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WHAT'S CIVIC VERSUS
CULTURAL NATIONALISM?

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VIOLENCE MARK ANNIVERSARY
OF MYANMAR ARMY RULE

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BE ENVIRONMENTALLY
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12 SPORT

Big infra push to usher eco into 'Amrit Kaal'

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"We are marking Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, and have entered into Amrit Kaal, the



25-year-long leadup to India@100," the Minister said, adding, "The fundamental tenets of the Budget include transparency of financial statement and fiscal position, and reflect the Government's intent, strengths, and challenges."

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

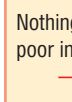
Some of the key areas for boosting infrastructure spending are: 5G spectrum auction, expanding national highways by 25,000 km, interlinking of rivers, and manufacturing of 400 new generation Vande Bharat trains.

SALIENT POINTS

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



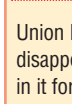
Budget people friendly, creates new opportunities for jobs and growth
PM MODI



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



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



Union Budget disappointing, nothing in it for common people
KEJRIWAL

Rural job scheme funds cut by 25%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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.

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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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Union Budget to pave way for growth: Narendran

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

TV Narendran, CEO& managing director, Tata Steel has called the Union Budget as yet another progressive, future focussed and inclusive budget that aims to position the economy on an accelerated growth trajectory, especially in the backdrop of an encouraging broader economic recovery. “It is heartening to note the government’s sustained focus on infrastructure and increased public spending while staying committed to the fiscal discipline and stable policy regime. We welcome Budget 2022-23 and look forward to concerted implementation of the proposed reforms to ensure the benefits percolate across the economy,” said the managing director in a press communique. He said that the increased al-



location to infrastructure spending will certainly have a multiplier effect on the economy, generating employment opportunities across the country and creating demand across product categories, including steel. The PM Gatishakti Yojana, expansion of National Highway network, and introduction of multi-modal national

parks will play a crucial role in modernising the country’s logistics infrastructure, make manufacturing more competitive and give boost to entrepreneurial opportunities in the country. The earmarking of 68% capex for the Defence sector for domestic procurement will give fillip to the

Make in India programme. The process roadmap for Ease of Doing Business 2.0 is a welcome move towards improving productivity, efficiency and transparency and will pave the way for resolving complex issues related to green clearances and land acquisition. The announcements on affordable housing, increased

access to tap water and creation of robust digital infrastructure in rural areas will foster inclusive development. To address the climate related concerns, the budget includes long-term plans to enable transition to a green economy. Inclusion of sovereign green bonds in government borrowing programmes, PLI scheme for manufacturing of high efficiency solar modules, financing of projects to reduce carbon intensity are welcome steps which will help achieve our net zero ambition. The battery swapping policy will also aid the sustainability journey and encourage the adoption of EVs. The budget also addresses the critical context of urban planning with focus on setting up clean public transport systems, an imperative for smart and sustainable living.

XLRI appoints Alka Raza as chairperson of Centre for Gender Equality

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

XLRI - Xavier School of Management, in its endeavour to empower women of the country has set up a path breaking Centre for Gender Equality and Inclusive Leadership (CGEIL) in March 2021 to make a meaningful impact on the inclusion of women in economically gainful activities. The B-school has now appointed Alka Raza, an accomplished journalist, media professional and author as its chairperson. Creation of CGEIL was the initiative of XLRI Alumni, who were passionate about enhancing women’s participation in workforce and leadership. After the establishment of CGEIL, to support its initiative, a formal body of XLRI Alumni, which is XL4W, was instituted. While welcoming the new chairperson, Father Paul Fernandes, and the director of XLRI said, “It is an honour and privilege to welcome Alka Raza, an accomplished media professional and academic to the XLRI family. We are delighted to have Alka become a part of the Centre with her 35+ years of experience, which has spanned across



continents all over the globe. She brings vast experiences to the institution from covering major socio political & economic crises around the world. Her significant contributions addressing human development and women’s issues are bound to add value to our teachings. We look forward to learning more from her extensive work which has previously reverberated in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South-East Asia among other places.” The director stressed that “CGEIL

has an ambitious goal, which is, to significantly increase the participation of women in the workforce within the next 5-10 years through strategic and broad-based interventions. As a first step, we have set up the CGEIL, and we aim to build a world-class centre of excellence in years to come.” Despite the pandemic and stressful 2021, CGEIL and XL4W was able to mobilise and organise some very purposeful activities including the launch of “UP! Surge - Journey to the C-Suite - a leadership workshop for women in senior management positions aspiring for C-Suite roles”. Alka Raza thanked XLRI for the trust and confidence it has shown in her vast experience and capabilities. She said, “I am honoured to be part of the oldest and a leading management institute in the country. My experience over the years has taught me that it is our need and duty to reach out to those who live in underprivileged circumstances. We must recognize women for their role and contribution they have been making for centuries”.

2 smugglers arrested with brown sugar, 100 Corex bottles



AVINASH ANJAN ■ HAZARIBAG

Hazaribag SP Manoj Ratan Chothe received secret information that two people seen in canary side area with brown sugar & 100 Corex Bottles in red

Tata Indigo car. They were going to Mariam colony to sell the narcotics. Immediately, the SP formed a special team under Sadar SDPO for a raid. During the raid two Smugglers were arrested with brown sugar and 100 Corex Bot-

ties in a Red Tata Indigo car. With legal process, Korra police lodged FIR with case no 16/22, 31.02.2022, in NDPS act and in many other sections. Om Prakash Singh, son of Shailendra Singh of prayas colony and Jai Nath Harsh, son of Ramdev Ravidas are the accused. Apart from drugs, a Samsung company mobile, an iPhone were recovered from the accused. The Raid team included Sadar Sub-Divisional Police Officer Mahesh Prajapati, Korra police station in-charge Uttam Tiwari, Puni Korra Ritesh Kumar, Pani Korra Sudeep Kumar Pandey, Raj Kumar Prajapati, Vikas Kumar Singh, Abhishek Kumar Singh and the forces of technical branch.

SAIL Chairman hails Budget for FY 2022-23

PNS Bokaro

As Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the fourth Budget of the Modi 2.0 government, The SAIL Chairman Soma Mondal in her comment said “The Union Budget for the financial year 2022-23 has taken steps to provide further impetus to economic growth to take the Indian economy to an even higher level of growth. This budget envisages more public investment and capital expenditure by the government. There is a direct emphasis on accelerating the infrastructure development activities through the seven engines of development of



PM Gati Shakti programme, PM Awas Yojana in rural and urban areas, Har Ghar Nal Se Jal Yojana etc. With additional focus on the MSME sector, economic activities will also increase. These efforts will definitely have a positive impact on the overall economy, which augurs well for the steel sector.”

Chatra MP hails Union Budget 2022-23

M FAIYAZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

Chatra MP Sunil Kumar Singh has hailed the union budget as the greatest of all time budget which India has seen in the past. He expressed his profound gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for such a progressive and determined budget at a time like this when Coronavirus has upset the entire globe. In a three page note of appreciation the MP, who is known for his sharp financial vision, termed the budget as one which will carry India and its people forward despite numerous challenges around health. The MP has focused on



the post offices which very few politicians bother for. He said India has 1.5 lakh post offices which will be functioning on the pattern of banks from this year. The MP knows that poor people love going to the post office more than the glassy, classy and cozy bank. The MP talked about

the Mota Anaj year, which is to commence in 2023. Sources said his Chatra parliamentary constituency is rich in mines and minerals and he in his note spoke of the capital gains. He didn't say that the union finance minister made no announcement for the income tax slab; rather he put it in another way that despite the Coronavirus the country did not impose more income taxes. The MP talked about solar energy and 5G but was most careful while giving his marks on the budget dealing with the core issues of farmers. Chatra MP's closest aide Amit Tiwari circulated the copy of admiration of the budget issued by Sunil Kr Singh.

Budget to keep India at center of global economy



PNS ■ Jamshedpur

BJP leader Amarpreet Singh Kale has said that this year's budget will definitely be the cornerstone of a strong India to come. The budget will create employment opportunities in the direction of self-reliant India. The budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a budget to promote modern infra-

structure in the country, which will lay the foundation of a new India and improve the lives of 130 crore Indians. “Infrastructure development is very important for the development of the country. With this, investments made on important infrastructure related to roads, rail, electricity, health, education and agriculture will prove to be a milestone. Focusing on farmers, women and youth, in this year's budget, emphasis has been laid on development through PM Gati Shakti. Chemical free natural farming will be promoted across the country, as well as schemes will be brought under PPP model, which will bring digital and hi-tech technology to the farmers, which will benefit the farmers. In this budget, a blueprint has been prepared by him for building a Golden India, so that India will remain at the center of the global economy,” he said.

Farewell to retired employees from BSL



RAHUL SHARMA ■ Bokaro

Chief General Manager (Material Management) FR Azmi was given farewell in a farewell ceremony organized in the conference room of Director-in-Charge in a program organized for the senior officers retiring from BSL. The Director-in-Charge of BSL, Amarendra Prakash, Executive Director

and other senior officers were present on the occasion. During the ceremony, important achievements related to the service of FR Azmi were remembered. Director-in-charge Mr. Prakash presented him a citation, memento and documents related to the final settlement. Everyone wished the retiring FR Azmi the best for his future life.

In a separate farewell ceremony documents and gifts related to the final settlement were presented by the Final Settlement Cell at the Human Resource Development Center to other officers and personnel retired from Bokaro Steel Plant in January. It is to be known that in January 2022, a total of 18 executives and 125 non-executives retired from BSL.



Former Chief Minister cum BJP National Vice President Raghuvar Das met the agitating street vendors of Morhabadi area in Ranchi on Tuesday to know their problems. During this, street vendors pleaded with him for help. After the talks he said that the government displaced hundreds of shopkeepers against the rules without any alternative arrangement in the name of security. After talking to the municipal administrator, he asked to make alternate arrangements for them. PNS

DDC reviews works of MGNREGA, PMAY

Asks to expedite work on schemes

PNS ■ Ranchi

A review meeting of MNREGA and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was organised under the chairmanship of Deputy Development Commissioner, Ranchi, Vishal Sagar. Project officers and various Block Development Officers of Ranchi district were present in the meeting organized through virtual medium. In the meeting, Deputy Development Commissioner, Ranchi took block-wise information from all the Block Development Officers of the district about the development schemes being run under MNREGA and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Taking information from the concerned BDO regarding various schemes and points, he gave necessary directions for progress of work. Sagar directed all the Block



Development Officers BPO, AE, JE to use the Area Officer App, he said, speed up the use of the app by February 7. He also instructed all the Block Development Officers to use NMMS. While reviewing the ATR uploading, the DDC directed all the Block Development Officers to upload the Social Audit ATR. He also directed to regenerate pending/rejected 1020 transactions. Under MNREGA, the DDC has given instructions to execute 259

pending geotags in Phase-I. He also asked to bring pace in Phase 2. While reviewing the completion of the schemes for the financial year 2019-20 and earlier, the DDC directed to close the pending schemes. While reviewing the Aadhar seeding in MIS, the Deputy Development Commissioner asked to do 100 per cent Aadhar seeding by February 15. Instructions for doing job card verification were also given by DDC.

BBMKU remains headless after acting VC retires

Pankaj Kumar ■ Dhanbad

The BBMKU went headless after acting VC retired on January 31. Incidentally, the post of pro vice Chancellor too has been vacant for several months in the university. The acting VC Kamal Jhon Lakra by virtue of being divisional commissioner had taken charge of VC following retirement of regular VC Anjani Kr Srivastava who had retired on August 31, 2021. Lakra too retired on the last day of January but even after 24 hours the government has not notified any fresh appointment on the post. The post of pro VC fell vacant on May 31/2021 flowing superannuation of Dr AK Mahto and still is vacant. The university has a regular registrar as the one appointed by the JPSC is on long leave. The absence of top administrators of university is hampering the day to day operation as well as important decisions including announcement of fresh dates of different examinations that were postponed due to covid restrictions. Notably, the search committee set up by the government for appointment of VCs of different universities of State has already recommended a panel consisting of names but appointment remains pending.

XLRI prof says budget to bolster growth further

PNS ■ Jamshedpur

Dr HK Pradhan, Professor of Finance & Economics, XLRI Xavier School of Management Jamshedpur has said that the Union Budget 2022 focuses on the broader macro dimensions of growth and investments, with strong focus on capital expenditures. The Finance Minister takes a very decisive step to bolster growth further, with the FY 22 GDP that has returned to its pre-pandemic level, supported by the buoyancy in the GST revenue collection. He said that the Finance Minister keeps medium term growth at the centre stage of fiscal policy, with boost to investments in logistics and infrastructure projects, further broadening of the Production Linked Incentives (PLI), extending Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) scheme for the MSME sector to the next fiscal, and boosting the start-up ecosystem. She has not ignored the fiscal



consolidation path by keeping the deficit target of 6.4 percent in FY 2023. This Budget also embeds the sustainable development strategy with issuance of green bonds, more investment provisions in the renewable energy, urban infrastructure, and agricultural sector allocations. She makes further push to the existing thrust on the digital economy such as launching of the central bank digital currency backed by blockchain technology, setting up digital banking units in 75 districts, including bringing to the tax net digital assets such as crypto currency

gains. By formally bringing the cryptocurrencies assets and non-fungible tokens within the tax domain the FM possibly allays the fear of its outright ban. Equity market held on to the gains possibly as investors' focus has been gradually shifting from growth to value stocks from a broader set of firms. Bond market has also mildly reacted to the substantial rise in the gross borrowing requirements of Rs 14.95 lakh crore during the coming year, with the yields inching up. Market waits for the RBI monetary policy announcement next week, that has to address the current inflationary expectations while supporting growth. Bond market has already priced the expected risk in repo rate and liquidity tapering. The current inflationary pressures remain critical for both the fiscal and monetary policies to reckon with, confronted with the imported inflation such as rise in palm and crude oil and domestic cost push.

Union Budget 2022-23

Oppn terms it 'Zero-sum budget', BJP hails it as 'people-friendly'

PNS ■ Ranchi

The JMM-Congress alliance has slammed the Union Budget calling it as a 'zero sum budget' with no focus or orientation for salaried class and poor, while the BJP has hailed the budget as people friendly with focus on building self-reliant India. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the budget for the financial year 2022-23 in the Lok Sabha. After this, the period of reaction has started in Jharkhand as well. State Finance Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon said that the general budget of 2022-23 presented in Parliament has left the public deeply disappointed. Oraon said that the budget is visionless, earlier there was talk of two crore jobs, now 60 lakhs have been



talked about in the budget, while the reality is that the wrong policies of the central government pushed 6.4 crore people into extreme poverty in 2020. The government has not shown any interest on how the inflation-stricken people will get relief, and how the farmers' income will be doubled. Echoing the views of the Finance Minister, State Congress



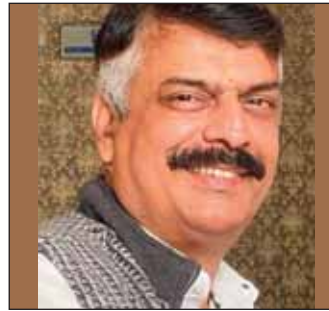
president Rajesh Thakur termed the budget as disappointing. He said the budget has disappointed the middle class. At the same time, the youth, farmers and employed people were also not taken care of. This will increase the economic tragedy and the common man will be marginalized. Ruling party Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) criticised the



union budget terming it a document to oil feet of the BJP supported limited industrial groups with jasmine oil and give burden of price hike, tax and loan on middle class besides covering eyes of labour class with colourful spectacle. However, the BJP has hailed the budget claiming it as a development oriented budget. BJP says that the budget will open the doors of possibilities.



BJP state president Deepak Prakash said that the government is committed towards minimum government and maximum governance. With the repeal of 1,486 union laws, Ease of Doing Business 2.0 will be launched. He said that the central government is committed to promote self-reliant India in the armed forces. 68% of the capital procurement budget for 2022-23 will be ear-



marked for domestic industry, which was 58% in 2021-22. Former Jharkhand CM and BJP Legislature Party leader Babulal Marandi said that this budget will open the door to possibilities. The budget will definitely become the cornerstone of a strong India to come. In the direction of self-reliant India, this budget will not only provide employment but will also create employ-

ment opportunities. Former CM Raghuvar Das said that the budget of self-reliant India presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is a budget to promote modern infrastructure in the country. This budget will strengthen the foundation of self-reliant India laid by the Modi government. State BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said that the budget is bold and balanced that will lay the foundation of super power India of 2050. He said that the budget has taken care of farmers through various schemes like increasing the production of oilseeds and providing assistance to SC ST farmers. Coordination has also been maintained through schemes like construction of a 25000 km National Highway connected to the infrastructure.

'No specific announcements for State in budget'

No compensation in payment of GST share to states

PNS ■ Ranchi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the general budget 2022-23, however, for Jharkhand this budget turns out to be dismal. There are no state specific suggestions or acknowledgement of the (people's) needs in the budget. Harishwar Dayal - Director in Chief - Centre for Fiscal Studies Department of Planning-cum-Finance, Government of Jharkhand said, "Jharkhand has gained nothing from the budget as there was no specific announcement for state in the

budget. There are no announcements for state in education, health or pending railway projects." Dayal further said, "There was no announcement of compensation for losses the state has incurred in central taxes in the past two financial years. In the financial year 2019-20 there was a loss of Rs 3300 crore in central taxes, while in the year 2020-21 the loss in central taxes was Rs 900. But there was no mention of compensation for the losses of central taxes for the past two years." For backward states like Jharkhand it was much expected from the budget but there was no specific relief. Regarding GST, Dayal said: "Most of the welfare work is done by the state government



Noted Economist Harishwar Dayal. PNS

though it has limited sources of revenue collection. GST share was of great help but from July this year, it will not be provided to the state. The Union government should have allowed GST share for five years as demanded by the states. Though the government accepted that it collected Rs 146996 crore as

GST, it did not show any generosity in payment of its share to the state government." However, sources said that Jharkhand is going to be benefited with the announcement of 400 Vande Bharat express. It is expected that the Coal Capital residents' demand for direct train between Dhanbad and Delhi will be fulfilled in this budget. For the past two and half decades, Railway has been rejecting the proposal of direct train from Dhanbad to Delhi and extension of trains from Delhi and Yesvantpur to Dhanbad. But the hope of running Train-18 i.e. Vande Bharat Express via Dhanbad can get a new impetus. Actually, Indian Railways has already made preparations to run the Vande Bharat train be-

tween Ranchi and Howrah. Vande Bharat Express train running from Ranchi will have stoppage at railway stations like Dhanbad, Chandrapura, Bokaro and Muri in Jharkhand. At the same time, this proposed train will stop at Durgapur and Asansol in West Bengal. The Railway has already decided to run Vande Bharat express between Ranchi and Howrah from April 23. The high speed 16 coach Vande Bharat Express which were first rolled out in 2018, can cruise at maximum speeds of 180 km an hour. Currently, only two such trains are operational with one between New Delhi and Varanasi and the other between New Delhi and Katra (Jammu and Kashmir).



Chief Minister Hemant Soren interacts with common people in Dumka on Tuesday. The CM said, "This is your government. Solving the problems of the common people is the top priority of the government. The government is constantly making efforts to ensure that the people get the benefits of public welfare schemes." On this occasion, people apprised the CM about their problems and assured them that their problems would be resolved expeditiously and expeditiously. At the same time, the common masses praised the Chief Minister for the work being done by the government and expressed hope that in the coming days, the pace of development in Jharkhand will be faster and people will get full respect, rights and rights. MLAs Stephen Marandi and Basant Soren were also present on the occasion. PNS



Migratory birds fly above Ranchi Lake as seen during a cold winter day, in Ranchi on Tuesday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

INBRIEF

SBPS students shine at Vivekotsav

The students of Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi brought laurels to school with their outstanding performance in Vivekotsav 2022 organized by Vivekananda Vidya Mandir, Ranchi. Rohini Raj of class VIII stood first in English Recitation by showcasing her exceptional oratory skills. Shrinkhala Dubey, Ashmit Pratap and Akarsh Kumar Singh of class X were declared as the second runner up for the event Power Point Presentation. Sanskriti Shaswat of class VI was the second runner up for the event Vocal Classical (Solo) and Pragati Maroo of class X was also the second runner up for the same event in the Group A and Group B categories, respectively. Avani Chaudhary of class X was the first runner up for the event Classical Dance and Vrishti Banerjee of class IV grabbed the first runner up for the event Storytelling. Ronit Roy of class VIII stood first in the Drawing competition and Smahi Poddar of class VII received a consolation prize in the group A category for the event English Recitation.



CCL employee dies in road accident

A CCL worker died on the spot after being hit by an unknown vehicle near a petrol pump at Makoli on the Nawadhi-Phusro main road here on Monday night, said local police. The deceased has been identified as 56-year-old Mathura Turi, a resident of Chapri under Nawadhi police station area. The deceased was working in 4-5 inclines of CCL Makoli. He was going to do night shift duty by bike on the night of January 31.

Bokaro MLA hails Union Budget 2022

Bokaro MLA cum Chief Whip opposition-party Biranchi Narayan commenting on union Budget 2022 said the budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will strengthen the foundation of self-reliant India laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. This budget is going to open the doors of possibilities, the budget will definitely become the cornerstone of a strong India to come and towards self-reliant India, this budget will not only generate employment but will also create employment opportunities as well as a budget to promote modern infrastructure.



Ranchi grabs 4th position in Smart City rankings

PNS ■ Ranchi

Ranchi, the Capital city of State, has made a big jump this time in the Smart City Real Time Ranking released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. Till last month, the Smart City Ranchi, which was ranked 11th out of 100 cities of the country, has now reached number four and Jharkhand continues to remain at number one in the ranking of states on the scale of development of smart cities. In fact, the information about the progress of the schemes and works under the Smart City Mission by the Central Government is updated on the GMIS portal, on the basis of which the ranking of cities and states is issued. The need for timely guidance from Chief Minister Hemant Soren and the readiness of Departmental Secretary Vinay Kumar Choubey is also a major reason behind the continuously improving ranking of Ranchi Smart City. It may be known that in the past, the CM had expressed satisfaction over the development works being done during the review of Smart City and said that the development of this city should be in accordance with the aspirations of the people and in this direction, the team of Smart City Ranchi is working continuously. Ranchi has not only improved its ranking in the Smart City ranking released by the Government of India, but has also made its place at the fourth place, beating the big cities of the country like Ahmedabad, Surat, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam.

Pankaj Kumar
■ Dhanbad

Collapse of illegal coal mines in Gopinathpur OCP of Eastern Coalfields Limited under Nirsa police station, besides two other locations including Dahibari of BCCL and Kapasara mines of ECL on Tuesday morning is said to have claimed several lives. Former MLA Aroop Chatterjee, who inspected different accident spots, later talking to media persons, claimed that altogether 30 persons including kids have been killed in the three incidents. Bodies of three persons have been recovered by those involved in the illegal mining according to Chatterjee. Bodies of eight to 10 persons is claimed to be trapped under the debris at each of

Budget 2022-23

Mixed response of traders, industrialists in State

PNS ■ Ranchi

Traders, industrialists, members of the business fraternity and industrialists gave mixed reactions on Union Budget 2022-23 presented by Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday. Federation of Jharkhand Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI), Chief Dhiraj Taneja said that for mineral rich states like Jharkhand, there was a hope of further expansion in infrastructure, whatever is missing, it is expected that it will be considered. "The budget has a special focus on infrastructure, healthcare, agriculture, housing and education. There is some indifference due to the absence of a direct incentive scheme for the MSME sector. National highways of 40 thousand kms, mountain range networks with 400 Vande Bharat Train, corporate tax cuts and plans to promote private investment will accelerate industrialization. Similarly, the plan of 100 PM Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals will develop an innovative way of building a metro system. In the budget, the announcement of the launch is commendable of



FJCCI members watch Union Budget 2022-23 presentations in parliament live by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, at Chamber Bhawan in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS

an online billing system to boost the electric vehicle market, increase the emergency credit line scheme from Rs 50 k to 5 lakh crore by March 2023, extend the time period of tax exemption for new startups and reduce delay in payment," he added. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAT) has described the Union Budget presented by Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as a comprehensive and progressive budget document. CAT's National Secretary Suresh Sonthalia, in his statement issued on Tuesday, said that the phased development of trade and small scale industries, along with ensuring the development of each sector from the general budget, underlines the parameters of strong

growth in health sector and services. Overall, it can be called a complete developing budget. Sonthalia said that many new announcements including expansion of ECGL scheme with Rs 5 lakh crore, linking of PLI scheme to various sectors will not only benefit the small manufacturing units but also the business sector. Sonthalia lauded the talent of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, saying that she has been able to set the agenda of the Indian economy envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the budget, despite huge constraints and domestic and global challenges and helping the business community of the country. She deserves 8 points out of 10 from the side. Jharkhand Small Industries Association also lauded the Budget and said that initiative like MSME based circular economy being prioritized is a welcome step, litigation management body being step up ill further ease of business, domestic production being encouraged through various interventions, ECLGS scope being widened will benefit MSME and e business being prioritized which will be welcomed.

Upper Bazar traders get relief after Tribunal order

PNS ■ Ranchi

The shopkeepers of Upper Bazar have got relief for the time being after the order of the tribunal came on Tuesday evening. The tribunal has fixed February 7 and 8 for the next hearing of the matter. Till then the tribunal has ordered the Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) not to take any action. Hearing was held in the Jharkhand High Court (HC) on the demolition of 29

shops of Upper Bazar. During the hearing, the HC had asked the RMC to wait till the order of the tribunal. On receipt of information about the sealing of shops by RMC, hundreds of traders, under the leadership of Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI), protested against the RMC's action by closing shops in Gandhi Chowk, Upper Bazar. FJCCI Chief, Dheeraj Taneja expressed his grati-



FJCCI members and shopkeepers protest against the Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) officers during an attempt to seal shops in Upper Bazaar on Tuesday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

tude to the Court for the decision in favour of the traders till late evening in this matter.

The civic body has issued a notice to seal many shops in the Upper Bazar of Ranchi. After which the team of the

corporation reached Upper Market on Tuesday morning and started taking action to seal the shops. After which the shopkeepers opposed it. The RMC's team and the shopkeepers came face to face. Shopkeepers and women started protesting by sitting on the road. Along with this, the municipal team was stopped from moving forward. The shopkeepers said that till the decision of the court comes, the corporation should give relief to the shopkeepers.

Over dozen feared killed in illegal mines at Nirsa



Former Nirsa MLA and JBCCI member Arup Chatterjee inspecting one of the incident spots on Tuesday. PNS

the locations, he said claiming that he has names of several of them who are trapped. Footwear of several persons along with bags full of illegally mined coal has been found from the incident spot. Chatterjee said, SSP and DC besides local management of both BCCL and ECL have been apprised by me but

none have reached incident spot till late afternoon. Illegal mining is rampant at different areas in Nirsa but both coal companies and administration are unable to check it, he said. Some injured persons were taken away for treatment in private hospitals and nursing homes from Gopinathpur location, claimed an eyewitness.

ness. Senior police officers including Nirsa SDPO PS Kherwar, Nirsa police station in-charge DS Yadav besides officials from coal company have reached Gopinathpur incident spot and rescue operation has been launched. Kherwar said that JCB machines have been deployed for removing the debris. Only after it's removed we can be sure over number of casualties, he added. Dhanbad senior SP Sanjeev Kumar said, "Four deaths of coal pickers has been reported at Dahibari. Cases would be filed against them. We have also sought report from Director General of Mines Safety too in this regards." An SIT has been constituted headed by Rural SP to investigate the entire incident.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren receives the Guard of Honour on his arrival at Dumka on Tuesday. PNS

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.

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

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Tuesday received a slightly reduced allocation in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a ₹3,980.77-crore outlay for the Ministry, which

is a decrease of ₹90 crore from last year. The allocation to the Government's autonomous body Prasar Bharati has been reduced to ₹2,555.29 crore from ₹2,640.11 crore allotted to it in the last fiscal.

Among other autonomous

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

The Films and Television Institute of India (FTII), Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC),

Children's Film Society of India and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute saw reductions in their budget allocation.

For the IIMC, the government has earmarked ₹52 crore, down from ₹65 crore allocated for 2021-22. The FTII's

budget was reduced from ₹58.48 crore last year to ₹55.39 crore this year.

In the budget, the allocation for broadcasting under the social services head has gone down from ₹2,921.11 crore to ₹2,839.29 crore. There was

also a reduction in the budget for 'information and publicity' from ₹971.26 crore to ₹942.04 crore.

'Information and publicity' covers establishment expenditure of media units in the country like the Bureau of

Outreach and Communication, Press Information Bureau, Publications Division, New Media Wing, Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), Films Division, National Film Archive of India, Electronic Media Monitoring Centre and

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

Personnel Ministry allocated around ₹300 crore for training bureaucrats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Besides this, an outlay of ₹44.25 crore has been made under "administrative reforms and pensioners' scheme" for 2022-23, which includes provision for Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances scheme for modernisation of government

offices, and pilot projects on administrative reforms which consists of promotion of e-governance, fostering of good governance, learning from success, sevottam etc.

Of the total allocation of ₹288.14 crore for the next financial year, ₹210.75 crore has been earmarked for upgradation of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie to a centre of excellence, augmentation of training facilities at the Delhi-based Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) and the National Programme for Civil Services & Capacity Building - Mission Karmayogi. The LBSNAA and the

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

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

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

National Tele-Mental Health prog to be launched soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Sitharaman said the programme will include a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS being the nodal centre and International Institute of 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".

₹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 Sakthi in any previous budgets during the last four decades. "But the proof of the pudding is in the eating," said Kartha.

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



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Work ahead

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

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



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

PICTALK



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

PTI

Deliver equality

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

The State Bank of India introduced a provocative and discriminatory rule a few days ago that a woman candidate over three months pregnant is "temporarily unfit" for employment. The rule came with a relief that such candidates could join the bank within four months after delivery. The bank perhaps did not want to employ women who were sure to go on maternity leave a short while after joining. The bank did not say if the attempt was to save on maternity benefits costs. Political parties and women's organisations played 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?

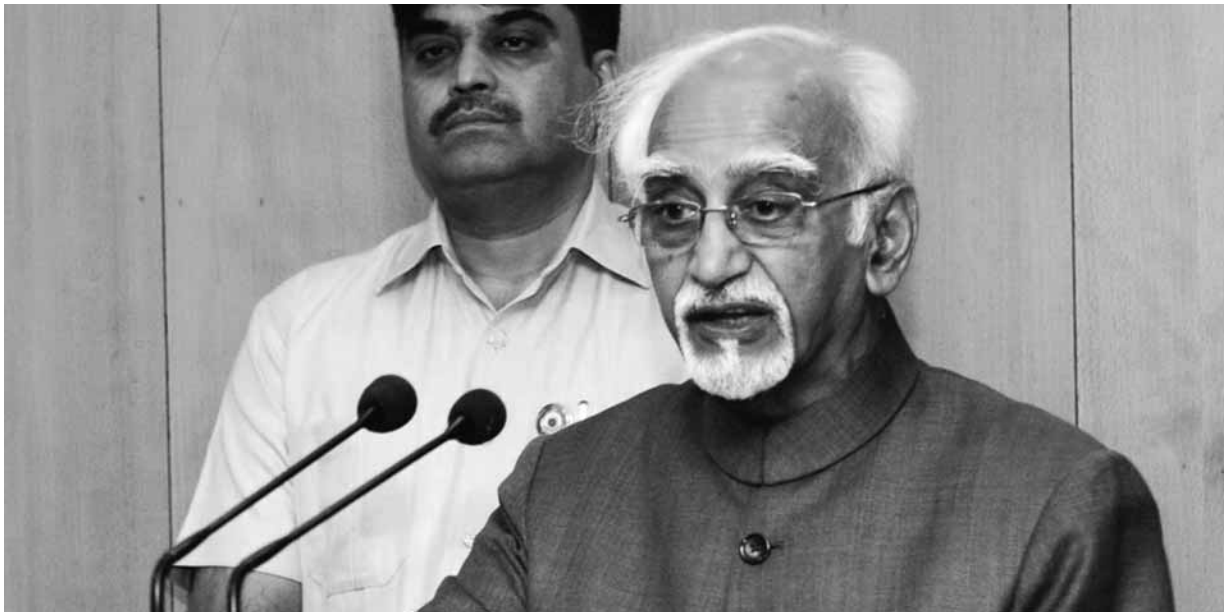


PRAFULL GORADIA

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

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

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

Returning to what former Vice-President Ansari has chosen to articulate, many questions spring to the minds of many concerned countrymen. Why did a former Vice-President choose an international forum to make remarks against one's own country, whose second-highest office he held for, say, 10 years? Is there even an iota of merit in Ansari's claim that India is

being "torn apart by a new cultural nationalism?" It is also very difficult to ignore the record in public life of the country's former Vice-President. Also, the fact that Ansari chose the platform of the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), a sectarian lobbying group with a long history of anti-India activities, certainly is a poor advocacy for any civic nationalism. Cultural nationalism is nothing but the nation waking up to its fundamental ethos.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LET'S GROOM OUR KIDS FOR FUTURE

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

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

SK Prabhakar | Gurugram

A CONTROVERSIAL PRECEDENCE

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

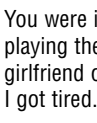


Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



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.

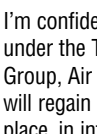


Actor — Lara Dutta Bhupathi



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 “money-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."

New American envoy to Japan vows support amid regional tensions

AP ■ TOKYO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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) Suite 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 02.11.2009, bearing No. 786, executed by Mr. J. C. Kapoor and Mr. Rajesh Kapoor through attorney Mr. Nareish Kumar. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, 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, 3rd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Modi Nagar, N, Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4112527-28, 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. Gautambudh Nagar - U.P. "the said property", by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 23.07.2021 issued by Noida Authority, after demise of his parents Mr. Tilak Raj Kapur & Mrs. Padma Kapur. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Rohit Lodha & Mrs. Urvashi Dogra Lodha 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, 3rd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Modi Nagar, N, Delhi-15 Ph: 011-4112527-28, 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 any publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Smt. Rekha has acquired the Property Bearing No. 14-A, area measuring 66 Sq. Yds., and Plot No. 15-A, area measuring 30 Sq. Yds., total area 66-30-96 Sq. Yds, i.e., 80-27 Sq. Mtrs., Out of Kharsa No. 284/285, Situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Nasir Pur, area abadi known as Colony West Sagar Pur, New Delhi vide Gift Deed dated 30.11.2021, executed by Sh. Pardeep Singh Gautam, and Now Smt. Rekha is intending to sell the above said property to Mr. Deepak vide Sale Deed. Further Mr. Deepak is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

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 Chandni 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.

Budget proposals to boost growth, generate jobs: Experts

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

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

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

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

Kapil Mehta, Co-founder, SecureNow Insurance Broker said

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

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

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

On the government's proposals, Omkar Rai, Ex-DG, STPI said the Union Budget has all the ingredients needed to make India the world's biggest startup ecosystem. The extension of the incorporation period for eligible startups will certainly give a boost to this segment, he said. Rishad Manekia, Founder and MD, Kairos Capital said the taxation

along with the introduction of an Indian CBDC in 2022 gives a much clearer idea about the way forward for the blockchain ecosystem in India and how the government is thinking about this space.

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

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

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

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

PTI/PNS

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

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

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

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

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

"Strengthening of the BharatNet infrastructure through PPP model will

enhance the connectivity backbone of an increasingly digital nation. Globally, 200 telcos in 78 countries have already launched commercial 5G services," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

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

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

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

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

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

Gross borrowing includes repayment of past loans. The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities

and treasury bills. Speaking at a post-Budget media interaction, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said green bonds announced in the Budget is part of the overall borrowing target for the next financial year.

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

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

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

PTI

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

As per the revised estimates of 2021-22, the SPV — AI Asset Holding Ltd — has received ₹62,057 crore, of

which ₹ 36,254 crore was infused as equity for repayment of past government-guaranteed borrowings of Air India; ₹12,357 crore for repayment of borrowings for sale and lease-back rentals for aircraft; and ₹ 13,446 crore for repayment of other dues and liabilities. According to the budget document, the government infused ₹ 36,254 crore in AIAHL during 2021-22 "for repayment of past government-guaranteed borrowings of Air India Limited".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The sub-section (1) provides for deduction of tax by any person responsible for paying to the resident any sum by way of

consideration for transfer of any immovable property (other than agricultural land) at the time of credit or payment of such sum to the resident at the rate of one per cent of such sum as income-tax thereon.

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

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

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

PNS

Rupee slips 17 paise to close at 74.82 against US dollar

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

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

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

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.53 against the American dollar, witnessed an intra-day high of 74.41 and a low of 74.87 against the greenback. The local unit finally ended the day at 74.82 a dollar, 17 paise lower than its previous close of 74.65.

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

PTI

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

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

Metal, realty and cement stocks saw robust buying, while selling in auto and telecom counters capped the gains. After a strong start, the BSE Sensex succumbed to a sudden bout of selling following the Budget presentation, but staged an immediate rebound to end 848.40 points or 1.46 per cent higher at 58,862.57, marking its second straight session of gains.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty surged 237 points or 1.37 per cent to end at 17,576.85.

Tata Steel hogged the limelight in the Sensex pack, zooming 7.57 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, L&T, UltraCement, ITC, Titan and HCL Tech.

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

Sitharaman on Tuesday presented her fourth Budget, with

higher spending on sectors ranging from highways to affordable housing with a view to fire up the key engines of the economy to sustain a world-beating recovery from the pandemic.

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

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

However, fiscal deficit was projected marginally higher at 6.9 per cent for FY22 as against 6.8 per cent estimated earlier, with the finance minister emphasising the need for stronger and sustainable growth through public investment. "It is a long-term growth oriented budget which the market has welcomed, given no headroom for cautiousness and populist measures. It is expected to support growth in the future; however, it is missing some balancing measures in context of current inflationary and slowing economy.

PTI

Gold rallies ₹333 on global trends

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

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at ₹47,511 per 10 grams. The rupee dipped 14 paise to close at 74.79 (provisional) against the US dollar. Silver dipped ₹68 to ₹61,164 per kg, from ₹61,232 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading in the green at USD 1,803 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.60 per ounce.

PTI

Realty stocks jump up to 6 pc post Budget

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

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

0.20 per cent on BSE. The realty index jumped 1.74 per cent to 3,877.85. Among housing finance companies, AAVAS Financiers zoomed 8.25 per cent, Can Fin Homes Limited jumped 1.33 per cent, Repco Home Finance gained 0.61 per cent and GIC Housing Finance 0.16 per cent.

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

PTI

← IMPORTANT NOTICE →

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

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

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No.

139


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232/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE				
		Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005		
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Jasvinder Singh, Rimpi, H No. D- 2-27, Hari Nagar Extn, Badarpur, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110044, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110044 A/c:- LBDEL00005154438	Flat No- C2/ 1104, 11th Floor Tower- C2 Sector-1 0 Vardhman Gardenia Sonipat	10/11/2021 Rs. 39,66,418/-	04/08/ 2021
2.	Rakesh Ranjan, Shyamli Ranjan H No. D1/ 94 Sanjay Colony, Sector 2, Faridabad, Haryana Faridabad, A/c:-LBGUR00005134738	Plot No. 3336, Sector 56-56 A Urban Estate Faridabad	10/11/2021 Rs. 30,40,805/-	04/08/ 2021
3.	Kumar Ayushya, Vandana Pandey B 13 2nd Floor Pratap, Nagar Nr Florence Public School Mayur Vihar, Delhi, Ph 1 Pratap Nagar New Delhi A/c:- LBDEL00002393969	Flat No. J 1801, 18th Floor Tower J Ajnara Le Garden Plot No. GH 02 Sector 16 Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 36,95,147/-	10/07/ 2021
4.	Ravinder Dahiya, Shikha. H No. 532 B Village, Bhadana Sonipat, Sonipat Haryana, Sonapat, A/c:- LBDEL00002421129	Flat No H 1104, 11th Floor Tower H Kdp Grand Savana Rajnagar Extension NH 58 Ghaziabad	10/11/2021 Rs. 32,43,262/-	06/07/ 2021
5.	Gaurav Pagotra, Bhikham Singh Pagotra, Vikas Pagotra S S Module 9 Manglam, Apartments, Abhey Khand, Indrapuram Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00002339927	Flat No. 23210 23rd Floor, Tower Laurel Mahagun Mywoods Phase-III Plot No. GH 04 Sector 16 C Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 31,87,135/-	05/07/ 2021
6.	Poonam Kumari, Pratap Chandra, Raj Vardhan, 801 Gangotri Appt, Exhibition Road Patna Bihar Patna, A/c:-LBGUR00002318436	Plot No- 10176, 10th Floor Marvella Mahagun Mywoods GH-04 Sector- 16 C Greater Noida Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 33,80,913.08/-	05/07/ 2021
7.	Praveen Kumar, Khushboo Kumari B-123, First Floor, Pandav Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi, A/c:-LBDEL00003463607	Flat No. G 3046/ GC- 16, 3rd Floor Tower G 16th Avenue Gaur City 2 Plot No. 03 Sec-16 C Greater Noida Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 31,31,971/-	28/02/ 2021
8.	Ravi Kant Suman, Pooja Suman Plot No. 53 FF3, Gyan Khand 1, Indrapuram Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00002853050	Flat No. 07228, Floor 7 Axle Wood Mahagun Mywood Splot No. GH 04 Sec 16 C Noida	10/11/2021 Rs. 30,13,785/-	01/07/ 2021
9.	Rohit Raina, Renuka Raina Flat No.15/ C- 348 A, Gaur Enclave- 2, Shalimar Garden Ext-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBDEL00002091351	Flat No. J- 606 6th Floor Tower 0j Ajnara Le Garden, Plot No. Gh-02, Sector-16, Greater Noida West Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 35,40,647/-	12/07/ 2021
10.	Rakhi Gupta, Nakul Gupta, Veleno Inc 6 Under Hill Road, Civil Lines, Delhi Delhi, A/c:- LBDEL00002356623	Unit No. 22185, 22nd Floor Block Mangrove Mahagun Mywood Phase III Mahagun India Pvt Ltd Plot No. GH 04 Sector 16 C Greater Noida Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,66,513/-	01/07/ 2021
11.	Adarsh Kumar, Shilpa Agarwal L 601 Pearls Gateway, Tower, Sec 44 Noida, Gateway Tower, Noida, Sec 44 Noida A/c:- LBDEL00002432960	Flat No. C 2202, Tower C 22nd Floor Amadeus Plot No. GH 02 Sec143 Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/10/2021 Rs. 40,27,872/-	01/07/ 2021
12.	Adarsh Kumar, Shilpa Agarwal L 601 Gateway, Towers Sec 14, Noida, Sec 14, Noida, A/c:- LBNOD00002431882	Flat No. C 2202, Tower C 22nd Floor Amadeus Plot No. GH 02 Sec 143 Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/10/2021 Rs. 40,69,589/-	01/07/ 2021
13.	Akash Gurjar, Arun Nagar 3 A/103 Ground Floor, Nit Faridabad Faridabad, A/c:- LBFDB00005108518	Plot No- 154, Block-A , Second Floor Sector- 49 Sainik Colony Faridabad	20/10/2021 Rs. 58,29,803/-	13/07/ 2021
14.	Chandan Kumar Goswami, Sudipta Lakshmi Khound 24181, Hollyoak Apt# E Aliso Viejo, Ca California, A/c:- LBGHZ00001436579	Flat No. T- XI- 504, 5th Floor, Amrapali Grand GH 09, Zeta 1 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,20,716.45/-	31/07/ 2021
15.	Navita Kundra, Vishal Mittal Flat No. 001 Ground Floor, Tower B5, Eros Sampurnam, Sector 2 GR Noida West, Noida, A/c:-LBNOD00002549263	Flat No. 626, 6th Floor Tower Siddhi Mahagun Mantra- II Plot No. GH-01 Sector-10 Greater Noida Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 35,63,792/-	01/07/ 2021
16.	Nidhi Arora, Rishabh H Arora A-2101 Antriksh Golf, View Apartments, Sec-78 Noida, Noida, A/c:- LBNOD00002880906	Flat No. 1012, 10th Floor Plot No. GH 01B Sector 10 Building Om Mahagun Mantra 1 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 34,26,264/-	01/07/ 2021
17.	Prasad Rai, Shobhana Rai BH-135 1st Floor Sec-12, Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad Ghaziabad, A/c:- LBNOD00002391059	Flat No. 1229, 12th Floor Tower Siddhi Plot No. GH 1A Mahagun Mantra 2 Sector 10 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 26,63,957/-	01/07/ 2021
18.	Renuka Raina, Rohit Raina 15/ C 348 Gaur Enclave 2, Shalimar Garden 2 Ghaziabad, A/c:-LBDEL00002253796	B-205 2nd Floor, Tower-B Ajnara Le Garden Plot No. GH-02 Sector-16 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,64,536/-	31/07/ 2021
19.	Sanjeev Kumar, Smita Kumar Flat 320 E-W Sub Meter, 621 Al Warsan, 1st, Riviera Lake View Dubai, Dubai, A/c:- LBGHZ00002658653	Flat No. C 1203 A, 12th A Floor Tower- C Manorath Plot No. GH- 4 B/1 Sector-16 Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 29,37,543/-	06/07/ 2021
20.	Sarita Sandeep Nautiyal, Sandeep Nautiyal 5 M Det C/o 56 Apo, Pin 936841-936841 Jaisalmer Jaisalmer, A/c:- LBNOD0000229032	Flat No- 5211, 5th Floor Mahagun Mywoods, Tower Coral Woodplot No. GH- 04, Sec-16 C Greater Noida Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 30,35,644/-	02/07/ 2021
21.	Sharik Khan, Rana Khan Premium Marketing, Services LIC P O Box 941 Sharjah, A/c:- LBNOD00002355234	Flat No. 18178, 18th Floor Tower Marvella Mahagun My Woods Plot No. GH- 04 Sector-16 C Greater Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 45,47,182/-	01/07/ 2021
22.	Sunil Kumar, Nisha Sharma Village Gijhor Sector 53, Near Holi Chauk Noida Noida, A/c:-LBNOD00003390508	Flat No. 30092, Tower- 30 9th Floor Aps Picturesque Reprieves Plot No. Sc 01 Sector 152 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar	20/10/2021 Rs. 36,89,235/-	31/07/ 2021
23.	Tarif Khan, Mohd Ahmed Khan Finance Dubai Silicon Oasis It Plaza 810 Sharjah Dubai Dubai, A/c:- LBNOD00002380736	Flat No.10173, 10th Floor, Tower Marvella Plot No. GH 04 Mahagun My Woods Sector 16 C Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 35,87,884/-	01/07/ 2021
24.	Vinod Kumar, Monika * Flat No. 909 Block J, GC-1, Gaur City Sector- 4,1st Avenue Noida, Greater Noida 201308 A/c:- LBGHZ00004897267	Flat No. 0835, 8th Floor Tower Saraswati, Mahagun Mantra 2 Plot No. GH 01A, Sector 10, Noida	20/10/2021 Rs. 28,77,365/-	01/07/ 2021
25.	Shalini Sharma, Sunjoy Daadhiich, Explo Media Private Limited Apartment No.1619- A, The Mangolias Diff Golf Course Gurgaon, Haryana, A/c:- LBGUR000003957467 & LBGUR000004776573	Flat No- 01A-1/ 2101, 21th Floor, Tower Pl-1, Hiend-1, Paras Quarter, Village- Gwal Pahari, Sector 2, Gurgaon, Haryana	28/10/2021 Rs. 4,12,68,326.9/- & Rs. 19,71,395.92/-	31/01/ 2021
The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.				
Date : February 02, 2022 Place: Delhi/ NCR			Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited	

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

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

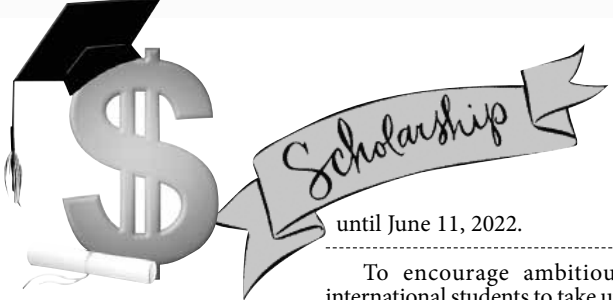
equally distributed across systems.

- 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



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

International students can apply.

Award: \$5,000-\$20,000
Number of Awards: 150
Course Level: Masters
Eligibility: Must have applied for a masters program at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.

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

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

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

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

Application deadline: Applicants must submit all required application materials

until June 11, 2022.

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

Eligibility: Maintain full-time enrollment throughout each semester.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(IJSHRE).

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

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

SANSKRITI UNIVERSITY RECEIVES SIRO BY DSIR

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

Chancellor Sachin Gupta said: “Research is the backbone. Our youth have unique ideas and these ideas can be 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, Aaradhya Yadav, Manav



Parakh and Siddarth Yadav were part of that group and missed both the Ireland and Uganda fixtures, forcing the BCCI to fly in reinforcements.

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

But a spirited India got the better of all the challenges thrown at them and soundly defeated Ireland and

Uganda before prevailing over Bangladesh by five wickets in a tricky chase in their quarterfinal match on a surface that was not conducive for playing strokes.

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

But if the match against

Bangladesh was any indication, India would like to improve their finishing with bat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The three-match ODI series between India and West Indies, scheduled here from February 6 to

11, will be played behind closed doors owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) said on Tuesday. The matches will be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium. "We are all set to host West Indies Tour of India ODI Series 2022. 1st ODI on 6th of Feb will be a very special and historic match as India will be playing its 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.



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.

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


PTI ■ VASCO

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


Placed bottom of the table with just nine points from 14 outings, the Mario Rivera-coached side have all but lost their chance to stake a claim for the 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.



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

स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED
बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र
BOKARO STEEL PLANT
PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that SAIL Bokaro Steel Plant, District Bokaro, Jharkhand, has been granted Environment Clearance from MoEF&CC, Government of India, vide letter no. F. No. IA-J-11011/99/2007-IA-II(I) dated 24.01.2022 for Environment Clearance for increase in production level at SMS-2 from 3.35 MTPA to 3.7 MTPA by improvement in shop logistics at Bokaro Steel Plant.

This information has been given in compliance to General Condition No. X(i) of Environment Clearance.

Registered Office : Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003

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TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to "Obligors")/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s) /Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice's, the amount indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents / writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.) as on below date*	Date of Demand Notice & Date of NPA
9926384	Kanchan Kumar Nayak (Borrower), Sumitra Devi (Co-Borrower)	₹ 9,60,281/- as on 10-01-2022	11-01-2022 07-11-2021
Description of the Secured Assets/ Immovable Properties/Mortgaged Properties: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Being A Plot of Land With House Built Thereon, Measuring An Area of 04 Decimals Under Khata No. 119, R.S. Plot No. 1849, At Village Misirgonda, P.S. Bariatu, Thana No. 191, At Dist. Ranchi, Jharkhand. Property Boundaries: North: House of Sri Prem Nath; South: Proposed Road; East: House of Sri Varsha Sahay; And West: House of Sri John Kachchap			
9905171	Akhileshwar Prasad (Borrower), Munni Devi (Co-Borrower)	₹ 12,58,464/- as on 10-01-2022	11-01-2022 07-11-2021
Description of the Secured Assets/ Immovable Properties/Mortgaged Properties: All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Being A Residential Plot of Land, Alongwith House Built Thereon, Measuring 5 Kathas, I.E. 3600 Sq. Ft. Being Portion of Present Survey Plot No. 1700, Colony's Sub-plot No. 24 & 25, Recorded Under Khata No. 311, Situated In Mouza - Dimna, Thana No. 1643, P.S. Mango, Within Jamshedpur/ Mango N.A.C. Ward No. 9, District Sub-registry Office And Town of Jamshedpur, District East Singhbhum, Jharkhand. Property Boundaries: North: Forest; South: 20 Feet Proposed Rasta; East: Sub-plot No. 26; And West: 20 Feet Proposed Rasta.			

*with further interest, additional interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 02.02.2022
Place : Jharkhand

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited