

OPINION 6
WHAT'S CIVIC VERSUS
CULTURAL NATIONALISM?**WORLD 8**
VIOLENCE MARK ANNIVERSARY
OF MYANMAR ARMY RULE**AVENUES 10**
BE ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIBLE

RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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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 MODINothing for middle class,
poor in Union Budget
— RAHUL GANDHIBudget has 'zero'
for common people,
Government lost in 'big
words signifying nothing'
— MAMATA BANERJEEUnion Budget
disappointing, nothing
in it for common people
KEJRIWALRural 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.

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.

The Union Budget 2022-23 has also allocated ₹2600 crore to the Housing and Urban Affairs for the construction of non-residential office buildings of the Central Vista project, including Parliament and the Supreme Court.

This is ₹767.56 crore more than ₹1,833.43 crore given in the last fiscal.

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 ear-

lier 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.

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Sample Illustration: Age - 50, Annuity payable - Yearly, Mode - Offline

Purchase Price*	25 Lac	50 Lac	1 Crore	5 Crore	
Option A	1,79,750	3,60,250	7,21,500	36,07,500	Option A Annuity for Life
Option F	1,46,250	2,93,250	5,87,500	29,37,500	Option F Annuity for Life with Return of Purchase Price
Option J	1,45,500	2,91,750	5,84,500	29,22,500	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

*Plus applicable tax as per rules Figures in Rupees

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Har Dil Aapke Saath

CM: Budget disappointing, nothing for common people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that people have left hugely disappointed from the union budget 2022-23.

Taking it to micro-blogging website, twitter, Kejriwal said, "The public had huge aspirations from the budget due to the pandemic's woes. The people have been left bereft. There's nothing in this budget for the common man, nothing that will reduce the backbreaking inflation."

CM Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia both hit out at BJP ruled Centre saying the union government presented an ill-thought budget.

Sisodia said, the budget is anti-farmer in the history of India. "Centre did not just reduce allocation for minimum selling price (MSP) agriculture but also the number of beneficiaries of MSP and procurement targets. What the Centre has done to our farmers is nothing less than stealing from the plate of the hungry. 60 lac jobs in 5 years are nothing more than a jumla; what will you do with these jobs when 5.5 crore people roam unemployed in the present. The PLI scheme under which the

Centre wants to generate employment has not created one job in 2 years. Centre hellbent on defunding education; reduced education sector's budget so poor's children stay uneducated.

Despite seeing the tragedies of COVID, Centre did not increase the budget allocation for the Health Sector; are the lives of the common man a joke? Middle class feeds India's economy but the BJP's Central Government has backstabbed it today. Reducing tax slabs could have increased the purchasing power of the already stressed middle class. Barely Rs 325 crores allotted to Delhi from a total of 8.16 lacs crores in central taxes. Not a single penny allotted to MCD while all other civic bodies have been given funds by the Centre," he added.

He further said that we are all well aware that 60 percent of the employment in our country depends solely on our agricultural sector. For the past one year, our farmers left their fields and sat on the roads braving all kinds of harsh weather demanding MSP rights and the repealing of the three black farm laws.

"Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji stated today that the target for the purchase of paddy

and wheat has been reduced from 1286MT to 1208MT. Imagine the blindness of this government that reduced the procurement target of two crucial crops like these. MSP allocation has been reduced from 2.48 lakh crores to 2.37 lakh crores. They did not just reduce their targeted procurement but also the budget allocation essential for the agriculture sector by 4.5%. This is a complete fraud," he added.

"The Centre itself is admitting that it is reducing the scope of the scheme and the beneficiaries will reduce from 1.97 crore farmers to 1.68 crores. There could not have possibly been a more anti-farmer budget in our history. Centre hellbent on defunding education; reduced education sector's budget so our children stay uneducated. The Centre must allocate six percent of its budget to education for this policy to become a reality. But in reality, the Centre is reducing the education budget.

They reduced the already abysmal share of education from 2.67% to 2.64%. The budget for skilling was reduced by a staggering 30%. They talk about the merits of the NEP but continue to defund the education sector. There cannot be a bigger hypocrite than this regime."

Delhi Police allocated ₹10,355 crore in Union Budget 2022-23

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has been allocated a total budget of ₹10,355.29 crore in the budget estimates 2022-23 in comparison to budget estimates 2021-22 allocation of ₹8,654.26 crore, with an additional allocation of ₹1,701.03 crore.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Union Budget for 2022-23. Just like last year, she read out the budget speech from a tab.

According to a police statement, ₹9,808.39 crore has been allotted for establishment related expenditure. ₹287 crore shall be incurred under capital section for installation of CCTV security surveillance system across Delhi, procurement of various advanced equipment for law and order modernization.

It also stated about upgradation of communication system like cyber highway and digital trunking radio system besides implementation of Intelligence Traffic Management System (ITMS) and induction of various type of vehicles for policing.

Meanwhile, ₹259 crore shall be spend exclusively for police infrastructure for construction of office buildings. Residential buildings for

improving housing satisfaction level and operation and maintenance of New Police Headquarters building PPP mode, the statement added.

Sitharaman on Tuesday unveiled a bigger ₹39.45 lakh crore Budget, with higher spending on 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.

While she primed up spending on infrastructure to create jobs and boost economic activity, 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 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. The Budget prioritised economic expansion over fiscal consolidation.

The Budget proposals laid the foundation for strengthening of different sectors like transportation and logistics sectors (Gati Shakti), banking and fintech (75 digital units to be set up), agriculture, EV sector (battery swapping policy), among others.

Budget disappointed many, says Anil Kumar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the Union Budget has disappointed the unemployed, traders, shopkeepers, small business persons and people devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic

Kumar said that Delhiites had expected that the Union Budget would provide some relief to the people but they were totally disappointed.

"The frequent hike in the prices of petroleum products, including petrol, diesel and cooking gas, had upset the household budget beyond recovery and roll back of the Excise Duty would have given them some relief, but the Union Budget has only protected the interest of the rich friends of the Modi Government, who have become richer and richer," he said.

The Congress leader also said that thousands of people had died in Delhi due to the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving many families headless and without any earning member, and many children without both their parents, but the budget has not provided them any financial relief, nor any compensation to the Covid Warriors, who died in the line

Kumar said that Delhiites had expected that the Union Budget would provide some relief to the people but they were totally disappointed

of duty.

Kumar said that with elections to the Municipal Corporations of Delhi round the corner, the Union Budget should have allocated sufficient funds to the fund-starved BJP-ruled MCDs, as the Corporations have not been able to pay the salaries of sanitation workers, teachers, nurses, doctors and the paramedical staff, but the Modi Government's budget has not announced any bailout package for the Corporations.

Kumar said that the both Prime Minister Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind have left Delhiites to fend for themselves, as despite having sufficient funds with the Delhi Government, it has been squandering the money for wasteful purposes and not for the development and welfare of Delhiites, while the Modi Government's sole purpose of the budget seems to use it to fulfil its devious political agenda.

Budget will strengthen many sectors: Sudhir

Gurugram. Gurugram MLA Sudhir Singla said that the budget is special for every citizen of the country.

Special care of every category has been kept in this budget. Whether in the field of education or defence, whether it is railways or any other sector, provisions have been made in this budget for all, he said.

"Amid Corona epidemic, the government has made the budget keeping in mind the interest of every person. It has presented a growth-oriented budget, with a special focus on productivity, climate action, financing investment and PM Gati Shakti Yojana. To encourage private investment and growth, the capital expenditure has been increased by 35.4 per cent to Rs 7.50 lakh crore in the budget," Singla added.

He asserted that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that the Reserve Bank of India will introduce digital currency during the financial year 2022-23.

"This is a big and new experiment," he said. **SR**

Re-looking at earlier stand on criminalisation of marital rape, Centre tells Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it is "re-looking" at its earlier stand on petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape as that was brought on record in affidavit filed several years ago.

Justice Rajiv Shakdher, who is heading the bench hearing a batch of petitions to strike down the exemption from prosecution for the offence of rape granted to husbands under the Indian Penal Code, said the central government needs to make up its mind with respect to its position on the issue.

"The learned solicitor (general) had said that we will be re-looking at the affidavit. These are affidavits quite back in point in time in 2015-2017," Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Centre, told the bench also comprising Justice C Hari Shankar.

Justice Shakdher stated that there were only two ways of dealing with the issue of criminalisation of marital rape -- either by a court decision or a decision taken by the legislature -- and if the

Centre does not clarify its stand, the court would go ahead with the affidavit already on record.

"There are only two ways of closing this issue. One is the legislative route, other is a court decision. There is no third way of closing this issue. You people need to make up your mind whether you need to stick to the position that you have taken in the counter (affidavit) or you will change it. If you want to change it, you must let us know," he said.

"There is a position on record. You deal with it and if they change it they will come back and tell us," Justice Shakdher told the counsel for the petitioner.

ASG Sharma requested the court to allow the Centre to make submissions on the petitions next week. Last week, the court had asked the Centre to inform whether it wished to withdraw its earlier affidavit filed in the matter in view of its latest stand that it was undertaking a "consultative process on the issue". **PTI**

G'gram: Two inter-state wanted criminals held after encounter

Gurugram: A crime unit Sector-31 of the Gurugram police have arrested two inter-state wanted criminals with a bounty of ₹25,000 each after an exchange of fire in the Manesar area of Gurugram in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to the police, One of the criminals suffered a bullet wound in the leg in the cross-firing and was rushed to Safdarjung hospital in Delhi for further treatment.

The arrested persons have been identified as Amit alias Gaanth and Deepak alias Bholu both the criminals were involved in an attack on the family of a former sarpanch in Kasan village Manesar on November 4, in which four people died and two suffered injuries.

The Gurugram police had fixed a reward of ₹25,000 each on their arrest. After executing the Kasan massacre, the accused were hiding in Noida, Delhi, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

The assailants had fired more than 40 gunshots, which was allegedly committed to avenging a murder of their associate by a member of the victims' family on the occasion of Holi in

2007, police said.

Assistant Commissioner of police (crime), Preetpal Sangwan said the police received reliable information that Amit, who was the prime suspect in the Sarpanch's family Diwali night attack, was in the Manesar area, following which the crime branch of sector 31 formed a team to nab them after cross-firing.

The police said the incident took place around 4.35 am when the criminals spotted the police on village Baslaambi to IMT Manesar road and in an attempt to escape, fired at the police but were overpowered by the police.

Sangwan said, "In the cross-firing, Amit sustained a bullet wound in his leg. He was rushed to a hospital in Manesar and then referred to Safdarjung hospital in Delhi for treatment. His condition is stable. Both the accused have been arrested."

The accused were involved in two dozen incidents of murder, murder attempt, attack on the police team, robbery and theft in Sonipat, Gurugram and Delhi and were constantly active in executing serious incidents, he said. **SR**

Kejriwal announces ₹10 L aid to gangrape victim

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister of Delhi on Tuesday announced ₹10 lakh ex-gratia compensation for the Kasturba Nagar rape victim.

Revenue and Law Minister Kailash Gahlot along with Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal met the Kasturba Nagar rape victim who informed him that she was abducted from her home and gang raped by three men who are involved in illicit trade of liquor and drugs locally.

Shockingly, as reported earlier, while three men were gang raping her, the women present therein were instigating the men to rape her. She further informed that they beat her up brutally, shaved her head, blackened her face and made her walk around the neighbourhood with a garland of slippers and shoes. A video of the unfortunate incident was also received by the Commission which clearly showed the sad plight of the victim.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted "I have ordered ₹10 lakh assistance amount to help this daughter. Delhi government will do everything possible to get justice for this daughter. We are hiring a good lawyer for her. We will also fast-track this matter so that the daughter can get justice as soon as possible."

DCW Chief Swati Maliwal had earlier issued a notice to Delhi Police seeking immediate arrest of all the culprits,

both men and women. She had also recommended that the girl and her family be shifted to a safe house and be provided protection.

Through the notice, the Commission has also sought details of any previous complaints against the accused persons especially regarding their involvement in illegal liquor and drug trade. Furthermore, Delhi Police has been asked to furnish the steps taken by them to provide the girl necessary security. The Delhi Police has been given 72 hours to submit a detailed action taken report to the Commission in the matter alongwith the CCTV footage of the whole incident.

Later the revenue minister, Gahlot tweeted, "On the instruction of Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal, I along with Swati Maliwal met today the Kasturba Nagar rape victim. Delhi government will provide assistance of ₹10 lakh to the victim. We will send the case to the fast-track court and engage the best lawyer so that the culprits get strict punishment soon."

In a statement, Maliwal said, "Delhi Government has ordered 10 Lac compensation for the girl which will help her. We have also helped her file an application in the court for interim compensation and our team is there with her 24x7. Further, we will also rehabilitate the girl. Strongest punishment must be given to the culprits so that no one will dare to do such a crime again."

Shopkeeper, 2 others held for killing employee

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has nabbed a 36-year-old shopowner and his associates for allegedly killing his employee with whom he was into an homosexual relationship. Police said that the accused alleged that the victim kept threatening him of making the videos of their act viral following which he took this step.

The accused shopowner along with his brother and an associate had dumped the victim's body in Sarojni Nagar area after killing him.

Police said that the shopowner got married 14 years ago and has two children and runs a cloth shop in Sarojini Nagar Market but didn't have any previous involvement.

According to Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, on Saturday, police recovered the body of a 22-year-old man, a native of Kodarma district in Jharkhand from Sarojini Nagar area.

"A case of murder was registered and during investigation, it was revealed that deceased had a homosexual relationship with his shop owner and had secretly recorded his videos, while doing the illicit act. He was also black-mailing the shop owner and extorting money by threatening to make the video viral," said the DCP.

"On the basis of technical surveillance, it was revealed that both the victim and shopowner were found to be present at Sarojini Nagar Metro Station i.e. near the place where the body was dumped," said the DCP.

"On the basis of CCTV footage deceased was last seen

alive with his shop owner. When the shop owner was examined and he revealed that in order to execute the plan he contacted his nephew who came from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi. His nephew along with his friend came to Delhi in the evening of January 28 by booking a taxi from Khurja," said the DCP.

Narrating the sequence of the incident, the DCP said that shop owner's nephew and his friend booked two rooms in a guest house at Yusuf Sarai, Safdarjung Enclave area. When the CCTV cameras of the guest house were analysed, both of them were seen carrying trolley bag into guest house. They stayed there in one of the rooms while the shopkeeper went to Sarojini Nagar market to take the victim.

"At about 8.30 PM, the shopowner along with his employee reached the guest house, as seen in footage captured in CCTV camera. His nephew and his friend cut the nylon rope from the guest house balcony area which was used for drying clothes. After 5-10 minutes, all of them overpowered the victim and his shopkeeper's nephew strangled the victim with the nylon rope and later his friend used his muffler to strangle him," said the DCP.

They removed his shoes and jacket and stuffed his body inside tge trolley bag. It was loaded in the same taxi hired from Khurja by them and later dumped the body in a secluded place near Sarojini Nagar metro station and covered it with a plastic sheet, said the DCP.

Thereafter, the shopkeeper the personal belongings of the victim beat Uttam Nagar East Metro Station and reached home, he said.

‘Centre invests heavily in Delhi’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said Centre invests heavily in Delhi and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia should know about it.

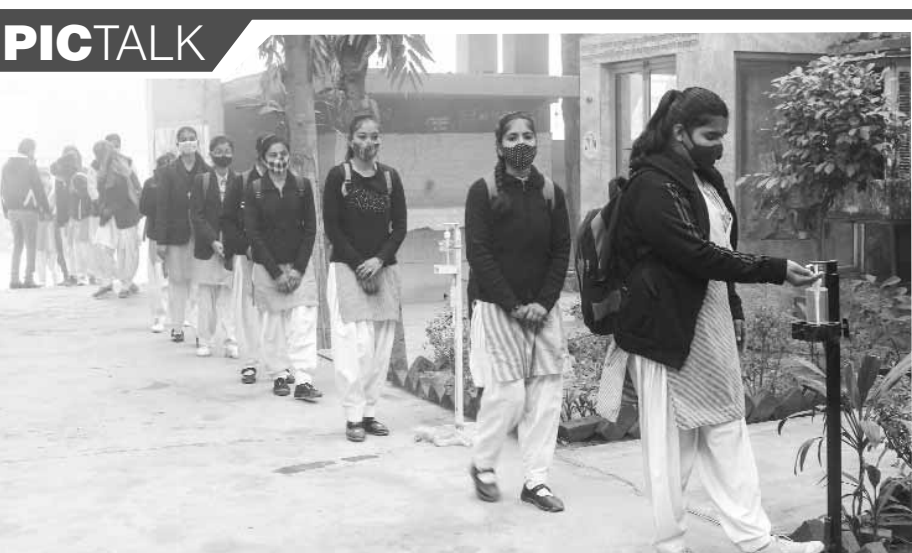
Citing the examples of expressway, Kapoor said that Centre allows fixed budgetary amounts to different states but as a parent caretaker of Delhi it spends on various road infrastructures helping in reducing traffic and pollution problems. "Centre gives budget for public transport i.e. Metro development in Delhi and has recently allocated a budget for 100 Electronic Buses in Delhi.

AAP constitutes search committee to expand party in T

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/TELANGANA

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has constituted a special search committee for the expansion of the party in Telangana, said state in charge and MLA Somnath Bharti. "AAP has leader said that people from all political parties are rushing to join AAP seeing its rise in Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand and UP after Delhi. "AAP has emerged as the sole hope of the forward-thinking people of India. A three member search committee chaired by state leader Indira Sobhan will ensure that well-meaning people from Telangana join AAP at a large scale," he said.

Bharti said, "The people of Telangana today feel cheated because of the dirty politics of BJP, Congress and KCR. The KCR who said that I and my family will survive on a glass of rice for the welfare of Telangana has let down his own people. Since the formation of



Students sanitize their hands before entering the premises as the Haryana Government allows reopening of school for classes tenth and above, at Government Girls Senior Secondary School, in Gurugram on Tuesday

PTI

Oxytocin injections costing 21Lakh seized from New Delhi Railway station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A huge stock of Oxytocin injections approximately costing ₹21 lakhs has been seized from New Delhi Railway Station on Monday.

According to the Delhi government, the intelligence cell of the Drugs Control Department, a team of Drugs Inspectors was deputed to inspect the premises of Inward parcel Godown (Ajmeri Gate Side), New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi. On thorough search of the aforesaid premises in the presence of the Parcel Supervisor, huge stock of Oxytocin Injections (approx 2 lakhs ampoules/vials) were found stocked.

On enquiry, the Parcel Supervisor informed that the said consignment was which were meant to be delivered to persons namely Yogender Kumar and Mohan Kumar, who

did not turn up to collect their aforesaid consignment.

Apparently, these drugs were suspected to be of doubtful quality. Samples of these drugs have been collected for test/analysis and their report is awaited. The entire stock of these drugs were seized and taken into possession by the raiding team. The estimated market value of seized drugs is approximately 21 lakhs.

The concerned Court has been informed about the said seizure of drugs. Further investigation in the case is under progress so as to establish the supply chain of these drugs.

Meanwhile Satyendar Jain, Home Minister of Delhi tweeted : A huge stock of Oxytocin injections approximately costing Rs. 21 lakhs has been seized from New Delhi Railway Station. The Intelligence cell of the Drugs Control Department is doing a great job.

Chhattisgarh cabinet approves incentive for electric vehicles

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh cabinet on Tuesday approved a special incentive package for 'Electric Vehicle and Lithium Ion Batteries Sector' under the Industrial Policy 2019-24. A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel decided to approve the special incentive for electric vehicles and production of batteries as it would encourage establishment of large, mega and ultra-mega industries in the state.

It was decided to give a special investment incentive package for the 'Jute Bag Manufacturing Project' in view of the requirement of a large quantity of jute bags in paddy procurement.

To promote entrepreneurship among other backward classes, the cabinet approved the draft of amendment in the Industrial Policy, where 10 percent plots will be



reserved in industrial areas for the people belonging to the OBC section.

The plots will be provided at the rate of 10 percent of the land premium rate and at the rate of 1 percent land rent.

Under the Kaushalya Matritva Yojna (Women), approval was given to identify the eligible beneficiaries in the socio-economic census and to provide them one-time financial aid of Rs. 5,000 on the birth of a second girl

child. As per earlier announcement, the cabinet gave the go ahead to procure Kodo, Kutki and Ragi at minimum support price through the Primary Forest Produce Cooperative Society.

The cabinet decided, under the fifth schedule, that the recruitment of vacancies of Grade III and IV posts at district and division level of Bastar and Surguja divisions be extended till December 31, 2023.

The cabinet also approved the 'Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club scheme'. It was decided to impose a cess amount for the financial funding of Chhattisgarh Employment Mission and Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club Scheme.

The cess will be charged on the transfer of vacant land and land for agricultural purposes, taken by way of sale, gift or lease of 30 years or more or as mortgage.

Rahul to lay foundation of Sevagram tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

To mark the 75th year of independence and retain Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Gram Swaraj, Sevagram is going to be established in Nava Raipur. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will lay the foundation stone on February 3.

According to a communication from the Chhattisgarh government, around 75 acres of land has been earmarked for the construction of Sevagram -- a replicate of the one at Wardha in Maharashtra.

The Sevagram is being established to carry forward the works of village reform. It will be a place where visitors can learn about regional arts and crafts as well as regional cuisine. It will also have an open theater, the statement said.

The young generation will be appraised of the Gandhian ideology through it. The place will be enveloped



A view of Sevagram in Wardha whose replicate is going to be established in Nava Raipur.

by greenery. Local construction material will be used to accord it a traditional and rural look.

There would also be provision of old age homes and schools for the underprivileged in it. The memories of

the freedom movement and the national history will be kept alive there, it added.

Sevagram in Wardha came up in 1936 as the residence of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba.

Cricket betting racket busted, one arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■
BILASPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Tuesday busted a Pakistan Super League (PSL) cricket betting racket in Bilaspur city and arrested a 21-year-old man.

He was identified as Karan Panjwani of Bilaspur city.

Senior Superintendent of Police Parul Mathur told the Pioneer that he was nabbed with Rs 5,03,270 in cash and betting records detailing cash transactions were seized from him.

Police raided him late on Monday after getting a tip about the racket running inside a moving car in Gumber Chowk on a match played between Quetta Gladiators and Multan Sultans, Mathur said.

Union budget a blueprint for 25 years: Raman Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Union budget presented on Tuesday aims to promote productivity, inclusive development, speed (PM Gati Shakti scheme) and finance and lays the blueprint for the next 25 years, former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said.

Dr Singh told the media that provisions have been made for farmers, for agriculture equipment, investment in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, National Highway and defence and other sectors.

This would help to gener-

ate 60 lakh jobs, he said. By keeping the tab on



deficit, the finances will be extended for different schemes and entrepreneurs, he said.

Singh added that for states like Chhattisgarh seeking more money from the Centre, provision of financial assistance without interest for 50 years has been made. But it has to be spent on capital investment (infrastructure and other developments).

It cannot be disbursed for procurement of cow dung or other freebie schemes in Chhattisgarh, he said.

Chhattisgarh will be at loss in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, as it will not receive any central assistance for the scheme due to failure in implementation and non-utilization of Rs 11,000 crore earlier allocation for the last three years, he pointed out.

Union Budget 'balanced economic document': CCCI

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Describing the Union Budget as a 'balanced economic document', the Chhattisgarh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) said on Tuesday that its long-term provisions will be good for the business and industries in the country.

In a joint statement, office bearers of CCCI under leadership of their state unit chief Amar Parwani said that though there is disappointment among small businessmen, the budget will prove to be effective in achieving the long-term goals.



The provisions made for roads, railway, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and for Make in India had stirred hope in the business people, they said.

The business organizations had demanded provisions for strong law for e-

commerce policy, easing the GST and hike in income tax slab, but they were disappointed for not getting the desired results, Parwani said.

Keeping in view the enthusiasm in youths, the union government had taken in priority the digital and crypto currency. The digitalization in rural areas will help in investments from them in the market and this would be good for the economy of the country, they said.

"The economy of the country would also be benefited with it and this will result in financial liquidity to the business sector," the CCCI leaders said.

Power Co employees awarded

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh State Power Company chairman Ankit Anand felicitated employees with cash award, medals and certificates for their service and contribution at a function held at Company's headquarter Dangania.

Hemlata Pradhan (Bilaspur) was awarded for expediting metre change, to provide data for spot billing readers and to reduce outstanding bills. Arvind Korram, line man -II (Jagdalpur) for faster and efficient repairing of power lines in minimum time in naal hit areas.

Assistant Engineer Arvind Mandavi (Bhilai) for using google earth and google map to identify the exact position of the Extreme High Tension (EHT) line. Om Prakash Ratte, line man -II (Bilaspur) for his contribution to minimizing 220 and 132 kv line breakdown.

Superintending Engineer (SE) Deepak Joglekar was felicitated for creating new software to eradicate the problem of calculating surcharge on different bill number, amount and different date. Thus, saved Rs 1.2 crore expense of the module.

SE Mohammad Shahid Khan with his



team saved Rs 30 lakh of department and Rs 3 crore production loss by repairing 3.1 MW 32 ton weight vertical motor without BHEL Supervision.

Junior Engineer Prateek Mishra was awarded for resolving the billing module issue for smooth operation. Assistant Engineer Sushant Phuljhele created an easy platform for field metre readers through 'Spot billing-mobile app'.

The other winners are Ramesh Mishra (Human Resources), Executive Engineer Namita Dewangan (labour contract), SE M K Banchor (execution of project), EE Parul Nirala (legal), AE Sangeeta Soni (new project), G Rajimwale (recruitment), Kanika Shrivastava (Recovery of penalty- Rs 44.08 crore), and Balwant Kumar Verma (Training).

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही
जिला-गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही (छ.ग.)
Email id ecgpm-phe@cg.gov.in

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र-ए में प्रतिशत दर अनुबंध हेतु नीचे उल्लेखित कार्यों के लिए जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था में सक्षम श्रेणी पंजीकृत टेकदारों में आमंत्रित की जाती है ।
कार्य का विवरण - जिला गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही के विकास खण्ड मरवाही ग्राम भरीडांड (अहिरानटोला, बाजारटोला, डंगतिवाटोला), दानीकुण्डो (पताराटोला), बंशीताल (खालेटोला) में जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत मिनि नल जल योजना कार्य ।

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	12/31.01.2022	91601	भरीडांड, दानीकुण्डो, बंशीताल	मरवाही	94.86

बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि- 28.02.2022
उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 29.01.2022 से देखें जा सकते हैं ।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
जिला गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा -मरवाही(छ.ग.)
G-67319/4

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED
(A GOVT OF C.G. UNDERTAKING) CIN No. U65993CT2008SGC020995
O/o EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HR), CSPHCL, Raipur
No. 01-01/ T-Veh/2021-22/ 01/389 dtd. 31.01.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited for deployment of 1 No. Category-I vehicle i.e. Maruti Dzire, Honda Amaze and equivalent, for two year on monthly hiring basis from the experienced travel agencies/firms on the terms & conditions detailed in the tender document. The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. upto 21.02.2022. Dyly filled tender document is to be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on 22.02.2022. The tender will be opened on the same day at 16.00 hrs on 22.02.2022. The tender document can be purchased by submitting a crossed DD/ Bankers Cheque for Rs. 590/- (Five Hundred & Ninety) [Rs. 500/- + 90/- (GST@ 18%)] only drawn in favour of "CSP Holding Co. Ltd." Raipur. The cost of the tender document is non refundable. Postal charges of Rs. 100/- shall be applicable for the request of tender document by post.

The tender document can also be downloaded from official website of the company i.e. cspc.co.in. In case the tender document is downloaded from the website, the cost of tender form shall have to be submitted by the firm in a separate envelop superscribing "Cost of Tender". If cost of tender document downloaded from the website of the company is not submitted along with the tender, the tender offer will not be considered.

The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers fully or partly without assigning any reason in the interest of the Company.

For more details, please visit our website at : [कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही
जिला-गौरेला पेण्ड्रा मरवाही \(छ.ग. \)
Email id \[ecgpm-phe@cg.gov.in\]\(mailto:ecgpm-phe@cg.gov.in\)

ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना/जी क्रमांक 67251/3
इस कार्यालय द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित किया गया है जिसकी पूर्व निर्धारित निविदा बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि 04.02.2022 अंकि है जिसे संशोधित कर 25.02.2022 पढ़ा जावे ।

क्र.	निविदा सूचना क्र./दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत \(लाख में\)
1	10/28.01.2022	91548	पतगांव	पेण्ड्रा	93.84

बिड सबमिशन की अंतिम तिथि- 25.02.2022
उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 29.01.2022 से देखें जा सकते हैं ।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
जिला गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा -मरवाही\(छ.ग. \)
G-67369/3](http://cspc.co.in/cspc/cspcl Any amendment/Corrigendum, if required, will be displayed on our website only.</p>
<p>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (HR) CSPHCL, RAIPUR
SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR SELF & NATION</p>
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LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.
Shop No. 150-151, Chouhan Estate, Near Mourya Talkies, G.E. Road Bhilai (C.G.) Ph.-0788-4050784

APPENDIX-(IV) RULE 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
Under Rule No. 8 (1) of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the LIC Housing Finance Ltd. under the Securitization & Reconstruction of Assets and Enforcement of Security Act 2002 and exercise of power conferred Under Section 13 (12) read with rule (9) of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice from LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Raipur within 60 days from the date of receipt at the said notice as mentioned below the borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described.
Herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said Rule's for property given below.
The borrower and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Durg-Bhilai.

S. No.	Name of Borrower	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY ON DEMAND NOTICE	DATE OF THE DAMAND/ POSSESSION NOTICE	AMOUNT IN DEMAND NOTICE
1)	ASHISH KUMAR AWASTHI SMT. CHANCHAL CHATURVEDI	Flat No. 504, Fifth Floor, Vrindavan Tower Pardiploti Nagar, Borsi, Durg (C.G.)	23.08.2019 29.01.2022	Rs. 2022482.62

STATUTORY NOTICE: The borrower / guarantor here by notice do pay the sum mentioned above within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the aforesaid property will be auctioned and balance if any will recovered with interest and cost from you.
Date: 01.02.2022, Place: Durg-Bhilai Authorised Officer

punjab national bank
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक
Circle Office SASTRA, Naya Raipur
PH.No.(0771)2210426/428

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued Demand Notices as below mentioned calling upon the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on the date mentioned below. The borrowers & guarantors in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The borrower's and /or guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Branch Name / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	1)Date of Demand Notice & 2)Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount as per the Dt. of demand notice	Description of Immovable Properties
1.	Branch: Anupam Nagar, 296600 Borrowers- 1. Mr. Shankar Lal Pannani S/o Late Bhagwandas Pannani, 2. Mr. Anil Kumar Pannani S/o Shankar Lal Pannani 3. Mr. Dheeraj Pannani S/o Shankar Lal Pannani	(1) 07.05.2021 (2) 28.01.2022	Rs. 51,79,347.10 + Intt. & other charges.	Plot No. 285/1 and 279/1, Khasra No. 574/53(Part) PH No. 20 admeasuring 3000 Sqft. In the favour of Mr. Shankar Lal Pannani, Thakur Dev Nagar Ward No. 47, Mouza Sarkhanda Distt-Bilaspur (CG) Bounded by: North: Kailas trader's garden, South: Building of Ajanta Traders, East: Road, West: G.L. Super Bazar Building
2.	Branch: Anupam Nagar, 296600 Borrowers- 1. Shri. Vinod Motwani 2. Smt. Vanshika Motwani	(1) 13.08.2021 (2) 28.01.2022	Rs. 25,95,050 + Intt. & other charges.	Plot No. 285/1 and 279/1, Khasra No. 574/53(Part) PH No. 20 admeasuring 3000 Sqft. In the favour of Mr. Shankar Lal Pannani, Thakur Dev Nagar Ward No. 47, Mouza Sarkhanda Distt-Bilaspur (CG) Bounded by: North: Kailas trader's garden, South: Building of Ajanta Traders, East: Road, West: G.L. Super Bazar Building

Date : 02.02.2022, Place: Raipur Authorised Officer,Punjab National Bank

pnb Housing Finance Limited
Regd. Office: 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22, K.G. Marg, New Delhi - 110001.
PNB Housing Finance Ltd. 2nd Floor, Tulsi Complex, C-19/134, M-B, Shastri Nagar, Siga, Varanasi- 221010 U.P.

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER III OF SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, READ WITH RULE 3(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 AMENDED AS ON DATE
We, the PNB Housing Finance Limited (hereinafter referred to as 'PNBHFL') had issued Demand notice U/s 13(2) of Chapter III of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The said Demand Notice was issued through our Authorized Officer to all below mentioned Borrowers/Co-Borrower/Guarantors since your account has been classified as Non-Performing(NPA) Assets as per the Reserve Bank of India/ National Housing Bank guidelines due to non-payment of instalments/interest. The contents of the same are the defaults committed by you in the payment of instalments of principals, interest, etc. Further, with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of Demand Notice hence we are doing this Publication of Demand Notice which is also required U/s 13(2) of the said Act. You are hereby called upon to pay PNBHFL within a period of 60 Days of the date of publication of this demand notice the aforesaid amount along with up-to-date interest and charges, failing which PNBHFL will take necessary action/measures under all or any of the provisions of Section 13(4) of the said Act, against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and guarantors. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 where under you can tender/pay the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the PNB HFL till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. FURTHER, you are prohibited U/s 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale, lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets.

Sr No	Branch	Loan Account No.	Name/ Address of Borrower and Co-Borrower	Name & Address of Guarantor	Property Mortgage	Date of Demand Notice	Amount O/s As On Date Demand Notice
1	Varanasi	HOU/VAR/1119/756452	Amita Devi & Nand Kumar Singh, Add:- C/O Asstt. Kumar Manjhi, Near Lala Lajpat Rai, School, Pundga, Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834004		Arazi No 885/1, Mauza Seergoverdhanp, Pargana Dehat Amanat, Tehsil Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, 221005	17-Nov-2021	Rs. 265172.19/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lac Fifty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy Two and Nineteen Paise) as on 17-Nov-2021

Date: 02-02-2022 Place: Jharkhand Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For PNB Housing Finance Limited

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 allo-

cated 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 uni-

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

versities and institutions in the country will collaborate as a network of hub-spokes," added 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-spe-

cific 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, health, 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 Trail 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

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

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.

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 pre-

vious 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 Nirmala 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

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

in the country, banking on them to help achieve its 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' mission and target of doubling the income of farmers across the States.

There are about 30 lakh cooperatives in the country. Managing Director of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Sundeeep 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

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, con-

gratulating Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. 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 benefiting 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 gov-

ernment 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



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

alleged that the Centre has forgotten to implement its old announcements. 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.

₹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

A cross 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 not enthused the farming community, said Giri. "Is there any assurance that we would get the returns for the money

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

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. Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association (TANSTIA), an umbrella organization of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), expressed disappointment over the real 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 Sakshi 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.

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 Information Technology-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".



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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?

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

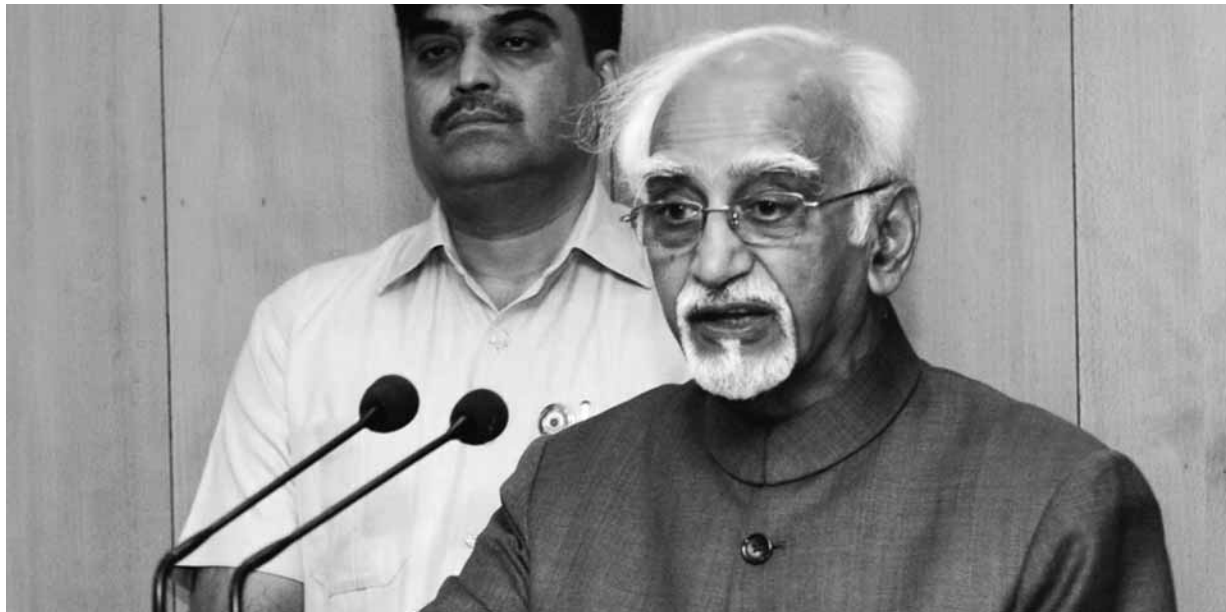


PRAFULL GORADIA

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

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

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 Awas Yojana; 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

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 *Bhagavad 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.

Tharcisus 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

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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.)

SOUNDBITE

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

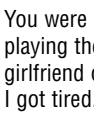


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



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.

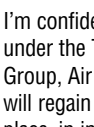


Actor — Lara Dutta Bhupathi



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 “mon-eyed” 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

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 distrib-

uted 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.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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

Every leader takes advantage of a crucial moment to settle down. The current UP Assembly elections will be a decisive moment for 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.



KALYANI SHANKAR

(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 Bareilly. 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 Dalits 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. “Ladki Hoon, 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 non-starters, 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 counter-proposal. 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 cyber-attacks 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 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 country-wide "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



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

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

IANIS ■ 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'

IANIS ■ 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."

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@uliltd.com,
website:- www.uliltd.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
Date: 01th February, 2022 **Company Secretary & Compliance officer**

Shashi Shekhar

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 02.11.2019, registered in Form No. 7948, executed by Mr. J. C. Kapoor and Mr. Rajnish Kapoor through attorney Mr. Nareesh Kumar. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said floor, to Mrs. Kamini 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, 11nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph. -011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@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. ft. Type-V, Situated at Arun Vihar, Sector-37, Noida, Distt. Gautamabad 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 Kapur & Mrs. Unvashi 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, 11nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph. -011-41112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@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. Kanika Bajaj, Mrs. Neelma Wadhwa, Mrs. Anjali Bajaj and Mrs. Shalini Bajaj and 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 9066707172/9812828636 (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 Kharsa No. 284/285, Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nasir Pur, area abadi known as Colony West Sagor 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 9066707172/9812828636 (M).

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 Chandraji 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, 1st 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 peo-

ple 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.

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.



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

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

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 in 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 available.

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 under-

standing 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



Som Sharma
Director
Edu Brain Overseas

world. France is continuously working towards advancing engineering and this offers a wide range of exciting opportunities for students.

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



Lohit Bhatia
President, Indian Staffing Federation

businesses across sectors continued to serve their customers and stakeholders."

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

national 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.

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



Sachin Gupta
Chancellor Sanskriti University

‘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

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 functional. 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.

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.

MIND IT

■ 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

until June 11, 2022.

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

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 Makhnanlal 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

(IJSJHRE).

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 con-

verted 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 Thakur. 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, Aaradhyia 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 solid 82 against South Africa in their tournament opener.

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

PTI ■ VASCO

Smarting from their heart-breaking 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 semifinals 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.

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 lineup 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.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Union Bank of India
 आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार का चुनकर
 A Government of India Undertaking
आन्ध्रा Andhra
कार्पोरेशन Corporation

STRESSED ASSETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH : 104, Ground Floor, Bharat House, Mumbai Samachar Marg, Fort, Mumbai-400 023 • **Tel. No.:** (022) 2261 5001, 2261 5202, 2261 5205 • **E-mail :** samvmumbai@unionbankofindia.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002
NOTICE of 15 days is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive / POSSESSION** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the dated mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder :-

• DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION FOR ALL PROPERTIES :- 17.02.2022 at 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. •	
Name of the Borrower, Co-Applliant & Guarantor :- 1. M/s. JSK Marketing Ltd. 2. Mr. Kunal Jiwarija 3. Laxmi Devi Jiwarija 4. Ms. Sakshi Jiwarija 5. M/s. Associate Electrical agencies 6. M/s. JSK Propmart LLP 7. JSK Distribution LLP. • Date of Demand Notice(s) :- Union Bank of India Dtd. 16.07.2019, Bank of Baroda (e-Vijaya Bank) Dtd. 04.07.2019, DBS Bank Ltd. Dtd. 19.12.2019, Indusind Bank Dtd. 09.10.2019, HDFC Bank Dtd. 30.06.2020, RBL Bank Ltd. Dtd. 24.09.2021, Axis Bank Ltd. Dtd. 07.11.2019, South Indian Bank Dtd. 05.09.2019, State Bank of India Dtd. 01.06.2020, Saraswat Bank Dtd. 27.08.2019.	Amount due :- ₹ 272,18,22,929.11 as per Demand notices with further interest thereon, cost & expenses
Property No. 1:- Office Units No. 114, 117, 118, 119, 124, 125, 128, 129, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 150, 1 st Floor, Golden Trade Center, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Nagar, Near Dronachary Public School, Tal. & Dist. Raipur, State CG-492 001 in the name of M/s Associated Electrical Agencies admeasuring 5760 Sq. Ft. Super built-up Area.	
• Reserve Price :- ₹ 3750,000/- • Earnest money to be deposited : ₹ 3750,000/- • Date of Possession Notice :- 26.03.2021. (Under Symbolic possession)	
For detailed terms and condition of the sale, Please refer to the link provided i.e. https://www.ibapi.in OR www.mstcecommerce.com OR www.unionbankofindia.co.in	
DATE OF INSPECTION OF ALL THE PROPERTIES ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2022 For Registration & Login and Bidding Rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp	
For Further Details Contact : Vijay Kumar Sherkhane, Authorised Officer, Mob. No. 98819 89430	
Date : 31.01.2022 Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

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.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020

Whereas
 A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective (successors, assigns, heirs). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.
 The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Anita Reginal/ Ajmer Singh/ Qr. No. 2 B Street No.19, Sector No. 7, Chhattisgarh Bhillai 490006/ LBLLI00001197104	Kalptaru Apartments, Flat No. 302, 3rd Floor Khasra No. 502/15, 502/20, 507/17, 507/22,508/22, 508/27, 509/20, 509/25, P.H. No. 19, Mouza-Khas Risali, Tahasil Bhillai and District Durg Chhattisgarh Bhillai. Admeasuring an area of Land Area 8000 Sq.ft. Built Up Area 931.41 Sq.ft. 86.56 Sq. Mtr. Date of Symbolic Possession 27.01.2022	15.10.2021 Rs. 9,81,162/-	Chattisgarh

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : February 02, 2022
Place: Chattisgarh

Authorized Officer Secured Creditor

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, 3 rd 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, 3 rd 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