinning wicket," said Leach in an online media

interaction after the team completed its six-day quarantine on Friday.

"I am probably not going to be bowling the same speed. It is probably more about how the ball gets to the batsman in terms of trajectory. There have been other successful bowlers who didn't bowl as fast as Monty did."

"It is about sticking to my strengths and knowing what my optimum pace and then going up and down a little bit from there. Everyone has an optimum pace. It's important to stick to that as much as possible," said Leach who took 10 wickets in the recent series in Sri Lanka.

Bowling in India is as tough as it gets for a visiting spinner but Leach is looking forward to the "ultimate" challenge.

"They are obviously a

quality side and have come back off a great win in Australia, but I think it is just a great opportunity for all of us to test ourselves against probably the best side in the world and to do here in India, my first time in India.

"This is what the dream you have, to come to places like these. Obviously, it is a fantastic opportunity, and I want to enjoy," said the 29-year-old from Somerset.

He may not bowl as quick as Panesar did but a fellow left-arm spinner doing well in India does inspire a lot of confidence.

"I definitely think I can make an impact in this series, obviously we have got three days training and I am not sure what the wicket is going to be like or anything, so not looking too far ahead..."

...But definitively want to make an impact and they have got quite a lot of right-handers, so I see that as a good thing for me," said Leach, who has played 12 Tests.

Indian team undergoes first outdoor session

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Indian team on Monday underwent its first outdoor session since arriving here, ahead of the opening Test against England beginning on Friday.

The Indian players, who completed their six-day quarantine period in the city on Monday, began preparations for the four-match Test series with an outdoor session, the team's local media official said.

The first Test begins on Friday at the M A Chidambaram stadium here while the second match will also be played at the same venue from February 13.

The Virat Kohli-led crowds at sporting venues and also the state government's SOPs given on Sunday," the TNCA official told PTI.

"It has been decided by the BCCI and TNCA to allow 50 per cent spectators for the second Test by following all safe-



home team will hit the ground running with net sessions from Tuesday (10am to 1pm).

The Indian team, fresh from the Test series victory in Australia, entered the bio-bubble at a city hotel on Wednesday.

The full England team is expected to train for the first time since arriving in the city on Tuesday from 2pm, according to an ECB spokesperson.

Members of both the Indian and England teams have returned three negative tests for Covid-19 during their quarantine period.

England players such as Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer and Rory Burns, who did not travel with the team to Sri Lanka for a Test series, completed their quarantine earlier and have been training.

the third and fourth Test in Ahmedabad.

The official also said that media would be allowed to cover both the Tests from the press box at the stadium. However, media conferences would still be held virtually.

push their advantage into double figures.

He was the driving force again, his two goals making it nine in his last eight games and 14 now for the season.

Serena 'in the zone' with straight-sets win

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Serena Williams admitted on Monday that she might have been forced to skip the Australian Open if it hadn't been delayed over the coronavirus, saying she needed extra time to shake off the achilles injury which cut short her 2020 season.

Williams, who beat Daria Gavrilova in her Yarra Valley Classic opener in Melbourne, suffered the injury at last year's US Open then withdrew from the French Open before the second round, ending her 2020 campaign.

But the 39-year-old, who will launch her latest attempt for a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title next week, got extra time to recover when the Open was postponed for three weeks over coronavirus complications.

"I couldn't practice because of my achilles," she told reporters.

"I needed time. I don't think I would have been here if it was during the regular season.

"(The delay) was an unwanted blessing.

An aggressive Williams showed no outward sign of injury as she beat home hope Gavrilova 6-1, 6-4 in the build-up tournament on Monday.

The seven-time Australian Open champion started sluggishly, losing the first three points on serve, before quickly overpowering the Australian.

The American had all the answers and it was a sharp performance from Williams, who lifted the intensity in her second match back after defeating world number three Naomi Osaka in an exhibition in Adelaide on Friday.

Williams, looking to get matches under her belt before the Australian Open, will next play Tsvetana Pironkova in the round of 16.

In the night match, world number two Simona Halep wore down Anastasia Potapova from Russia with a 6-4, 6-4 victory in the Gippisland Trophy.

The two-time Grand Slam champion was pushed but claimed her second straight scalp having beaten top-ranked Ashleigh Barty in Adelaide.

Earlier, teenage sensation Coco Gauff showed only glimpses of the form that fuelled her dazzling run at last year's Australian Open during a gruelling three-sets victory over Jill Teichmann at the Gippisland Trophy. The 16-year-old overcame a mid-match stutter to win 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/5) in two hours and 45 minutes.

Messi takes Barca above Real

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi underlined his worth to Barcelona by scoring a sensational free-kick on Sunday but Atletico Madrid are in charge of La Liga after beating Cadiz to stand 10 points clear at the top of the table.

Messi's stunning effort in a 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao had been matched by the Argentinian's friend and former teammate Luis Suarez, who earlier curled in a superb free-kick of his own in Atletico's 4-2 victory over Cadiz.

Atletico end the weekend even further ahead after Real Madrid's defeat by Levante on Saturday, which means Zinedine Zidane's side are now level with Barca on points, both of them struggling to keep pace in the title race.

Yet Barca's win at least maintains their momentum, while Messi's goal may have carried some extra satisfaction



for the Argentinian, who had the details of his contract published in the Spanish newspaper El Mundo on Saturday night.

Few can argue with Messi's contribution on the pitch, with the 33-year-old showing against Bilbao why the club have gone to such lengths to keep him.

Bilbao briefly drew level

through a Jordi Alba own goal early in the second half but Antoine Griezmann's strike secured Barca their third consecutive victory, with Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong both impressive again.

But Barcelona continue to be haunted by the spectre of Suarez, whose tremendous free-kick and then a penalty helped Atletico

SINGLES

INDIA HOLD ARGENTINA TO 1-1 DRAW

BUENOS AIRES: The Indian women's hockey team put up a spirited performance to hold world No 2 Argentina to a 1-1 draw and end its tour of the country on a high. Skipper Rani struck for India in the 35th minute while Emilia Forcherio scored for the home team through a penalty stroke on Sunday. This was India's fourth scheduled match against the side after the third match to be played on Saturday was abandoned due to incessant rains. Earlier in the tour, India had drawn 2-2, 1-1 against the Argentina junior team and lost 1-2, 2-3 to Argentina 'B' team. Against the Argentina senior side, India lost 2-3 and 0-2 in the first and second matches respectively.

SPORTS BUDGET TAKES OUT OF ₹230.78 CR

NEW DELHI: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was felt on the national sports budget as the central Government on Monday allocated ₹2596.14 crore for the financial year 2021-22 — a reduction of ₹230.78 crore when compared to the amount earmarked initially for the previous year. In the last financial year, the Government had allocated ₹2826.92 crore for sports, which was later revised to ₹1800.15 crore because of lack of activity due to pandemic. The sports ministry bears the cost of all foreign training and competition, including participation in the Olympics.

CHANNEL 4 LIKELY TO GRAB TELECAST RIGHTS

LONDON: Channel 4 has emerged as the front-runner to grab the TV rights for the upcoming high-profile Test series between India and England unless a last-minute bid by a rival beats them. According to multiple reports in the British media, if Channel 4 gets the rights, the network will telecast the England Test team's matches after a long gap that exceeds 15 years and it will also mark the return of free-to-air international cricket in the country.

EAST BENGAL, BFC EYE PLAYOFFS SPOT

VASCO: A desperate SC East Bengal will look for maximum points to keep their playoff hopes alive when they face former champions Bengaluru FC in an ISL match on Tuesday. Placed second-last in the league table, Robbie Fowler's side has accumulated just 13 points from 14 matches and can definitely still make the playoffs, if results go their way. SCEB are currently four points away from the fourth spot but Fowler believes his side is still in the race, despite the position they find themselves in.

THE END OF THE STORM ON DISCOVERY+

NEW DELHI: The end of the storm, the documentary based on Liverpool FC's 2019-20 season is now available on discovery+ in India. Available via Discovery's new streaming service, the documentary charts the journey of Liverpool Football Club as it attempted to end a league title drought lasting over 30 years. Delving deep into the heart of one of the most globally recognised sports clubs, the 90-minute documentary tells the inside story of Liverpool's title-winning Premier League season. Through the eyes of coach Jurgen Klopp, alongside skipper Jordan Henderson and others the documentary gives a unique insight into the ups and downs and the ecstasy and uncertainty that one of football's biggest clubs confronts day in and day out.

Agencies

RTCL LIMITED
 CIN No.: L16003UP1994PLC016225
 Registered Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002
 Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
 Website: www.rtclimited.in E-mail: rgc.secretarial@gmail.com

NOTICE
 Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 12th February, 2021 at 03:00 P.M. at its corporate office 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007, to consider and take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2020.
 This Intimation is also available on the Company's website at www.rtclimited.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.
 Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Friday 01st January, 2021 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For RTCL Limited
 Sd/-
 (Vishal Saxena)
 Company Secretary

Place: Delhi
 Date: 01.02.2021

RAGHUNATH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
 CIN No.: L52312UP1994PLC022559
 Regd Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002
 Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
 E-mail: rgc.secretarial@rediffmail.com, Website: www.raghunathintltd.in

NOTICE
 Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday, 12th February, 2021, at 03.30 p.m. inter-alia to consider and take on record the Standalone and Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Nine Months ended on December 31st, 2020.
 This Intimation is also available on the Company's website at www.raghunathintltd.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.
 Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Friday 01st January, 2021 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For Raghunath International Limited
 Sd/-
 (G.N. Choudhary)
 Director

Place: Delhi
 Date: 01.02.2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / IN (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, BHIWNAI	CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACHES FOR 2 LANE ROB ON REWARI BHATINDA RAILWAY LINE AT LC -52C AT RAILWAY KM. 81/9-82/0 IN BHIWANI DISTRICT. (RE-INVITING)	28.01.2021 19.02.2021	1392.31 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0166424236 pwd-eepd-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
2	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, NATHUSARI CHOPTA	CONST. OF PARK - CUM- VYAMSHALA (4 ACRE) AT VILLAGE KUMHARIA AND 8 NOS. OTHER WORKS	30.01.2021 19.02.2021	2.68 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666256153 bdpchopta@gmail.com
3	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, SIRSA	CONST. OF PARK - CUM- VYAMSHALA 2 ACRE AT VILLAGE DHIGTANIA AND ONE OTHER WORK	30.01.2021 19.02.2021	85.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220483
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIPURPOSE HALL AT VILLAGE KHERERI BLOCK KALANAUR DISTRICT ROHTAK	02.02.2021 16.02.2021	33.40 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	prexeeng.roh@hry.nic.in
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,ROHTAK	MAKING 59 NOS TUBEWELLS YET TO ELECTRIFIED OPERATIONAL (INSTALLATION OF SHALLOW TUBEWELLS WITH HUT FOR PUMPING BRACKISH SALINE GROUND WATER AND MIXING WITH WATER IS JLN FEEDER IN DISTT. JHAJJAR + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 17.02.2021	64.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	981211077 constdivn19rtk@gmail.com
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,ROHTAK	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN OLD CANAL COLONY ROHTAK DURING THE FY 2020-21	CLOSING DATE 09.02.2021	6.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	rohtaknemech@yahoo.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTING NILAHERI PIPE LINE LINK DRAIN (THROUGH UNDERGROUND PIPE LINE) FROM RD 0 TO 15900 OUT-FALLING INTO JLN FEEDER AT RD 320600-L +1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 17.02.2021	3.02 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	981211077 xenfdrtk@gmail.com
8	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,AMBALA	WHITE WASHING PAINTING SNOWCEM AND DISTEMPER IN P AND S TYPE QUARTER CANAL COLONY AMBALA + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 08.02.2021	429.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01712973270 xensylambala@gmail.com
9	GOVT. I.T.J.MEHRAULI, GURUGRAM	SUPPLY OF TOOLS, EQUIPMENTS & MACHINERY AT GOVT.I.TI, GURUGRAM	23.01.2021 12.02.2021	5.15 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2021_HRY_157307_1	9992633000 gurgaon.giti@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 1634