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Big infra push to usher eco into 'Amrit Kaal'

Digital currency, 30% tax on digital assets, 35% hike in capex to ₹7.5 lakh crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A big infra push to revive the Covid-19 hit economy, few populist measures, no tinkering with personal income tax, and 30 per cent tax on digital assets were some of the key highlights of the Union Budget that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharam said will usher the Indian economy into Amrit Kaal, the 25-yearlong lead up to India@100."

The ₹39.45 lakh crore Budget proposes massive spending on highways and affordable housing, among other sectors, with a view to firing up the key engines of the economy to sustain the economic recovery from the pandemic.

The Finance Minister ignored the economic wizards lay emphasis on fiscal consolidation and instead prioritised economic expansion.

The absence of populist measures will provide the Government much-needed leg room to increase spending on infrastructure to create jobs and boost economic activity. At the same time, the Sitharaman did not tinker with income tax slabs or tax rates.

"We are marking Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, and have entered into Amrit Kaal, the 25-year-long leadup to India@100," the Minister said, adding, "The fundamental tenets of the Budget include transparency of financial statement and fiscal position, and reflect the Government's intent, strengths, and challenges."

Her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 proposed a massive 35 per cent jump in capital expenditure to ₹7.5 lakh crore, coupled with the rationalisation of customs duty, an extension of time for setting up new manufacturing companies and plans for starting a digital currency and tax crypto assets.

Some of the key areas for boosting infrastructure spending are: 5G spectrum auction, expanding national highways by 25,000 km, interlinking of rivers, and manufacturing of 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains.

SALIENT POINTS

- Fiscal deficit pegged slightly higher at 6.9% in FY22
- Subsidies to fall 39% to ₹4.33 lakh crore
- Defence budget increased to ₹5.25 lakh crore from last year's ₹4.78 lakh crore, with a major push on procurement of military hardware from domestic industry
- Taxpayers can update their ITRs within 2 yrs with additional tax
- 5G spectrum by March, service roll out this year
- Scheduled banks to set up 75 digital banks in 75 districts
- Battery swapping policy to promote electric vehicles
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs till March 2023

Budget people friendly, creates new opportunities for jobs and growth
PM MODI

Nothing for middle class, poor in Union Budget
— RAHUL GANDHI

Budget has 'zero' for common people, Government lost in 'big words signifying nothing'
— MAMATA BANERJEE

Union Budget disappointing, nothing in it for common people
KEJRIWAL

Rural job scheme funds cut by 25%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even though the dependence of the country's poorest on MNREGA soared during the pandemic because of widespread unemployment due to job cuts and gloomy economy, the allocation in Budget 2022 for the Government's rural employment programme has been slashed by 25 per cent.

The MNREGA fund allocation is ₹73,000 crore for the financial year 2022-23, down from the revised estimate for the previous year (2021-22), which was ₹98,000 crore.

Budget highly disappointing: Bhupesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday termed the Union Budget 2022-23 as completely 'disappointing and directionless'.

The budget was tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

Baghel said the budget has no provisions for farmers, labourers, youth, unemployed and women. People had high hopes but did not find any substantive benefits. There is nothing about doubling the income of farmers. Thus, the central government has failed to fulfill the promise of doubling the income of farmers by 2022. He added that no provisions have also been made as per the earlier announcements in the last budget. No allocation has been made for the announcement of making 100 smart cities across the country.

Similarly, the budget has not provided any substantial contribution for the unemployed, youth and women, Baghel said. It is silent on providing any major relief to the rural economy, agriculture, middle class and common people, he claimed. It reflects that there is no vision or plan of action to take the country ahead, he said.

400 new Vande Bharat trains in three years: FM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday announced four hundred new Vande Bharat trains will be manufactured over the next three years. "Four hundred new-generation Vande Bharat trains with better energy efficiency and passenger riding experience will be developed and manufactured during the next three years," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

These new train sets are going to be made of lightweight aluminum, as opposed to steel, making each around 50 tonnes lighter, consuming much less energy than their steel counterparts, she said.

Railways Ministry officials said they are already manufacturing 44 Vande Bharat trains in order to have these trains running on at least 75 routes by August 15, 2023, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech. While the FM said the trains will be manufactured and developed over the next three years, it is not clear when they will be operational.

She also said 100 PM GatiShakti Cargo Terminals for multi-modal logistics facilities will be developed in next three years.

₹48,000 cr for 80L PMAY houses for middle class, poor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to revive the housing sector and create jobs, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced the allocation of ₹48,000 crore for the completion of 80 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), both rural and urban, during the next fiscal year.

"In 2022-23, 80 lakh houses will be completed for the identified eligible beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana, both rural and urban. ₹48,000 crore is allocated for this purpose," the Minister said, tabling the Budget.

The Centre would work with States for reduction of time required for all land and construction-related approvals, for promoting affordable housing for middle-class and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in urban areas, she said.

"We shall also work with the financial sector regulators to expand access to capital along with the reduction in the cost of intermediation," the Minister said.

For better land records management, Sitharaman said the States will be encouraged to adopt Unique Land Parcel Identification Number to facilitate IT-based management of records.

On Monday, the Economy Survey highlighted that 33.99 lakh houses were completed in 2020-21 and 26.20 lakh units as of November 25, 2021, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) programme.

For the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), the survey noted that 14.56 lakh houses were completed in FY21. In 2021-22, 4.49 lakh houses were completed till December 2021.

COVID IN MADHYA PRADESH

Cities	Fresh Cases	Total cases
Bhopal	1334	159557
Indore	814	199647
Gwalior	173	64439

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Option A	1,79,750	3,60,250	7,21,500	36,07,500
Option F	1,46,250	2,93,250	5,87,500	29,37,500
Option J	1,45,500	2,91,750	5,84,500	29,22,500

*Plus applicable tax as per rules Figures in Rupees

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Option F: Annuity for Life with Return of Purchase Price
Option J: Joint Life Annuity with a provision for 100% of the annuity payable as long as one of the Annuitant survives and Return of Purchase Price on death of last survivor

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Three nabbed from W Bengal for involvement in cyber crime

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Cyber Crime Bhopal busted an interstate gang and nabbed three miscreants from 24 Parganas West Bengal who were involved in duping victims in the name of redeeming reward points of credit card; Bihar-Bengal gang duped Rs 25 lakh from the victims.

Accused used to cheat in the name of expiry of reward points in credit card. The accused used OTP on the pretext of using credit card reward points for shopping.

The accused would collect all the credit card information on the pretext of settling the credit card reward point. The accused use people for opening accounts to commit fraud.

In order to break the chain of transaction, the accused transfer money from one account to another by withdrawing money in connivance with the operator of the customer service center.

The accused would call from Delhi and using accounts from Bihar and West Bengal victims were duped to the tune of Rs 20 lakhs.

On November 22, 2021, Sandeep Kumar Chaudhary, lodged complaint with cyber crime cell that on November 20 he received call that his credit card has got reward points and reward points will expire, accused collected credit card details and cheated him of Rs 1.1 lakh.

Based on the complaint accused identified as Adwadi Kumar of Bihar, Nirbhay Kumar Bhardwaj of Bihar and Kumar Satyam of Bihar were arrested.

Modus operandi of accused would be to contact people posing as employees of credit card company and tell that if the reward points are not used then they will expire, which you can use for shopping or settling the statement and would cheat.

Four android mobile phones, seven SIMS, three different Debit cards of banks and an ICICI Bank check book have been seized.

Chouhan offers prayers at Mahalasa temple

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today offered prayers at Mahalasa Narayani Temple situated at Verna in Goa. Chouhan prayed to Maa Mahalasa for the progress of Madhya Pradesh and for the happy, healthy and prosperous life of the people of the state. Describing the darshan of Mahalasa Narayani Devi as his good fortune, Chief Minister Chouhan said that in this temple the mind gets peace and the heart gets wonderful joy. "I am blessed to come here today to have the darshan of Mahalasa Devi."

Chouhan said that the temple was demolished by Portuguese invaders in the 16th century, after which the devotees rebuilt the grand temple.

A medic administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a senior citizen during an inoculation drive, at Government KN Katju hospital in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Two nabbed for opening fire at 22-year-old youth at Piplani locality

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Piplani police have booked two miscreants for opening fire at a 22-year-old Engineering student at Sonagiri on Monday; victim escaped the shot, investigation has been started.

Panic prevailed in Sonagiri area when the accused identified as Shashank and Ramvir opened fired at Rajneesh Kumar.

The victim had gone to market and was on bike when the two accused opened fire and escaped on bike.

The victim had gone to market and was on bike when the two accused opened fire at him

Victim escaped the shot and lodged a complaint with the police.

Soon after the police received information a team rushed to the spot and started investigation.

Police found that the victim and accused are acquainted with each other and have on bitter terms for long. The two have fights with each other several times in the past.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case against the two accused and started further investigation. The accused escaped the spot and are still at large.

Police have raided few places in the investigation but the two managed to escape.

The victim after pursuing engineering from Bhopal lives in a rented arrangement in Sonagiri area.

Accused and victim hail from Bihar and are from the same area. The details and crime record of accused are under investigation, said police.

Urban bodies of Indore division are learning about carbon credit

PNS ■ INDORE

All the urban bodies of Indore division will make all efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. All bodies will work on carbon credit monetization. You will also get additional income by earning carbon credit points.

On the initiative of Divisional Commissioner and Administrator of Indore Municipal Corporation Pawan Kumar Sharma, all the urban bodies of Indore division were given training in this regard through video conferencing. Smart City Indore CEO Rishab Gupta provided them with basic information in this regard through his presentation. He also apprised them about the process of earning carbon credits. Additional Commissioner Shri Rajneesh Kasera and office heads of all the urban bodies of the division were present during the video conferencing.

Divisional Commissioner Pawan Sharma said in the video conferencing that all the urban bodies should pay attention to the correctness of the waste segregation process. Ensure all such measures, which reduce the emission of carbon dioxide. Documentation and all other useful information in this regard will be made available by the Smart City. Guidance will also be provided from time to time. He said that climate change is a global problem and with the concerted and small efforts of all of us, we will be successful in reducing carbon emissions in the coming times.

Detailed information was given about how to take carbon rating credit through video conferencing. Rishab Gupta, CEO, Smart City informed that the Smart City Company has earned an income of Rs.9 crore by earning about 70,000 carbon credits during the year 2020-21. Indore is the first city in the country to earn this kind of income. Other urban bodies of Indore division can also do the same.

Chiefs of Dhar, Manawar, Pithampur, Khargone Sanawad, Barwah, Sendhwa, Barwani, Jhabua, Alirajpur, Nepanagar, Dhamnod, Rau, Sanwer Betma, Gautampura, Depalpur, Hataud, Manpur and Mhow villages, including Municipal Commissioners of Khandwa and Burhanpur in video conferencing Municipal officials attended.

Gautam terms the budget as 'Amrit Budget'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Girish Gautam, in his response to the Union Budget for 2022-2023, said that the 'Amrit Budget' is in line with the aspirations of the common man.

This budget, which fulfills Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', is based on the basic mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas', in which new dimensions of development will open in every sector.

The focus has been on ending unemployment by creating 60 lakh new jobs in the budget, 80 lakh houses will be built for the poor, for this a budget of Rs 48000 crores has been kept.

E-passports will be issued in 2022-2023, which will have a chip. ATMs will now be available in post offices also.

One class of PM e-Vidya One TV. Channel program will be increased from 12 channels to 200 channels, channels would be in regional language.

Children attend their class in a play school at Kumharpura near Raj Bhawan after authorities allowed schools to reopen for 1st to 12th standard with 50% capacity, in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Three persons attacked with arms over an old enmity

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Three persons including two women were injured critically after they were attacked by three armed assailants at Nehru colony Ambedkar Nagar in the night on Monday; accused attacked after they failed to persuade victims to withdraw murder case.

Attack was fuelled over old enmity; Neeraj Unthwal was murdered in November 2020 by over a half a dozen accused in the night on Diwali.

In the night on Monday Saloni Karosia and his family members reached Neeraj's house and pressurised them to withdraw case and compromise and started to abuse them.

Attack was fuelled over old enmity in which Neeraj Untwal was murdered in Nov 2020

Neeraj's brother Amar, Ranu and Akash attacked Saloni and his family in which Kamlesh Bai, Hemlata and Yash were injured, condition of the three is critical.

Both the parties lodged complaint against each other and based on the complaint police booked them for assault and rioting.

Neeraj was murdered on the night of Diwali in November 2020. All the eight accused in this case are in jail. The trial of the case is going to start from February 7 and to pressurise Saloni's family reached Neeraj's house at around 10 on Monday night. Saloni pressurized Neeraj's family members to compromise and withdraw in the murder case.

Neeraj was accompanied by cousins Akash and Ranu and was attacked by Kapil, Ankit, Rajendra Dhanwar, Golu Tiger, Pappu, Bhanu, Amit and Deependra in which Neeraj died.

The accused Rajendra Dhanwar and Golu Tiger are history-sheeters of Kamalanagar police station. The police arrested all the eight accused in the case and sent them to jail.

New collection of books at SVL

Bhopal: A new collection of fiction and non-fiction books is put up on display at Swami Vivekananda Library for the book lovers.

Different genre including Business, Political Science, Research Methodology, Mythology, Health, Economics are included in this collection.

Swami Vivekananda Library Manager Yatish Bhatele told that new books are launched every week in the library. Library members can reserve these books. In view of the increasing interest in non-fiction, this collection is being launched.

Traditional shawl of Toda tribe on display at Museum of Man

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the popular museum series 'Exhibit of the Month' of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, a traditional object is displayed in the appearance for a whole month. The exhibit for the month of February, 2022 - "Poothkuli" - A Traditional Shawl of Toda Tribe of the Toda Community from Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu, is on display in the indoor exhibition building – Veethi Sankul. The 'exhibit of the month' was inaugurated by P. K. Mishra, Director, IGRMS, renowned people present on this occasion. This exhibit of the month had been composed and collected by P. Shankar Rao, Assistant Keeper.

About the exhibit displayed in the exhibition P. Shankar Rao, Assistant Keeper told that Toda's are a pastoral tribal community mainly inhabiting the undulating western plateau of the Nilgiri hills in Tamil Nadu. Their traditional embroidery work is locally known as 'Pugur' which means flower and the shawl adorned with embroidery is called 'Poothkuli'. It is undoubtedly the most important and attractive component of their attire. Traditionally only the women embroidered this shawl which is made of a large piece of double cloth. It is usually worn by placing one side over the left shoulder and then throwing the whole garment round the back and over the right shoulder and across to the left shoulder. For Toda men and women wearing this shawl is not only a matter of aesthetics but also a way of carrying oneself with dignity. They are proud of their embroidery tradition.

Process of embroidery - Dramatic red and black colour scheme and geometrically precise design of Toda needle embroidery shawl make it stand in a class of its own. Needle weaving of Toda tribe is very different to the common understanding of embroidery. Each life cycle ceremony demands a particular design on the shawl and the shawl complements and completes the aesthetic eco-cultural system of their environment. Since each thread of the woven cloth has to be picked up by the needle and the embroidery thread then pass through the weave they mostly prefer coarsely woven cloth for their embroidery work.

Theatre workshop for MPSD students

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The students of Madhya Pradesh School of Drama (MPSD) are learning theatrical skills.

A workshop is organised for the batch 2021-22, wherein experts are training the students.

The workshop majorly focus on acting techniques, body language, observational kills, voice modulation, diction and speech. This will provide a unique knowledge practice based techniques, which is very important to acquire in this career.

All kinds of genres like tragedy, comedy, drama and horror will be taught. The students are being trained to improvise the sense of acting, gestures, expressions and emotions.

The students are taught acting exercises to strengthen their acting foundation which will help them to free themselves from self consciousness and strengthen their concentration through sensory exercises. Notably, the youngsters will be learning the fundamentals of acting and other aspects of theatre presentation.

Debt-ridden man ends life by hanging at Talaiya

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Depressed over inability to repay borrowed money a 40-year-old man committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at his house in Fatehgarh under Talaiya police station area on Monday.

Police said that the deceased Kausar Ali committed suicide at his house. The deceased used to work as vegetable seller and have borrowed money which he was not able to repay and facing financial problems.

In the initial investigation the family members told police that deceased was heavily burdened with debt and facing problems.

On Monday the deceased was found hanging and was taken to hospital by family members and where he was declared dead.

Body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

Deceased Kausar Ali had borrowed cash and was unable to repay

Meanwhile, a 49-year-old married woman committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Indra Sahayta Nagar under Aishbagh police station area on Monday.

The police said that the deceased Seema Jain was found hanging with the ceiling and declared dead when rushed to a nearby hospital.

During the investigation police found that the deceased was alone at her family members were out for work.

After the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation. The reason would be investigated and the statements of the family members would be recorded.

Minister for Higher Education Mohan Yadav welcomes youths who arrived during their cycle journey from Chhindwara to Bhopal to bring awareness for child rights, in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

'This is no Sabre Rattling 1972' screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A movie showcasing the bravery of Air Force during the war of 1972 'This is no Sabre Rattling 1972' was screened on Tuesday at Shaurya Smarak.

The film bring to the screen glimpses of the role of the IAF duringthe recent 14-day Indo-Pak war. The Air-Force provided very CloseSupport to both the Army and the Navy and fought its own war withthe enemy Air Force. Throughout the war, our Air Force fought wisely and intelligently.

The movie is presented by Film Division of India and was directed by SNS Sartary.

The film was screened under the regular film screenings held at Shaurya Smarak every day. The movies screened here are based on the Indian Army, Navy, and other armed forces. It is to be noted that the film featured the brave hearts who protect the country from high-level regions.

The regular film screening is being organized as a tribute to their contributions and their sacrifices.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian armed forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks fourth amongst the air-forces of the world.

The Indian Air Force has been undergoing a modernization program to replace and upgrade its ageing and outdated equipment since the late 90's to advanced standards. For that reason, it has started procuring and developing aircraft, weapons, associated technologies, and infrastructures.

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Budget is completely inclusive, will bring a positive change: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for presenting the budget for building a New India. Reacting to the Union Budget 2022-23, Chouhan said that this budget presented to build a prosperous, powerful and developed India will give impetus to infrastructure development. For infrastructure development, 35 percent amount has been increased in the budget. This will create employment opportunities along with infrastructure development.

Arrangements have also been made to provide more funds to the states in the budget. This amount will be used in the infrastructure development of the states, due to which employment opportunities will be created in the states as well. Chouhan gave his response to the media after listening to the budget for the year 2022-23 presented in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at his residence.

The Chief Minister said that Madhya Pradesh has got a big gift in the budget. In the river interlinking project, an amount of more than Rs 44 thousand crores will be spent on the Ken-Betwa link project. This will give a new look to Bundelkhand.

Chouhan said that this is a budget to double the income of farmers. Necessary provisions have been made in the budget to connect agriculture with technology. By making agriculture hi-tech, the way has been paved for providing its benefits to the farmer. Natural farming will improve the health of the general public and it will also improve the health of the earth.

Chouhan said that this is a common man's budget, in which efforts have been made to bring prosperity in the lives of poor, low and middle class families. There is sufficient provision in the budget to implement the new education policy. Necessary arrangements have also been made to improve the health infrastructure in the country after the Covid period.

Chouhan said that the Union Budget for the year 2022-23 is for women empowerment, employment to youth, welfare of poor and farmers and building a powerful India, in which adequate provision has been made for the security of the country. Defense budget has been increased by 25%. Adequate resources have been made available in the budget for the direction in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to take the country on the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. He congratulated the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the budget.

The Chief Minister has tweeted that – 'In one sentence, this historic budget is, 'Totally inclusive, that will bring a positive change in the life of every Indian.' Chief Minister Shri Chouhan has thanked Prime Minister Modi for giving approval for the Ken-Betwa link project and tweeted that- "This project will boost facilities of drinking water, irrigation, electricity supply in the drought-affected districts of Bundelkhand, besides employment, industrialization and investment."

CM to interact with rural families

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will interact with rural families benefited from Jal Jeevan Mission through video conferencing from Kushabhau Thackeray Auditorium, Bhopal on February 4. Chief Minister Chouhan will also interact with villagers, public representatives and members of Village Water and Sanitation Committee regarding proper supply of water through taps and proper operation and maintenance of the schemes of Jal Jeevan Mission.

In order to communicate with Chief Minister Chouhan, in the Jal Jeevan Mission, one village each in 16 districts has been selected out of the districts where water has been supplied to the rural households.

Congress MLA PC Sharma along with party workers meeting the public during the party's 'Ghar Chalo Ghar-Ghar Chalo' campaign at Banganga slum locality in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Minister for Housing, Urban Administration and Development Bhupendra Singh inaugurates newly constructed shopping complex at new market in Bhopal on Tuesday. Local Congress MLA PC Sharma was also present. Pioneer photo

CM releases book on Rama's Van gaman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the book "Ram Van Gaman Path Punravlokan" at the residence office. The author of the book Ram Gopal Soni and publisher Pushkar Baheti of Ujjain were present. Soni is a retired officer of the Indian Forest Service. He has retired from the post of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Soni said that from this book, while on the one hand the path of the real route of Ram Van Gaman will be paved, on the other people will be able to learn about the Ashrams of the prominent saints and their importance.

Volunteers of National Service Scheme meet the Governor

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Volunteers of National Service Scheme, who participated in the Republic Day Parade, New Delhi, presented a courtesy call on Governor Mangubhai Patel at Raj Bhavan. The awarded volunteers informed the Governor about the experiences of the one month Republic Day camp under the National Service Scheme. Principal Secretary to Governor D.P. Ahuja was also present.

Governor Patel has said that our country is like a huge family. The members of this family are part of a culture with differences in dialects, languages, geography, physical structure, form. He said that whatever good they saw and understood during the camp, they must include it in life. On being informed about the efforts of public awareness towards Sickle Cell, the Governor said that the goal of the efforts being made should be to achieve the best. Our work must inspire others.

The volunteers of the National Service Scheme informed the Governor about their experiences. Students including Shobhit Dubey and Anchal Sharma of Barkatullah University Bhopal, Ankit Lakhre and Rahul Patle of Rani Durgavati University Jabalpur, Khushi Yadav and Apoorva Mishra of Jiwaji University Gwalior shared their experiences of the camp and parade.

They told that during the camp, they came in direct connect with the culture and civilization of the states from East to West and North to South included in the 15 zones. They felt that language does not become a barrier in the intimacy of feelings. They said that the feeling of pride and joy as a member of the civilian contingent of the National Service Scheme in the Rajpath Parade is wonderful and unforgettable.

State NSS Officer R.K. Vijay, Youth Officer NSS Regional Directorate Shri Rajkumar Verma, Programme Coordinator Barkatullah University Anant Kumar Saxena and Training Assistant NSS Training Institute Barkatullah University Shri Rahul Singh Parihar were present.

Singh performs bhoomi pujan for commercial complex

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh dedicated a commercial shopping complex constructed on 36 platforms at a cost of Rs 2 crore 78 lakh in New Market. Singh performed bhoomi-pujan of the commercial shopping complex to be constructed at a cost of 2 crore 84 lakh and development works of various streets of New Market at a cost of Rs 95 lakh 89 thousand. Minister Singh said that it was I who performed the bhoomi-pujan of the shopping complex built on 36 platforms and today I am dedicating it. He congratulated the officials of the Municipal Corporation for working within the time limit.

The Minister said that not only Bhopal but New Market is the pride of the entire state. He said that people coming to Bhopal from outside definitely go to New Market. He said that along with old businessmen, new businessmen would also get employment in the complex built on 36 platforms. Shri Singh said that the first right here belongs to the traders here. So they should be given priority.

Singh said that Madhya Pradesh is an island of peace. Law and order is better in the state, so there is no difficulty in doing business. He said that Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is constantly striving for the development of the cities. Singh said that new industries are being established in the state. Despite the Corona period, an investment of about Rs 48,000 crore has been made this year.

Singh said that the master plan of Bhopal will come soon. Bhopal will be developed as a metro city. Metro will start in the year 2023. Like Indore, there should be a sense of cleanliness among the citizens of Bhopal, so that like Indore, Bhopal also comes number-1 in the Swachchh Survekshan. He said that the Swachchh Pratishthan survey is going on in the urban bodies. The cleanest establishment will be awarded. He said that proper management of waste is being done.

The Minister said that the compounding of houses has been increased from 10 to 30 percent. Unauthorized colonies formed before the year 2016 are being legalised. This will provide many facilities to the residents. He also listened to the problems of the traders.

MLA PC Sharma said that the Urban Development Minister solves the problems quickly. He said that the construction of the new complex would provide convenience to the traders and consumers. Surjit Singh Chouhan, former chairman of Municipal Corporation Bhopal said that T.T. Nagar should be known as Tatya Tope Nagar.

Municipal Commissioner KVS Chaudhary said that 59 shops have been constructed in place of 36 platforms. He said that 50 shops and two halls would be constructed in the shopping complex to be built in place of Nagarik Sahakari Bank. Shelounge will be constructed along with paver blocks in various lanes of New Market.

Union Min Narayan Rane's son denied bail in murder case

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra BJP MLA and Union Minister Narayan Rane's son Nitesh Rane on Tuesday suffered a setback as a Sindhudurg district court on Tuesday rejected his pre-arrest bail plea in an alleged attempt to murder case.

In a development that came six days after the Supreme Court gave him protection from arrest for ten days and asked him to seek a regular bail from the trail court,

Sindhudurg District Court's Additional Sessions Judge R. B. Rote rejected Nitesh's pre-arrest bail plea, after observing that the grant of bail would hamper the "incomplete" investigations, and his 'custodial interrogation' was necessitated considering the case facts and circumstances.

The Bombay High Court had earlier on January 17 refused to grant an anticipatory bail to Nitesh and another accused Sandesh alias Gotya Sawant in the alleged attempt to murder case.

Amid speculation about the possibility of Nitesh being arrested, his lawyer Satish Maneshinde said oon Tuesday evening that "nobody can touch Rane till he enjoys the protection from the Supreme Court" and that he would soon move the Bombay High Court challenging the Sindhudurg Court order.

Nitesh has been charged with Sections 307 (attmpt to murder), 120- B (conspiracy) read with 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

Nitesh has been named as the key conspirator behind an attempt to murder Shiv Sena leader Santosh Manohar Parab, who was knocked down from behind by a car on December 18,2021, while he was returning home by a motorcycle at Kankavali in Sindudurg district which is Ranes' political bastion.

The prosecution's case that a conspiracy was hatched in which one Sachin Satpute was entrusted "to assault and criminally intimidate the complainant/injured". Satpute (A6) with the help of Dhiraj Jadhao who is bodyguard of Sachin Satpute) and accused Sneha Chavan, Dnyaneshwar @ Mauli who were part of the conspiracy. Both Nitesh and Gotya Sawant are alleged to have hatched the conspiracy to make an attempt o the life of Parab.

The high court had denied pre-arrest bail to Nitesh and another accused after the Prosecution had among other things had opposed the anticipatory bail being granted to him and Gotya Sawant on the ground that there were all five cases against him (Nitesh) and 26 cases against the latter. The Prosecution had also told the court Nitesh was arrested by the Kankvali police under Section 353, 332, 342, 324, 147, 143, 148, 149, 323, 504, 506, 109 and 120-B of IPC and Section 3 of the Damage to Public Property Act.

Earlier, seeking pre-arrest bail for his client, Rane's lawyers Satish Maneshinde and S. D. Desai had told the court that the case was politically motivated and a story was concocted, his client was ready to cooperate with the investigations and he had recorded his statement on December 24.

Opposing Rane's plea, Special Public Prosecutor Pradeep Gharat said no notice was served to the prosecution before filing the bail application under Sec. 438 of CrPC and his anticipatory bail applications had been already rejected earlier, and his custody was required for a just and proper investigation.

Gharat further contended that the SC had allowed Rane to surrender before the trial court and then apply for regular bail, and the 10 days interim protection was breathing time to prepare him for giving himself up. Observing that Rane was not "falsely implicated due to political reasons", Judge Rote said the he is the 'main accused' and his prima facie involvement has been shown, a conspiracy was hatched to teach (Parab) a lesson, and hence his "custodial interrogation" was necessary for proper and effective investigation.

There are nine accused in the case. They included six arrested accused -- Chetan Pawar, Karan B. Kamble, Anil Nakka, Karan D. Kamble, Deepak N. Waghode and Sachin Satpute – all from Pune.

जाहिर सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है, कि मेरे पक्षकार बैंक में, मैं अमित अर्थव वेयर हाउस के प्रोप्राईटर श्री अजय कुमार गुप्ता तनय स्व. श्री महेश चन्द्र गुप्ता, निवासी-छतरपुर के द्वारा अपने स्वामित्व एवं आधिपत्य की भूमि खसरा नम्बर 60/2, रकवा 0.083 है, एवं 61/1/2 रकवा 0.278 है, प.ह.नं. 22, मौजा-अलुवा-चीरान सर्किल आर.आई. एवं तहसील नौगांव जिला छतरपुर (म.प्र.) को साम्यिक बंधक रखकर ऋण देना प्रस्तावित है।

उक्त सम्पत्ति के संबंध में पूर्व के मूल विक्रय पत्र क्रमांक 1460 दिनांक 19.03.2009, क्रमांक 898, दिनांक 20.07.2009 एवं क्रमांक 899 दिनांक 20.07.2009, जो कि रविकांत, अविनाश श्रीवास्तव, दीपक कुमार मित्तल, श्रीमति अनुपमा अग्रवाल के पक्ष में निष्पादित हुए थे। जो अथक प्रयास के बावजूद न मिलकर कहीं खो गये हैं।

अत: उक्त सम्पत्ति में वर्तमान स्वामी को प्राप्त स्वत्वों एवं आधिपत्य में किसी व्यक्ति, बैंक, वित्तीय संस्थान, निकाय आदि को कोई आपत्ति हो या गुम मूल दस्तावेजों के आधार पर कोई ऋण/भार आदि हो तो सूचना प्रकाशन के 7 दिवस के अंदर आपत्ति मय लेखी साक्ष्य के मेरे कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करें, अथवा उक्त दस्तावेज लौटवें, अवधि आवसान उपरांत आपत्ति मान्य ना होकर मेरे पक्षकार द्वारा उक्त सम्पत्ति को उसके उपलब्ध मूल दस्तावेजों के निक्षेप पर साम्यिक बंधक कर लिया जावेगा।

दिनांक :- 01.02.2022

सन्तोष कुमार जैन
अधिकृत अधिवक्ता
348, महल रोड, छतरपुर
मो. 9425144637
वास्ते-पंजाब नैशनल बैंक शाखा-छतरपुर

Nearly 1.50 cr devotees take holy dip in Ganga

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Amid the Covid pandemic, nearly 1.50 crore devotees took a holy dip in the Ganga here on the occasion of the rare two-day "mauni amawasya".

The fair authorities on Tuesday said the number of devotees taking dip in the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers amid the ongoing Magh month fair on their banks here reached 1.47 crore on Tuesday with over 50 lakh people taking the bath by Monday night itself.

The mauni amawasya, falling on the moonless day of the Magh month under the Hindu calendar, is considered a pious day with devotees taking dip in the Ganga amid the month-long fair on river banks in Prayagraj. As per the Hindu calendar, the mauni amawasya fell on two days this year -- January 31 and February 1. Performing the 'pind daan' rituals here at the behest of devotees for securing the salvation of departed souls of their family members, priest Bhola Nath Tripathi said the 'muhurat' (pious period) of the mauni amawasya began at 2.20 pm on Monday and lasted till 11.16 am on Tuesday. The devotees, however, kept bathing in the rive till evening, he said.

Fair authorities said the people had begun arriving at the fair site since Sunday itself and began taking the bath from Monday. They said the fair is being held amid strict observance of the Covid protocol and over 300 people were penalised for violating it. The officials also said the fair is being held amid various security and safety measures including the deployment and patrolling of policemen, horse-mounted jawans, anti-terror and bomb disposal squads, state disaster management personnel besides divers to avert any untoward incident. A total of 150 CCTV cameras have been installed at various crucial points for monitoring various activities in the fairground, they said.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य यॉंत्रिकीय खण्ड रायसेन

दूरभाष क्र. 07482-222095 फैक्स क्र. 07482-223388

ई-मेल :- eephrai@nic.in

क्रमांक/344/लेखा./का.यं./लो.स्वा.यॉ./खण्ड/रायसेन — दिनॉक :- 25.01.2022

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

रायसेन जिले के विभिन्न ग्रामों में नलजल योजना के माध्यम से ग्रामों में शत् प्रतिशत किव्राशील घरेलू नल कनेक्शन (FHTC) प्रदाय कार्य हेतु निम्नलिखित तालिका अनुसार ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

उल्लेखित कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। निविदा फार्म ऑनलाईन क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 09.02.2022 शाम 17.30 है एवं संशोधन केवल वेबसाईट पर देखे जा सकेगें।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन टेण्डर आई.डी.क्र.	निविदा क्र.	वि.खं.	ग्राम का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत राशि रू.
01	2022_PHED_181182_1	67	बाड़ी	1. बगलबाडा 2. भारकच्छखुर्द 3. गोल	19983083.00
02	2022_PHED_181183_1	68	बाड़ी	1. छींद 2. छुछार 3. बटेरा 4. अलीबाडा 5. पिपलई	18587860.00
03	2022_PHED_181184_1	69	बाड़ी	1. नयागॉवखाडे 2. धनाश्री 3. अकोला 4. ढीमरढाना 5. मोतलसिर	17638017.00

सदस्य सचिव
जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन एवं
कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी
खण्ड रायसेन

G-22112/21 — दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES, SHILLONG - 793 010

ASSAM RIFLES TECHNICAL AND TRADESMEN RECRUITMENT RALLY 2021-22

PHYSICAL STANDARD TEST (PST) / PHYSICAL EFFICIENCY TEST (PET), TRADE (SKILL) TEST (TT) AND WRITTEN TEST FOR ASSAM RIFLES TECHNICAL AND TRADESMEN RECRUITMENT RALLY 2021-22

Memo No. I.12016/Rect Branch/2021-22/05 — Dated : 25 Jan 2022

1. Please refer to our notification for Assam Rifles Technical and Tradesman Recruitment Rally 2021-22 published vide Memo No. I.12016/Rect Branch/2021-22/101 dated 11 Jan 2022. The said notification is also available in our official website www.assamrifles.gov.in.
2. Physical Standard Test (PST) / Physical Efficiency Test (PET), Trade (Skill) Test (TT) and Written Test of following centres were postponed as per the date of postponement shown against each centre in view of prevailing situation arising out due to COVID-19:-

Ser No.	State	Centres	Trades	Date of postponement	Remarks
(a)	Assam	ARTC & S, Diphu	Cook	20 Jan 2022	
(b)	Nagaland	ARTC & S, 3rd Mile, Dimapur	Cook	16 Jan 2022	
(c)	Nagaland	ARTC & S, Sukhovi	Cook	16 Jan 2022	

3. Fresh schedule for reporting of candidates for Physical Standard Test (PST) / Physical Efficiency Test (PET), Trade (Skill) Test (TT) and Written Test centres with effect from **08 March 2022 onwards** for the following centres:-

Ser No.	State	Centres	Trades	Fresh Schedule of reporting for PET/PST	Remarks
(a)	Assam	ARTC & S, Diphu	Cook	**With effect from 08 Mar 2022 onwards**	
(b)	Nagaland	ARTC & S, 3rd Mile, Dimapur	Cook	**With effect from 08 Mar 2022 onwards**	
(c)	Nagaland	ARTC & S, Sukhovi	Cook	**With effect from 08 Mar 2022 onwards**	

4. Candidates are hereby advised to visit the official website of Assam Rifles (www.assamrifles.gov.in) for download the fresh call letter to appear for Physical Standard Test (PST) / Physical Efficiency Test (PET), Trade (Skill) Test (TT) and Written Test of the above centres.

Sd/- x-x-x
(K S Thakur)
Deputy Commandant
Staff Officer-2 (Recruitment)
for Directorate General Assam Rifles

Defence Budget hiked by 5%

68 per cent of total capital outlay earmarked for procuring weapons made in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The defence budget on Tuesday for the next fiscal saw a modest hike of nearly five per cent with the Government giving a determined push for indigenization to ensure self-reliance. Nearly 68 per cent of the total capital outlay was earmarked for procuring weapons manufactured within the country in an effort to make India a manufacturing hub of the world.

While the total outlay for current financial year 2021-22 was pegged at Rs 3,68,418 crores, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated Rs 3,85,730 crores for the 2022-23. The current fiscal ends on March 31.

However, the government was committed to security of the nation and all the demands of the armed forces for modernization will be met without any budgetary constraints, sources said later.

Nearly 2,01,000.00 crores for the next fiscal was allotted for defence(civil)catering to projects like infrastructure building. If this amount is added to the defence outlay comprising capital and revenue, the overall figure comes to 5.25 lakh crore for 2022-23. Last year's allocation was Rs 4.78 lakh crore.

With the objective of sustaining the momentum of modernization to maintain operational readiness, Rs 1,52,369 crore was set aside for purchasing new weapons, aircraft, warships and other military hardware. The revised capital expenditure for the ongoing was Rs 1,38, 850crores. It means the capital outlay for the coming fiscal saw a jump of Rs 14,000 crores.

As regards boosting the capabilities of the Indian defence industry, 68 percent of the capital outlay was set aside for locally made weapons.

"Sixty-eight per cent of the capital procurement budget will be earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23, up from 58 per cent in 2021-22," Sitharaman said in her budget speech. The finance minister said defence research and development will be opened up for industry, start-ups and academia with 25 per cent of defence research and development(R&D) budget earmarked for it.

"Private industry will be encouraged to take up design and development of military platforms and equipment in collaboration with the DRDO and other organisations through SPV (special purpose vehicle) model," she said.

The minister also said an independent nodal umbrella body will be set up for meeting wide-ranging testing and certification requirements.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described as an "excellent move" the proposal in the Budget to set aside 25 per cent of the defence R&D budget for start-ups and private entities in the financial year 2022-23.

He also welcomed Sitharaman's announcement that 68 per cent of the defence capital procurement budget would be allocated towards procurement from domestic industry.

"The 68 percent of defence capital procurement budget has been allocated towards local procurement. It is in line with the 'Vocal for Local'push and it will certainly boost the domestic defence industries," he tweeted.

He said substantial amounts have been allocated towards research and development in several sectors including defence. "The proposal to reserve 25 per cent of the R&D Budget for Startups and Private entities is an excellent move," the defence minister said.

However, the major bulk of the overall defence allocation like previous years saw revenue outlay far more than capital expenditure. The revenue budget for the next fiscal was Rs 2,33,000 crores. This allocation caters to expenses on payment of salaries and maintenance of establishments. Separately, an amount of Rs 1,19,696 crore was allocated for defence pensions.

Coming to allocations to the three Services, IAF got the highest capital allocation totaling Rs 55,586 crores. It will enable the IAF to procure aircraft to address the issue of dwindling fighter jet squadron strength.

The Navy was the second highest with a capital budget of Rs 47,590 crores followed by the Army with an outlay of Rs 32,015 crores.

Digital university, one class-one TV channel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Among the major initiatives in the education sector proposed by the Centre in its annual budget on Tuesday, a digital university on the 'hub-and-spoke' model and expansion of 'one class-one TV channel' programme through 200 channels for providing supplementary education in regional languages in schools have been proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The finance minister said that due to the pandemic-induced closure of schools, children, particularly in the rural areas and those from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribe, and other weaker sections, have lost almost two years of formal education.

"Mostly, these are children in government schools. We recognise the need to impart supplementary teaching and to build a resilient mechanism for education delivery. For this purpose, 'one class-one TV channel' programme of PM eVIDYA will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels. This will enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1-12," she said.

Towards Higher education, Rs 40,828 crore has been allocated to the Education Ministry's Higher Education Department which is an increase of 6.6 percent over the current financial year. In 2021-22, the budget for the Higher education department was Rs 38,350.65 crore and it further dropped to Rs 36,031.57 in the revised estimates.

Besides school education outlay for 2022-23 is at Rs 63,449.37 crore, nearly Rs 9,000 crore more than 2021-22. The country's biggest school education scheme, the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, has been allocated Rs 37,383.36, an increase of more than Rs 6,000 crores from Budget 2021. Funds for the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have increased to Rs 7,650 crore and 4,115 crore respectively.

The digital university will be established to provide access to students across the country for world-class quality universal education with personalised learning experience at their doorsteps. This will be made available in different Indian languages and ICT formats, she said.

"The university will be built on a networked hub-spoke model, with the hub building cutting-edge ICT expertise. The best public universities and institutions in the country will collaborate as a network of hub-spokes," added Sitharaman.

A digital university on the 'hub-and-spoke' model and expansion of 'one class-one TV channel' programme through 200 channels for providing supplementary education in regional languages in schools have been proposed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

The finance minister proposed that in vocational courses, to promote crucial critical thinking skills and give space for creativity, 750 virtual labs in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs for a simulated learning environment, will be set up in 2022-23.

"High-quality e-content in all spoken languages will be developed for delivery via internet, mobile phones, TV and radio through Digital Teachers. A competitive mechanism for the development of quality e-content by the teachers will be set up to empower and equip them with digital tools of teaching and facilitate better learning outcomes," she said. Sitharaman announced that for developing India-specific knowledge in urban planning and design, and to deliver certified training in these areas, up to five existing academic institutions in different regions will be designated as centres of excellence. "These centres will be provided endowment funds of Rs 250 crore each. In addition, AICTE will take the lead to improve syllabi, quality and access of urban planning courses in other institutions.

The overall financial allocation for the education sector for 2022-23 has increased to Rs 1.04 lakh crore from Rs 93,224 crore (Budget estimate) in 2021-22 as the minister laid emphasis on digital modes of education to reverse learning losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The revised estimate for 2021-22 is Rs 88,001 crore.

"World-class foreign universities and institutions will be allowed in the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT), City to offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics free from domestic regulations, except those by IFSCA to facilitate the availability of high-end human resources for financial services and technology," she said.

Govt proposes high-level committee for urban planning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To bring a paradigm change in urban planning and development in view of rapid urbanisation, the Modi Government on Tuesday proposed setting up a high-level committee of urban planners, economists and institutions to recommend policies for urban development, capacity building, planning, implementation, and governance.

Presenting the Budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government is planning a paradigm change in making policies for the urban sector as nearly half of the country's population is expected to live in those areas by the time India turns 100. She noted that by the year 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of independence, around half of its population is likely to reside in urban areas, which would require orderly development.

"By the time of India @ 100, nearly half our population is likely to be living in urban areas. To prepare for this, orderly urban development is of critical importance. This will help realize the country's economic potential, including livelihood opportunities for the demographic dividend," she said. For this, the minister stressed that there is a need to nurture the mega cities and their hinterlands to become current centres of economic growth.

"On the other hand, we need to facilitate tier 2 and 3 cities to take on the mantle in the future. For this to happen urban planning cannot continue with a business-as-usual approach, " she said adding for urban capacity building, the support will be provided to the states.

"Modernisation of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes (TPS), and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) will be implemented," she said, adding this would facilitate reforms for people to live and work closer to mass transit systems.

"The Central Government's financial support for mass transit projects and AMRUT scheme will be leveraged for formulation of action plans and their implementation for facilitating TOD and TPS by the states," the minister said.

Experts are of the view that the move is likely to bring about global best practices for urban development. "It is a significant step for defining cities considering the future of mobility, work, heath, education and living," said Anish Kumar, Co-Lead, Transform Rural India Foundation.

Last year, government think tank NITI Aayog's report titled "Reforms in Urban Planning Capacity in India" stated that concerted actions were required to bring in more structure, professionalism, and identity to the urban planning profession. It added that 63% of the 7,933 towns and cities (urban settlements) in India do not have master plans, which are considered critical for managing urbanisation challenges. While large scale investment was being made in cities, most cities faced urban planning related issues.

₹1,32,513 cr for agriculture sector; Kisan Drone for crop assessment

Govt increased the agricultural credit target to ₹18 lakh crore for the 2022-23 fiscal from ₹16.50 lakh crore for the current fiscal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping in mind that agriculture is a fundamental part of India's recovery process and a crucial sector of the Indian economy, the Union Budget 2022-23 proposed Rs 132513.62 crore for the agriculture sector, a marginally hike by 4.5 per cent as compared to the last year and stressed to promote Kisan Drone for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides, delivery of digital and hi tech services to farmers.

The government has increased the agricultural credit target to Rs 18 lakh crore for the 2022-23 fiscal from Rs 16.50 lakh crore for the current fiscal.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that focused on ensuring assured income to farmers with an announcement of Rs 2.37 lakh crore towards direct payments for minimum support price (MSP) to wheat and paddy farmers for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Farmer leaders claimed that the amount of Rs 2.37 lakh crore towards the MSP is less than the previous year when a total Rs 2.87 lakh crore was paid to them. They also claimed that the budget on agriculture is a revenge on farmers' protests.

To finance startups and rural enterprises working in agri-space, the minister said the government will facilitate a fund with blended capital raised under the co-investment model through NABARD.

She said the government will promote chemical-free natural farming throughout the country with a focus on farmers' lands in five-kilometre wide corridors along the river Ganga in the first stage.

For the delivery of digital and high-tech services to farmers, she said the government will launch a scheme of public-private partnership (PPP) model with the involvement of public sector research and extension institutions along with private agri-tech players and stakeholders of agri value chains.

As per the Budget document, the fund allocations for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship schemes-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) is proposed to be Rs 15500 crore in the current fiscal year as compared to the Rs 15989 crore last year.

Reacting on the Budget, Dr KC Ravi, Chief Sustainability Officer, Syngenta India Pvt Limited said that the emphasis on use of Kisan Drones for crop assessments, land records, spraying of insecticides and micronutrients, which will be a game changer for the agriculture sector.

The Budget allocation for the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been increased by 44 per cent to Rs 6,037.31 crore and for Food Processing Industries by 2.25 times to Rs 2,941.99 crore for the next fiscal.

₹2,600 cr allocated for Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget 2022-23 has allocated Rs 2600 crore to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has been allocated Rs 2,600 crore for the construction of non-residential office buildings of the Central Vista project, including the Parliament and Supreme Court. This is Rs 767.56 crore more than Rs 1,833.43 crore given in the last fiscal.

The redevelopment project of the Central Vista -- the nation's power corridor -- envisages a new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the three-kilometre Rajpath boulevard that stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, a new prime minister's residence and a new Prime Minister's Office as well as a new Vice President's Enclave.

A sum of Rs 2,600.99 has been allocated for the construction of non-residential office buildings, including the Parliament and Supreme Court of India. For residential purposes, the ministry has been given Rs 873.02 crore.

Six infrastructure firms, including Tata Projects Limited, L&T Limited and Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited, are in the race to win the contract to construct the Executive Enclave, which will house the new PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, India House and National Security Council Secretariat.

According to the proposed plan, the Executive Enclave will come up on the south side of the South Block in plot number 36/38 in the high-security zone in Lutyens' Delhi. Last year, Larsen & Toubro Limited had been awarded the contract for the construction and maintenance of the first three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat.

Tata Projects Limited is constructing a new parliament building while Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited is executing the redevelopment work of the Central Vista Avenue stretching from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate under the Central Vista redevelopment project.

In November last year, Jharkhand-based infrastructure firm Kamladityya Construction Pvt Ltd had been awarded the contract for constructing a Vice-President's Enclave.

Law Ministry allocated ₹1,525 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Law Ministry has been allocated Rs 1,525 crore in the Union Budget 2022-23 to provide funds to the Election Commission for purchase of new electronic voting machines and destruction of obsolete voting machines. The ministry has also been allocated funds for Lok Sabha polls and photo identity cards for voters.

The Legislative Department in the Union law ministry is the nodal agency to dal with issues related to Election Commission and electoral laws. A sum of Rs 1525 crore has been allocated for providing funds to Election Commission for procurement of ballot units, control units and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial Units (or paper trail machines) and ancillary expenditure on electronic voting machines and destruction of obsolete voting machines. One control unit and at least one ballot unit make for one EVM.

Following a stringent protocol, old EVMs are destroyed under the watch of an expert panel. An EVM has an average life of 15 years.Under the Organs of Election head, a total of Rs 292 crore has been allocated, including Rs 180 crore for Lok Sabha elections and Rs 18 crore for election photo identity cards.

The provision for Lok Sabha elections is for meeting "carry forward liability" in respect of charges for conduct of parliamentary polls. The last Lok Sabha elections were held in 2019. The provision for identity cards for voters is for reimbursement of central government's share to states and UTs on issuance of photo-identity cards to the voters.

Funds for MNREGA slashed by 25% for year 22-22

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even though the dependence of the country's poorest on MNREGA soared during the pandemic because of widespread unemployment due to job cuts and gloomy economy, the allocation in Budget 2022 for the government's rural employment programme has been slashed by 25 per cent.

The MNREGA fund allocation is Rs 73,000 crore for the financial year 2022-23, down from the revised estimate for the previous year (2021-22), which was Rs 98,000 crore. This is 25.51 per cent less than the revised estimate for the current financial year.

MGNREGA is aimed at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

In the first phase, the scheme was implemented in 200 most backward districts with effect from February 2, 2006, This was subsequently extended to additional districts, 113 with effect from April 1, 2007 and 17 from May 15, 2007.

The remaining districts were included under the Act with effect from April 1, 2008. The Act now covers all rural districts of the country. Data shows that the demand for rural jobs have increased during the lockdown period when many labourers return to their villages.

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In December 2018, 1.9 crore households had demanded work under MNREGA. In December 2019, that dipped slightly to 1.7 crore households. But by December 2020 - the year of the prolonged lockdown — there was a big jump in the number of households demanding work, to 2.7 crore. Last December, the demand for work continued to remain higher than pre-pandemic levels, at 2.4 crore, as per the Government statistics.

SP has defined its agenda by fielding tainted individuals and rioters: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a scathing attack on the previous Samajwadi Party government, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that by fielding tainted individuals and rioters as their candidates in the election, the SP had defined its agenda well before the elections.

Addressing voters at Sivalkhas and Kithore assembly constituencies in Meerut as well as at Modinagar in Ghaziabad to seek votes for the respective Bharatiya Janata Party candidates, Yogi said: "During the tenure of the previous government, no daughter was safe, youths were unemployed and farmers were committing suicide. There was a riot every third day and when the youths revolted, the government got false cases registered against them."

"When we took over, we waived loans worth Rs 36,000 crore of 86 lakh farmers, including one lakh farmers of Meerut district alone. We made record payments to the sugarcane farmers while 2.54 crore farmers benefited from the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. We provided government jobs to five lakh youth and we also ensured the safety of daughters, which was perennially under threat during the SP government. And there was not a single riot in five years of our government," Yogi remarked.

He added: "We have taught a lesson to all the criminals, mafia and gangsters. We cannot allow our innocent youths like Sachin and Gaurav to be killed while trying to save their sisters."

According to Yogi, SP's red cap is a threat to society. "The cap means riots, road robberies as well as stealing of farmers' equipment such as pumping sets," he said.

Rajasthan Cong calls Budget 2022-23 'directionless'; BJP says 'growth-oriented'

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Congress on Tuesday dubbed the Union Budget as "disappointing and directionless", while the state BJP welcomed the budget, calling it "growth-oriented".

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the budget will further lead to rise in fiscal deficit and has no special provision for farmers, common man, poor and women.

"The fiscal deficit of the central government has doubled in the last seven years. After this budget, the deficit is going to rise further. There is no special provision for farmers, common man, poor, women and deprived sections in the budget," Gehlot said in a statement.

He said new employment figures have been presented in the budget but no concrete action plan has been made for it. "Its fate will also be similar to the promise of two crore jobs per year," the chief minister said.

"The citizens of Rajasthan, who gave 25 MPs to the NDA from this budget, have been completely disappointed. No announcement has been made for National Project status to ERCP, 90:10 ratio of Centre-State expenditure in Jal Jeevan Mission, Jaisalmer-Kandla railway line and establishment of MEMU coach in Gulabpura," he said.

"This budget will prove to be a budget to increase inflation, to fill the pockets of industrialists and to empty the pockets of common man, farmer and labourer," the senior Congress leader said. Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra said the Union Budget has "disappointed" youths, farmers and the common man.

Terming the budget as directionless, he also said Rajasthan "got nothing in the budget".

He said the announcement to promote organic farming along the Ganga river was only because of the Uttar Pradesh elections. "The budget is disappointing which has no vision and direction. Be it farmers or youths or women, all are disappointed at the budget," he told reporters.

"Entire country is agitated over inflation but there was not a single announcement by the finance minister on controlling the inflation," he said.

"All the 25 MPs including three ministers from Rajasthan failed to get anything for the state in the Union budget," he added.

Govt allocates ₹900 cr for newly set up Union Ministry of Cooperation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday announced a Rs 900-crore allocation in the Budget 2022-23 for the newly set up Union Ministry of Cooperation, besides cutting down the Alternate Minimum Tax (AMT) on cooperative societies to 15 per cent and surcharge to 7 per cent.

Out of Rs 900 crore, Rs 350 crore has been allocated for the Digitalisation of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies and Rs 274 crore for Prosperity through Cooperatives– two centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry.

"Currently, cooperative societies are required to pay alternate minimum tax at the rate of 18.5 per cent. However, companies pay the same at the rate of 15 per cent. To provide a level playing field between cooperative societies and companies, I propose to reduce this rate for the cooperative societies also to fifteen per cent," Union Finance Minister Nirmla Sitharaman said in her budget speech.

Those cooperatives having total income of more than Rs 1 crore and upto Rs 10 crores will have reduced surcharge on cooperative societies from 12 per cent to 7 per cent.

"This would help in enhancing the income of cooperative societies and its members who are mostly from rural and farming communities," the Minister said.

Since the formation of the Cooperation Ministry, the Government has been taking steps to boost the cooperatives in the country, banking on them to help achieve its 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission and target of doubling the income of farmers across the States.

Out of ₹900 crore, ₹350 crore has been allocated for the Digitalisation of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies and ₹274 crore for Prosperity through Cooperatives– two centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry

There are about 30 lakh cooperatives in the country. Managing Director of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Sundeep Nayak hailed the budget provisions. He said digitisation of cooperatives will help bring transparency, ensure better access to market and finance, facilitate social benefits, and ensure the benefit of farm loans reaches the last mile because in a few states agri-credit is still disbursed through PACs.

Primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACs) — commonly known as agri-cooperative credit societies — are village-level lending institutions based on cooperative principles. They provide short and medium term loans to rural people to meet their financial requirements.

The Centre has decided to develop a national database of cooperatives that will help in better implementation of the proposed national policy on cooperatives to be announced soon.

UNION BUDGET-2022

Budget people-friendly, progressive, says PM Modi

Kept in view well-being of poor through 'garib kalyan' yojana, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing the Union Budget 2022-23 as "people-friendly and progressive", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it would make more opportunities for the common man and is full of possibilities for more investments, infrastructure and jobs.

The Prime Minister said the Budget has on the one hand kept in mind the well-being of poor by focusing on 'garib kalyan' schemes be it "nal se jal' scheme or construction of 'sauchalay", on the other it has not lost its focus on building "internet connectivity".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers his remarks on Union Budget 2022-23, via video conferencing, in New Delhi PTI

In a televised address Modi said the budget has brought new confidence to usher development in the midst of one the most terrible calamities in 100 years, a reference to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Saying the budget brings the "trust of 100 years of development", Modi said "it will create many new opportunities for the common people, besides strengthening the economy."

"This budget is full of new possibilities for more infrastructure, more investment, more growth, and more jobs," the prime minister said, adding that it will also open up the field of green jobs."An important aspect of this budget is the welfare of the poor," Modi said.

The Prime Minister drew attention to new scheme of 'parvatmala' launched to increase connectivity in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and the North-East to increase connectivity and transport and stop migration from these regions.

He said be it roads, highways or railways - this budget has given a major boost to infrastructure, Modi said.

Disappointing, nothing for poor State like Bihar: JD(U)

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituent Janata Dal (United) on Tuesday described the Union Budget as "disappointing" offering "nothing to a poor State like Bihar" while top BJP leaders termed it as "visionary" and "growth oriented" that outlined the Modi government's focus on a self-reliant India.

BJP president JP Nadda asserted that the budget is inspired by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' but the JD(U) bore a divergent view on it. JD (U) Parliamentary Board President Upendra Kushwaha called it a "disappointing Budget".

"We have a long-standing demand for a special status of Bihar and expecting that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would say something on it but unfortunately, she completely ignored it," he said. "The Union Budget has been beneficial for developed states but it has nothing for poor states like Bihar. Our state needs financial support from the Centre for its development," said the JD (U) leader.

In a series of tweets, Union Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh termed the budget "growth-oriented" saying "the budget outlines the government's focus on Atmanirbharta (self-reliant India) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for development and pro-people reforms."

Emphasising on the increase in capital expenditure, Singh said this year's budget has increased the total outlay for effective capital expenditure by a massive 35.4 per cent to more than Rs 10.6 lakh crores with the "bulk of the money going into the development of social and physical infrastructure in the country".

Reflecting similar views, Union Minister Amit Shah said this "visionary" budget will help in making India the world's leading economy under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. In a series of tweets, Shah said the budget will change the scale of India's economy. ""This Budget, brought by the Modi government, is a visionary budget, which will prove to be a budget to change the scale of India's economy," he said, congratulating Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari praised the budget for giving impetus to infrastructure development saying "It is a budget to promote modern infrastructure in the country, which will lay the foundation for a new India and improve the lives of 130 crore Indians." BJP President Jagat Prakash Nadda said the budget was inspired by the ruling party's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" ideology.

"This budget gives impetus to fulfilment of aspirations of the middle income groups," he tweeted. "Home for all, subsidy for first-time homebuyers, relaxations in income tax, funds allocation for development of SC/ST [Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe] community, schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission have been announced," Nadda said.

Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Tuesday hailed the 2022-23 Budget and said it advances the opportunity for self-reliant India amid the COVID pandemic. Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said amidst the global economic crisis, the Budget binds together trust and development with the thread of "self-reliant India". This Budget assures and advances the opportunity for self-reliant India amid the pandemic period, he said.

Senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravishankar Prasad said "it is historic budget and pointed to Rs 140,000 crore collection of the GST "showing resilience of the economy".

Nothing for salaried class, poor: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Tuesday slammed the Union Budget, calling it a "Pegasus spin Budget" and a "zero-sum Budget" that has nothing for the salaried class and the poor.

Several Congress leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi, criticized the Modi government for presenting a "Lollypop budget" and alleged that it has exposed the government's "anti-farmer and anti-poor" face. TMC, SP, BSP, Left parties all termed the budget a big disappointment just like the Modi government has ever since in office.

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram termed the budget speech by Nirmala Sitharaman as the "most capitalist budget to be ever read" by a finance minister. Taking a swipe at Sitharaman, the senior Congress leader thanked Sitharaman for "remembering that there are poor people" in the country as the word 'poor' occurs only twice, in paragraph 6, of the budget speech. He asserted that the people of this country will reject the "capitalist budget".

"I was astonished, shocked that the finance minister was outlining a plan for the next 25 years. The government seems to believe that the present does not need any attention and the public can be asked to wait patiently until 'Amrit Kaal' dawns. This is mocking the people of India," Chidambaram said at the AICC Press conference to react on the budget.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "This budget is only for the rich as it has nothing for the poor. It is aimed at benefitting their own people, who are rich and nothing for the poor. This attitude is not good for the people of the country." He alleged the government has repeated its earlier promises, which are porving false, like constructing houses for the poor.

While West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee termed it a "Pegasus spin budget" that provided nothing to the common people who have been "crushed" by unemployment and inflation and the Centre was lost in "big words" signifying nothing, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal dubbed the Union Budget as "disappointing" and said it has nothing for the common people. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the Union Budget is directionless and had no provision or relief for farmers.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said it will cut into the pockets of the general public while BSP chief Mayawati said the Budget has been brought to "woo the public with new promises" and alleged that the Centre has forgotten to implement its old announcements.

Former Union Finance Minister & Congress leader P Chidambaram and Randeep Singh Surjewala during a Press conference at Congress headquarters, in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Left parties hit out at the government, saying it was "anti people" and a "bag of disasters and deceptions".

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury questioned the government on the purpose of Union Budget and asked why the wealthy have not been taxed further. CPI general secretary D Raja said that the overall allocation for agriculture and allied activities has gone down from 4.26 per cent to 3.84 per cent.

PM greets Opp members after Budget

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shortly after congratulating Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting her fourth successive Union Budget, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday walked across the aisle to greet Opposition members. Modi was seen interacting with Trinamool Congress leaders Sudeep Bandyopadhyay and Saugata Roy in the Well of the House, after the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day.

Roy said he asked the Prime Minister to recall West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar, who is involved in a public spat with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Modi was also seen engrossed in a chat with Congress members Kodikunnil Suresh from Kerala and Francisco Sardinha from Goa. Sardinha said the PM was inquiring about the Goa Liberation Day function held in December, where he was among the few attendees from the Congress.Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi had walked out of the Lok Sabha soon after the presentation of the Budget. Modi also warmly greeted Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and was seen shaking hands with former Telecom Minister A Raja. He even exchanged greetings with former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, DMK member Dayanidhi Maran and RSP member N K Premachandran.

YSRCP member Krishna Devarayulu Lavu and Independent member Navneet Rana too greeted the PM.

I&B Ministry receives reduced allocation of ₹3,980 cr this year

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday received a slightly reduced allocation in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a ₹3,980.77-crore outlay for the Ministry, which is a decrease of ₹90 crore from last year. The allocation to the Government's autonomous body Prasar Bharati has been reduced to ₹2,555.29 crore from ₹2,640.11 crore allotted to it in the last fiscal.

Among other autonomous bodies, the budget for only the Press Council of India was increased from ₹20 crore in the last fiscal to ₹27 crore this time.

The Films and Television Institute of India (FTII), Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Children's Film Society of India and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute saw reductions in their budget allocation.

For the IIMC, the government has earmarked ₹52 crore, down from ₹65 crore allocated for 2021-22. The FTII's budget was reduced from ₹58.48 crore last year to ₹55.39 crore this year.

In the budget, the allocation for broadcasting under the social services head has gone down from ₹2,921.11 crore to ₹2,839.29 crore. There was also a reduction in the budget for 'information and publicity' from ₹971.26 crore to ₹ 942.04 crore.

'Information and publicity' covers establishment expenditure of media units in the country like the Bureau of Outreach and Communication, Press Information Bureau, Publications Division, New Media Wing, Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), Films Division, National Film Archive of India, Electronic Media Monitoring Centre and others.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur hailed the budget as "beneficial", saying it was a blueprint to fulfil hopes and aspirations of a new India. *PNS*

Personnel Ministry allocated around ₹300 crore for training bureaucrats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will spend close to ₹300 crore for training bureaucrats in India as well as abroad besides augmenting necessary infrastructure. The Union Budget 2022-23 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday allocated ₹288 crore to the Personnel Ministry for the next fiscal for the purpose.

Besides this, an outlay of ₹44.25 crore has been made under "administrative reforms and pensioners' scheme" for 2022-23, which includes provision for Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances scheme for modernisation of government offices, and pilot projects on administrative reforms which consists of promotion of e-governance, fostering of good governance, learning from success, sevottam etc.

Of the total allocation of ₹288.14 crore for the next financial year, ₹210.75 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.

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 latest rules, regulations and aptitude.

The Union Cabinet had in September 2020 given nod to Mission Karmayogi, billed the biggest bureaucratic reform initiative, aimed at capacity building to make government employees more "creative, proactive, professional and technology-enabled".

A total of Rs 77.39 crore has been provided to the ministry for 2022-23 to meet establishment-related expenditure of the ISTM, the LBSNAA and training division of DoPT.

National Tele-Mental Health prog to be launched soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Except for the mental health sector where the plan to set up a National Tele-Mental Health programme in India has been proposed, the Union Budget 2022-23 presented by the Government on Tuesday does not have much in store for other major sectors of health services like National Health Mission or medical device industry.

Presenting the Budget for 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the pandemic has accentuated mental health problems in people of all ages, hence the tele mental health programme will be launched to improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services.

Sitharaman said the programme will include a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of InformationTechnology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.

She also said that an open platform for the National Digital Health Ecosystem will be rolled out. "It will consist of digital registries of health providers and health facilities, unique health identity, consent framework, and universal access to health facilities," she said. Additionally she said that 95% of 112 aspirational districts had made significant progress in health and other parameters and that efforts would now be made to work on districts that were lagging.

However, healthcare experts have expressed mixed reactions to the Budget pointing out that other services have been neglected. They felt that the Government should have focused more on primary healthcare investment and made the healthcare system as' National Priority' status to insulate it from future Covid like crises.

K. Sujatha Rao, former secretary, Health Ministry, expressed her disappointment at the budget saying that "A disappointing budget for health and education".

₹1.85 L cr allocation to MHA in Budget

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Budget on Tuesday allocated ₹1,85,776.55 crore to the Union Home Ministry, an 11.5 per cent jump over previous allocation of ₹1,66,546.94 crore. Nearly ₹20,000 crore additional funds have been allocated in the Budget for shoring up internal security apparatus.

The bulk of the allocation will go to central paramilitary forces like the CRPF, BSF and for improving the infrastructure along the international borders.

The Budget has also prioritised modernisation of police forces, intelligence gathering apparatus, women safety, cyber security and the decennial census among other such issues.

Major portion of the budgetary fund has gone to the Police - ₹1,17,687.99 crore in comparison to ₹1,09,266.30 crore given in the last fiscal.

Among the paramilitary forces, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the lead Force for internal security duties including counter-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir, has been allocated ₹29,324.92 in comparison to ₹27, 307.42 crore given in 2021-22.

The Border Security Force (BSF), which secures India's border with Pakistan and Bangladesh, besides internal security assignments, has been given ₹22,718.45 crore in comparison to ₹21,491.14 crore given in the ongoing fiscal.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which protects vital installations like nuclear projects, airports and metro networks, has been given ₹12,201.90 crore in comparison to ₹11,372.54 crore allocated in 2021-22.

The Shashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which secures India's frontiers with Nepal and Bhutan, has been allocated Rs 7,653.73 crore in comparison to ₹6,940.42 crore given in the current fiscal.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the Indo-China border, got ₹7,461.28 crore in comparison to ₹6,965.02 crore given in the current fiscal.

The Assam Rifles, mandated to secure the frontiers with Myanmar and for anti-insurgency duties in the Northeast, has been allocated ₹6,658.41 crore in comparison to previous allocation of ₹6,046.25 crore.

Likewise, the National Security Guard (NSG) has been allocated ₹1,293.37 crore in comparison to ₹1,151.16 crore given in 2021-22.

The Intelligence Bureau has been allocated ₹3,168.36 crore in contrast to this fiscal's ₹2,793.02 crore.

The Special Protection Group (SPG), which protects the Prime Minister, has been allocated ₹385.95 crore in comparison to ₹386.50 crore given in 2021-22.

The Delhi Police has been allocated ₹10,096.29 crore in comparison to ₹11,136.22 crore given in 2021-22.

While ₹200 crore has been allocated for special schemes related to women security, ₹2,744.52 crore has been given for border infrastructure and management and ₹2,754.16 crore for modernisation of police forces.

TN, Kerala farmers unhappy with Budget, say promises not fulfilled

There is nothing in Budget to boost sector: MSME

KOCHI ■ CHENNAI

Across section of the agriculture and industries sectors in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are unhappy with the Union Budget 2022-2023 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday.

Farmers are unhappy over the Union Government's failure to implement the promise the BJP leadership had made to them before the 2014 Lok Sabha election though the party has been ruling the country uninterrupted for the last seven years, said R V Giri, national president, Consortium of Indian Farmers' Association (CIFA).

Speaking to *The Pioneer* from Virudhachalam in Tamil Nadu, the seasoned farmer said the recommendations made by M S Swaminathan led Farmers Commission remain in paper even after 15 years. "The Swaminathan Commission had recommended that farmers should get the cost of production and its 50 per cent as the procurement price or selling price from the buyers for their products. We will be able to survive only if the Government accepts that suggestion," said Giri. He said farmers across the country are disappointed with the response of the Union Government to their minimum demands.

The move to introduce organic farming in a big way has nit enthused the farming community, said Giri. "Is there any assurance that we would get the returns for the money we spend on organic farming? Moreover the farmland in Tamil Nadu is not conducive for organic farming and this would lead to a fall in the productivity," said Giri.

We contribute 35 per cent of the GDP and 48 per cent of the Indian exports. There was an expectation that the GST on products manufactured in MSME would be brought down and there would be some incentives on export. There are no special grants, schemes, and subsidies for MSMEs to boost the sector

Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association (TANSTIA), an umbrella organization of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), expressed disappointment over the raw deal they got in the budget proposals. "We contribute 35 per cent of the GDP and 48 per cent of the Indian exports. There was an expectation that the GST on products manufactured in MSME would be brought down and there would be some incentives on export. There are no special grants, schemes, and subsidies for MSMEs to boost the sector. There are lakhs of units which were shut down and became Non Performing Assets. There is nothing in the budget proposals to revive these units," said S Vasudevan, vice president, TANSTIA.

Raja M Shanmugham, president, Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA) said the review of Customs exemption and Tariff simplification would go a long way in protecting the domestic garment business. He also welcomed the exemption provided on items such as embellishment , trimming, fasteners, buttons, zipper, lining materials and packaging boxes, which will be beneficial to knitwear exporters.

The Finance Minister has given maximum thrust to infrastructure development and this is a major boost to employment generation, according to Hari S Kartha, economist-turned-columnist. He said he has not seen this kind of allocation and innovation like PM Ghati Sakthi in any previous budgets during the last four decades. "But the proof of the pudding is in the eating," said Kartha.

Kartha and Giri welcomed the move to interlink Godavari-Pennar-Kaveri rivers and termed that the scheme has the potential to make the South Indian States an ever green garden.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Work ahead

Budgets in an election year are populist but there's no tax relief for the middle class

In her fourth Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that Indian growth has been remarkable and comparable to the world's best economies. Indeed, it has been a difficult time for the country. The disparities grew, with the rich growing richer and the poor becoming poorer. The worst ever economic situation pushed millions into abject poverty. The Minister said this Budget seeks to lay the foundation of the economy for the next 25 years — '*Amrit Kaal*' — India at 100. She claimed that her Budget will benefit youth, women, farmers, SCs, STs, the sections badly hit in recent years. Moreover, the Government's announcements like doubling the farmers' income and generating jobs must be fulfilled by the Budget. It also must ensure that we move towards the Prime Minister's cherished goal of making the Indian economy a $5 trillion economy. She had the daunting task of balancing the country's growth with the prospects of her party in the five State elections that commence in less than 10 days. Generally, Budgets in an election year are populist by political compulsions and this Budget was no different. It was high on rhetoric and addressed people's concerns in a rather kneejerk fashion than with a comprehensive plan to tackle the rising mass poverty, galloping inflation and unemployment. For instance, the Finance Minister talked about seven engines of growth clubbed under PM Gati Shakti — Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass transport, Waterways and Logistics infra. To appease farmers, she announced ₹2.37 lakh crore worth of MSP direct payments to wheat and paddy farmers but no concrete steps towards doubling their income.

She talked about Inclusive development, productivity enhancement, energy transition and climate action as four pillars of development but failed to suggest the action she would take to achieve these goals. The Budget has the noble aim of achieving Inclusive Development, Productivity Enhancement, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, Climate Action and Financing of investments. But the framework to achieve it is conspicuous by its absence. The country is in dire need of private investments and to boost that, big private investment in infra would be guided by Gati Shakti. The National Highway network will be expanded by 25,000 km in 2022-23. To boost small businesses, ECLGS cover has been expanded by ₹50,000 crore to ₹ 5 lakh crore and the ECLGS extended till March 2023 to create 60 lakh jobs in the next five years. However, there is no tax relief for the middle class. ₹48,000 crore have been allotted for PM Awas Yojana, ₹60,000 crore for providing access to tap water to 3.8 crore households. To support small businesses, a Rs6,000-crore programme to rate MSMEs would be rolled out over the next five years. The Government is also planning to roll out Digital Rupee by the RBI using the blockchain technology. Whether all these measures successfully take place and help boost the economy, we need to wait for yet another financial year to find out.

PICTALK

A demo at Marina beach as part of the Indian Coast Guard Raising Day celebrations, in Chennai PTI

Deliver equality

A public sector bank recently floated a rule that's discriminatory to pregnant employees

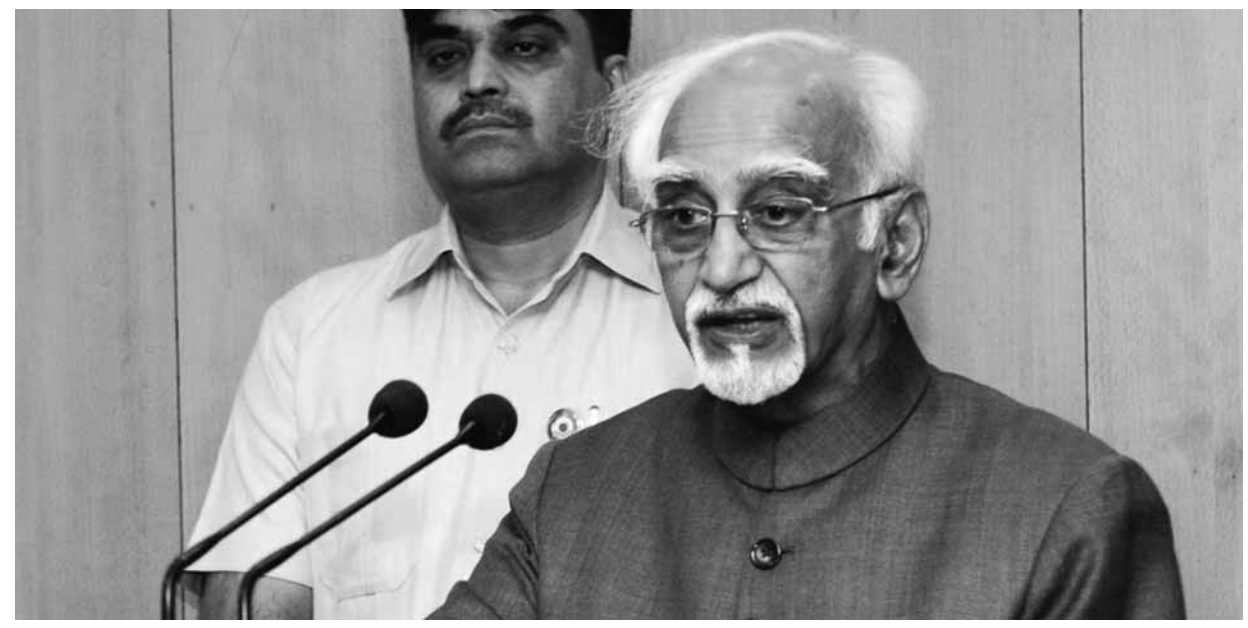
The State Bank of India introduced a provocative and discriminatory rule a few days ago that a woman candidate over three months pregnant is "temporarily unfit" for employment. The rule came with a relief that such candidates could join the bank within four months after delivery. The bank perhaps did not want to employ women who were sure to go on maternity leave a short while after joining. The bank did not say if the attempt was to save on maternity benefits costs. Political parties and women's organisations flayed the rule. It was discriminatory, prejudicial and treated pregnancy as a kind of disability. It forced a woman to choose between having a child or working in the bank and interfered with the women candidates' reproductive rights and the right to employment. The SBI backtracked on its order. However, it did not revoke the circular but kept it "in abeyance". The SBI was trying to push an amendment it had originally introduced in 2009 but had to withdraw it following public outcry. The Union Government must use this opportunity to see that the human resources policies of the public sector institutions, including banks, are not discriminatory. The recent fiasco cannot be repeated.

The Indian Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, and the Code on Social Security, 2020, protect a woman's rights related to pregnancy and privacy. The SBI incident must encourage all employers to strike all discriminatory employment rules concerning women. In fact, in this time and age, no law can mandate a woman candidate to disclose her pregnancy status. Jobs that demand intense physical or stressful work can have exceptions that cannot kick in so long as the pregnant employee can successfully discharge her duties. The exceptions prove that the candidate's pregnancy status is of no consideration when deciding to give her the job. The employer cannot also revoke her appointment if the candidate's pregnancy is discovered after she gets the job. Unfortunately, some employers overtly or covertly refuse to employ pregnant women to save on maternity benefit costs. Some have prejudices against pregnant workers and refuse to hire them. Yet others cleverly tell pregnant candidates to try their luck after having the baby. The laws must have severe punitive clauses to stop illegal rejection of jobs of women candidates on account of their pregnancy.

What's civic versus cultural nationalism?

PRAFULL **GORADIA**

A former Vice-President told an international forum that cultural nationalism was taking over civic nationalism. Now, how true is that?



India is being taken over by a "new and imaginary practice of cultural nationalism" as against the "well-established principle of civic nationalism, which seeks to present electoral majority in the guise of a religious majority, and monopolise political power". Thus spoke former Vice-President Hamid Ansari while addressing a conference on protecting the Constitution. The fact that the former Vice-President chose to make these comments while speaking at an international forum, the Indian American Muslim Council, sharing space with foreign elements, some of whom are known to be hostile to our country and its interests, is also not lost on many Indians.

However, the thrust of Ansari's speech must now bear closer scrutiny. His allegation is that a civic life laid down by the Constitution is sufficient in a pluralistic country. This is far from a welcome assertion. The culture and the history of one community might be distasteful to another. Those not proud of the post-Independence history of theirs because they have stayed back in a Dar-ul-Harb (place of conflict) instead of migrating to their new homeland now prefer their origin to be the Constitution of 1950. This is a conflict between culture and civic existence. In the views of a significant segment, the culture of the rest of the country is something that harks back to *jahalia* or darkness.

The former Vice-President's outburst must also, therefore, provoke another very serious question, one which the country has so far chosen to put off, but with rather unhealthy outcomes for its body politic. What is so permanent about a country's civic life? The Constitution can be amended; it can be replaced by another document. Our own Constitution has been amended more than 100 times already since 1950, whereas the history of Indian culture would go back to at least the Vedic Age. What probably the former Vice-President referred to was this conflict when he talked of the phenomenon of cultural nationalism seizing power from those who established the principle of civic nationalism, possibly operative since 1006 AD and Qutubuddin Aibak, or perhaps 1526 AD when Babur won the first Battle of Panipat, or any other date.

Those citizens who are desirous of civic nationalism would have to abandon their imaginary preferences and identify with the pristine culture of the country. This, ie, the Partition of the nation, was effected in 1947 as Messrs Jinnah, Mohd Iqbal and Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan believed in and wanted it at any cost. It was a settlement made for all time to come, as it appears now. An undoing of that Partition means a 60/40 population ratio between the 'cultural nationalists' and the potential 'civic nation' advocates.

Three prominent personalities had envisioned this clash of nationalism; namely MA Jinnah, BR Ambedkar and Dr Rajendra Prasad, our first President. All of them proposed what the League of Nations, the predecessor of the United Nations, had done with respect to Greece and Turkey in 1923. Going back into history, the Turks had conquered Anatolia and its neighbourhood in the decades preceding 1453. This was the Islamic takeover of legendary Greece.

> THE FACT THAT THE FORMER VEEP WAS SHARING SPACE WITH FOREIGN ELEMENTS, SOME OF WHOM ARE KNOWN TO BE HOSTILE TO OUR COUNTRY AND ITS INTERESTS, IS ALSO NOT LOST ON MANY INDIANS

Istanbul was Constantinople until then; the headquarters of the Eastern Christian Church are still situated in this historic city. Through the centuries, there used to be clashes between the Turks and the Greeks; in fact, they were rather like what we nowadays call communal riots.

The League of Nations, after the end of World War I — when the Turks were amenable to listening after their defeat and collapse of the centuries-old Ottoman Empire — proposed an exchange of Greeks who were to migrate to their original country while all the Turks were to immigrate to Turkey. A detailed procedure of what was to be done, who would do what and by when was documented. The exchange was conducted smoothly and methodically; there has not been a single riot since.

Returning to what former Vice-President Ansari has chosen to articulate, many questions spring to the minds of many concerned countrymen. Why did a former Vice-President choose an international forum to make remarks against one's own country, whose second-highest office he held for, say, 10 years? Is there even an iota of merit in Ansari's claim that India is being "torn apart by a new cultural nationalism?" It is also very difficult to ignore the record in public life of the country's former Vice-President. Also, the fact that Ansari chose the platform of the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), a sectarian lobbying group with a long history of anti-India activities, certainly is a poor advocacy for any civic nationalism. Cultural nationalism is nothing but the nation waking up to its fundamental ethos.

The historical track record of this supposed civic nationalism in promoting tolerance, togetherness, peace and any sense of national security can at best be called a disappointing one. The substance of the former Vice-President's remarks, if one were to ignore his diatribe, is also lacking in any specific content as to the exact nature of the threat he has talked about. The country, despite no dearth of serious challenges since Independence, has steadfastly stood by democracy and the very freedom that allowed Hamid Ansari to become the country's Vice-President.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LET'S GROOM OUR KIDS FOR FUTURE

Sir — This refers to '*Postcards from our future to India's future*' (January 31). This competition involving more than 10 million schoolchildren under CBSE, State Boards, Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas was largely ignored by the mainstream media. The initiative conceived by our PM and organised by the Departments of Posts and School Education is first-of-its-kind in the history of independent India. Thanks for giving coverage to this event where the schoolchildren wrote their postcards directly to the PM. The evolving leaders of tomorrow's India not only clamoured for recognition of India's unsung heroes but also brought out their vision of India in 2047.

India's aspirational youth need to be groomed for tomorrow's India. Though our NEP 2021 makes all the right noises, it needs effective dovetailing with our education system which is woefully inadequate to prepare tomorrow's leaders in nation building. India's large pool of talent can bring about school-centric, cost-effective innovations to transform education. We have the wherewithal. Now we appear to have a political will, too. Given these two, a prosperous, equitable and India of our dreams in 2047 is not a far cry.

SK Prabhakar | *Gurugram*

A CONTROVERSIAL PRECEDENCE

Sir — One is really shocked to go through the comments and observations made by Justice GR Swaminathan while ordering a CBI probe into the death by apparent suicide of a girl in Thanjavur district. He has based his order on his observation that the police, Government and even the Education Department have already formed an opinion that the death is not due to any coercion by the school warden for the girl to convert to Christianity and this thinking would set the course of inquiry and the final decision if the case was handled by the CB-CID. He also refused to accept that the girl, afflicted with leukoderma, was tortured by her stepmother which would have led the girl to such a drastic step.

The judge could have simply ordered the case transferred to the CBI. But his comments appear to be a direction to the CBI as to how their course of inquiry should be. Or, he could have simply convicted those accused of the conversion attempt. Just as he quoted a Bible verse, there is at least one quote in the *Bhagvad Gita* that can be misconstrued if quoted out of context. With due respect to Justice Swaminathan, one sincerely feels that he could have avoided setting up such a controversial precedent which has hurt the sentiments of the entire Christian community.

Tharcius S Fernando | *Chennai*

A HOCKEY LEGEND PASSES AWAY

Sir — It is saddening to hear about the demise of hockey legend Padma Shri Charanjit Singh on Thursday in Himachal Pradesh, a glittering star of yesteryears who belonged to an era when hockey was associated with national pride. It also reminds us of the golden era of nearly two decades of supremacy when Indian hockey ruled the roost in the international arena. The skillful midfielder played a seminal role in the 1960 Rome Olympics as well as in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, and led the Indian team to a historic gold in the latter by beating Pakistan.

He will always be remembered for his skills, humility and grace on and off the field. To preserve the legacy of that golden period of Indian hockey, which recently found echo in India winning the bronze medal at the recent Tokyo Olympics, a lot needs to be done to continue this trend until India reaches the summit of its revival, as the stars of yesteryear did effortlessly.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | *Nainital*

All fizz, no substance

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman spoke for an hour and 30 minutes delivering Budget 2022-23, making it one of the shortest Budget speeches. As usual, Prime Minister Narendra Modi went gaga over the Budget while Congress MP Manish Tewari termed it "unrealistic and unimplementable", CPM's Sitaram Yechury asked why the super rich weren't being taxed more? As usual, the salaried class expected the Finance Minister to provide some income tax relief to boost consumption amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but sadly there was no change. Similarly, nearly 65 lakh pensioners, under the EPS-95 scheme of the EPFO who have worked their entire life, got only a paltry minimum pension of ₹1000.

Whatsoever, a few important inclusions/exclusions in the Budget are: Taxpayers can file updated returns within two years; 'Make in India' can create 6 million jobs (though more than 6 crore lost their jobs during COVID); ; Saksham Anganwadis, or two lakh next-generation anganwadis to be powered by clean energy; 80 lakh homes to be completed under the PM Aawas Yojna; digital university in different Indian languages to be established; one channel PM e-Vidya to be expanded to include 200 channels (scope for more Modi publicity) and, in a country where even after 'development' it still remains on top in the world's hunger list, in Sitharaman's Budget custom duty on cut, polished gemstones reduced to five per cent to help the rich.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | *Faridabad*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

The training I got in NCC and the things I learnt there have provided me immense strength in delivering upon my responsibilities.

Prime Minister
— Narendra Modi

There won't be a war as far as it depends on the Russian Federation.

Russian Foreign Minister
— Sergey Lavrov

You were invariably playing the hero's girlfriend or wife. I got tired.

Actor
— Lara Dutta Bhupathi

The BCCI has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases.

BCCI secretary
— Jay Shah

I'm confident that under the Tata Group, Air India will regain its lost place..in international skies as well.

Union Minister
— Jyotiraditya Scindia

FIRST COLUMN

GANDHI IS REMEMBERED, BUT GANDHI-ISM?

The recent farmers' protest was based on his principles

NILOFAR **SUHRAWARDY**

Mahatma Gandhi is certainly revered even today, in India and abroad. Described as "half-naked fakir" by former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the frail-looking, bespectacled, dhoti-clad Gandhi succeeded in uniting Indians against the colonial powers to achieve India's freedom. His strategy rested on people joining him in a non-violent struggle for independence from colonialism. The crux of his movement drew strength from people and subsequently forced the British government to acknowledge its power marked by India gaining freedom. With a law degree from London (1891) and roughly two decades' experience in South Africa (1893-1914) as a lawyer and civil rights' activist when he donned western attire, he returned to India in 1915. As he joined politics and familiarized himself with Indian issues back home, he opted for the Indian dress, the then popular dhoti. He began using the loin cloth from 1921 to identify himself with poor Indians. Of course, apart from

being a key part of his communication strategy, this was opted for probably to bridge any communication gap between him and poor Indians. Undeniably, Gandhi did not only identify himself with the majority but also reached out to them -as one of them- and won their support. The seeds of people's power he sowed then find resonance even today. For instance, the recent farmers' protest is a classic example of people's participation in a non-violent agitation compelled the authorities to take note of their grievances. The three anti-farm laws, against which farmers protested, may be viewed as representing the obvious apathy, lack of concern and perhaps ignorance of the powers that be about issues concerning farmers. If state elections in Punjab were not around the corner, the Indian government may not have withdrawn anti-farm bills.

Farmers from Punjab were most strongly represented in their protest. There is an apprehension that after elections the central government may impose similar bills again. Not surprisingly, farmers have asserted that their fight is not over yet. The chain binding people to protest together and/or support a leader may be viewed as symbolic of genuine democracy. Gandhi moved with his walking stick with the masses walking with him. The farmers' protest would not have probably gained attention and hit national as well as international headlines if it had not lasted for a long period with thousands participating in it. Gandhi is still remembered but hardly any importance seems to be given to Gandhism. Exercise of power appears more strongly guided by what the "moneyed" minority desires, even at the cost of economic crisis for the majority. Besides, leaders appear more concerned about their "success" being marked by their own images spread around extensively on boards, posters, photographs, even their masks donned by others and so forth. For how long will the masses allow themselves to be guided by their leaders who continue to nurture their egos, serve personal interest, and their quest for their own prosperity outweighs their concern for the people? Yes, money can be and is used to purchase necessary political support. But when money strikes through inflation, etc., the aggrieved may be expected to give greater importance primarily to those united with them in their grievances. Here is where masked leadership bears little relevance against people's voice. And when democracy echoes through people's protests and movements, chances of it leading to an impactful conclusion exist. Sadly, even elected leaders tend to notice these grievances only when they sense the need of electoral support of the aggrieved. It is time democratically elected leaders threw away their masks, stepped out of their ivory towers, moved beyond their own shadows and gave a little more importance to Gandhism.

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

Roadblocks to '*Ram Rajya*' in Uttar Pradesh

ARUN **SINHA**

The lower castes want security, dignity and upward mobility and are not going to give up these concerns for the sake of Hindu unity

Of all the states going to polls next month Uttar Pradesh is where the BJP's stakes are highest. The party has been using the state as a laboratory for testing a 'Hindu model' of Government-a model that, in the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, combines virasat (heritage) with vikas (development). Yogi Adityanath was seen by the party as the best person to execute the model, so he was made the Chief Minister. And, in the party's estimation, he has done exceptionally well. In all his speeches he proudly points to the Ram temple (virasat) with one hand and to the expressways and international airports (vikas) with another.

The stakes of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) are even greater in UP. The RSS is the driver of the Hindutva ideology. The BJP is only its vehicle. The 'Hindu model' of Government combining virasat with vikas is the RSS idea. Those who follow the speeches of RSS leaders know that the Sangh, after winning the battle for the Ram temple, has now set itself a target for establishing a '*Ram Rajya*' in the next twenty-five years. '*Ram Rajya*' is but another name for 'Hindu Rashtra'. In recent years the RSS seems to have discovered that the concept of '*Ram Rajya*' is more saleable to the masses than 'Hindu Rashtra' and also safer from criticism by pluralists.

When Prime Minister Modi talks of virasat and vikas they might seem like two ideas to ordinary people. But to the RSS they are not separate. They flow from the single idea of Rambhakti or complete devotion to Ram. The ruler has to be a devotee of Ram (virasat) and bring prosperity (vikas) to all his people as Ram did to his subjects as the king of Ayodhya. Thus can the ruler establish a '*Ram Rajya*'. That is the 'Hindu model' of government the BJP has been trying to construct in UP.

Modi and Yogi have been at pains to prove that the 'Hindu model' of development is far better at social inclusion than the 'social justice' model of government of the Samajwadi Party. The 'Hindu model', they say, has brought benefits to all castes and communities, unlike the Samajwadi Party Government that provided benefits only to a few castes. Social equality and social harmony have been truly established under their rule, they claim. To support their claim, they pointed to the massive support of the non-Yadav backward classes and dalits their party had amassed in the recent years. If you were to believe Modi and Yogi, UP was well on its way to becoming a '*Ram Rajya*', with a Rambhakt ruler ruling as honestly, justly and non-discriminatingly as Ram and the people of all classes having absolute trust in his justice and fairness as the subjects of Ram had in Ram's.

> THE DISCONTENT AMONG THE LOWER CASTES HAS BUSTED THE SELF-ILLUSION OF THE BJP THAT IT CAN BIND ALL CASTES SECURELY WITH THE HINDUTVA GLUE. HINDU UNITY TO THEM HAS PROVEN TO BE A CHIMERA WHICH ONLY PERPETUATES DEEP SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVISIONS

(The writer is an independent journalist and author. The views expressed are personal.)

That it was not exactly so became clear soon after the elections were announced, when a number of MLAs of the BJP whose political careers depended on the support of non-Yadav backward classes resigned from the party. The indication from their resignations was that their constituencies were dissatisfied with the BJP's performance. And reports from grassroots corroborated that perception. There was a large gap between the government's propaganda of what it had given to the lower classes and the realities of the life they were living.

Ground reports spoke of the lower classes in several villages being denied financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana to build pucca houses because they could not afford to pay the bribe the local officials demanded. Such villages included Jayapur, one of the four villages in Varanasi district adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the MP of the constituency. In villages declared ODF (open defecation free) several poorer people still had no toilets. In other villages the toilets constructed had turned dysfunctional.

Yogi claimed he had made women's life secure, but in the villages girls from poorer classes going out to work in the fields or tend the cattle still faced serious risks of being molested, raped and killed. In 2020, there were 9,864 cases of assaults on women with intent to outrage their modesty in the state, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. The total number of crimes against women in the State were 59,445 in 2018, 59853 in 2019 and 49,385 in 2020, the highest among all states.

In every case of injustice against the lower classes the perpetrators of the injustice happened to be from the better-off classes. The pradhans (panchayat heads) who demanded 20 per cent cut from the financial assistance under the PM Awaas Yojana, the men who molested and raped girls in villages and the policemen who acted on the side of the perpetrators were all from the better-off classes. The poorer classes of UP had always seen themselves as 'chhote log' (small people) oppressed and exploited by 'bade log' (big people). That did not change under the Yogi rule. That is why there is disappointment among the lower classes with the BJP.

What has added to their disappointment is the opposition of the BJP to a socio-economic caste census. The poorer communities among the backward classes have come to the conclusion that unless a caste census is done the benefits of public sector jobs and college admissions would never be distributed equitably. The Yogi Government has even refused to implement the recommendation of its own Social Justice Committee for the division of 27 per cent reservations for OBCs into three categories of backward class (7 per cent), more backward class (11 per cent) and most backward class (9 per cent).

The discontent among the lower castes has busted the self-illusion of the BJP that it can bind all castes securely with the Hindutva glue. The lower castes want security, dignity and upward mobility and are not going to give up those concerns for the sake of Hindu unity. Hindu unity to them has proven to be a chimera which only perpetuates deep social and economic divisions.

Today Hindutva lies buried in the ruins of the social coalition the BJP built. The big lesson for the party is: It has to address the fundamental issues of social inequality, social injustice, economic oppression and administrative discrimination and corruption the 'chhote log' face in their life before it can hope to bind all castes with the Hindu glue. But as the 'bade log' make the core constituency of the BJP it could be the last thing the party might ever be tempted to do. And that is sure to leave the party in a state of perpetual dilemma. We will see how it resolves the dilemma in the coming years.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHY WAS BHATTACHARJEE SUDDENLY CHOSEN BY THE BJP? THE MOVE WAS AIMED AT SECURING LEFT VOTES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.
— TMC SPOKESPERSON
KUNAL GHOSH

BHATTACHARJEE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO SOCIETY AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. THE DECISION WAS OBVIOUSLY TAKEN WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL MOTIVE.
—BENGAL BJP PRESIDENT
SUKANTA MAJUMDAR

Testing time for Priyanka's political future

The party had favoured her over brother Rahul and appreciated her people-management skills, language proficiency and repartee

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

Every leader takes advantage of a crucial moment to settle down. The current UP Assembly elections will be a decisive momentfor the political future of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Once considered a trump card, she now faces a massive challenge in the present elections. The party has not been in power in UP since 1989, and the organization is almost extinct. So, it will be a Himalayan task for the 49-year-old Priyanka Gandhi, who formally entered the rough and tumble of politics in January 2019.

The party has not announced her as the chief ministerial candidate. But if Congress wins by a miracle, who else but Priyanka? She admitted last week that she is the face of the Congress, asking a reporter whether any other face is visible.

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

The party believed her entry could be a game-changer. Congress President Sonia Gandhi often said Priyanka, a mother of two children, would take the political plunge when she was ready. In January 2019 she became the General Secretary in charge of Eastern UP. A leader should have three qualities: charisma, crowd-pulling, ability to convert the masses into votes. It is only the third, converting the crowds into votes, Priyanka is yet to achieve.

However, she is no greenhorn in politics. For close to two decades she played politics with backroom decisions. Her role was confined to Uttar Pradesh. Priyanka's involvement in UP goes back to her father, Rajiv Gandhi; She was helping him in his campaign trail in Amethi

and her mother's constituency Rae Bareili. She also took care of her brother's Amethi he lost in 2019. There are many pluses and minuses for Priyanka's political career. A Gandhi family member is an added advantage. She has taken charge of the party when the congress support base is lowest in UP and the country. The party had favored her better than her brother Rahul Gandhi and appreciated her people skills, language proficiency, and repartees.

With no base, the party has been floundering since 1989. The upper castes have moved to the BJP, the backward classes to SP, and the *Dalit*s to BSP. Minority voters are split among SP, BSP, and Congress. Before Priyanka, the biggest challenge is to recover the party's social base or create a new one. The party had a bare 7 per cent vote share in 2017. Above all, the BJP has the upper hand with a divided opposition. The party's alliance experiments with the BSP in 1996 and the Samajwadi Party in the 2017 Assembly elections failed miserably. Congress has adopted the 'eklachalo' strategy in 2022 UP assembly elections and thus isolated while other parties like TMC and NCP have aligned with the SP. Any anti-incumbency against the BJP seems to be going to the SP-RLD combine.

While the other parties depend on caste and religious cards, Priyanka has chosen the gender card and brought out a special women's manifesto promising to restore their self-esteem and self-reliance, employment and more opportunities to enter politics. "*LadkiHoon, Lad Sakti Hoon*" is her poll slogan.

Priyanka has made some politically correct moves to improve the Congress profile, like consoling the family of the Hathras rape victim,arranging transport for the migrants from Uttar Pradesh, etc. Yet, Congress remains out of reckoning due to lack of organization, absence of second-rung leaders, factionalism, and indiscipline.

Her minuses are also many. Some complain she is inaccessible and arrogant. She has not been able to strengthen the party in the past two years. It is indeed a gamble that the party has decided against alliances. Priyanka's revamp of the party organization has upset many seniors and old-timers who feel side-lined. Under her watch, senior leaders like RPN Singh and Jitin Prasada and four declared candidates left recently. Many think that she should have checked the erosion when the party is weak.

Interestingly, Priyanka is expanding her role beyond Uttar Pradesh, going to Punjab and Goa and perhaps acquiring a national profile. The mess in Punjab resulted in the exit of chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh and the appointment of Navjot Singh Sidhu as the new PCC chief due to her influence. The UP polls will decide what works, Priyanka's chemistry or the poll arithmetic. Her success would depend on her appeal to women and youth. It is nobody's case that Priyanka could bring back the Congress rule in the state, but even if she could ensure an improvement for the party, it will go a long way.

UKRAINE CRISIS

Russia denies responding to US proposal

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian officials on Tuesday denied reports that Moscow sent Washington a written response to a U.S. proposal aimed at deescalating the Ukraine crisis, a day after the two countries exchanged sharp accusations at the United Nations Security council.

The Kremlin is seeking legally binding guarantees from the U.S. and NATO that Ukraine will never join the bloc, deployment of NATO weapons near Russian borders will be halted and the alliance's forces will be rolled back from Eastern Europe.

The demands, rejected by NATO and the U.S. as nonstarters, come amid fears that Russia might invade Ukraine, stoked the buildup of an estimated 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine's borders. Talks between Russia and the West have so far failed to yield any progress.

Washington has provided Moscow with a written response to the demands, and on Monday three Biden administration officials said that the Russian government sent a written response to the U.S. proposals. A State Department official has declined to offer details about the document, saying it "would be unproductive to negotiate in public" and that they would leave it up to Russia to discuss the counterproposal.But Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko on Tuesday told Russia's state RIA Novosti news agency that this was "not true."

The agency also cited an unnamed senior diplomat in the Russian Foreign Ministry as saying that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov sent a message to his Western colleagues, including U.S. State Secretary Antony Blinken about "the principle of indivisibility of security," but it wasn't a response to Washington's proposals.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that there has been "confusion" and said that Russia's response to the U.S. proposals is still in the works. What was passed on to Western officials "were other considerations, on a somewhat different issue," Peskov said.

On Monday, Russia accused the West of "whipping up tensions" over Ukraine and said the U.S. had brought "pure Nazis" to power in Kyiv as the U.N. Security Council held a stormy debate on Moscow's troop buildup near its southern neighbor. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield shot back that Russia's growing military force along Ukraine's borders was "the largest mobilization" in Europe in decades, adding that there has been a spike in cyberattacks and Russian disinformation. The harsh exchanges in the Security Council came after Moscow lost an attempt to block the meeting and reflected the gulf between the two nuclear powers. It was the first open session where all protagonists in the Ukraine crisis spoke publicly, even though the U.N.'s most powerful body took no action.

More high-level diplomacy is expected this week. In the meantime, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree on Tuesday expanding the country's army by 100,000 troops, bringing the total number to 350,000.

Violence mark anniversary of Myanmar army rule

AP ■ BANGKOK

A Buddhist monk raises his clenched fist while marching during an anti-military Government protest rally on Tuesday AP

A nationwide strike in Myanmar on Tuesday marked the one-year anniversary of the army's seizure of power, as protests and sporadic violence across the country renewed international concern over the ongoing struggle for power.

Photos and video on social media showed that a countrywide "silent strike" had emptied out streets in Myanmar's largest city of Yangon and other towns as people stayed home and businesses shut their doors in a show of opposition to army rule.Violence was reported as well, as the country faces an insurgency that some U.N. experts now characterize as a civil war.

Media said an explosion killed at least two people and injured dozens at a pro-military rally in a town on the eastern border with Thailand. The cause of blast was not immediately clear. The military's takeover on Feb. 1, 2021, ousted elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party was about to begin a second term in office after winning a landslide victory in previous year's November election. Widespread nonviolent demonstrations followed the army's takeover, but armed resistance arose after protests were put down with lethal force. 1,500 civilians have been killed but the government has been unable to suppress opposition.

The anniversary has attracted international attention, especially from the United States and Western nations critical of military takeover. President Joe Biden in a statement called for the military to free Suu Kyi and other detainees, and return Myanmar on a path to democracy. The U.S. on Monday imposed new sanctions on Myanmar officials, adding to those targeting top military officers. The measures freeze any assets the listed officials may have in U.S. jurisdictions and bar Americans from doing business with them. Britain and Canada announced similar measures.

A statement from office of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted "an intensification in violence" and "humanitarian crises" that it said required an urgent response. Scattered pro-democracy rallies were held before start of nationwide strike in early morning, when security forces are less likely to be out on streets.

Israeli PM's remarks incitement to violence: Palestine

IANS ■ RAMALLAH

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtaye said that the remarks of his Israeli counterpart Naftali Bennett on rejecting establishment of a Palestinian state are "an incitement to violence and proof of Israeli government's anti-peace stance". Ishtaye made remarks in an official statement issued after weekly meeting of Palestinian Authority cabinet held in West Bank city of Ramallah, reports Xinhua news agency.

Bennett on January 28 said that as long as he is the Prime Minister of Israel, there will be no Oslo, referring to peace agreements signed between Israelis and Palestinians in 1993. He also said that he opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state and that he wouldn't allow any political negotiations that would lead to a Palestinian state.

In response, Ishtaye said rejecting to negotiate the establishment of a Palestinian state "proved to us and the world the scale of extremism of Bennett's government and its positions hostile to peace and negotiations".He called on the US and European Union to intervene to put an end to Israel's settlements in East Jerusalem.

Amnesty joins rights groups in accusing Israel of apartheid

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Amnesty International said Tuesday that Israel has maintained "a system of oppression and domination" over the Palestinians going all the way back to its establishment in 1948, one that meets the international definition of apartheid.

With the release of a 278-page report compiled over a period of four years, the London-based rights group joins Human Rights Watch and the Israeli rights group B'Tselem in accusing Israel of apartheid — both within its borders and in the occupied territories.

Their findings are part of a growing international movement to redefine Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a struggle for equal rights rather than a territorial dispute.

Those efforts have gained strength in decade since peace process ground to a halt, as Israel has consolidated its control over occupied territories and soured on idea of a Palestinian state. Israel rejects any allegation of apartheid, saying its own Arab citizens enjoy equal rights.

Death toll from landslides, flooding climbs to 24 in Brazil

AP ■ FRANCO DA ROCHA, BRAZIL

The death toll from landslides and flooding set off by heavy rains in Brazil's Sao Paulo state reached 24 on Monday as firefighters continued pulling bodies from the mud.

Brazil's most populous state was blasted with rain over the weekend, and hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes. The death toll had stood at 19 late Sunday, according to a statement from the civil defense authority.

"(I'm looking for) my nephew, his wife and a 2-year-old child," Cicero Pereira, 54, told The Associated Press beside a disaster site in the city of Franco da Rocha. "They said the bodies are still there under the mud, but until now they couldn't recover them."

Nelito Santos Bonfim, a 69-year-old resident, told AP he barely escaped with his life. "When I started running, the debris fell all over me," Bonfim said. "I got hurt, but found a hole and, thanks to God, I managed to escape.

But my father is still there."A total 27 cities were affected, of which Franco da Rocha suffered the greatest loss of life. Gov. João Doria used a helicopter to survey damaged areas Sunday and announced the equivalent of $2.8 million in financial aid to affected cities.

Alessandro Lima de Freitas, a coordinator for firefighters working to retrieve bodies, updated his list of missing people in Franco da Rocha. He told reporters that the concentration of rain was much heavier than locals are used to.

'Most of arms seized in Mexico made in US'

IANS ■ MEXICO CITY

The US manufactured most of the weapons seized by authorities in Mexico over the last two years, according to a report released by the Foreign Affairs Ministry here.

Mexican security forces seized 18,091 US-made weapons between January 1, 2020 and November 18, 2021, an average of 812 guns or other firearms a month, Xinhua news agency reported citing the Ministry as saying in a report.Of the weapons seized, over 10,500 were handguns and more than 7,300 were shotguns, it said.

Mexico estimates that at least half a million pieces of weapons are brought to the country illegally each year from the US and fall into the hands of criminals south of the countries' border. More than 3.9 million crimes are committed in Mexico each year by criminals using US-made weapons, 70 per cent of which can be tracked to America, according to Ministry.In a bid to decrease US arms entering Mexico.

Boris Johnson wins breathing space from 'partygate' woes

AP ■ LONDON

Caught partying during a pandemic, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson bought himself some breathing space with an apology and a promise to change. But his troubles are far from over. Johnson was battling to rally a rancorous Conservative Party on Tuesday after an inquiry slammed failures at the top that led to Downing Street staff holding boozy parties while the country was in lockdown.

He told lawmakers in Parliament "I get it, and I will fix it," promising to overhaul the way his office runs after senior civil servant Sue Gray found in her partial report that "failures of leadership and judgment" allowed events to occur that "should not have been allowed to take place."

Johnson addressed scores of Conservative legislators behind closed doors on Monday night, assuring them he took criticisms seriously and promising to get a tighter grip on a Downing Street operation that Gray found was marked by excessive drinking and dysfunctional dynamics. Johnson was rallying his Cabinet at its weekly meeting on Tuesday before flying to Kyiv for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy over the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab defended Johnson on Tuesday, saying: "He believes he acted in good faith on the advice he had at all times." Johnson's grip on power has been shaken by revelations that his staff held "bring your own booze" office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays" at Downing Street at times in 2020 and 2021 when Britons were barred from socializing to slow spread of the coronavirus.

There could be worse to come. Gray only released her findings on four of 16 events being probed, because police are investigating other dozen — including an alleged ABBA-themed party in prime minister's private Downing Street apartment.

Gray is expected to produce a full report once police investigation is finished. The government initially declined to promise that report would be published in full, but agreed to do so late Monday after coming under intense pressure.

For now, many Conservatives are biding their time, sticking by leader who won them an 80-seat parliamentary majority in 2019.

The party has a history of ousting leaders once they become liabilities, and Johnson could yet face a no-confidence vote from his own side if police or Gray produce more damning evidence.

Ex-South African president appeals ruling in corruption case

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former South African President Jacob Zuma on Monday continued with legal proceedings to remove the prosecutor in his corruption case. Zuma's lawyers are appealing the court's rejection of his application for prosecutor Billy Downer to be removed, saying he is biased and unfit to lead the prosecution. Zuma's lawyers have also accused Downer of leaking documents related to his case to the media.

His initial application for Downer to be removed was dismissed by the Pietermaritzburg High Court in October last year.

Zuma is facing corruption charges linked to the 1999 arms deal in which he is alleged to have received bribes from French arms manufacturer Thales through his financial adviser Schabir Shaik, who has already been convicted of corruption for that transaction.

In a separate case last year, Zuma was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment for defying an order of the Constitutional Court to appear before a judicial investigation into allegations of corruption while he was president from 2008 to 2019.

Zuma, 79, went to prison in July and a few months later was released on medical parole. The courts have ruled that the parole was invalid and that Zuma should go back to prison, but his lawyers are appealing that decision.

US military fired missiles during Yemen Houthi attack on UAE

AP ■ DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The U.S. military launched interceptor missiles during an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels that targeted the United Arab Emirates during a visit by Israel's president, the second-such time American troops have opened fire, officials said.

The acknowledgement by the White House and Pentagon late Monday represent a widening American involvement in Yemen's yearslong war, a conflict that President Joe Biden declared nearly a year ago "has to end."

While the U.S. has ended offensive support to the Saudi-led coalition fighting on behalf of Yemen's exiled government, their involvement in defending the UAE comes as the rebel Houthis have declared Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi a target.

Al-Dhafra hosts some 2,000 American troops and has served as a major base of operations for everything from armed drones to F-35 stealth fighters.Speaking from the White House, press secretary Jen Psaki said the U.S. military "responded to an inbound missile threat on the UAE.

"This involved the employment of Patriot interceptors to ... (support) efforts by the armed forces of the UAE," Psaki said. "I would say we are working quite closely with them."At the Pentagon, press secretary John Kirby said that "U.S. Patriots were fired, but it was the Emirati surface-to-air missiles that actually engaged the targets." Asked if that would include targets outside of Al-Dhafra, Kirby said: " If we can help defend our Emirati partners, we're going to do that."

New American envoy to Japan vows support amid regional tensions

AP ■ TOKYO

Washington is "fully committed" to working with Japan to confront growing regional tensions, the new U.S. ambassador to Tokyo, Rahm Emanuel, said Tuesday.

Emanuel was speaking at a meeting with Japanese Foreign Miniser Yoshimasa Hayashi, where the two discussed issues including North Korea's missile advancement and China's increasingly assertive actions in the Asia Pacific.

"The United States is fully committed to working with Japan as a full ally to counter the challenges and to really realizing our shared vision for a truly free and open Indo-Pacific," said Emanuel.

The American envoy criticized China's use of "coercion, intimidation and disinformation" as its influence rises in the region.

Emanuel arrived in Tokyo in late January, amid escalating North Korean missile tests.

"North Korea is testing missile capabilities, testing regional stability and testing the global community's patience," he said.

North Korea on Monday said it test-launched the day before an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam, the North's most significant weapon launch in years, as Washington has vowed support for its Asian allies.

Emanuel also called Russia's amassing of military force along the Ukraine border "a clear and consequential threat to peace, security and a rules-based system."

UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd.Office: Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
CIN: L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone: 011-26258237, 49075251
Email. Id:- investorrelations@ulilltd.com,
website:- www.ulilltd.com.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Leasing and Industries Limited will be held through Video Conference on Wednesday, 09th February, 2022 at 12:30 PM to consider and approve ,inter- alia , the Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2021 and any other business with the permission of the Board.

For United Leasing and Industries Limited
Sd/-
Place: New Delhi Shashi Shekhar
Date: 01th February, 2022 Company Secretary & Compliance officer

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Alka Kapoor is the owner of Entire Third Floor with roof rights (said floor) Built of Property bearing No.677-678, area measuring 123.66 sq. yds, Situated at Double Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi "the said property", by virtue of sale deed dated 02.11.2004, registration No. 7848, executed by Mr. J C Kapoor and Mr. Rajnish Kapoor through attorney Mr. Naresh Kumar, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said floor, to Mrs. Pammi Singh who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said floor, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner its sale /Mortgage/ litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. That Mr. Rohit Kapur is the Claiming owner of Flat / Unit No. 167, having area 1755 sq. fts. Type–V, Situated at Arun Vihar, Sector-37, Noida, Distt. Gautambudh Nagar – U.P. "the said property", by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 23.07.2021 issued by Noida Authority, after demise of his parents Mr. Tilak Raj Kapur & Mrs. Padma Kapur, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Rohit Luthra & Mrs. Urvashi Dogra Luthra who is taking Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd., for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner its Sale /Mortgage/litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mr. Karan Bajaj and Mrs. Rajni Bajaj are owners of Property bearing No. 7690 (Plot No. 44) area measuring 200 sq. yds. situated at Ram Nagar, Paharganj, New Delhi vide Relinquishment Deed dated 05/02/2019, executed by Mrs. Kanta Bajaj, Mrs. Neelma Wadhwa, Mrs. Anjali Bajaj and Mrs. Shalini Bajajand further Mr. Karan Bajaj and Mrs. Rajni Bajaj are mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited& in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Smt. Rekha has acquired the Property Bearing No. 14-A, area measuring 66 Sq. Yds., and Plot No. 15-A, area measuring 30 Sq. Yds., total area 66+30=96 Sq. Yds., i.e., 80.27 Sq. Mtrs., Out of Khasra No. 284/285, Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nasir Pur, area abadi known as Colony West Sagar Pur, New Delhi vide Gift Deed dated 30.11.2021, executed by Sh. Parladh Singh Gautam, and Now, Smt. Rekha is intending to sell the above said property to Mr. Deepak vide Sale Deed. Further Mr. Deepak is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.& in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh. Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank hereby inform that all scheduled auctions, to be held for the period between **January 20, 2022** till **February 28, 2022** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 stands postponed until further notice, due to unprecedented outbreak of Corona Virus **(COVID-19)**.
The list of auctions that are postponed are 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	Reserve Price	EMD	Scheduled Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1.	Somya Jain (Borrower) LBNOD00002007549	C-3/125, Tower - C3, 12th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Gurgaon, Area-1555 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 31,00,000/-	Rs. 3,10,000/-	February 5, 2022, From 11.00 AM Onwards
2.	Dharmendra Kumar (Borrower)/ Sumita Singh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029333	C-4/121, Tower- C4, 12th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Gurgaon, Area-1548sq. Ft.	Rs. 31,00,000/-	Rs. 3,10,000/-	February 5, 2022, From 11.30 AM Onwards
3.	Dharmendra Kumar (Borrower)/ Sumita Singh (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002030018	D-5/134, Tower- D5, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Gurgaon, Area-1207sq. Ft.	Rs. 25,00,000/-	Rs. 2,50,000/-	February 5, 2022, From 12:00 Noon Onwards
4.	Mange Ram Jain (Borrower)/ Anamika Jain (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002011506	D-2/134, Tower- D2, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Gurgaon, Area-1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 25,00,000/-	Rs. 2,50,000/-	February 5, 2022, From 12:30 PM Onwards
5.	Mange Ram Jain (Borrower)/ Anamika Jain (Co Borrowers) LBNOD00002029715	D-2/131, Tower- D2, 13th Floor, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari, Gurgaon, Area-1207 Sq. Ft.	Rs. 25,00,000/-	Rs. 2,50,000/-	February 5, 2022, From 1:00 PM Onwards

Date: February 02, 2022
Place: Delhi/NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड– 249404

संख्या :: 262/02/E-2/स0अ0अधि0/2021-22 दिनाँक :: 01 फरवरी, 2022

विज्ञप्ति
सहायक अभियोजन अधिकारी (मुख्य) परीक्षा–2021
Assistant Prosection Officer(Mains)Exam-2021

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि सहायक अभियोजन अधिकारी परीक्षा–2021 हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या–A-1/E-2/APO/2021, दिनांक 03 अगस्त, 2021 के सापेक्ष दिनांक 21 नवम्बर, 2021 को आयोजित प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का परिणाम, विज्ञप्ति संख्या– 68/17/गोपन–2/ए0पी0ओ0–21/2021–22 दिनांक 28 जनवरी, 2022 द्वारा घोषित किया गया है।

2. उक्त परीक्षा परिणाम में सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा मुख्य परीक्षा हेतु ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र (जिसमें अनुक्रमांक अंकित हो) तथा अभिलेखों की चैकलिस्ट(Checklist) आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** से डाउनलोड कर, विज्ञापन की शर्तानुसार समस्त शैक्षणिक, आरक्षण आदि अभिलेखों की स्वहस्ताक्षरित छायाप्रति सहित आयोग कार्यालय में जमा किया जाना है। उक्तानुसार समस्त अभिलेख सचिव, उत्तराखण्ड सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार के कार्यालय में डाक द्वारा अथवा अन्य किसी भी माध्यम से जमा किये जाने की अंतिम तिथि 22 फरवरी, 2022 (मंगलवार) (सायं 06:00 बजे तक) निर्धारित की गयी है। अभ्यर्थी उक्त के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत विज्ञप्ति का आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** पर अवलोकन करना अवश्य सुनिश्चित करें।

3. सहायक अभियोजन अधिकारी (मुख्य) परीक्षा–2021 का आयोजन दिनांक 08 एवं 09 जून, 2022 को **परीक्षा भवन, उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार** में किया जायेगा।

-SD-
(कर्मेन्द्र सिंह) सचिव।

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given that share certificate in respect of my flat no 78 issued in the name of Shri Keshav Chandra Khanduri by JDM CGHC Ltd. Situated at Plot -11, Sec 5, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075, have been reported lost/misplaced and an application has been made by him to the society for issue of duplicate share certificate.
The society hereby invites claims or objections (in Writing) for issuance of duplicate share certificate letter within the period of 15 (fifteen) days from the publication of this notice. If no claim/objections are received during this period the society shall be free to issue duplicate share certificate.
Date : 26/01/22 For & Behalf of
Jai Diba Maa CGHS Ltd.
Place - New Delhi (H. Secretary)

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda. Netaji Subhash Place Branch intends to accept the under mentioned property standing in the name of Mr. Vinod Kumar Mittal S/o Shri Chandgi Ram Mittal as a security for a loan/ credit facility requested by one of its customers. In case anyone has got any right/title/interest/claims over the under mentioned property, they are advised to approach the bank within 10 days alongwith necessary proof to substantiate their claim. If no response is received within 10 days it is presumed that the property is free of any charge/ claim/ encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage. Details of the property: Built up industrial unit, raised /erected over land bearing plot no. 67, having its land area measuring 530.00 Sq Mtrs./ 633 Sq. Yds., Rajasthani Udyog Vihar, Delhi 110033. Branch Details: Netaji Subhash Place Branch, Bank of Baroda, 1" Floor, Aggarwal Heights, Plot No. 5, Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi 110034. Phone No. 011-27357790/91. Details of Advocate: **Anshu Priyanka, Advocate. Chamber No. Y-8, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi 110054.**

Millions at risk as drought threatens Horn of Africa

AP ■ NAIROBI, KENYA

The children walk among carcasses of animals dead from hunger and exhaustion, a stark image of the drought threatening millions of people in the Horn of Africa.

Somalia, Kenya, and now Ethiopia have raised the alarm about the latest climate shock to a fragile region traversed by herders and others trying to keep their animals, and themselves, alive.

In Ethiopia's Somali region, people have seen the failures of what should have been three straight rainy seasons. Droughts come and go over the years, but resident Zaynab Wali told a visiting team with the United Nations children's agency that she and her seven children have never seen one like this.

The government distributed food and fodder during the last drought five years ago, she said. This time, "we don't have enough food for our family." More than 6 million people in Ethiopia are expected to need urgent humanitarian aid by mid-March, UNICEF said Tuesday.

And in neighboring Somalia more than 7 million people need urgent help, the Somali NGO Consortium said in a separate statement, pleading with international donors to give much more.This could be the region's worst drought in 40 years, the consortium said."We are just one month into the long dry season, and I have already lost 25 goats and sheep," Hafsa Bedel in Ethiopia's Somali region told UNICEF. "I also lost four camels. There is no pasture." There is not enough food for her own family, including her six children, she said.

UNICEF estimates that more than 150,000 children in such areas of Ethiopia dropped out of school to help fetch scarce water and handle other chores. One young boy supported a donkey, once crucial for carrying cargo, that become too weak to walk on its own.

Budget proposals to boost growth, generate jobs: Experts

New Delih: The Budget proposals on capital expenditure, MSME sector, and digital banking will boost growth and promote job creation, say experts.

Among other things, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a bigger Rs 39.45 lakh crore Budget, with higher spending on highways to affordable housing with a view to firing up the key engines of the economy to sustain a world-beating recovery from the pandemic.

Commenting on the Budget announcements, Shyam Srinivasan, MD and CEO, Federal Bank, said 35 per cent increase in capex for infra development, 65 per cent defense capex for local companies, tax incentives for startups, new cargo terminals – all indicate the refreshingly clear and well-structured aspiration of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Sanjeev Krishan, Chairman PwC in India was of the view that Budget 2022–23 continues to provide much-needed relief to the COVID-hit MSME sector. The revival of MSMEs is critical both from growth and employment perspective, and these measures are geared towards building a vibrant MSME sector, he said.

Kapil Mehta, Co-founder, SecureNow Insurance Broker said the main benefit of the budget for insurtechs is the emphasis on MSMEs and future growth. There are a host of measures aimed at small business, ranging from credit guarantee schemes to improving the ease of doing business, that help MSMEs navigate economic uncertainty, he added.

Founder and CEO Tushar Aggarwal, Stashfin was of the view that support announced for digital payment and banking will be welcomed by the sector. He said building awareness of digital payments and promoting financial literacy is critical to India achieving the vision of a USD 1-trillion digital economy.

Dhanuka Agritech Group Chairman RG Agarwal said, 'It would have been also apt had the Finance Minister... reduced GST and customs duty rates on some of the agro-chemicals products, which would have reduced the overall cost for the farmers.

On the government's proposals, Omkar Rai, Ex-DG, STPI said the Union Budget has all the ingredients needed to make India the world's biggest startup ecosystem. The extension of the incorporation period for eligible startups will certainly give a boost to this segment, he said. Rishad Manekia, Founder and MD, Kairos Capital said the taxation along with the introduction of an Indian CBDC in 2022 gives a much clearer idea about the way forward for the blockchain ecosystem in India and how the government is thinking about this space.

Ujjwal Singh, CEO and President, Infinity Learn said the extension of the PM eVIDYA initiative 12 to 200 TV channels will give the segment the requisite boost.

Piyush Gupta, CEO, Polytrade expects that in near future the government will continue to support and encourage digital currencies that will propel the GDP to USD 5 trillion as envisaged by the government.

Manish Chandra Co- founder and Director RailRestro said the announcement of 400 Vande Bharat trains is an encouragement for more public-private partnerships in the Indian Railways and this will help unlock the underlying opportunities in the sector for maximum growth, revenue generation and job creation.

The provision of ₹48,000 crore under Prime Minister Awas Yojana for completion of 80 lakh houses will help the government in achieving its target of Housing For All, said Housing.com group CEO Dhruv Agarwala

PTI/PNS

Design-led scheme for 5G ecosystem to pitch India as manufacturing hub: Industry

New Delhi: Government's push on fiberisation and technology will spur connectivity, while the design-led scheme announced in the Budget for 5G ecosystem will bolster India's position as a manufacturing hub, telecom industry said on Tuesday.

Budget announcements including those around 5G spectrum auction and 100 per cent fiberisation with PPP model would provide the required impetus to accelerate ubiquitous and reliable internet connectivity, Nitin Bansal, managing director, India and Head-Networks - Southeast Asia, Oceania and India at Ericsson, said.

HFCL Ltd managing director Mahendra Nahata said the expected spectrum rollout for 5G in 2022, combined with the scheme for design-led manufacturing for 5G equipment under the PLI scheme will not only lead to sectoral advancements but also spur job opportunities.

"...We are delighted to hear that contracts for laying optical fibre in villages will be awarded under BharatNet project under PPP model in 2022-23. This will help the telecom industry in providing affordable broadband and mobile communication in rural and remote areas," Nahata observed. Prashant Singhal, TMT (Technology, Media, Telecom) Emerging Markets Leader, EY, noted that allocating 5 per cent of annual USOF collection will significantly bolster rural connectivity.

"Strengthening of the BharatNet infrastructure through PPP model will enhance the connectivity backbone of an increasingly digital nation. Globally, 200 telcos in 78 countries have already launched commercial 5G services," he said.

According to Singhal, a clear focus on 5G spectrum auctions and rollout will help India to catch up with the rest of the world. The budget announcement has given much-needed push for 5G, Singhal said adding government's move to launch a design-led manufacturing scheme will help to position India as a hub for 5G equipment manufacturing and exports.

Sterlite Technologies' (STL) managing director Ankit Agarwal believes that budget will accelerate India's digital ambitions.

"...It sets the foundation for India's 5G readiness through spectrum auctions, R&D impetus, USOF allocation along with a boost for domestic manufacturing through a timely 'Design-led manufacturing' scheme," Agarwal said.

As per Deloitte India, Partner and telecom sector leader, Peeyush Vaish, the PLI scheme extension to 5G rollout and the commitment on fibre in all villages by 2025 will give an additional thrust to investment in new technologies in the telecom sector.

Telecom Sector Skill Council, CEO, Arvind Bali, said the announcement of spectrum auction in 2022 for 5G rollout and the scheme for design-led manufacturing is likely to "uplift" human resource requirements significantly as also the need to train the existing and new workforce.

PTI

Centre to borrow record ₹11.6 lakh cr in FY'23 to meet expenses

New Delhi: The Government will borrow a record ₹11.6 lakh crore from the market in 2022-23 to meet its expenditure requirement to prop up the economy hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is nearly ₹2 lakh crore higher than the current year's Budget estimate of ₹ 9.7 lakh crore. Total market borrowings of the government for 2022-23 are estimated at ₹11,58,719 crore, according to the Budget document.

The Revised Estimates for the same for 2021-22 are ₹ 8,75,771 crore, as against the Budget Estimates of ₹9,67,708 crore.

Even the gross borrowing for the next financial year will be the highest-ever at ₹14,95,000 crore as against ₹ 12,05,500 crore Budget Estimate (BE) for 2021-22. However, the gross borrowing has been revised downwards by nearly ₹2 lakh crore to ₹10,46,500 crore for the current financial year.

Gross borrowing includes repayment of past loans. The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills. Speaking at a post-Budget media interaction, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said green bonds announced in the Budget is part of the overall borrowing target for the next financial year.

These would be issued for specific sectors and there are set of investors who would like to put their money in sectors that promote sustainable development, he said. At this point of time, he said, this would be issued in the domestic market.

Finance Secretary and Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan also emphasised it as part of the total borrowing projected at ₹11.58 lakh crore.

Government raises its market loans under the Scheme of Sale of Dated Government Securities. These auctions are conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as debt manager to the central government. Besides, the government has completed the conversion of special securities issued in lieu of adhoc treasury bills into marketable securities during 2003-04.'

PTI

Govt allocates additional ₹51,971 cr to settle Air India's debt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following successful disinvestment, the government on Tuesday allocated an additional ₹ 51,971 crore towards the settlement of outstanding guaranteed liabilities of Air India in the Union Budget. This amount has been accounted in the revised estimates of total expenditure in 2021-22.

Of the total allocation of Rs 51,971 crore, the government has allocated Rs 9,259 crore to Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), a government-owned special purpose vehicle set up to handle Air India's debt and non-core assets, for the next financial year starting from April 1. Air India Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL) was set up in 2019.

"The provision (of ₹9,259 crore) is kept for servicing of loan transferred to special purpose vehicle as a result of financial restructuring of Air India," the Budget document said. In the budget speech on Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the revised estimate of capital expenditure for this fiscal is ₹6.03 lakh crore. This includes an amount of ₹ 51,971 crore towards settlement of outstanding guaranteed liabilities of Air India and its other sundry commitments, she added.

As per the revised estimates of 2021-22, the SPV — AI Asset Holding Ltd — has received ₹62,057 crore, of which ₹ 36,254 crore was infused as equity for repayment of past government-guaranteed borrowings of Air India; ₹12,357 crore for repayment of borrowings for sale and lease-back rentals for aircraft; and ₹ 13,446 crore for repayment of other dues and liabilities. According to the budget document, the government infused ₹ 36,254 crore in AIAHL during 2021-22 "for repayment of past government-guaranteed borrowings of Air India Limited".

Moreover, Air India was given a grant-in-aid of ₹1,944 crore and loans of ₹4,500 crore in 2021-22 to cover "cash losses during Covid period", the document said.

Air India was taken over by Tata Group firm Talace Pvt Ltd on January 27. Through a competitive bidding process, the government sold loss-making Air India to Talace for ₹18,000 crore.

As part of the deal, Talace paid ₹ 2,700 crore in cash and took over ₹ 15,300 crore debt of the airline. The remaining debt and borrowings of Air India were transferred to AIAHL.

As on August 31, 2021, Air India had a total debt of ₹61,562 crore. The airline also had about ₹15,000 crore excess liabilities towards unpaid fuel bills and other operational creditors. Meanwhile, in the budget, the civil aviation ministry has been allocated an amount of ₹10,667 crore for the next fiscal.

TDS on property sale to be levied on higher of stamp duty value or sale amount

New Delhi: The Union Budget 2022-23 proposed one per cent tax to be deducted at source (TDS) on payment for purchasing immovable property of over Rs 50 lakh will be based on the higher of the stamp duty value or the actual sale value/consideration. Currently, an individual is required to deduct tax on the sale value of immovable property if it exceeds Rs 50 lakh.

Presenting the Budget in the Parliament, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday proposed the amendment to do away the anomaly in the law.

As per the Finance Bill, 2022, presented in Parliament along with the other Budget documents, the government proposes to amend Section 194-IA of the Income Tax Act, in order to remove inconsistency with Section 43CA and 50CA of the law. This amendment, if done, will take effect from April 1, 2022. The new rule proposes to bring a parity mechanism between sale value considered for tax deducted at source (TDS) and capital gains calculations. Explaining the rationale behind the amendment, the Finance Bill said Section 194-IA of the Act provides for deduction of tax on payment on transfer of certain immovable property other than agricultural land.

The sub-section (1) provides for deduction of tax by any person responsible for paying to a resident any sum by way of consideration for transfer of any immovable property (other than agricultural land) at the time of credit or payment of such sum to the resident at the rate of one per cent of such sum as income-tax thereon.

The sub-section (2) provides that no deduction of tax should be made where the consideration for the transfer of an immovable property is less than ₹ 50 lakh. As per the provisions, TDS is to be deducted on the amount of consideration paid by the transferee to the transferor, the document said.

"This section does not take into account the stamp duty value of the immovable property, whereas, as the provisions of section per 43CA and 50C of the Act, for the computation of income under the head 'profits and gains from business or profession' and 'capital gains' respectively, the stamp duty value is also to be considered," the document said.

Thus, there is inconsistency in the provisions of section 194-IA and sections 43CA and 50C of the Act, the ministry pointed out. "In order to remove inconsistency, it is proposed to amend section 194-IA of the Act to provide that in case of transfer of an immovable property (other than agricultural land), TDS is to be deducted at the rate of one per cent of such sum paid or credited to the resident or the stamp duty value of such property, whichever is higher," the document said.

PNS

Rupee slips 17 paise to close at 74.82 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee pared its initial gains and settled 17 paise lower at 74.82 against US dollar on Tuesday as caution set in among forex market participants after the Government in the budget revised fiscal deficit target upwards for FY'22.

The country's fiscal deficit is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent this fiscal as against 6.8 per cent estimated earlier, weighing on sentiment.

Investors also took note of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing that the government will borrow about ₹11.6 lakh crore from the market in 2022-23 to meet its expenditure requirement, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.53 against the American dollar, witnessed an intra-day high of 74.41 and a low of 74.87 against the greenback.

The local unit finally ended the day at 74.82 a dollar, 17 paise lower than its previous close of 74.65.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.19 per cent lower at 96.35. Gaurang Somaiyaa, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "The rupee rose in the first half of the session but volatility remained low ahead of the important Union Budget that was announced today.

PTI

Markets march higher after Budget hikes infrastructure spending, avoids new taxes

Mumbai: The Sensex soared 848 points while the Nifty reclaimed the 17,500-mark on Tuesday after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a bigger ₹39.45 lakh crore Budget, with higher spending on infrastructure to spur economic recovery and create jobs.

Metal, realty and cement stocks saw robust buying, while selling in auto and telecom counters capped the gains.

After a strong start, the BSE Sensex succumbed to a sudden bout of selling following the Budget presentation, but staged an immediate rebound to end 848.40 points or 1.46 per cent higher at 58,862.57, marking its second straight session of gains.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty surged 237 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 17,576.85. Tata Steel hogged the limelight in the Sensex pack, zooming 7.57 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, L&T, UltraCement, ITC, Titan and HCL Tech.

In contrast, M&M, PowerGrid, SBI, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Maruti and Reliance closed in the red, shedding up to 1.67 per cent.

Sitharaman on Tuesday presented her fourth Budget, with higher spending on sectors ranging from highways to affordable housing with a view to fire up the key engines of the economy to sustain a world-beating recovery from the pandemic.

Contrary to expectations, Sitharaman did not tinker with income tax slabs or tax rates.

Her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 proposed a massive 35 per cent jump in capital expenditure to ₹7.5 lakh crore, coupled with the rationalisation of customs duty, an extension of time for setting up new manufacturing companies and plans for starting a digital currency and tax crypto assets.

However, fiscal deficit was projected marginally higher at 6.9 per cent for FY22 as against 6.8 per cent estimated earlier, with the finance minister emphasising the need for stronger and sustainable growth through public investment.

"It is a long-term growth oriented budget which the market has welcomed, given no headroom for cautiousness and populist measures. It is expected to support growth in the future; however, it is missing some balancing measures in context of current inflationary and slowing economy.

PTI

Gold rallies ₹333 on global trends

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Tuesday rallied₹333 to ₹47,844 per 10 grams in line with firm global trends along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹47,511 per 10 grams. The rupee dipped 14 paise to close at 74.79 (provisional) against the US dollar.Silver dipped ₹68 to ₹61,164 per kg, from ₹61,232 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading in the green at USD 1,803 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.60 per ounce.

PTI

Realty stocks jump up to 6 pc post Budget

New Delhi: Shares of real estate companies on Tuesday jumped up to 6 per cent after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced allocation of a whopping ₹ 48,000 crore for completion of 80 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), both rural and urban, during the next fiscal year.

Oberoi Realty jumped 5.76 per cent, DLF gained 3.55 per cent, Sobha Limited went higher by 2.32 per cent, Indiabulls Real Estate 1.60 per cent, Sunteck Realty 1.06 per cent, Godrej Properties 0.40 per cent and Macrotech Developers Ltd 0.20 per cent on BSE.

The realty index jumped 1.74 per cent to 3,877.85.

Among housing finance companies, AAVAS Financiers zoomed 8.25 per cent, Can Fin Homes Limited jumped 1.33 per cent, Repco Home Finance gained 0.61 per cent and GIC Housing Finance 0.16 per cent.

In her Budget speech, the minister said: "In 2022-23, 80 lakh houses will be completed for the identified eligible beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana, both rural and urban. ₹48,000 crore is allocated for this purpose."

PTI

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In partial modification to the Public Notice **"Augmentation of Trains"**, published in various newspapers on 01.02.2022, the following amendments are being issued:-

Train No. & Name	Augmented by	Already Published Date	Revised Date
12572 Anand Vihar T.-Gorakhpur Jn.Humsafar Exp.	AC 3 Tier-1	From Anand Vihar T. : 02.02.22 to 30.03.22	From Anand Vihar T. : 03.02.22 to 31.03.22

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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232/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Jasvinder Singh, Rinpi. H No. D- 2-27, Hari Nagar Extn, Badarpur, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110044, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110044 A/c:- LBDEL00005154438	Flat No- C2/ 1104, 11th Floor Tower- C2 Sector-1 0 Vardhman Gardenia Sonipat	10/11/2021 Rs. 39,66,418/-	04/08/ 2021
2.	Rakesh Ranjan, Shyamli Ranjan H No. D1/ 94 Sanjay Colony, Sector 2, Faridabad, Haryana Faridabad, A/c:LBGUR00005134738	Plot No. 3336, Sector 56-56 A Urban Estate Faridabad	10/11/2021 Rs. 30,40,805/-	04/08/ 2021
3.	Kumar Ayushya, Vandana Pandey B 13 2nd Floor Pratap, Nagar Nr Florence Public School Mayur Vihar, Delhi, Ph 1 Pratap Nagar New Delhi A/c:- LBDEL00002393969	Flat No. J 1801, 18th Floor Tower J Ajnara Le Garden Plot No. GH 02 Sector 16 Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 36,95,147/-	10/07/ 2021
4.	Ravinder Dahiya, Shikha. H No. 532 B Village, Bhadana Sonipat, Sonipat Haryana, Sonepat, A/c:- LBDEL00002421129	Flat No H 1104, 11th Floor Tower H Kdp Grand Savana Rajnagar Extension NH 58 Ghaziabad	10/11/2021 Rs. 32,43,262/-	06/07/ 2021
5.	Gaurav Pagrotra, Bhikham Singh Pagrotra, Vikas Pagrotra S 5 Module 9 Manglam, Apartments, Abhey Khand, Indirapuram Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00002339927	Flat No. 23210 23rd Floor, Tower Laurel Mahagun Mywoods Phase-III Plot No. GH 04 Sector 16 C Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 31,87,135/-	05/07/ 2021
6.	Poonam Kumari, Pratap Chandra, Raj Vardhan, 801 Gangotri Appt, Exhibition Road Patna Bihar Patna, A/c:-LBGUR00002318436	Plot No- 10176, 10th Floor Marvella Mahagun Mywoods GH-04 Sector- 16 C Greater Noida Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 33,80,913.08/-	05/07/ 2021
7.	Praveen Kumar, Khushboo Kumari B-123, First Floor, Pandav Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00003446307	Flat No. G 3046/ GC- 16, 3rd Floor Tower G 16th Avenue Gaur City 2 Plot No. 03 Sec-16 C Greater Noida Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 31,31,971/-	28/02/ 2021
8.	Ravi Kant Suman, Pooja Suman Plot No. 53 FF3, Gyan Khand I, Indirapuram Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00002853050	Flat No. 07228, Floor 7 Axle Wood Mahagun Mywood Splot No. GH 04 Sec 16 C Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 30,13,785/-	01/07/ 2021
9.	Rohit Raina, Renuka Raina Flat No.15/ C- 348 A, Gaur Enclave- 2, Shalimar, Garden Ext-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBDEL00002091351	Flat No. J- 606 6th Floor Tower 0j Ajnara Le Garden, Plot No. Gh-02, Sector-16, Greater Noida West Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 35,40,647/-	12/07/ 2021
10.	Rakhi Gupta, Nakul Gupta, Veleno Inc 6 Under Hill Road, Civil Lines, Delhi Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002356623	Unit No. 22185, 22nd Floor Block Mangrove Mahagun Mywood Phase III Mahagun India Pvt Ltd Plot No. GH 04 Sector 16 C Greater Noida Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,66,513/-	01/07/ 2021
11.	Adarsh Kumar, Shilpa Agarwal L 601 Pearts Gateway, Tower, Sec 44 Noida, Gateway Tower, Noida, Sec 44 Noida A/c:- LBDEL00002432960	Flat No. C 2202, Tower C 22nd Floor Amadeus Plot No. GH 02 Sec143 Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/10/2021 Rs. 40,27,872/-	01/07/ 2021
12.	Adarsh Kumar, Shilpa Agarwal L 601 Gateway, Towers Sec 14, Noida, Sec 14, Noida, A/c:- LBNOD00002431882	Flat No. C 2202, Tower C 22nd Floor Amadeus Plot No. GH 02 Sec 143 Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/10/2021 Rs. 40,69,589/-	01/07/ 2021
13.	Akash Gurjar, Arun Nagar 3 A/103 Ground Floor, Nit Faridabad Faridabad, A/c:- LBFDB00005108518	Plot No- 154, Block- A , Second Floor Sector- 49 Sainik Colony Faridabad	20/10/2021 Rs. 58,29,803/-	13/07/ 2021
14.	Chandan Kumar Goswami, Sudipta Lakshmi Khound 24181, Hollyoak Aptt# E Alisoviejo, Ca California, A/c:- LBGHZ00001436579	Flat No. T- XI- 504, 5th Floor, Amrapali Grand GH 09, Zeta 1 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,20,716.45/-	31/07/ 2021
15.	Navita Kundra, Vishal Mittal Flat No. 001 Ground Floor, Tower B5, Eros Sampurnam, Sector 2 GR Noida West, Noida, A/c:-LBNOD00002549263	Flat No. 626, 6th Floor Tower Siddhi Mahagun Mantra- II Plot No. GH-01 Sector-10 Greater Noida Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 35,63,792/-	01/07/ 2021
16.	Nidhi Arora, Rishabh H Arora A-2101 Antriksh Golf, View Apartments, Sec-78 Noida, Noida, A/c:- LBNOD00002880906	Flat No. 1012, 10th Floor Plot No. GH 01B Sector 10 Building Om Mahagun Mantra 1 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 34,26,264/-	01/07/ 2021
17.	Pramod Rai, Shobhana Rai BH-135 1st Floor Sec-12, Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00002391059	Flat No. 1229, 12th Floor Tower Siddhi Plot No. GH 1A Mahagun Mantra 2 Sector 10 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 26,63,957/-	01/07/ 2021
18.	Renuka Raina, Rohit Raina 15/ C 348 Gaur Enclave 2, Shalimar Garden 2 Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBNOD00002253796	B-205 2nd Floor, Tower- B Ajnara Le Garden Plot No. GH-02 Sector-16 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,64,536/-	31/07/ 2021
19.	Sanjeev Kumar, Smita Kumar Flat 320 E- W Sub Meter, 621 Al Warsan, 1st, Riviera Lake View Dubai, Dubai, A/c:- LBGHZ00002558653	Flat No. C 1203 A,12th A Floor Tower- C Manorath Plot No. GH- 4 B/1 Sector-16 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 29,37,543/-	06/07/ 2021
20.	Sarita Sandeep Nautiyal, Sandeep Nautiyal 5 M Det C/o 56 Apo, Pin 936841-936841 Jaisalmer Jaisalmer, A/c:- LBNOD00003229032	Flat No- 5211, 5th Floor Mahagun Mywoods, Tower Coral Woodplot No. GH- 04, Sec-16 C Greater Noida Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,35,644/-	02/07/ 2021
21.	Sharik Khan, Rana Khan Premium Marketing, Services LIC P O Box 941 Sharjah, A/c:- LBNOD00002355234	Flat No. 18178, 18th Floor Tower Marvella Mahagun My Woods Plot No. GH- 04 Sector-16 C Greater Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 45,47,182/-	01/07/ 2021
22.	Sunil Kumar, Nisha Sharma Village Gijhor Sector 53, Near Holi Chauk Noida Noida, A/c:-LBNOD00003390508	Flat No. 30092, Tower- 30 9th Floor Ats Picturesque Reprieves Plot No. Sc 01 Sector 152 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/10/2021 Rs. 36,89,235/-	31/07/ 2021
23.	Tarif Khan, Mohd Ahmed Khan Finance Dubai Silicon Oasis It Plaza 810 Sharjah Dubai Dubai, A/c:- LBNOD00002380736	Flat No.10173, 10th Floor, Tower Marvella Plot No. GH 04 Mahagun My Woods Sector 16 C Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 35,87,884/-	01/07/ 2021
24.	Vinod Kumar, Monika * Flat No. 909 Block J, GC-1, Gaur City Sector- 4,1st Avenue Noida, Greater Noida 201308 A/c:- LBGHZ00004897267	Flat No. 0835, 8th Floor Tower Saraswati, Mahagun Mantra 2 Plot No. GH 01A, Sector 10, Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 28,77,365/-	01/07/ 2021
25.	Shalini Sharma, Sunjjoy Daadhich, Explo Media Private Limited Appartment No.1619- A, The Mangolias Dlf Golf Course Gurgaon, Haryana, A/c:- LBGUR00003957467 & LBGUR00004776573	Flat No- Pl-1/ 2101, 21th Floor, Tower Pl-1, Hiend-1, Paras Quartier, Village- Gwal Pahari, Sector 2, Gurgaon, Haryana	28/10/2021 Rs. 4,12,68,326.9/- & Rs. 19,71,395.92/-	31/01/ 2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : February 02, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

BE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Sustainable strategies provide large savings over time, enhance air quality & well-being. This results in healthier environment and maintain improved efficiency, says SHABNAM DHAR

Man-Made interventions have created a huge impact on global warming and climate change. With the rapid increase in population, there has been an exponential increase in construction. This has caused an over-exploitation of nature and its resources. While sustainable architecture is still emerging in the country, India ranks 3rd. Buildings certified by the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) use 40-50 per cent less energy and 20-30 per cent less water. This sector is growing at a rate of 20 per cent each year.The progress of any country is primarily judged by the status of its education and healthcare industries. The Indian education system is expected to reach a valuation of USD 225 billion by FY 2025. The subcontinent is at a crossroads in terms of providing leadership in education.

SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

More and more public buildings are being designed using sustainable architecture strategies. Though initial costs are high, sustainable strategies provide large savings over time, improve air quality and well-being and result in a healthier environment. Sustainable architecture relies on using moderation in resources while maintaining improved efficiency. Buildings made under sustainable architecture are called green buildings.

A green building is one with a minimum impact on the built and natural environment. They operate with energy-saving resources and are environmentally responsible. These structures are designed to harness energy from water, the sun, and other natural resources. Apart from these, green buildings also use energy-efficient systems, making them environmentally friendly.

When compared to classic structured buildings, sustainable structured buildings produce less waste material and emit greenhouse gases at a lower proportion, making it healthy for people to live or work in. While noticing the rapidly increasing environmental problems, the implementation of sustainable architecture to create healthy living becomes critical. Environmental standards such as LEED and BREEAM offer guidelines for sustainable building design.

Sustainable architecture is important for the environmental stability of our planet. It is the Need of the Hour.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is one of the most important features of sustainable architecture. A green building is said to be energy efficient because it uses energy-saving methods to be environmentally friendly, yet produces a well-structured building.

The structuring of green buildings is done carefully by taking into consideration even the smallest measure that utilises energy; from preventing air leakages to using renewable sources.

Some of the techniques used to save energy in green buildings are the installation of energy-efficient lights, streetlights with a timer feature, utilisation of solar panels, etc. Additionally, green buildings use non-exhaustible resources such as hydroelectric and tidal power.

USES RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Sustainable buildings use passive design and renewable energy to create environmentally friendly solutions. This reduces the utilisation of non-renewable materials by implementing a proper and moderate level of construction and engineering methods. The use of renewable energy helps to reduce construction waste by using effective recycling. Apart from this, the use of renewable resources helps in reducing the environmental impact by using recycled construction waste and engineering material.

ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

Sustainable architecture, being environmentally friendly, helps the environment in many ways. Planning takes into account climate, landscape, energy, and stormwater management, then eco-friendly systems and materials are used during construction. The materials used to build the structures reduce the environmental impact drastically, hence creating safer and healthy living. Several strategies can be used to implement environmentally-friendly solutions.

GLASS SOLUTION

A building made of glass gives an impressive look while being environmentally friendly. It gives the building a comfortable and modern look and maintains the environmental safety factor. The glass used in these buildings optimizes the light spread in the interior of the building and helps to reflect the heat waves, thereby providing a comfortable indoor life. This feature enables a cooler temperature inside the building and utilizes the brightness cost-effectively received from the sun. Apart from this, the glass used reduces the use of lighting gadgets and artificial temperature as this glass enables the solution of using natural resources. Implementation of this glass solution helps in the reduction of electricity bills and also gives people a healthy space to live in.

SMART BRICKS

The smart brick is 9a REB (Resource Efficient Brick). It's a combination of technology and sustainable construction. Fast construction is achieved through this process, which saves a lot of time. Apart from this, this process is labor-friendly and does not require any sand or water in its structural process. With the utilization of fewer resources, it provides the consumers with a quality structure.

NON- CONVENTIONAL SAND

This type of sand is manufactured by crushing hard granite stones which are widely available. Since these stones are crushed, it reduces transportation costs to a great extent. These stones are found in conventional rivers and they give a stronger foundation to the building.

ENVIRONMENT EFFICIENT METALS

Metals such as Aluminium produce high energy ranging from the process of production to transporting. However, the sustainable architecture uses the metal again and again by recycling or reusing the metal, hence saving a lot of energy. Due to recycling and reusing the energy used by the metal decreases and makes the material sustainable. The materials that are created are water-resistant, long-lasting, and do not need replacement.

With green buildings contributing to a 7 per cent increase in asset value compared to non-green ones, they also contribute to general well-being with improved ventilation and better natural light. It is estimated that green buildings may remove the overall negative impact on the atmosphere by reducing up to 84 gigatons of CO2 emissions by 2050.

The writer is partner at Studio Archohm

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

UG AND PG COURSES

The University of Manchester, UK is now inviting applications from international students for the September 2022 intake.

Students from India have recently shown increasing interest is pursuing programmes at Manchester in less traditional areas such as Biological Sciences, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering, Development Studies and Law. However, the University is known for programmes in Business, Computer Science and Data Science; and these courses continue to be highly sought after. Partial scholarships are availabale.

Ace through NEET 22

Pointing to stiff competition, NEET has more than 16 lakh applications each year in a pragmatic race for admission to around 1.5 lakh seats at various medical and dental colleges across the country. The exam dates have not yet been set, but they will be fixed for the time being. The exams are scheduled to take place in May. With only a few months left to prepare, medical aspirants should maximize their preparation strategies for this year's tougher competition. The most important thing to succeed at NEET is a smart work plan that covers the entire curriculum in a timely manner.

The NEET UG Exam focuses on three subjects: physics, chemistry, and biology (Botany & Zoology). In three hours, 180 questions must be answered while total marks remain unchanged (720). The syllabus covers the entire NCERT curriculum for Classes XI and XII, including Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, and Biology.

Candidates receive four points for each correct response and one point for each incorrect response. A sensible work plan that covers the full curriculum well in time is the most important factor in excelling in NEET.

❖NCERTs should be the base material and it shouldn't be ignored.NCERT books will provide you with a solid understanding of concepts and are thus the best place to begin your study. NCERT books account for 60-70 per cent of the NEET exam.

❖Making and sticking to a systematic revision plan will aid aspirants in improving their conceptual and topical clarity, allowing them to perform better and rank higher. Learning formulas is one of the finest ways to gain an advantage in physics when faced with a variety of mathematical and numerical difficulties.

❖If the concepts are clear, it is possible to come up with the correct answers when working through the difficult questions, particularly in physics and chemistry.

❖Reviews and practice tests help you better understand the topics and concepts and keep the current trends and patterns of the NEET exam up to date. Taking practice exams and performing real-time analysis has proven to be very beneficial.

❖Devoting too much time to questions that you are uncomfortable with will leave you with insufficient time to solve the easy ones, so while practicing mock tests, pay attention to your problem-solving ability as well.

The remaining months should be used wisely for maintaining speed and accuracy.

The writer is Saurabh Kumar, Academics Director, Vidyamandir Classes

Best fields for paid internships in France

These enriching internship options not only helps in professional development but also boosts personal development. Having a work experience here is recognised throughout the world, says SOM SHARMA

France has one of the world's strongest economies, where unemployment rate stands at 9 per cent. The country offers a relaxed lifestyle and is called to be one of the world's most cultured countries. France is a country that offers minimum wage that is the highest in Europe and the French culture also ensures work-life balance.

French being the only language spoken in all 5 continents, having a work experience here is recognised throughout the world. Due to various cultures, traditions, art, community, the country offers wide variety of opportunities for students to choose, from fashion designing to engineering and much more. So, for students, here are 7 most in demand fields for paid internship in France.

FASHION DESIGNING

France is one of the most fashionable countries and ranks 2nd in the entire world. With strong fashion culture, the country is a cradle for fashion having the 2nd biggest luxury goods consumer.

Fashion designing in France being one of the highest-paying industries, is lucrative and creatively demanding field for students. The field teaches students managerial skills, gives them opportunities to participate in fashion shows, build a strong foundation in one the fashion capitals of the world.

HOTEL MANAGEMENT

France is the most visited country in the world with more than 90 million people visiting each year. Surrounded by diverse and rich culture, ancient landscapes, the country offers students a strong ground to explore.

Students interning can get wide range of opportunities to learn the skills required to make clients from across the globe feel like home while exploring the world-famous gastronomy.

ENGINEERING

Engineering is one of the most popular career in France. It is an area of excellence with more than 800,000 engineers working in various industries from civil, IT, transport, energy, defence, and many more. Defence, machinery and telecommunications are the biggest industries in France and the industrial sectors alone contributes around 20% to the country's GDP.

With generating 40 per cent of its electricity through nuclear, the country is said to be the biggest producer of nuclear energy in the world. France is continuously working towards advancing engineering and this offers a wide range of exciting opportunities for students.

Som Sharma
Director
Edu Brain Overseas

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

France is an important centre for art and architecture. A place with abundant breath-taking places and famous landmarks is visited by millions each year. The art and architecture enthusiasts get loads of opportunities in art museums, galleries, architecture and more.

Students interning get a chance to work in a dynamic, multi-cultural environment. The interns are also provided with opportunities to learn advance skills with hands on work experience to build a strong portfolio.

MEDIA

France too has a diverse range of internships in publications, print media, production, cinema and many more. The country has about 600 local and national mainstream publications, more than 1000 radio stations and over 100 cable, digital, and satellite TV channels.

Just like any other country, media in France plays a vital role in the lives of citizens of the country and migrants. Be it a small, medium or large media group, media is spread far and wide. Internships in media gives you as a student variety in work and provides ways to leverage your professional network.

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

With one of the largest markets in Europe the country is home to many companies that have excelled globally. Having the 5th largest economy in the world, modern business culture, dynamism in the industries, the executives' experts are persistently popular.

Management and business-related interns are offered lucrative opportunities in a country with the 9th largest global market. Students are provided with opportunities to learn and implement the aspects of corporate in great detail.

MARKETING

Marketing is a very competitive field and is closely related to the culture and the economic situation of the country. France offers marketing opportunities to students who wish to excel and get a taste of the culture. Various industries like fashion, music, communication, theatre, public relations provide internships to students in marketing.

The field also teaches students to think as a consumer with dynamic cultures, implement the right strategies while offering many rewards and opening doors for a remunerative international career.

These enriching internships opportunities in France not only helps in their professional development but also boosts their personal development. Internships in the country also helps students to develop French speaking habits and learn new customs.

The writer is Som Sharma – Director Edu Brain Overseas

Rise in opportunities for Blue-Collar workers

While the Omicron wave has led to a fresh wave of restrictions across India, the demand for blue collar workers continues to rise. The pandemic has already changed industries, buying patterns, consumer preferences, and has forced companies to rethink their business models. But the demand for flexi-staff continues to grow. A case in point is the popularity of eating-in rather than eating out, something that began as a safety protocol but is now a habit. This has in turn led to a rising demand for food-delivery staff. From healthcare workers to logistics staff, from manufacturing workers to supply chain personnel, the pandemic is fuelling workforce shortage and surge in unexpected ways.

Lohit Bhatia, President, Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), says "As a result of the pandemic, organisations are reimagining how to tackle the changing market conditions. ISF members are quickly filling gaps and the unusual demand for workforce across sectors. Even as the pandemic waves ebb and rise, our workers, many working on the frontlines, have ensured that India keeps running and companies continues to meet their responsibilities."

Suchita Dutta, Executive Director, ISF adds, "Our data from Q2 2021-22 shows that blue collar and flexi staffing industry addresses the demand for workforce as soon as it rises. As India opened up after the second wave, the sharp demand for workers was met by the flexi-staffing industry, which ensured that businesses across sectors continued to serve their customers and stakeholders."

Lohit Bhatia
President, Indian Staffing Federation

According to ISF's Q2 2021-22 report on the flexi staffing industry, there was a steady recovery in hiring. Over 2.15 lakh new workers were added year-on-year (Q2 2020-21 vs. Q2 2021-22). Compared with Q1, there was a 9.2 per cent net headcount growth. That's a significant jump because during Q1 2021-22, the country had come a standstill because of the second wave.

After a slow Q1 2021-22, approximately 98,000 new staff were added in Q2 2021-22. Most of this growth came from the IT, ITeS, eCommerce, retail and healthcare sectors. The construction sector also saw a surge in growth.

The employment sentiment across sectors was positive. In Q2 2021-22, the hospitality industry had started to prepare for reopening whereby hotels and restaurants were noticeably ramping up their workforce.

Global, career-centric community for developers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Turing, an AI-powered, international platform that connects software developers with high-quality, long-term, remote U.S. jobs, announced today the launch of Turing Community: a global career-centric community exclusively for developers.Before candidates apply for admission, they are advised to check the eligibility criteria laid down by the JK Lakshmipat University. Only those candidates who fulfill the eligibility criteria can fill the application form.

With a mission to unleash the world's untapped human potential, Turing is building a diverse community, free and open to all developers worldwide. The community helps developers with job preparation, upskilling and reskilling, English communication and personal development, and mentoring, among other perks. Through this initiative, the company aims to build a safe space for developers to grow, seek guidance from experts, and progress in their careers.

Uma Subramanian, Sr Director and Head of Developer Success and Community at Turing said, "Thousands of developers from more than a hundred countries have already joined our community and are making their way to the top with the tools and opportunities provided by the community. At Turing, our intention is not only to offer jobs but also to offer a community that inspires learning and development. Moreover, the community is equipped with tools that steer developers to their calling while understanding their passion and enhancing their skills."

ISH announces IMPACT initiative

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

The Indian School of Hospitality (ISH), one of India's finest institutes for hospitality and culinary arts education announces their IMPACT (Integrated Mentorship, Partnership, Academic Collaboration & Training) initiative. It aims to introduce high school students to the diverse and rewarding field of hospitality and culinary arts, and the multitude of careers they can choose to pursue within the service and experience industry. Through this initiative, ISH also addresses an apparent skill and capability gap in the higher education space, and takes the ownership to build a progressive ecosystem focusing on enhancing knowledge transfer for school teachers, principals and counselors.

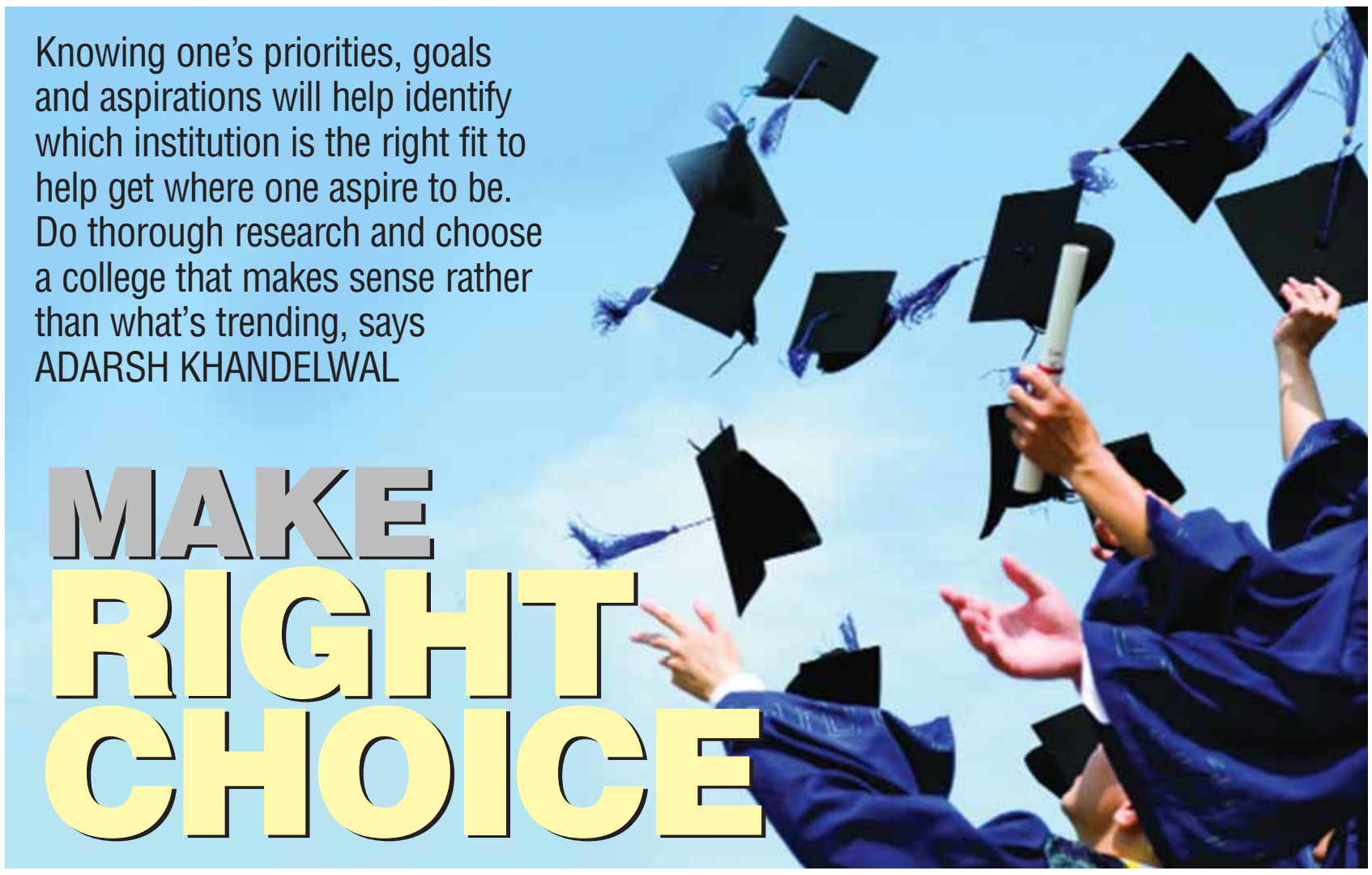
The IMPACT series is a step forward in strengthening hospitality and culinary education in India, with the speaker sessions featuring both Indian and international faculty and industry experts. These experts will be sharing their insights, experience and learnings, and thoughts on a wide range of exciting topics.

It is a great opportunity to hear first-hand from experts how the experience economy is evolving globally and why it's a great time to pursue hospitality management and culinary arts.

The IMPACT initiative will help create opportunities and enable schools to benefit from ISH's academic ecosystem, industry connect and training capabilities. As an institution built by industry pioneers and leaders, ISH takes it upon itself as a duty of care function to bring more awareness about the role of hospitality and service sector in the economy, and support students who will go on to become integral part of this sector tomorrow.

This initiative creates opportunities for students to embrace new-age skills with the evolving demands in the industry.

Knowing one's priorities, goals and aspirations will help identify which institution is the right fit to help get where one aspire to be. Do thorough research and choose a college that makes sense rather than what's trending, says ADARSH KHANDELWAL



MAKE RIGHT CHOICE

In the life of every student comes a crossroad that'll set the course for the rest of their lives, at least professionally. When it comes to choosing a college, students are often faced with whether to go for an Ivy League vs a Liberal Arts College.

It's understandable why making the right choice between the two can be overwhelming and even confusing. On one hand, students may feel like – it's just college, on the other hand, the right college could, simply put, be life-changing.

What is an Ivy League?

It is a collective title which refers to eight prestigious universities like Columbia, Yale, Harvard, Dartmouth, Brown, Princeton, Pennsylvania, and Cornell. The terminology itself is rooted in football (these universities formed an inter-collegiate agreement governing football), today Ivy League has come to be associated with prestige and the topmost quality of education.

Every student, especially those applying abroad, dreams of getting accepted into these hallowed institutions. The reason being that these universities carry a great deal of goodwill and open the choicest of opportunities for students.

What is Liberal Arts College?

These are rooted in a wide variety of cultural, intellectual, and social studies and activities. Their approach is more holistic, and these colleges aim to impart a broader, general knowledge and intellectual capacities. Liberal Arts Colleges are particularly appealing to students who want to pursue education and careers in critical thinking, social impact work and other humanities.

The top eight liberal arts colleges every student should consider are Williams College, Amherst College, Middlebury College, Wellesley College, Pomona College, Oberlin College and Vassar College. These are also the colleges we will be taking into consideration while drawing comparisons further down this article.

While public opinion is one thing, when it comes to matters of one's career, it always helps to look at the data and make objective analyses. And that is exactly what we have done.

While public opinion is important, when it comes to matters of one's career, it always helps to look at the data and make objective analyses

Acceptance rate mean is the rate at which a school accepts applicants. The percentage of students accepted into a school against those that applied, determines the acceptance rate of that school.

This means that the school with higher applications will reject more students, and therefore have lower (more impressive and more competitive) acceptance rates.

It is important to note that acceptance rate only refers to the percentage of students that have been accepted, and not the percentage of students who choose to attend that school. The latter refers to something called yield rate.

Acceptance rate is an important metric for colleges because it is a factor in their ranking by third party sites like US News College Rankings, which influences future aspirants as well. However, this is not the only metric to choose from, as middle-tier colleges are known to game the system by adapting tactics such as dropping application fees, to attract larger number of applications.

The acceptance ratio of Ivy leagues is higher as students prefer the former for better pay opportunities, social capital, and other such factors. If you are a student with aspirations to make it in the world of business or of earning a higher pay right at the outset, then Ivy League is the obvious choice for you, as employers are always happy to Ivy graduates what they are worth. After all, Ivy League colleges are not just institutions, they are brand names.

The early pay of Ivy League universities is significantly higher. Having said that, colleges like Claremont McKenna shows a higher early pay than an Ivy League Brown University.

On an average, the early pay for ivy league is almost $10,000 higher than average of liberal arts colleges.

The average median pay of Ivy League alumni ranks ahead of that of Liberal Arts alumni. While the average difference is of around $15,000, there is a dramatic difference between the median pay of Ivy League Columbia University and Liberal Arts Wellesley College.

The writer is CEO-co-founder, Collegify

'Fuel your future with entrepreneurial skills

It is a misconception that entrepreneur skills are only for those who want to become an entrepreneur. They are required for all students irrespective of the field, says SACHIN GUPTA

Sachin Gupta
Chancellor Sanskriti University

The society and environment we have been living in has been witnessing unprecedented change. With the new emerging technologies and its implementation in the 21st century the world is rapidly changing. Eighty-three per cent of businesses say it's important to develop entrepreneur leaders. It is also said that the nature of the work will change by 2025 as millennials will make up to 75 per cent of the workforce.

Entrepreneurship skills and Leadership skills are essential in one's life as in to keep up with the pace of the constant change in the world. As per reports more than 77 per cent of the organisation say that the leadership is lacking as 10k baby boomers are retiring on a daily basis. The need for creativity, forward-thinking, innovative ideas, to be able to adapt to the changes, making quick but vigilant decisions relies on these skills.

It is a misconception that entrepreneur skills are essential only for those who want to become an entrepreneur. Leadership skills and Entrepreneurial skills are required for all the students without taking into consideration which field the student belongs to. Organization's look for graduates who are well accustomed and possess these skills as having these skills help them to take the chance of an opportunity and turn it into a success.

Importance of entrepreneurial skills: Having entrepreneurship skills in students is very vital as these skills increase our knowledge in communication, decision making process, time management which makes the students career life so much easier and functionable. As the students possess analytical and interpersonal skills it helps in transforming the workplace in a positive light.

Develop a mindset for future: Entrepreneurship skills are necessary in every medium of our life. These skills increase our potential to develop our innovative thinking, help us develop collaboration with others and most importantly boost our confidence which is necessary in any workplace. Each career has its own obstacles and entrepreneurship skills play a huge role as it helps us to view challenges as opportunities rather than a negative outcome.

Enhanced ability to grow: Students who develop entrepreneurship skills benefits from them as these skills enable them with an enhanced ability to identify the problem as well as resolve it, it helps them with team building skills which is essential to have a stable growth in ones career and also helps in innovation and creativity which helps in running the organization smoothly having a stable establishment.

It is vital to fuel students with Entrepreneurial skills as early as possible as the future is uncertain as the world keeps moving at a rapid pace. Surprisingly, organisations look for graduates having problem solving skills, self-awareness, flexibility and such more skills and these skills fall under Entrepreneurial skills.

Colleges and universities have begun the process of inculcating these Entrepreneurial skills in students as the need for them have begun to escalate. Having these skills benefits the students as they will not be obstructed with any future challenges.

MINDIT

Over the last few years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become the buzzwords in every sector. Given its huge potential, it's not surprising that it is amongst the most sought-after skills by employers and employees alike. AI exists as a broader concept, and an amalgamation of human intelligence with machines.

The aim behind deploying AI-based solutions is to enable machines or systems to act by themselves without repeated programmer coding. There are certain requirements in order to enjoy a successful career in AI and ML. For starters, one needs to have in-depth knowledge of data science and statistics, and basic knowledge of data processing and software engineering. Additionally, a strong combination of both technical as well as non-technical skills can greatly help in exploring a career in AI. A few of the important technical and non-technical skills are:

TECH SKILLS

- Computer programming: One of the fundamental skills to have is the ability to program. Computer architecture, optimization algorithms, data structures, trees, and graphs are just some of the subjects that one would need to be well-versed with.
- Statistics and probability: At the root of data science is statistics. This is a core part of AI and ML, and having a working knowledge of probability concepts including conditional probability, Markov models and Bayesian principles are important.
- Data modeling: A strong skill that can help in AI is data modelling. It is used extensively in AI to handle pattern recognition and datasets classification.
- Strong understanding of Unix tools: AI professionals are required to have a strong understanding of Unix tools, their functions, and how to best utilize them since most AI processing will take place on Linux-based environments.
- Efficiency in distributed computing: Majority of the AI jobs require programmers to deal with large volume of data, which can't be processed effectively using a single machine. Programmers need to have skills in distributed computing as this data will be equally distributed across systems.
- Design and software: Although on record this may seem like the most irrelevant skill for the AI aspirants to have, still they need to develop this skillset as the ultimate product will be developed in the form of a software only.

NON-TECH SKILLS

- Communication skills: AI jobs require professionals to be good communicators. In addition to having technical know-how, AI aspirants need to communicate innovative ideas effectively to their teams.
- Collaboration: It is necessary to effectively collect data and convey the information in a comprehensible manner to the team. This requires teamwork.
- Marketing skills: No matter how good your idea or project is, it will not sell itself. Being able to market your ideas is crucial to succeed in the AI space.
- Systematic and analytical thinking: Systematic and Analytical thinking is very important when building a career in AI. One needs to have a curious mindset, and a thirst for problem solving. AI aspirants need the ability to understand problems faced by users and then devise solutions accordingly.

The writer is Sumit Saurabh, director, Design Circle

The University of Melbourne, Australia invites applications for its Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology Scholarships.

International students can apply.

Award: $5,000-$20,000
Number of Awards: 150
Course Level: Masters

Eligibility: Must have applied for a masters program at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.

Supporting documents: Submit academic transcripts of all the previous schools attended and a copy of your passport.

Admission requirements: Once you know what course you want to study, you'll need to check that you meet the minimum entry requirements for that degree.

Language requirement: When you apply for a graduate degree, you'll need to meet the University's English language requirements to be eligible for a place.

How to apply: To be enlisted in the programme, students have to enroll in the master's degree programme at the university. No application is required. You will be automatically considered for this award.

Application deadline: Applicants must submit all required application materials until June 11, 2022.

To encourage ambitious international students to take up their bachelor studies in the US, the **University of Tennessee Knoxville has announced the Global Ambassador Scholarships** for the academic year 2022-2023.

Eligibility: Maintain full-time enrollment throughout each semester.

Commit to being a U.T. Global Ambassador and adhere to the programme requirements.

Serve as an example of the Volunteer spirit as a positive peer resource for prospective international students.

Supporting documents: Must attach academic transcripts of all previous school attended and copy of passport.

Admission requirements: Aspirants must have a GPA of 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) and good academic standing.

Language requirements: If a student's native language is not English, they must demonstrate English proficiency unless they are a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.

How to apply: All eligible international undergraduate students who apply for admission during their final year in high school will be considered for this scholarship.

Application deadline: The last to apply for this scholarship is May 1, 2022. Scholarship applications after this date will not be accpeted.

FLUTTER APP DEVELOPMENT AT HUBNINE INDIA
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹14,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/2bb6c7
Deadline: February 10, 2022

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WEALTH SOCIALS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/930116
Deadline: February 10, 2022

CONTENT CREATION AT BULLISHSEO IT SOLUTIONS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/0bf4db
Deadline: February 10, 2022

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT AMRA
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a5eeb4
Deadline: February 10, 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT SRIAAS
Location: Delhi, Gurugram
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/e16517
Deadline: February 10, 2022

DIGITAL MARKETING AT SAFETY CIRCLE
Location: Chandigarh
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a2de88
Deadline: February 10, 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT HELPWORX TECHNOLOGY
Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/104ebd
Deadline: February 9, 2022

INBRIEF

COE IN HUMAN-CENTERED COMPUTING AT IIITD

The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIITD) has established a new Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Human-Centered Computing (HCC).

The CoE will focus on teaching relevant courses on human-centered computing and will also facilitate research collaborations, capacity building, and exchange of researchers and experts between the European Union and India.

The CoE is established as part of the EU Erasmus+ Design and Innovation Capacity Building project that brings together IIITD, World University Of Design and Regional Institute of Management and Technology from India; and University of Aegean, Greece, Brunel University, UK, and Politecnico di Milano, Italy, and CREATHIDEV from Europe which are anchoring the activities under this project from India and the EU respectively.

The HCC combines design principles with computing to help develop systems that support human capabilities and cater to human needs. For example, researchers developed a mobile-based learning platform for health workers.

The platform is designed so that it becomes easy to use by community health workers who have low technology exposure. CoE aims to develop design and technology solutions.

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Rajasthan Solar Association launched the Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy at the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Jodhpur Technology Park, last week.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between both the parties aims at supporting research and development work for renewable energy.

The event was followed by a formal meeting of all CSR stakeholders.

MESC INKS MOU WITH MCNUJC

The Media & Entertainment Skills Council (MESC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication (MCNUJC).

The MOU affirms a long-standing partnership between MESC and MCNUJC to strengthen the existing programs and offer industry oriented new edge programs embedded with On-Job training and Apprenticeship as per the new education policy.

STUDENTS OF ABWA DEVELOP SMART WRIST BAND

Students of one of the leading international schools in Mumbai, Aditya Birla World Academy robotics team called Binary Bolts have designed an innovative device SAATHI — Your Fitness Companion.

It is a smart wrist band that has been developed with the objective of motivating the elderly citizens to prioritize their health. The idea was developed for the First Robotics Competition Qualcomm Innovation Challenge where these students won a semi-finalist award. The team took the idea further by developing prototypes of the watch and conducted efficacy research.

The students wrote a white paper based on their invention and it was published in the International Journal of Software & Hardware Research in Engineering (IJSHRE).

The students feel that it has become crucial for elderly citizens to take care of their physical and social wellbeing and the core aim of the project was to encourage the elderly to stay active with friends and family with the help of technology that offers simple and convenient use.

It can be easily paired with a mobile app. There are two primary parts: a band and an app.

SANSKRITI UNIVERSITY RECEIVES SIRO BY DSIR

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has recognised Sanskriti University, Mathura as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO).

Chancellor Sachin Gupta said: "Research is the backbone. Our youth have unique ideas and these ideas can be converted into patents." He believes in transforming the knowledge into reality recognition as SIRO by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) is the result of the hardwork and commitment of the students and faculty of university for their unyielding efforts in pushing the boundaries in the field of innovation and research education.

RESEARCH TEAM IDENTIFIES GENE/PROTEIN VARIATION

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras-led International Research Team has identified a gene/protein variation present among Indians and other South Asians that increased their risk of diabetes, heart attacks and hypertension.

This multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary team of researchers found that this variation was present in approximately 15 per cent of Indian and other South Asian populations.

The researchers also found that people carrying this variant are 1.5 times more likely to have hypertension, type 2 Diabetes, and coronary artery disease. This combination could account for the higher prevalence of metabolic diseases among Indians and other South Asians.

Talking about practical applications of this research, Professor Nitish Mahapatra said: "This study has implications in the area of diagnostics and personalised medicine. For example, our research findings may help in identifying individuals who may be susceptible to type 2 Diabetes. This should be useful for people with family history of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases for preventive healthcare and better management of disease."

Dhawan, Shreyas, Ashwin in top bracket along with Cummin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top Indian players, including senior opener Shikhar Dhawan and Shreyas Iyer, along with overseas stars such as Pat Cummins and Kagiso Rabada have been bracketed in the Rs 2 crore highest base price category for the upcoming IPL auction.

The mega auction is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on February 12 and 13 and will see 590 players go under the hammer.

The IPL announced the final auction list on Tuesday, which was pruned from the original list of 1,214 players released last month, after the franchises reverted with the players they are interested in.

Among the 590 cricketers, a total of 228 are capped players while 355 are uncapped and seven belong to associate nations.

Senior Indian players Mohammad Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Ashwin, Ishant Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane have also registered with a base price of Rs 2 crore.

While Iyer and Dhawan are the top draws, the 10 teams are also likely to be involved in a bidding war for youngsters Ishan Kishan, Devdutt Padikal, Washington Sundar, Deepak Chahar, last season's top wicket-taker Harshal Patel, spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and fast bowler Shardul Thankur. All of them are in the top bracket.

A total of 370 Indian players and 220 overseas cricketers will be up for grabs, with as many as 48 players having chosen to place themselves in the Rs 2 crore bracket.

Among the foreign players the franchises are expected to go after pacers Trent Boult, Cummins, Rabada, the Australian duo of all-rounder Mitchell Marsh and Steve Smith, former Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan and big-hitting South African Faf du Plessis, who have all registered themselves in the top bracket.

Indian veterans such as Suresh Raina and Robin Uthappa, with a steep base price of Rs 2 crore, may not have many takers.

There are 20 players in the auction list with a reserve price of Rs 1.5 crore while 34 are in the list of cricketers with a reserve price of Rs 1 crore.

India's U-19 stars, skipper Yash Dhull, Vicky Ostwal and Rajvardhan Hangargekar, besides the likes of Shahrukh Khan, Deepak Hooda and Avesh Khan, will also be looking to cash in and make their mark during the auction.

South Africa's 42-year-old spinner Imran Tahir is oldest in the auction while 17-year-old Noor Ahmed of Afghanistan is the youngest. Noor is currently playing in the U-19 World Cup in the West Indies.

Among all U-19 players, Indian medium pacer Hangargekar has a better auction base price of Rs 30 lakh, compared to Rs 20 lakh for others.

Punjab Kings have the highest number of 23 slots available while Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians have 21 vacancies.

The rest of the teams have 22 slots each.

Punjab Kings also head into the auction with the highest purse -- Rs 72 crore -- while the Delhi Capitals have the lowest -- Rs 47.5 crore.

Australia topped the overseas list with 47 players while 34 cricketers from the West Indies will also go under the hammer.

South Africa have 33 players, Sri Lanka 23, England 24, New Zealand 24 and Afghanistan 17.

Full-strength India, Australia face off in blockbuster semifinal

PTI ■ COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

Heavyweights India and Australia will face off in a blockbuster Super League semifinal of the Under-19 World Cup here on Wednesday, having beaten their opponents on the field and COVID-19 off it, on way to the last four stage.

India's preparations for the age-group showpiece were impacted heavily by the virus, with hardly any national camps or tournaments in the last two years except the recent Asia Cup.

The four-time champions started the tournament on the right note, overcoming a good South Africa side by 45 runs, but soon ran into a situation where they were struggling to field a playing XI after multiple players were found to have contracted COVID-19 hours before their match against Ireland.

Five members of the squad were unavailable for their second group clash, against Ireland on January 19 after a COVID outbreak.

Captain Yash Dhull, his deputy Shaik Rasheed, Aaradhya Yadav, Manav Parakh and Siddarth Yadav were part of that group and missed both the Ireland and Uganda fixtures, forcing the BCCI to fly in reinforcements.

India were without many players for their match with Uganda and had to call in six reserves to play with the non-infected members of their squad.

But a spirited India got the better of all the challenges thrown at them and soundly defeated Ireland and Uganda before prevailing over Bangladesh by five wickets in a tricky chase in their quarterfinal match on a surface that was not conducive for playing strokes.

India are now back to full strength and in another good news, Nishant Sindhu has recovered from COVID-19 and will be available for selection for the all-important semifinal.

But if the match against Bangladesh was any indication, India would like to improve their finishing with bat.

However, before that, despite missing many first XI players, India put up huge totals against Ireland (307/5) and Uganda (405/), and registered their biggest ever victory terms of runs against the African team.

Now up against a formidable Australian side, India will take confidence from the fact that they made the semifinals with wins on the trot despite the challenges posed the virus.

This is the fourth time in a row that India will be appearing in the last-four stage of the competition.

India have a strong batting presence with the likes of Harnoor Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Raj Bawa, who broke Shikhar Dhawan's record for the highest individual score by an Indian batter at the U-19 World Cup with his 162 not out against Uganda, shouldering the responsibility, besides skipper Dhull and Rasheed.

In fact, it was Dhull who set the tone for the team with his soild 82 against South Africa in their tournament opener.

India-West Indies ODI series to be played behind closed doors: GCA

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The three-match ODI series between India and West Indies, scheduled here from February 6 to 11, will be played behind closed doors owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) said on Tuesday. The matches will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium. "We are all set to host West Indies Tour of India ODI Series 2022. 1st ODI on 6th of Feb will be a very special and historic match as India will be playing it's 1000th ODI. Indian team will be the first cricket team in the world to achieve this feat. @BCCI #INDvsWI #teamindia," the GCA tweeted. "Considering the current situation, all the matches will be played behind the closed doors," the state cricket body said in another tweet.

After the ODIs, the two teams are scheduled to play a three-match T20 International series in Kolkata.

Pakistan through to 5th place play-off

PTI ■ COOLIDGE (ANTIGUA)

Haseebullah Khan struck a half-century as Pakistan sealed their place in the fifth place play-off with a six-wicket victory over Bangladesh despite a fine hundred from Ariful Islam in the U-19 World Cup here.

Bangladesh's innings was dominated by Islam, who arrived at the crease in the 12th over with his side on 23 for three and set about guiding them to a competitive total.

Islam had fallen for single figure scores in his two previous innings in this tournament but quickly found his groove here and brought up his half-century with a glorious six over long-on. The 17-year-old continued to lose partners – Mehran Mumtaz proving particularly potent with three for 16 from his 10 overs – but kept his composure and accelerated at the death, striking three sixes in one Awais Ali over to move into the nineties.

His century, from 118 balls, arrived midway through the 49th over but Islam fell to the next delivery – the ninth wicket to fall in an innings which was ended on 175 with four balls remaining.

Muhammad Shehzad and Haseebullah started confidently in reply, adding 76 in 19 overs before the former fell for 36.

Khan struck four fours and four sixes before picking out the deep square leg fielder on 78, by which time his side needed just 36 more for victory.

Irfan Khan (24) was unfortunate to be run out backing up and Qasim Akram fell for a single but Abdul Faseeh's unbeaten 22 saw Pakistan home with 21 balls to spare.

Pakistan will take on Sri Lanka in the fifth place play-off on Thursday, with Bangladesh to play South Africa for the right to finish seventh.

The United Arab Emirates concluded their best-ever U-19 World Cup campaign with a comfortable eight-wicket win over Ireland in the Plate final.

India, Australia to open cricket competition in Birmingham CWG

PTI ■ DUBAI

Cricket will mark its return to the Commonwealth Games after a gap of 24 years with India taking on Australia on July 29 in the 2022 Birmingham edition.

The league-cum-knockout women's tournament kicks off with a match between women's 2020 T20 World Cup finalists Australia and India on July 29, with the bronze and gold medal matches scheduled for August 7.

Cricket is the first discipline to announce its complete line-up for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games after Sri Lanka was confirmed as the eighth team in the women's T20 tournament, the ICC said on Tuesday.

The announcement was made jointly by the International Cricket Council and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) following Sri Lanka's victory in the Commonwealth Games Qualifier in Kuala Lumpur last week and the subsequent CGF ratification of the island nation's entry.

Australia, Barbados, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Pakistan have already qualified as women's cricket makes its first entry into the Commonwealth Games.

It will only be the second time that cricket features in the multi-discipline event after a men's competition was part of the Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 and is considered a massive opportunity to bring the game to new audiences.

A Shaun Pollock-led South Africa had won the gold on that occasion, beating Steve Waugh's Australian side by four wickets in the final.

ICC Hall of Famers Sachin Tendulkar of India, Jacques Kallis of South Africa and Mahela Jayawardene of Sri Lanka were among the many stars featuring in the 1998 Games.

Barbados and Pakistan are in Group A along with Australia and India while England, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka form Group B.

The ICC, CGF and Commonwealth Games Sri Lanka congratulated Sri Lanka for their qualification and looked forward to an exciting tournament.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said: "It's good to have finalised the identity of the teams participating in the Commonwealth Games.

We will have eight of the best teams competing for the gold and I am sure we will get to watch a highly competitive tournament.

"The Commonwealth Games are an important part of the women's cricket calendar over the next year. It is a huge opportunity for us to take cricket beyond the traditional strongholds and give more people around the world the chance to enjoy the game."

CGF President Dame Louise Martin said: "Cricket is a sport synonymous with the Commonwealth. We are so excited to have it back in the Games for the first time since the men's 50 over competition at Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

"The debut of women's T20 cricket will be a historic moment and a wonderful showcase of women's sport across the world."

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games, being held from July 28 to August 8, will see 4,500 athletes from 72 nations and territories compete across 11 days.

Birmingham 2022 will be the first major multi-sport event in history to award more medals to women than men.

Chennaiyin look to get mojo back against wooden spooners SC East Bengal

PTI ■ VASCO

Smarting from their heartbreaking derby defeat, SC East Bengal will have nothing to lose when they take on Chennaiyin FC in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday.

Placed bottom of the table with just nine points from 14 outings, the Mario Rivera-coached side have all but lost their chance to stake a claim for the semi-finals but will still look to improve their tally with their second win of the campaign against Chennaiyin.

SC East Bengal have conceded 28 goals in their 14 matches so far, the second-most by a team this season. They are coming off a 1-3 loss to ATK Mohun Bagan.

Since Riviera's arrival, they've been even more compact and narrow and forced teams to play from out wide. The number of crosses put in by the opposition in the last three matches highlights this playing style. In his three games in charge, the opposition have put in a total of 80 crosses. "The confidence of a team is more related to the performance than the results. Sometimes you can play well and lose and vice-versa.

Our performance is much better than the results so the players are in a good space mentally," Rivera said on the eve of the match.

Brazilian striker Marcelo Ribeiro started for the first time for SC East Bengal in the last game, and Rivera opined his link-up play with Antonio Perosevic is one to look out for and it would have helped had he been there from the start.

"Marcelo and Perosevic's combination is one to watch out for. It is difficult because Marcelo cannot speak English but they are starting to understand each other now."

For Chennaiyin, placed seventh in the table with 18 points from 13 games, a win will catapult them back to the top-four. Lallianzuala Chhangte joined Mumbai City FC on loan on transfer deadline day but head coach Bozidar Bandovic would like to believe he has other options to fill in his boots

Japan hand Saudis first defeat in WC qualifying group

AP ■ SEOUL

A first-half goal from Takumi Minamino set Japan on the way to beating Saudi Arabia 2-0 at Saitama Stadium on Tuesday and keeping the host on course for a seventh successive World Cup appearance.

Minamino's goal from close range after 31 minutes was created by Junya Ito. The Belgian-based winger then added the second soon after the restart with a fierce shot from the edge of the area to seal a first defeat for the Saudis in Asia Group B qualifying.

Saudi Arabia, which would have qualified for a sixth World Cup with a victory, still led the group with 19 points, one more than Japan.

India beat China in back-to-back matches in women's FIH Pro League

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Indian women's team continued to make waves in the FIH Pro League as it dished out yet another masterclass to beat China 2-1 and move to the top of the standings here on Tuesday.

After defeating China 7-1 in their debut match on Monday, the Indians emerged 2-1 victorious against the same opponents at the Sultan Qaboos Complex on Tuesday.

While the win was not as goal-heavy as the previous day, what India showed was an ability to play swift, attacking hockey without losing composure.

A lack of experience and a certain level of weariness seemed to beset the China women's team right from the opening whistle of their second FIH Hockey Pro League match against India.

Lost possession, misplaced passes and a reluctance to get back and defend contributed to a lacklustre first half performance by the Chinese team.

India, by contrast, started the match with high levels of energy and an appetite for attacking play that rocked their opponents even further.

Pressure exerted by the Indians on the Chinese defence paid off quickly. A penalty corner in the third minute was converted with precision by Gurjit Kaur -- to add to the goal she scored in the first match on Monday.

China were fortunate not to be further behind at the end of the first 15 minutes. India created several scoring opportunities but these either flew wide of the opposition goal or were dealt with by Wu Surong in China goal.

In the second half, China seemed to rally. They defended with more conviction and India were finding it difficult to contain Chinese attack.

As India struggled to regain the free-flowing play of the first half, China began to make their own incursions into the Indian circle.

A lovely pass that split the Indian defence left Wang Shumin with just Savita to beat. The Indian goalkeeper rushed forward but Wang was able to place the ball in the corner and restore both parity and her team's confidence levels.