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Firm grip on fisc, but first Budget of NDA III silent on reforms

Election Outcome Budget

Rs 17,500 savings for salaried, LTCG increased to 12.5%

ANIL SASI & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

UNION FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman's record seventh Budget was more about coming to terms with the compulsion of coalition politics and calming frayed sentiments over jobs than about big ideas or bold reforms that could shape the

five-year course for a government in its third term. In her 82-minute Budget speech, Sitharaman announced a slew of initiatives, from internships for 1 crore youth to credit guarantees for small and medium enterprises and tweaking of personal income tax rates, but these didn't quite add up to what the economy needs today: a big push for consumption demand that could trigger private

sector investment, expand opportunities and create jobs. But if the Budget is to be judged by just one number, Sitharaman shines through by keeping a tight leash over the fisc, which has been the one steady theme across the two terms of the NDA government. For 2024-25, she estimated the fiscal deficit at 4.9 per cent of the GDP even if it's largely

Job concern: PLI to ELI, 3 schemes & internship

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

INA bid to push employment in manufacturing and job creation in formal sectors of the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday announced

three employment-linked incentive (ELI) schemes for two years and an internship programme in partnership with India Inc for five years in the Union Budget for 2024-25. The thrust on employment and job creation in the formal sector is the first clear

Thank you for 28 MPs: Splurge on Bihar, Andhra

SREENIVAS JANYALA, SANTOSH SINGH, NIKHILA HENRY & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
HYDERABAD, PATNA, NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Rs 15,000 crore to develop Amaravati, Rs 26,000 crore for four road projects, Rs 21,400 crore for a power plant — with

28 MPs between them, Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U) managed to extract a lion's share in the Union Budget for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar respectively. Afterwards, Naidu said "happy days are here again", while Nitish said the Centre had complied with their proposal for "special assistance".

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

THE UNION Budget has proposed to abolish 'angel tax' for all classes of investors — a decision which comes as a relief for start-ups, which had flagged the impediment to raising capital amid an already gloomy funding climate. 'Angel tax', at 30.9 per cent,

Big relief for start-ups, Govt scraps angel tax

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

refers to income tax imposed on funding raised by an unlisted company when its shares are issued to an investor at a price higher than its fair market value. The call for removal of the tax had gained steam following last year's Budget — after its ambit was broadened to include investments from foreign sources — and was endorsed by industry



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on her way to present the Budget on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna



FULL COVERAGE, PAGES 6-18

UNION BUDGET 2024-25

- INCOME-TAX**
 - New tax regime sweetened with higher standard deduction
- REAL ESTATE**
 - No indexation benefit for property & family gold sales, LTCG 12.5%
- SOCIAL SECTOR**
 - Customs duty cut on three cancer drugs
- EDUCATION**
 - Interest subsidy for loans up to Rs 10 lakh for education in India
- MSMEs**
 - New credit guarantee scheme for purchase of equipment
- REFORMS**
 - New economic reform framework to address all factors of production

INSIDE

Budget 'bias': Opp CMs to skip meet

Chennai, New Delhi: At least four Opposition CMs — M K Stalin, Revanth Reddy, Siddaramaiah, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu — are set to boycott the NITI Aayog meeting set for July 27 to protest against the "discriminatory" Budget. P20

Supreme Court no to NEET re-test

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled out cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024, saying "at the present stage, there is absence of sufficient material on record to lead to the conclusion that result of the... examination stands vitiated or that there is a systemic breach". P25

Police hate crime: HC on riots case

New Delhi: The Delhi HC has transferred to the CBI the probe into the death of Faizan, 23, who was allegedly assaulted and forced to sing the national anthem by some security personnel during the 2020 Delhi riots. P3

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SURIYA AND 3 PROBLEMATIC FILMS THAT ESTABLISHED HIM AS A POTENTIAL HEIR TO SIVAJI GANESAN, KAMAL HAASAN As flawed as these movies were, his remarkable performances, however, overshadowed their issues, at least during their initial releases

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EXPRESS AUDIO Branded 'foreigner', Kanwar Yatra row, & 2 books by ex-Army Chiefs In 3 Things, we discuss cruel twist of fate following a Supreme Court judgment, the controversial Kanwar Yatra order on shop nameplates, and what a former Army Chief can or cannot write about

Soldier killed in gunfight in Poonch, infiltration bid foiled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JULY 23 A SOLDIER was killed as the Army thwarted an infiltration bid by terrorists along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district early Tuesday, officials said. "Alert troops foiled an infiltration bid by effectively engaging infiltrating terrorists... in the Battal sector at 0300 hours," White Knight Corps said on X. "During the exchange of heavy fire, one braveheart was injured. Operations are continuing," the Corps said. According to sources, troops

Gallantry award to Haryana IPS officers: MHA seeks details of 'firing' on farmers

SUKHBIR SIWACH CHANDIGARH, JULY 23 THE UNION Ministry of Home Affairs has sought the details of "firing" by two IPS officers and two HPS officers whose names have been recommended along with that of two others by the Haryana government for "Police Medal for Gallantry" for stopping at the state's Shambhu border the farmers who were marching from Punjab to the national capital as part of their Dilli Chalo agitation in February. The MHA requisition came even as Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to reconsider Haryana's recommendation saying that awarding gallantry medals to the officers involved in such action against farmers is akin to adding insult to injury. The Haryana government in February had set up barricades at Shambhu and Khanauri points on its border with Punjab after the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha announced a march to Delhi in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops. In the recommendations sent to Centre on July 2, the Haryana government has sought gallantry medal to three IPS officers —

FROM PAGE ONE Election Outcome Budget

because of RBI's dividend bonanza of Rs 2.1 lakh crore. The Finance Minister also promised a declining trend in government debt-GDP ratio going ahead. The markets were not sure how to read the Budget. The benchmark 30-stock Sensex was marginally up when Sitharaman started the speech but plummeted 1,200 points as she announced hikes in the long term capital gains tax and the securities transaction tax on futures and options. It, however, ended the day more or less flat at 80,429 points. With 28 MPs of TDP and Janata Dal (United) helping the BJP — down by 63 seats from 2019 and 32 short of a majority — return to the Centre, the Budget almost came across as a payback platform. From support for multilateral funding of Rs 15,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh this year to Rs 47,400 crore for development projects in Bihar, the Budget reflected the ruling party's political imperatives too. In an echo of what the Opposition had promised in its manifesto on the employment issue, the Budget announced three new Employment-Linked Incentive schemes, which come now as an addition to the Production-Linked Incentive scheme. The PLI scheme was criticised for rewarding companies in 14 sectors for achieving higher sales turnovers, without necessarily boosting jobs. Sitharaman promised Rs 10,000 crore to the labour ministry towards the ELI schemes for first timers, job creation in manufacturing, and support to employers for additional jobs. She also allocated Rs 2,000 crore to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs towards internship opportunities for 1 crore youth over five years in the top 500 companies. Sitharaman also did away with the "angel tax", which had constrained the start-up ecosystem from raising capital. It also sought to tamp down the recent exuberance in the stock markets by raising the securities transaction tax on futures and options segment, which has been a cause of concern for financial regulators. She also did away with indexation benefits on capital gains upon sale of real estate and gold, and raised the long term capital gains tax to 12.5 per cent from 10 per cent. But her personal income tax tweaks bring Rs 17,500 in annual tax savings for the salaried. Though it was the third NDA government's first Budget, it did not spell out a cogent and ambitious reform programme. Sitharaman, however, did allude to it in her list of nine priorities. In its eleventh year, the NDA government said it would formulate an 'Economic Policy Framework' to delineate the overarching ap-

● In boost for start-ups, Govt scraps 'angel tax'

bodies like the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and even government agencies like the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). "To bolster the Indian start-up ecosystem, boost the entrepreneurial spirit, and support innovation, I propose to abolish the so-called angel tax for all classes of investors," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech. During a post-Budget press conference, asked why the tax was abolished when it was first introduced as a measure to check money laundering, Sitharaman said it was primarily a tax provision, not a system to check money laundering. "There are other measures for the Income Tax department to address issues of money laundering and to trace the source of funds. Provisions of the Companies Act can also be invoked if there is deliberate undervaluing of shares," Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said. While the start-up ecosystem was upbeat about the decision, there were concerns about tax demands that were raised prior to the announcement. "It looks like the abolition is only happening from this point onwards. That does not solve the problem of the tax demands that the government had earlier raised," a start-up founder told The Indian Express on condition of anonymity. Responding to a question on the retrospective effect of the tax, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said at the press conference: "There is no retrospective tax which we have imposed... if there is any such previous case, those cases will continue. We will see them in the light of facts and circumstances of each case... it is only where there is actually money laundering... only in those cases will it be imposed." The decision comes amid a funding winter that has engulfed the start-up ecosystem since 2022 owing to geopolitical tensions, and rising scrutiny into firms' corporate governance structures. According to a report by market intelligence platform PrivateCircle Research earlier this year, start-up funding in India fell over 62 per cent in

● Thank you to allies: Bihar roads to Andhra capital

These announcements, according to Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, came at the expense of other states. He called it a "kursi bachao Budget" which had made "hollow promises" even to BJP allies. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said "half-hearted rewards (freebies)" had been distributed "to dupe coalition partners so the NDA survives". In her speech, acknowledging the "need" for Andhra Pradesh to have a capital, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre will "facilitate special financial support" of Rs 15,000 crore in the current financial year. The amount will be key to developing Amaravati, Naidu's dream project which was shelved when Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power in 2019. She also announced two industrial corridors, Visakhapatnam-Chennai and Hyderabad-Bengaluru; a special backward areas fund for Rayalaseema, Prakasam and North Coastal Andhra; and financial help to complete the Polavaram irrigation project. Ahead of the Budget, Naidu had made three rounds of Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as well as Cabinet Ministers including Sitharaman to press for the state's demands. The Rs 15,000 crore for Amaravati is a big boost for Naidu, whose TDP is an NDA constituent with 16 Lok Sabha MPs, as well as his cash-starved state. Naidu can finally hope to finish the construction of the capital city he dreamt of building after bifurcation of the state, but had to leave midway after losing to Reddy. "Today the Centre promised Rs 15,000 crore financial support in the Budget. There is hope that happy days are here again," Naidu said in the Assembly during a debate on Tuesday. The JD(U), which has 12 Lok Sabha MPs, too appeared satisfied with the Budget announcements. Speaking to The Indian Express,

an additional two-lane bridge over Ganga river at Buxar at a cost of Rs 26,000 crore. Power projects, including a new 2,400 megawatt plant at Pirpainti, will be taken up at a cost of Rs 21,400 crore, Sitharaman said, while also announcing "new airports, medical colleges and sports infrastructure in Bihar". Rs 11,500 crore has been set aside for an "accelerated irrigation benefit programme for flood prevention and management". Sitharaman said that "comprehensive development" of Vishnupad Temple at Gaya and Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhi Gaya will be supported, modelled on the Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor, to transform them into "world class pilgrim and tourist destinations". "We had proposed that if special status wasn't feasible for technical reasons, Bihar should receive special assistance (vishesh madat) from the Centre in another form, which has been announced today," Nitish said later.

Nigerian national gets bail in Cordelia drug raid case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 23 JUSTICE N J Jamadar passed a verdict in an application by Igwe noting that the applicant had been in custody since October 7, 2021. The court directed that Igwe be released on bail on furnishing personal bond of Rs 1 lakh along with sureties of the same amount. It directed Igwe to mark his presence at NCB office in Mumbai once every month for three years or till conclusion of the trial, whichever is earlier. It also said that subject to deportation proceedings which may be initiated against the applicant, he shall not leave India without prior permission of the special court. As many as 20 people, including actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, booked in the case initially by the NCB in October-November 2021. Later, charges against six were dropped later.

● PLI to ELI: Three schemes, internship to boost employment

acknowledgement of the unemployment challenge, a hot-button issue in the Lok Sabha election campaign. There is growing concern over rising unemployment and a shift of workers towards agriculture and other informal sectors after the pandemic. Schemes under the Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling have received a Budget outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore spread over the next few years. With only eight months remaining in the ongoing financial year 2024-25, the schemes have been allocated Rs 12,000 crore for this year, out of which Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated to Ministry of Labour and Employment for the three ELI schemes and Rs 2,000 crore has been given to Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the internship programme. Enrolment in the EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) will form the basis of the three ELI schemes, which will focus on recognition of first-time employees, workers in manufacturing, and additional job creation. The Finance Minister also announced a comprehensive internship scheme for providing internship opportunities to youth aged between 21 and 24 years in 500 top companies. This is expected to benefit 1 crore youth in five years. "They will gain exposure for 12 months to real-life business environments, varied professions and employment opportunities. An internship allowance of Rs 5,000 per month along with a one-time assistance of Rs 6,000 will be provided. Companies will be expected to bear the training cost and 10 per cent of the internship cost from their CSR (corporate social responsibility) funds," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech. The ELI scheme came as a response to political criticism of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme which sought to extend benefits to companies for higher sales turnover, even if these did not result in any employment creation. According to the Budget documents, the three ELI schemes will include the following features: Scheme A For first-timers: The scheme, which will be for two years, will provide a month's wage to all employees entering the workforce in all formal sectors. There will be direct benefit transfer of one month's salary — up to a limit of Rs 15,000 — in three instalments to first-time employees as registered with the EPFO. The salary eligibility limit for this scheme will be Rs 1 lakh per month. The scheme is likely to benefit 2.10 crore youths, Sitharaman said. Employees will have to undergo compulsory online financial literacy course before claiming the second instalment and the subsidy will be refunded by the employer if the employment to the first-time employee ends within 12 months of recruitment. Scheme B Job creation in manufactur-

persons. More details of these schemes are expected to come in later when they get notified. In addition to these ELI schemes and the internship programme, the government also intends to upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in hub and spoke arrangements in five years. Inadequate employment generation and loss of jobs in the informal sector was also flagged in the Economic Survey for 2023-24 that was tabled in Parliament on Monday. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), more than 45 per cent of the workforce is employed in agriculture, 11.4 per cent in manufacturing, 28.9 per cent in services, and 13.0 per cent in construction. The Survey had pointed out that the predominance of agriculture in providing employment to nearly half of the population, especially females, is both a challenge and an opportunity. The employment data underscores the importance of creating jobs in the formal sector. As per the Survey, in terms of employ-

2020 RIOTS CASE: ACTIONS AMOUNT TO HATE CRIME, COURT RAPS DELHI POLICE

HC: CBI to probe death of man 'forced to sing national anthem'

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

UNDERLINING that the policemen's actions amounted to a "hate crime" that was "motivated and driven by religious bigotry," the Delhi High Court Tuesday directed the CBI to probe the death of 23-year-old Faizan during the Northeast Delhi riots in 2020.

The court took note of two purported videos that went viral online, in which the deceased was seen lying injured as policemen in riot gear were seen beating him; hurling abuses while forcing him to sing Vande Mataram and the national anthem during the 2020 riots.

"It is extremely important to note that this case presents allegations of gross violation of human rights, in as much as the unlawful actions of the policemen, who are yet to be identified, were motivated and driven by religious bigotry and, therefore, would amount to a 'hate-crime,'" the HC said.

The HC was hearing a petition by Kismatun, mother of Faizan, seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into her son's death. In the petition, it was alleged Faizan was "targeted, brutally assaulted" and "injured by policemen" at Kardampuri and subsequently "illegally detained" in an injured condition at Jyoti Nagar police station between February 24-25, 2020. He was denied timely critical medical care resulting in his death later at a hospital, claimed the petition.

In the 38-page order by Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani, the HC came down heavily on the Delhi Police, observing that "perpetrators of the crime are therefore still at large, though they are all members of the police force in Delhi."

"Even if it is assumed that Faizan and/or the other young men had sustained some injuries earlier during rioting, several policemen present at the spot are

WHAT TRANSPIRED OVER THE PAST 4 YEARS

FEB 28, 2020: FIR filed at Bhajanpura police station under IPC sections 143, 144, 47, 148, 149 and 308

DEC 22, 2020: Faizan's mother Kismatun files petition in Delhi HC seeking that a fresh probe by an SIT, comprising senior police officers with credibility and unblemished records, be ordered

FEB 1, 2021: HC instructs police to file an affidavit stating the functioning of CCTVs in Jyoti Nagar police station on Feb 24 and 25, 2020, where Faizan was detained, hours before his death at a hospital

MARCH 22, 2021: Police tells HC that Jyoti Nagar police station CCTVs were not working between Feb 24 and March 4 in 2020 due to technical reasons and there was no tampering involved

JAN 11, 2022: Police say it has made further progress in the probe and tells the court it has identified and questioned a head constable in the case

FEB 22, 2022: HC expresses dissatisfaction with police's probe status report

MARCH 7, 2024: Court notes that forensic analysis of



Grab from the purported video that showed the men, including Faizan, writhing in pain. Express

evidence has been pending for almost 10 months; special public prosecutor says ready to proceed with the matter but seeks in-chamber hearing

- Of the 33 dates when the matter was listed before the HC, it was materially heard only about 14 times, according to the official case details.
- Hearings were stalled for around 4 months for want of forensic analysis. On the other hand, Kismatun's side requested for early hearing of their case at least twice

clearly seen surrounding, dragging, kicking and striking blows on Faizan and the other young men with batons/lathis; abusing them; and ordering them to sing the National Anthem while they are lying seriously injured and helpless on the roadside. All this has admittedly happened on 24.02.2020," the order stated.

The HC noted that four-and-a-half years have elapsed and not even one policeman "involved in the abuse and assault conclusively (has been) identified in the course of the investigation" so far.

"Without making too much of a harsh comment, this court is constrained to observe that investigation in the present case

has evidently been tardy, sketchy, and conveniently sparing of the persons who are suspected to be involved in brutally assaulting the petitioner's son. What is worse is that the suspects were entrusted to act as custodians of the law, and were in a position of power and authority, but seemed to have been driven by bigoted mindsets," it underlined.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad had told the court that the Delhi Police, at first, was unable to identify the policemen seen wielding lathis and kicking the men because all policemen on duty during the riots were in riot gear and their faces could not be seen in the video.

The order notes that during the course of the hearing, the police's counsel had said "they have put two policemen, a head constable and a constable — identified as being present at the spot at the relevant time — through a polygraph test at FSL Rohini". It was stated that the responses of these policemen were found to be "deceptive". It was also stated that the "two policemen" had been put through a voice-matching test, wherein their voice samples had matched certain words spoken at the spot.

However, the HC said "there is no gainsaying that what the Delhi Police have done so far is too little, too late". "In the opinion of this court, transfer of investigation is necessitated in the present case to guard credibility of the investigation and to instill confidence in the victims as to the fairness of the process, if for no other reason," the High Court said, directing the investigating officer concerned to transfer all records, including material and evidence collected and statements recorded in the case so far, to the Director, CBI, in 7 days.

The HC also noted that it has refrained from engaging in any detailed consideration of evidence collected by the investigating officer so far, some of which have been shared with the court "during hearings in-chamber".

Referring to the Supreme Court's 2018 decision in 'Tehseen S Poonawalla vs Union of India & others', the High Court said the apex court has enunciated the meaning and articulated the "abhorrent" nature of hate crime, in the context of mob vigilantism and mob violence.

"It must be understood that mob vigilantism and mob violence do not cease to be so merely because these are perpetrated, not by ordinary citizens, but by policemen themselves. If anything, the element of abomination gets aggravated if a hate crime is committed by persons in uniform," the HC said.

'Hoping justice will finally be served': Kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JULY 23

FOUR YEARS after Faizan's death during the 2020 riots, his family's hope for justice was revived.

On Tuesday, after a seven-month hiatus, his brother Nadeem, 40, got a call from their lawyer. "We did not know it was the day of hearing. There has been no case update since December. We were told a CBI probe was ordered in the case. We are hopeful justice may finally be served," he said.

In the plea filed by their mother Kismatun in the High Court, it was alleged that the 23-year-old was "targeted" and "injured by policemen" and subsequently "illegally detained" in an injured condition at a police station on February 24-25, 2020, where he was denied timely critical care, resulting in his death. A purported video showed he was forced to sing the national anthem.

Kismatun, who said she has

been tackling health issues since Faizan's death, was at a hospital when she was told of the order. "They said we won and a new agency will probe. We've come this far, we'll win again," she said.

"He was my best son and was earning for the family at a young age. He was about to get engaged. I think of him every day," she said.

Nadeem, who lives with the family in Northeast Delhi's Kardampuri, recollected two phone calls in the past that gave them an illusion of hope: "Once, our lawyer (Vrinda Grover) said two officers who were at the spot were identified. The second time, police said they initiated inquiries. We thought action would follow both times... but nothing happened."

Soutik Banerjee, one of the lawyers appearing for Kismatun, said the HC's observations are "significant and profound". "The HC acknowledged Delhi Police personnel have committed a hate crime motivated by religious bigotry. This is a significant observation," he said.

Remove posts against Om Birla's daughter: HC directs Google, X

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday directed Google and X (formerly Twitter) to remove various social media posts that alleged Indian Railway Personnel Service officer Anjali Birla cleared the UPSC exam in her first attempt by "indulging in corrupt practices and misusing" her father Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's influence.

A single-judge bench of Justice Navin Chawla passed the ex parte ad-interim injunction order while hearing Anjali's defamation lawsuit. "Having considered the contentions of the plaintiff (Anjali Birla), and having heard the senior counsel for the plaintiff, I'm of the opinion that the plaintiff has been able to make out a prima facie case in her favour. The balance of convenience is also in favour of the plaintiff and against defen-

dants... The social media posts complained of do not appear to be made after due verification," the High Court said.

It also said the posts did not "appear to be bonafide". X and Google have been directed to "remove or block within 24 hours" the social media content flagged in Anjali's lawsuit "till further orders".

Appearing for the IRPS officer, senior advocate Rajiv Nayyar said, "My private pictures have been posted as if I'm a model. I had attended a wedding reception... it's slanderous."

Nayyar argued that only because Anjali's father happens to be the Speaker, which is a constitutional post, a "false and malicious campaign" was started against her and her family. He said the social media content is "per se defamatory and incorrect and made in a reckless manner" only to tarnish her reputation.

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Principal

OBRIC NIAB
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Advt. No. 21/2024

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4 THE CITY

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SKY WATCH July 24 Generally cloudy sky. Light to moderate rain/thunderstorm

MAX: 34 | **MIN: 26**
0.9°C below normal | 1.3°C below normal

'TOUCHED IRON GATE THAT HAD ELECTRICITY RUNNING THROUGH IT'

UPSC aspirant dies after electrocution on waterlogged lane in Central Delhi

UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

ON MONDAY afternoon, 26-year-old Nilesch Rai was heading back to his paying guest accommodation in South Patel Nagar's Block 8 after a study session at the Book Lounge library nearby. He was preparing for the civil services exam. It had rained a little during the day and the weather was pleasant but the lane in front of his PG was waterlogged. Nilesch hopped across a dry patch and held onto the iron gate near his PG's building to cross the clogged section — within seconds, he was electrocuted to death.



The iron gate near Patel Nagar Metro station had a live wire touching it. Amit Mehra

The gate had electricity running through it, owing to a naked wire touching it. DCP (Central) M Harsha Vardha said at 2.43 pm, a police team rushed to the spot near Power Gym, Patel Nagar Metro station, following a PCR call to Ranjit Nagar police station. "It was found that the victim was electrocuted due to an electric current in the iron gate. There was also waterlogging on the road. The victim was taken to RML Hospital where he was declared dead by doctors," he said.

A case was registered under sections 106(1) (causing death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide) and 285 (danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation) of the BNS against unknown persons.

The *Indian Express* had reported in July that over the last year, as per data shared by sources in the power department, 50 instances of electrocution were reported in which 26 people died.

A major reason behind these incidents was encroachment and illegal extension of houses around electricity poles.

PREVIOUS INCIDENTS

JUNE 25, 2023: 34-year-old school teacher electrocuted outside New Delhi railway station after accidentally coming in contact with a live wire amid rain

APRIL 24, 2024: 12-year-old boy dies after coming in touch with a telephone pole in Dwarka's Chhawla area

JULY 13: 34-year-old woman was wading through a waterlogged street in Yamuna Vihar when she was electrocuted by a live wire that had fallen on the ground.



Nilesch Rai died on Monday. Express

Delhi cop electrocuted when he went near a high-tension wire while inspecting a crime scene in Najafgarh; he died a week later

civil engineering graduate from IISc in Bangalore, he hailed from Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur. His father is a district court lawyer.

"He was a bright student and really wanted to be successful for his family's sake," said Abhishek Kapil Singh (27), another fellow aspirant, said he had spoken to Nilesch just a few days ago.

"We talked about the exam and our futures like we usually did. I was coming to Delhi for some work and we had made plans to meet," he said. "He was such a cheerful and jolly guy. Ask anyone in this neighbourhood, from the tea shop to the bookshop, everyone knows him for his good nature." Kapil and Nilesch had become friends after meeting in Vajiram, a UPSC coaching institute, in 2019. "We used to sit in the back and discuss the topics that were being taught. That's how we became friends," he said, adding, "After that, we both chose to study on our own and would meet in the library in ORN (Old Rajinder Nagar) almost every day."

flagged by AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. In a post on X, she wrote: "This is not an accident, it is a murder caused by failure of the government system... An FIR should be filed... and immediate action should be taken against all responsible persons."

A Tata Power-DDL spokesperson responded to the death, saying the incident was "due to electric current leakage from the customer's damaged motor wiring, which touched the iron gate at the entrance of a colony. On receiving the information, our breakdown team promptly arrived at the site."

The spokesperson added, "We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of the deceased. At Tata Power-DDL, we are committed to ensuring a safe monsoon season for our consumers and preventing such tragic incidents... We urge the public to be cautious during the monsoon, and follow safety guidelines, such as avoiding waterlogged areas, staying clear of fallen wires, and promptly reporting any electrical hazards."

The man's death was also

RRTS-Metro corridor to Noida airport: NCRTC revises project

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, JULY 23

IN FIVE years, a super-fast rapid rail will take you from the upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) to Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan in less than an hour. Going to Delhi Aerocity, meanwhile, will take just 66 minutes.

This will be made possible by the 72-km-long Rapid Rail-Metro corridor that will connect Ghaziabad RRTS station with NIA in Jewar.

In a crucial step towards securing approval for the project, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has submitted a revised detailed project report (DPR) with changes to the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA). Officials said with the new report, it is expected that the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet will give its nod to execute the project in this form.

Dr Arun Vir Singh, CEO, Yamuna Authority, said: "The DPR has been sent to the UP government; the Cabinet will take the final decision. Apart from the change in alignment, the major thing is how the project will be funded and which department will spend how much money. After these changes, we are hopeful to receive a nod from the government soon."

Project details

The project will integrate the Delhi-Meerut RRTS at Ghaziabad, Aqua Line Metro at Char Murti Chowk, and Noida Airport at GTC (Ground Transport Centre). It will have 22 stations — 11 will be RRTS-cum-Metro stations and the rest will be Metro stations. There will be a provision to incorporate 13 stations in the future.

Officials said a majority of the corridor will be elevated, except the last station at NIA which will be underground.

The proposed alignment starts from Ghaziabad RRTS station. It will then traverse along

THE PROJECT

The corridor will integrate the Delhi-Meerut RRTS at Ghaziabad, Aqua Line Metro at Char Murti Chowk, and Noida Airport at GTC (Ground Transport Centre)

22 Total stations

3.26 lakh daily passengers (in FY 2030-31)

72.44 km Length | **₹20,637 cr** Total cost

Implementation period: **5 years**

TYPES OF SERVICES		
Fast RRTS	Normal RRTS	Noida Metro
114 kmph	84 kmph	46 kmph

Vishwakarma Road (Siddharth Vihar/Pratap Vihar in Ghaziabad), Taj Highway, Char Murti Chowk and Greater Noida Link Road (Knowledge Park V). It will turn to Surajpur-Kasna Road, pass through Pari Chowk, Dankaur, YEIDA Sector 18, YEIDA Sector 21, and end at Ground Transport Centre (Noida International Airport opposite Terminal 1).

In the proposed system, two types of services are included. The first is a fast RRTS service; with a speed of 114 kmph, it will stop at limited stations. The second is the metro service; with a speed of 46 kmph, it will stop at all stations.

In the fast service, the travel time from NIA to Sarai Kale Khan will be 56 minutes, 66 minutes for Delhi Aerocity, 37 minutes to go to Ghaziabad, and 72 minutes for Meerut. In the normal RRTS service (84 kmph), travel time will increase by 13 minutes on all routes. Officials said the corridor will

subsume a 10-km Aqua Line Metro extension proposed between Char Murti Chowk and Knowledge Park V. Also, a proposed light rail transit planned between NIA and YEIDA Sector 21/Film City will be subsumed under this corridor.

The proposed alignment is expected to carry about 3.26 lakh daily passengers with a peak hour peak direction traffic (PHPDT) estimated at 8,784 in the 2030-31 financial year. This is expected to grow to 7.57 lakh daily passengers with a PHPDT of 23,957 by 2054-55.

The cost is estimated to be Rs 20,637 crore and construction will take five years. The NCRTC has proposed to develop the corridor on an equity-sharing model between the central and UP government — 20% from the Centre, 20% from UP, and the remaining 60% taken as a loan from multi-lateral agencies.

BRIEFLY

YouTuber Elvish Yadav appears before ED in money laundering case

Lucknow: YouTuber Siddharth Yadav alias Elvish Yadav appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the suspected use of snake venom as a recreational drug in parties he hosted and related financial transactions, official sources said. The agency will record his statement at its zonal office located at Ashok Marg. The central agency had registered a case in May.

GTB shooting accused, 3 others arrested

New Delhi: Four sharpshooters of a gang active in the trans-Yamuna area, including one allegedly involved in the fatal shooting of a 32-year-old man inside a ward in the GTB Hospital, were arrested, officials on Tuesday said. The accused have been identified as Rahul Singh (33), Suhail (22), Mukesh (27), and Sameer (22), they said. According to the police, Sameer was also involved in the GTB hospital murder case. Deputy Commissioner of Police (special cell) Pratiksha Godara said. She further said that these accused were wanted in many cases, including murder, robbery, extortion and Arms Act. A 32-year-old man was shot dead inside a ward of the GTB Hospital, Delhi on July 14 in what was described as a case of mistaken identity.

UNION BUDGET: WHAT'S IN IT FOR DELHI

'Why should Delhi be penalised by Centre for being surplus-budget state?'

AS THE allocation for the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) in the Union Budget 2024-25 remained stagnant at Rs 1,168 crore, **DELHI MINISTER ATISHI** slammed the Centre for "injustice". Developmental and infrastructural work — such as the extension of flyovers and drainage overhaul — has been affected due to funds, she told. **JATIN ANAND. Excerpts:**



Atishi addresses media on budget allocation to Delhi, on Tuesday. Express

What is your biggest disappointment with this year's budget allocation?

Delhi, despite its special status, operates its finances like all states through consolidated funds composed of its revenue and allocations from the Centre. Unlike other states, however, you (the Centre) are not giving us our share. This is our biggest disappointment. We were just asking for 8-10%, which is our rightful due — half for the MCD and half for the Delhi government. How will Delhi, and by extension the country, develop further with this approach?

The BJP's rebuttal is that the Centre invests several times your ask in Delhi's infrastructure development. Your comment?

Centrally-sponsored schemes and institutions operate in all states. Despite that, states get their share in taxes, but not Delhi. The Delhi government pays Rs 40,000 crore in taxes — including GST and VAT — and, in total, contributes Rs 2.5 lakh crore in taxes.

Delhi is a surplus-budget state. What issues does it face in terms of its developmental needs due to stagnant allocation by the Centre?

Being surplus-budget means that we run the government, and

Are any schemes, in particular, facing delays because of the budget allocation?

Developmental and infrastructural work gets deferred due to funds. For instance, Delhi's drainage system needs an overhaul because of the change in rainfall patterns. Earlier, the drainage system was designed to be able to tackle a maximum of around 100 mm of rain but now it (the rain) goes to 200 mm and sometimes even to 300 mm.

For a drainage system overhaul, an expense of around Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 crore would be incurred. If we got the due share, more than the 25 flyovers and their extensions, which we have built over the last 10 years, would have come up in Delhi.

in Delhi, the expenditure on police is borne by the Centre. However, close to Rs 500 crore has been slashed from the allocation. How do you view this cut?

The one thing that they (the Centre) have to do in Delhi is this. They have had the Delhi Police under them for the last 10 years, and we have had education and power. Can anyone say that the law and order and security situation in Delhi has improved over this period? On the other hand, everyone will tell you how the education and power sectors in the city have improved since we took over.

The MCD has not been allocated anything in this year's budget. How do you view this?

We give urban local bodies 70 to 80% of their funds. All states get money from the Centre for civic bodies, but not Delhi. I challenge the BJP to tell me one thing you have done for Delhi in the last 11 budgets — no new hospital, university, sports complex.

Delhi is now home to three crore people. What is the public interest value in venues like Bharat Mandapam which you have built?

President Virendra Sachdeva welcomed the Budget and said, "The Delhi government was demanding 10% of direct taxes collected from Delhi, which is around Rs 21,000 crore, but the budget gives back almost 30% of the tax collected under various service heads... It will be better for the Delhi government to stop trying to mislead Delhiites as they are well aware of the Centre's contribution in making Delhi a true national capital."

Leader of Opposition in the MCD, Raja Iqbal Singh, said, "It is shameful to see the Arvind Kejriwal government demanding special funds for MCD from the Centre even as it is itself denying proper funds to MCD."

Budget allocation hiked for 3 central govt hospitals, minor decline for Safdarjung

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN THE Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday, three central government hospitals — AIIMS Delhi, Ram Manohar Lohia (RML), and Lady Harding Medical College (LHMC) — saw an increase in allocations this year. Of the three hospitals, RML has seen the maximum hike compared to last year at 23%. However, Safdarjung Hospital, the largest central government hospital, has seen a minor decline of 3% in comparison to last year. The budget allocation for AIIMS Delhi has increased by Rs 397.33 crore or around 8.7% to Rs 4,523 crore this year. The revised budget for the institute last year was Rs 4,278 crore, a decline of around Rs 55 crore as compared to 2022-2023.

A major share is set to go into providing salaries for doctors and staff. AIIMS official spokesperson Dr Reema Dada said the institute has got what it had asked for. "The increase in budget is meant for technology upgradation, increased footfall of patients... and mainly for the salary of doctors and staff where almost Rs 2,500 crore goes. These are our main expenditures," she added. Every year, the institute sends a proposal for a 10-20% hike in view of the salaries and DA (Dearness allowance) for the staff, which is a

cost-of-living adjustment. The premium medical institute, however, has not disclosed the hike it sought. The Budget is meant for salaries, and general expenses such as oil and transport expenditures, consumables, office expenditures; machinery equipment like MRI and ultrasound machines, research PCR, real-time PCR, sonicators, ultrasonicators; and major equipment for surgeries like surgery tables, high-end microscopes, SET facility, and various robotics. "For all the high-end equipment, the Budget we have got is good for meeting our demands," said Dr Dada.

Meanwhile, Safdarjung Hospital has seen a decrease of around 3% in the grant in 2024-2025 with an allocation of Rs 1,874 crore to the hospital and its associated medical college. The hospital's official spokesperson refused to comment on the allocations.

At RML Hospital, Medical Superintendent Dr Ajay Shukla said the allocated budget will be spent on constructing a medical college building among other steps. Around 600 beds and 150 ICU beds will also be ensured for the same. "We will also invest in strengthening the oncology department at RML and purchasing radiotherapy and linac machines," said Dr Shukla. The hospital has received a grant of Rs 1,610 crore. In 2023-2024, it was allocated Rs 1,272.18 crore, which was revised to Rs 1,304.10 crore.

Delhi Police gets Rs 11,400 crore, Rs 531 crore less than last year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE DELHI Police has been allocated Rs 11,400.81 crore in the Union Budget 2024-25 — a decrease of Rs 531.19 crore from last year. In the 2023-24 budget, the force was allotted Rs 11,932.03 crore. The budget has been allocated for routine expenses as well as infrastructure and IT projects, including developing a modern traffic system and communication networks.

Officers said the reduction could impact some flagship schemes such as the Rs 1,400-crore Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) of the Delhi Traffic Police. It aims to introduce Artificial Intelligence into the traffic management system to reduce accidents. The project involves installing more modernised traffic signals, blinkers, and speed-capturing cameras aimed at providing better analysis of traffic volume and movement in real time. An officer said, "ITMS is supposed to be completed by the year-end. The project is still being implemented with various procurements in the pipeline such as AI-based cameras and automatic traffic signals."

The Delhi Police Crime Branch's plan to enhance its infrastructure may also take a hit. A senior officer, requesting anonymity, said the Crime Branch is set to procure 15 forensic science lab vans and around 70 cell-site analysers to help examine call detail records of mobile phone networks. "More FSL vans will mean the Crime Branch can deploy them at crime spots, especially with the demand for forensic examination increasing... the cell-site analyser will be a useful tool for investigation purposes. Now, with the reduced budget, certain procurements might have to be reworked," said the officer.

Routine procurements related to personnel such as wireless communication systems and weapons are also set to be impacted due to the allocation, officers said.

ALLOCATION FOR CENTRAL GOVT HOSPITALS		
Hospital	2023-2024	2024-2025
AIIMS, Delhi	₹4,278 cr	₹4,523 cr
Safdarjung Hospital	₹1,933 cr	₹1,874 cr
RML	₹1,304 cr	₹1,610 cr
LHMC and Sucheta Kriplani Hospital	₹625 cr	₹750 cr
Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital	₹167 cr	₹180 cr



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File No.73/IFSCA/Consultants/2020-21 July 11, 2024

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a statutory unified regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, invites applications from eligible Indian citizens for filling up various positions of Young Professionals/ Consultants Grade 1/ Consultant Grade 2/ Senior consultant on contract basis. The place of posting is GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. The candidates willing to apply are requested to refer www.ifsc.gov.in/career for detailed vacancy notification. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 16.08.2024 by 6.00 PM.

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Email: isd@ntpc.co.in, Website: www.ntpc.co.in

ATTENTION VALUED SHAREHOLDERS OF NTPC LTD.

Pursuant to Section 124(5) of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer, and Refund) Rules, 2016, (IEPF Rules, 2016), a Company is required to transfer the amounts of unpaid dividend remaining unpaid and unclaimed for a continuous period of seven (7) years from the date of transfer of such amount to Unpaid Dividend Account to the credit of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IFPF) set up by the Central Government.

Further, pursuant to Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 and IEPF Rules, 2016, all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more, shall also be transferred to IEPF Account.

Details of the shareholders, in respect of shares for which dividend had remained unclaimed or unpaid for seven consecutive years and transferred to the IEPF Authority's Demat Account, are available on the website of the Company at www.ntpc.co.in.

The Final Dividend for the financial year 2016-17 @ Rs. 2.17 per equity share was paid on 29.09.2017. As per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the unpaid and unclaimed amounts of the aforesaid dividend became due for transfer to Fund. The corresponding shares of the holders who have not encashed/ claimed their dividend for seven consecutive years are also liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority's Demat Account.

Shareholders may please note that if any amount/ shares are transferred to the Fund, then the same has to be claimed from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority following the procedure as provided under IEPF Rules, 2016.

Shareholder(s) may refer to "IEPF Details" under the "Investors" section of the website: www.ntpc.co.in for further information for unclaimed/ unpaid dividend/ shares due to be transferred to IEPF Account. To avoid the inconvenience of claiming the refund/ shares from Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority, shareholders who have not received/ claimed/ encashed warrant(s) relating to the Final dividend for the financial year 2016-17 paid in September, 2017, may lodge their claims with the RTA i.e. Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd., Beetal House, 3rd Floor, 99 Madangir, Behind Local Shopping Centre, Near Dada Harsukhdas Mandir, New Delhi-110062. Tel.: (011) 29961281, 29961283, Fax: (011) - 29961284 and Email: ntpc@beetalfinancial.com or with the Dy. Nodal Officer, Investor Services Department, NTPC Ltd. at the address indicated above. Shareholders may kindly ensure that claim, if any, is received by the RTA/ NTPC Ltd. on or before 24.10.2024 to ensure that unclaimed/ unpaid dividend amount and shares are not transferred to the Fund.

Subsequent last dates for lodging claims for unpaid/ unclaimed dividend and shares to IEPF are as under:-

Financial Year	Nature of Dividend	Dividend %	Last date of Lodging claims
2017-18	Interim	27.30%	04.03.2025
2017-18	Final	23.90%	24.10.2025
2018-19	Interim	35.80%	04.03.2026

NTPC Ltd. had also issued Tax-Free Bonds - 2013, Tax-Free Bonds - 2015 and Bonus Debentures. Investors are also requested to check the details of such unclaimed interest amounts of Tax-Free Bonds and Bonus Debentures under the "Investors" section of the website: www.ntpc.co.in and lodge the claim with Kfin Technologies Limited (RTA for Tax-Free Bonds and Bonus Debentures) at Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31 & 32, Gachibowli Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad-500 032, Phone No: 040-67162222; and Email: inward_ris@kfin.tech or with the Dy. Nodal Officer, Investor Services Department, NTPC Ltd.

Shareholders(s) are requested to keep their email ID and other relevant details updated with their Depository Participant (DP), in case of shares held in dematerialized form and with the Company/ RTA, in case of shares held in physical form.

For and on behalf of NTPC Ltd.
sd/- (Ritu Arora)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
M. No.: F5270

Date: 24.07.2024
Place: New Delhi

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Director (Additional Charge), NCCS

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E-Tender

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5	Bid System	Two Bid System (Technical & Financial)
6	Name of the Authority & Official	Municipal Commissioner Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad Gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com
7	Bid Validity Period	180 Days
8	Bid Language	English
9	Bid Currency	INR
Key Dates		
	Uploading of bid	25.07.2024
	Last Date of bid submission on e-portal	09.08.2024, 02:00 PM
	Date of Technical bid opening	09.08.2024, 04:00 PM

Municipal Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER

CPM /GSU/ NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E - Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No.:** SNT-GSU-All-2024-25-01. **Name of work:** S&T work in connection with- "Additional DFC connection between IR and WDFC at New Kishangarh -Madar (Block Section) at Madar Station of Ajmer Division NWR." **Approximate cost of work :** ₹ 69,61,008.68. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,39,300/-. **Date & Time of closing E-Tender:** 16.08.2024 at 15.00 Hrs. **Date & Time of opening E-Tender:** 16.08.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of above E - tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in

851-AR/24

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SWAMI VIVEKANAND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN)
(MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT, GOVT. OF INDIA)
OLATPUR, P.O.- BAIROI, DIST-CUTTACK-754010, ODISHA

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following consultant posts for Cross Disability Early Intervention Centres (CDEICs), Guwahati and Imphal (under the administrative control of SVNIRTAR, Cuttack) as per details given below:-

Advertisement Ref. No.: AD6B37/07/2024, dated 22.07.2024

CDEIC, Guwahati and Imphal

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No of posts	Name of the CDEIC	Date & time of Interview	Reporting Time
1	Clinical Psychologist/ Rehabilitation Psychologist (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
2	Occupational Therapist (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
3	Physiotherapist (Consultant)	1	Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
4	Early Interventionist (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
5	Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologist (ASLP) (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
6	Special Educator (Mental Retardation/ Intellectual Disability) (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
7	Special Educator (Visually Impaired) (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
8	Nurse (Consultant)	2	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM
9	Trained Caregiver (Consultant)	6	Guwahati, Imphal	05.08.2024 at 02:00PM	09:30 AM

Venue of the interview:
Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (CRCSRE), Guwahati
Guwahati Medical College Hospital Campus, Hostel Road, Bhangagarh, Guwahati -781032 (Assam)

The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect may appear the interview as per the above scheduled date, time and venue along with completed applications as per prescribed proforma which can be downloaded from the SVNIRTAR, Cuttack official Website i.e. <https://svnirtar.nic.in> and <https://crcguwahati.com>.

Sd/- Director

KIND ATTENTION TAXPAYERS!!

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Get Your Refunds Timely

Thank you for being a responsible Tax payer

Is your refund due?

- Then please note:
- Refund claims are subject to verification checks, which may cause delays.
 - Accurate filing of ITR leads to quicker processing of refunds.
 - Any discrepancies in the claims made will prompt a request for a revised return.

- DO**
- Regularly visit the e-filing portal.
 - Check for any communication regarding your ITR processing.
 - Promptly take necessary actions based on the communication.
 - Ensure all claims made are correct and accurate.

- DON'T**
- Incorrectly claim TDS amounts.
 - Under-report your income.
 - Exaggerate deductions.
 - Submit claims for bogus expenses.

Please login to the e-filing Portal using link <https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal/> and visit 'Dashboard' for Processing Status and visit **Pending Action>>Worklist** section to check if any action item is pending for closure.

Filing a false or bogus claim is a punishable offence.



Income Tax Department
Central Board of Director Taxes



For more information, Scan QR Code

For further assistance, please visit the website of the Income tax Department: www.incometax.gov.in



"We will endeavour to maintain strong fiscal support for infrastructure over the next five years..."

FISCAL CONSOLIDATION ROADMAP

Shifting focus from fiscal deficit to debt-GDP ratio

The govt has cut the fiscal deficit target to 4.9% of the GDP for FY25 from 5.1% in interim Budget

ANANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

EVEN AS the government announced schemes to boost employment and assistance to some states in Union Budget 2024-25, it reiterated its intent to stick to the fiscal consolidation roadmap and announced a lower fiscal deficit target.

In what could be a signal to rating agencies, the government cut the fiscal deficit target to 4.9 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for financial year 2024-25 from 5.1 per cent in the interim Budget, while underlining that the central government debt will be on a declining path as a percentage of the GDP.

"The fiscal consolidation path announced by me in 2021 has served our economy very well, and we aim to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year. The Government is committed to staying the course. From 2026-27 onwards, our endeavour will be to keep the fiscal deficit each year such that the Central Government debt will be on a declining path as percentage of GDP," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said while presenting the Budget.

The government had pegged the fiscal deficit target at 5.9 per cent of the GDP in Budget 2023-24, which it was able to lower to 5.8 per cent in the revised estimates. The Budget 2024-25 documents presented on Tuesday showed that as per the 'provisional actuals' data, fiscal deficit for FY24 stands at 5.6 per cent of the GDP.

"There is a commitment to lower the debt-GDP ratio. So every year it has to be reduced. There will necessarily have to be a particular level of deficit which we cannot exceed and that will depend on prevailing growth rates, interest rates and other parameters, which go into the calculation of the debt dynamics. But I can tell you that it is most likely to be a figure, not above 4.5 per cent," Finance Secretary TV Somanathan said in a media briefing after the Budget.

Somanathan also said that the govern-

ment hereon would focus more on the debt-GDP ratio than fiscal deficit. "There is an approach which is outlined in that sentence which is that hereafter it is not the intention to focus on a deficit number but rather to look at what will keep reducing our debt-to-GDP ratio in normal years. The reason for this is a fixed figure which historically has been enshrined in the FRBM Act in the past does not take into account the specific dynamics of the fast growing economy like India... what is sustainable in a fast growing economy is very different from the debt which is sustainable in a slow growing economy. India is today the fastest growing large economy in the world. The deficit which we can support, without expanding our debt, is not necessarily 3 per cent, it is much more than 3 per cent. It is probably less than 4.5 per cent but without getting into specifics, yes, it is a new approach that the government has spoken about," he said.

The lowering of the fiscal deficit in FY24 has come on the back of a sharp compression of revenue expenditure and lower capital expenditure or capex. Revenue expenditure fell by 1.3 per cent from the revised estimates for FY24 to Rs 34.94 lakh crore in the provisional actuals. Capex also reduced in FY24 to Rs 9.49 lakh crore, 0.2 per cent lower than the revised estimates and 5.2 per cent or Rs 52,455 crore lower than budget estimate for FY24.

The government finances gained on the back of a sharp rise in tax and non-tax revenues. Tax revenues have grown 10.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 23.27 lakh crore in FY24. Non-tax revenues also rose 40.8 per cent from previous fiscal to 4.02 lakh crore in FY24. For FY25, tax revenues have been estimated to rise 11 per cent to Rs 25.83 lakh crore, while non-tax revenues are seen rising 35.8 per cent to Rs 5.46 lakh crore. For FY25, the government stuck to the capital expenditure target of Rs 11.11 lakh crore set out in the interim budget, marking an increase at a slower rate of growth compared to previous years at 17.1 per cent over the provisional actual number of Rs 9.49 lakh crore in FY24.

EXPLAINED REVENUE EXPENDITURE

THE LOWERING of the FY24 fiscal deficit has come on the back of a compression in revenue expenditure and lower capex along with higher tax revenues.

FISCAL DEFICIT TO GDP RATIO

All Figures in %



Source: Finance Ministry

Centre's subsidy bill to fall to five-year-low in 2024-25

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE CENTRE'S outgo on subsidies is budgeted to decline to a five-year-low in 2024-25, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). This is despite no increases in the prices of fertilisers for farmers or that of foodgrains sold through the public distribution system (PDS).

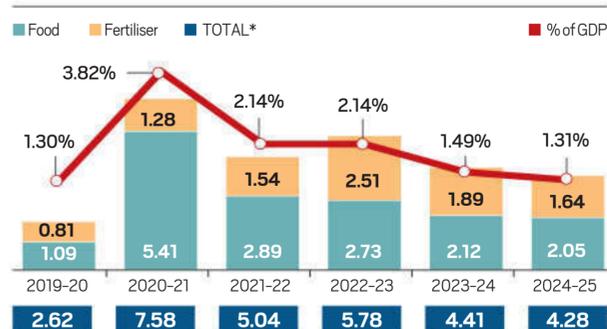
The subsidy bill peaked at Rs 758,165 crore (3.8 per cent of GDP) in 2020-21, which is expected to fall to Rs 428,423 crore (1.3 per cent) in the current year. The lower spend is on account of two factors.

The first is the discontinuation of the free, additional 5-kg grain allocation to the 80 acre-plus PDS beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. The extra rice or wheat - over and above the regular 5 kg/person/month PDS quota - was given during the post-Covid period from April 2020 to December 2022. That ended from January 2023.

With the annual grain offtake through the PDS and other schemes falling - from 93.7 million tonnes (mt) in 2020-21, 105.8 mt in 2021-22 and 93.1 mt in 2022-23, to 67.7 mt in 2023-24 and a projected 61.1 mt in 2024-25 - and the government's procurement as well as stocks in godowns declining (translating into reduced carrying cost of buffer beyond operational requirements), the food subsidy is budgeted at just Rs 205,250 crore this fiscal.

The subsidy hit an all-time-high of Rs 541,330 crore in 2020-21, when the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also made a one-time provision to enable the Food Corporation of India (FCI) repay some Rs 339,236 crore of outstanding loans taken from the National Small Savings Fund. Previously, the Centre wasn't wholly funding

OUTGO ON SUBSIDIES (₹ LAKH CRORE)



*Includes petroleum, interest and other subsidies; 2023-24 is revised and 2024-25 is budget estimates

the subsidy, arising from the difference between the FCI's economic cost (what it incurs in procuring, distributing and storing grain) and its average issue price. This gap had to, then, be bridged through borrowings. FCI's economic cost is Rs 39.75/kg for rice and Rs 27.74/kg for wheat, while the same grains are being issued entirely free to PDS beneficiaries.

The second major driver for the Centre's lower overall subsidy provision is fertiliser. At Rs 164,000 crore, the budgeted fertiliser subsidy for 2024-25 is down from the record Rs 251,339 crore of 2022-23, which resulted from high global prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Landed prices of imported urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and muriate of potash (MOP) are currently at around \$350, \$560 and \$280 per tonne, as against their corresponding recent highs of \$900-1,000 (in November-January 2021-22), \$950-960

(July 2022) and \$590 (till March 2023).

Even prices of key inputs, phosphoric acid and ammonia, have eased to \$950 and \$380 per tonne, from their peaks of \$1,715 (July-September 2022) and \$1,575 (April 2022). "The budget has provided Rs 118,999.80 crore towards urea subsidy and Rs 45,000 crore for other fertilisers. But with global prices of DAP hardening (towards \$600/tonne), the latter figure could rise. The overall subsidy requirement may, however, not increase if urea and natural gas prices hover at current levels," said N Suresh Krishnan, chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India.

The fertiliser supply situation is comfortable for now with planting of kharif crops in full swing. There could be an availability problem in respect of DAP for the coming rabi (winter-spring) season. "I expect some shift happening from DAP to NPK complex fertilisers due to that," added Krishnan.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

From divestment to kickstarting private investment, the many silences

UDIT MISRA & ISHAN BAKSHI
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE SLUGGISH PACE of investments by Corporate India has been possibly the biggest policy conundrum leading up to the first Budget of the NDA government's third term under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, the Union Budget speech for 2024-25 is silent on why private sector investments haven't quite commenced despite the corporate tax breaks in 2019, the significant ramping up of government's capex over the last few years, the improving profitability of India Inc, and healthy bank balance sheets.

On Monday, the Economic Survey, authored by Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, sought to answer if "the corporate sector had responded" to the cut in taxes in September 2019 to facilitate capital formation.

Delving deeper into the issue, the Survey had found that in the four years till FY23, the private sector was investing more in 'dwellings, other buildings and structures' and not in 'machinery and equipment and intellectual property'. "This is not a healthy mix," it said.

This, however, was not the only question on which the Budget remained silent. Nor was this the only issue on which there was an alignment between the Survey and the Budget, something that hasn't happened in recent years.

For instance, both the Budget and the Survey acknowledge the need for greater job creation in the economy. The Survey



Union Budget speech for 2024-25 is silent on why private sector investments haven't quite commenced despite the corporate tax breaks in 2019

had estimated that 78.5 lakh jobs need to be created annually over the coming years to absorb those joining the labour force and those exiting agriculture. On Tuesday, the Finance Minister announced three schemes to boost employment.

The Budget is also quiet on the other big policy question: Why is private consumption low? It did attempt to boost household purchasing power by rejigging income tax slabs and leaving more money in the hands of the people. For its part, the Survey had pointed out that private consumption grew at 4 per cent last year at a time when the broader economy grew at

over 8 per cent.

Another key issue to which the Survey merely paid lip service and the Budget speech sidestepped is the disinvestment of public sector enterprises. In the past, disinvestment was front and centre to the BJP-led NDA government's promise of "minimum government, maximum governance". Modi had, in fact, said there was no business for the government to be in business.

The issue of pushing through long pending second generation reforms was also acknowledged in the Budget. In essence, these reforms relate to various factors of production such as land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship, and technology. Reforms in these factors are expected to make them more efficient and improve productivity.

In the Budget, the Finance Minister announced that the government will formulate an economic policy framework that will initiate and incentivise reforms for improving productivity of factors of production. And while the Budget did announce some proposals, these fall short of a full set of factor market reforms as have been envisioned in the past.

The Modi-led government had, in its first term, attempted to reform land acquisition. However, the ordinances brought to this effect were eventually allowed to lapse. In the second term, the government tried to bring about labour market reforms by introducing new labour codes. But, as the Survey notes, these "are yet to be fully operationalised and many states are found to be reintroducing the older restrictions under the new laws".



"As a result of these changes, a salaried employee in the new tax regime stands to save up to ₹17,500/- in income tax"



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS 2% EQUALISATION LEVY

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to withdraw the 2 per cent equalisation levy on e-commerce supply of goods or services with effect from August 1, 2024. Effective April 1, 2020, India imposed an equalisation levy on considerations received or receivable by the non-resident e-commerce operators. The imposition of the levy became a bone of contention between India and the US, with the US even threatening to impose tariffs up to 25 per cent on several Indian products. "The withdrawal of the Equalisation Levy is a significant step, long-awaited by the global taxpayer community. The lack of clarity in its interpretation and inconsistent application across different sectors and transactions made it a contentious issue," said Gaurav Mehndiratta, Partner and Head, Corporate and International Tax, KPMG in India.

RENTAL EARNING TO BE CLASSIFIED AS PROPERTY INCOME



RENTAL INCOME of taxpayers from residential properties will now be charged under the head 'income from house property' and not as income from business or profession, according to the Union Budget 2024. The memorandum explaining provisions in the Finance Bill, 2023, said that some taxpayers were reporting their rental income generated by letting out of the house property, under the latter and were reducing their tax liability "substantially". The Budget has recommended an amendment to Section 28 of the Income Tax Act to clarify that any income from letting out of a residential house or a part of the house by the owner shall be chargeable under the head "Income from house property".

HIGHER DEDUCTION FOR EMPLOYERS ON NPS CONTRIBUTION

The Union Budget 2024 has raised the deduction on employers' National Pension System (NPS) contribution to employees' basic salary from the current 10 per cent to 14 per cent. The change will apply to both public and private sector companies under the new tax regime. "Employees opting for the new tax regime will now get higher deduction up to 14 per cent of basic salary for contribution made to NPS by the employer on employee's behalf under Section 80CCD(2) (of Income Tax Act). This will help them to save more taxes and create a bigger pension pool for social security," said Shalini Jain, Tax Partner, People Advisory Services, EY India.

HIGHER STANDARD DEDUCTION, SLAB TWEAKS

New Tax Regime sweetened further

'The government's intent is to have a simple income tax regime and widen the tax base'

SANDEEP SINGH & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN A bid to provide surplus at the hands of the middle class, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an increase in the standard deduction to Rs 75,000 from Rs 50,000, and also tweaked the tax slabs under the simplified New Tax Regime (NTR) marginally. These decisions will provide a tax benefit of up to Rs 17,500 per year to individual taxpayers under the NTR.

Tax payers falling in the highest tax bracket—those with a taxable income of Rs 15 lakh or more—will save Rs 7,500 on account of enhancement in the standard deduction limit under the NTR. In addition to this benefit, the rate rationalisation will lead to savings of Rs 10,000 for this segment of taxpayers, taking their total savings to Rs 17,500.

While all taxpayers with taxable income of over Rs 12 lakh will save Rs 10,000 on account of rate rationalisation, their savings on account of the increase in standard deduction would be lower than those in the top tax bracket. This is because the savings due to higher standard deduction are calculated based on the applicable income tax rate, which would be different for different in-

come groups.

Earlier, those falling in Rs 3-6 lakh taxable income bracket paid income tax at the rate of 5 per cent. The FM announced a change in this slab to Rs 3-7 lakh. Similarly, the slab for 10 per cent tax rate has been changed from Rs 6-9 lakh to Rs 7-10 lakh. The tax slab for 15 per cent rate has been changed from Rs 9-12 lakh to 10-12 lakh.

The Old Tax Regime (OTR) was left untouched in the Union Budget for 2024-25, and the additional savings offered under the NTR may be seen as further sweetening of the new regime in a bid to attract more salaried taxpayers to it. Over the past few years, the government has been trying to make the simple and exemption-free NTR the preferred tax regime for salaried taxpayers.

In a post-Budget media interaction, Sitharaman said that the government's intent is to have a simple income tax regime and widen the tax base, and the simplified NTR is part of that effort. Responding to a question on whether the government is planning a sunset for the OTR as part of the planned comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, Sitharaman said that she cannot comment on it till the review is done.

According to Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, of the around four crore taxpayers who have so far filed income tax returns for

NEW TAX REGIME GETS MORE COMPETITIVE

All figures in ₹	Old Tax Regime	NTR 2024-25	NTR 2023-24
Gross Taxable Salary	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Standard Deduction	-50,000	-75,000	-50,000
Gross Taxable Income	1,450,000	1,425,000	1,450,000
LESS: DEDUCTIONS			
Interest on Home Loan u/s 24	200,000	-	-
Investments u/s 80C	150,000	-	-
NPS	50,000	-	-
Deduction u/s 80D	25,000	-	-
Deduction u/s 80TTB/80TTA	50,000	-	-
Net Taxable Income	975,000	1,425,000	1,450,000
Normal Income	975,000	1,425,000	1,450,000
Tax on Normal Income	107,500	125,000	140,000
Tax on Special Income	-	-	-
Cess@ 4%	4,300	5,000	5,600
Total Tax Payable	111,800	130,000	145,600
Benefit of NTR vs OTR		-18,200	-33,800

Assumptions: In ₹15 lakh taxable income scenario, the taxpayer is claiming deductions of ₹4.75 lakh

financial year 2023-24, around 70 per cent opted for the NTR, suggesting that the government's efforts to sweeten of the new regime and make it more lucrative vis-à-vis the OTR in recent years has borne fruit.

How the New Tax Regime fares against Old Tax Regime

A set of fresh tweaking in the New Tax Regime has brought the tax outgo much closer

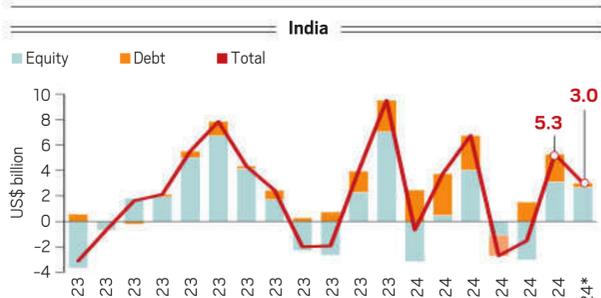
EXPLAINED

OLD REGIME UNTOUCHED

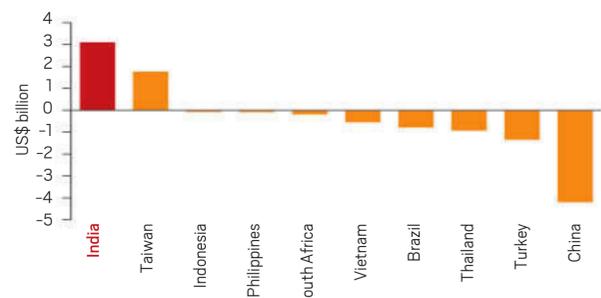
IN A signal to wane off the deduction regime, while the government tweaked new tax regime to make it more attractive, it left the old tax regime untouched. Under the NTR, taxpayers will save ₹17,500 as a result of the change in tax slab and increase in standard deduction

to what one pays under the old tax regime after availing all the deductions available. For an individual with a taxable income of Rs 15 lakh and availing the maximum available deduction of Rs 4.75 lakh, while the tax outgo stands at Rs 111,800, under the new tax regime (2023-24) the tax outgo was higher by Rs 33,800. However, after the changes announced on Tuesday, the tax outgo under the new tax plan will now be higher by only Rs 18,200. It is important to note that if the deduction claimed is limited to Rs 4 lakh (instead of Rs 4.75 lakh) under the old tax regime, then the taxpayer would end up saving Rs 2,600 in the new tax regime.

NET PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS



Equity Inflows in Peer Economies (Jun 2024)



Notes: 1. Debt includes investments under the voluntary retention route and hybrid instruments. 2. *: Data up to July 15, 2024. Sources: National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL); and Institute of International Finance.

Govt hikes long-term capital gains tax to 12.5% from 10%; clamps down on F&O trading, raises STT

HITESH VYAS
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday raised taxation on income on short-term and long-term capital gains and also doubled the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures & options (F&O) of securities.

In the Union Budget 2024-25, Sitharaman announced an increase in the long-term capital gains (LTCG) on all financial and non-financial assets to 12.5 per cent, from 10 per cent. However, the exemption limit of Rs 1 lakh for LTCG on these assets has also increased to Rs 1.25 lakh.

The rate on short-term capital gains (STCG) has been hiked to 20 per cent from 15 per cent. The new rates on LTCG and STCG are applicable from July 23.

In a bid to check the exponential rise in volume in the derivative segment, Sitharaman proposed to double the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures & options (F&O) of securities, effective October 1, 2024.

The rise in taxation on capital gains and

STT resulted in a sharp fall in the domestic stock market. The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 1,277 points, or 1.6 per cent, to touch an intraday low of 79,224.32 after the announcement. The broader Nifty 50 tanked 435 points, or 1.77 per cent, to a day's low of 24,074.2. Both the indices, however, recovered later, with the Sensex ending at 80,429.04 and Nifty at 24,279.05 on Tuesday.

This increase in STT, which is levied on transactions in specified securities, comes at a time when the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have raised concerns over the rise in volumes in futures and options segment, which can pose a risk to macroeconomic stability. Sources close to regulatory decision making said the F&O frenzy is threatening to hurt capital formation, investment and growth and pose a systemic risk. "Security Transactions Tax (STT) on futures and options of securities is proposed to be increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively," Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2024-25.

Presently, the rate of levy of STT on the sale of an option in securities is 0.0625 per



cent of the option premium, while the rate of levy of STT on the sale of a future in securities is 0.0125 per cent of the price at which such futures are traded. However, a section of the market said the hike in STT may not serve its purpose as investors are likely to absorb the higher tax rates and continue the business as usual. The rate of levy of STT on delivery trades in equity shares is 0.1 per cent on both purchase and sale transactions, while in the case of sale of an option in securities where the option is exercised, the rate of levy is 0.125 per cent of the intrinsic price (i.e the difference between the settle-

ment price and the strike price) and is payable by the purchaser.

Commenting on the announcement, Nikhil Kamath, Founder and CEO, Zerodha, said, "We collected about Rs 1,500 crore of STT last year, @zerodhaonline. If the volumes don't drop, this will increase to about Rs 2,500 crore at the new rates."

"The long-term capital gains tax has been increased from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent, and the short-term capital gains tax has been increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. Both will be applicable from today (July 23). If the idea was to cool down the activity in the markets, this might just do the trick," Kamath wrote on X (formerly Twitter). According to Kotak Securities' President and Head Digital Business, Ashish Nanda, since STT is charged only to the seller, on a round trip premium turnover of Rs 10,000 in options STT will increase from Rs 6.25 to Rs 10. Similarly, in futures, STT will lead to an increase from Rs 1.25 to Rs 2 for every Rs 10,000 of turnover, he said.

Futures and options are derivative contracts that derive their value from underlying assets that include stocks, commodities, currencies etc.



"The purpose (of the I-T Act review) is to make it concise, lucid, easy to read and understand. This will reduce disputes and litigation"

ALSO REMOVED FOR GOLD SALE

No benefit of indexation for property sale, LTCG rate 12.5%

Old investments in real estate will continue to get indexation benefits up to year 2000: Officials



Despite the changes in the LTCG tax regime, sellers of residential properties can continue to claim exemption under Sec 54 of the IT Act. Abhinav Saha/File

SANDEEP SINGH & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN A major move that may alter the flow of investments in real estate and gold, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday proposed to remove the indexation benefit available for calculation of any long-term capital gains presently available for property, gold and other unlisted assets. The government also proposed to rationalise capital gains tax on these assets at 12.5 per cent as against 20 per cent earlier that came with indexation benefit.

"With rationalisation of rate to 12.5 per cent, indexation available under second proviso to Section 48 is proposed to be removed for calculation of any long-term capital gains which is presently available for property, gold and other unlisted assets," the Budget document stated.

It stated that this move will ease the computation of capital gains for the taxpayer and tax administration.

In a post-Budget interaction with journalists, top Finance Ministry officials, however, clarified that old real estate investments will continue to get indexation benefits up to the year 2000. This means that if a residential property was purchased in 1975 and is sold now, the seller can avail indexation benefit up to 2000, but not for the remaining 24 years.

It is worth noting that despite the changes in the long-term capital gains tax regime, sellers of residential properties can continue to claim exemption under Section 54 of the Income Tax Act. The section provides for an exemption on the long-term capital gains tax from sale of residential property if the proceeds from the sale are used to purchase or construct another residential property.

So will the new tax rate of 12.5% without indexation benefit be better or the old tax rate of 20 per cent with indexation? Rough calculations show that if the inflation levels are low and the property price increase is faster, then the new system will work out better for sellers.

For example, if a property's price doubles in 10 years from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh and the average inflation is 5 per cent, then the investor will benefit from the old system as he would have paid a tax of ₹74,000 as against a tax of ₹1.25 lakh under the new system.

However, if the property price triples in the same period, then the new system would be beneficial. So, if the price of the property rises three times from ₹10 lakh to ₹30 lakh in the same 10-year period and the inflation remains same at 5 per cent, then in the old system the seller would pay a tax of ₹2.74 lakh as against ₹2.50 lakh under the new proposed system.

So, while the government has proposed the new taxation of 12.5 per cent without indexation, sellers would hope for a faster growth in property prices to be better-off.

Many in the real estate industry and investment advisory space, however, say that with real estate taxation coming at par with long term capital gains tax of 12.5 per cent on equity investments, investors may sway towards the equity segment, which is relatively far more liquid and has ease of transaction.

"Only the salaried class may avoid real estate and switch to equities for ease of transaction and liquidity, after the tax rate for both have come at par. Those dealing in cash and investing large sums in real estate will continue to invest in the same (real estate)," said the CEO of a mutual fund who did not wish to be named. He said this move may lead to an increase in black money transactions going forward.

EXPLAINED FLOW OF INVESTMENT

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Illustration: Bivash Barua

Govt decriminalises late payment of TDS, to reduce litigation with Vivad se Vishwas scheme

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE UNION Budget has proposed a number of tax simplification measures including a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, decriminalisation of late payment of tax deducted at source (TDS) and the Vivad se Vishwas Scheme 2024 for settling direct tax disputes.

The other proposed measures include decriminalisation of non-reporting of small foreign assets, a simplified tax regime for charities and a tweak in limits for reassessments to reduce disputes.

The Budget also proposed legislative changes to provide for immunity to benamidar or any person other than the beneficial owner who turns approver against the beneficial owner under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988.

"A beginning is being made in the Finance Bill by simplifying the tax regime for charities, TDS rate structure, provisions for reassessment and search provisions and capital gains taxation. The two tax exemption regimes for charities are proposed to be merged into one," said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

At present, the Income Tax Act has two main regimes for trusts or funds or institutions to claim exemption. Now, it is proposed to merge trusts under the first regime with the second regime for exemption and also provide for rationalisation of filing of applications and the timelines for registration and approval of certain benefits to charitable trusts and institutions.

The Budget also proposed to decriminalise several provisions under the Income Tax Act. Indian professionals working in multinational get ESOPs (employee stock ownership plans) and invest in social security

schemes and other movable assets abroad and non-reporting of such small foreign assets has penal consequences under the Black Money Act. Now, such non-reporting of movable assets up to ₹20 lakh has been proposed to be de-penalised.

The Budget has also proposed to decriminalise late payment of TDS, if the payment is made before the time prescribed for filing the TDS statement. Time limits for reassessment are proposed to be reduced from ten years to five years along with rationalisation of the procedure for reassessment. "An assessment hereinafter can be reopened beyond three years from the end of the assessment year only if the escaped income is ₹50 lakh or more, up to a maximum period of five years from the end of the assessment year. Even in search cases, a time limit of six years before the year of search, as against the existing time limit of ten years, is proposed. This will reduce tax uncertainty and disputes," Sitharaman said.

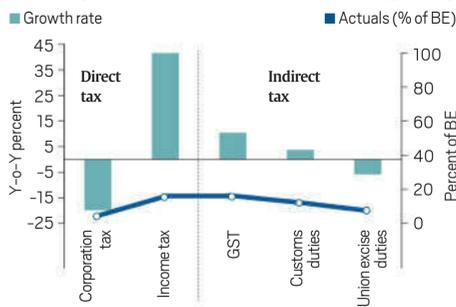
The 5 per cent TDS rate has been proposed to be 2 per cent on several transactions including payment of insurance commission, payment in respect of life insurance policy, commission on sale of lottery tickets, payment of commission or brokerage, payment of rent by certain individuals or HUF. These changes will be effective from October 1.

The 20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI was withdrawn, while the TDS rate on e-commerce operators has been proposed to be reduced from 1 per cent to 0.1 per cent.

The Budget has also proposed to increase the monetary limits for filing appeals related to direct taxes, excise and service tax in tax tribunals, high courts and the Supreme Court to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore, respectively. The current limit involves tax demand of ₹50 lakh, ₹1 crore and ₹2 crore, respectively. The details of Vivad se Vishwas will be notified by the Finance Ministry in the coming days.

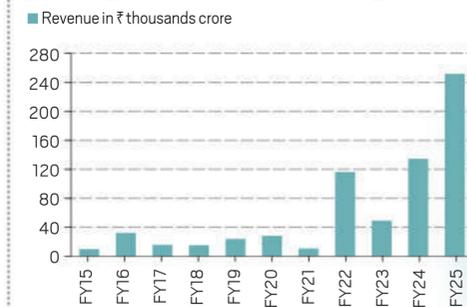
REVENUE RECEIPTS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Tax Revenue (April-May 2024-25)



Source: CGA; and Union Budget Documents.

Non Tax Revenue (April-May)



Customs duty slashed on range of input materials including gold and silver

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA & GEORGE MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

TO RECTIFY the inverted duty structure hurting manufacturing in various sectors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced a reduction in customs duty on a range of input materials — from critical minerals, electronics and chemicals to precious metals such as gold, and silver among others effective from July 24.

Sitharaman said that the government is focused on boosting labour-intensive sectors and will undertake a comprehensive review of the rate structure over the next six months to rationalise and simplify it for ease of trade.

Inverted duty structure is a phenomenon caused by the difference in tax rates applied on the production of a good which uses imported materials as inputs. Inverted duties refer to a situation where the import

tariff on inputs is higher than the tax levied on the final output.

Aimed at boosting exports of the labour-intensive gems and jewellery industry that has been taking a hit due to weak demand in the West, Sitharaman announced a reduction in customs duties on gold and silver to 6 per cent from the current level of 15 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent from 15.4 per cent.

Stating that with a three-fold increase in domestic production and an almost 100-fold jump in exports of mobile phones over the last six years, the Indian mobile industry has matured, the Finance Minister announced a reduction in the basic customs duty on mobile phone, mobile phone PCBA (printed circuit board assembly), and mobile phone chargers to 15 per cent. These components attracted a Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 20 per cent earlier.

Another crucial duty cut was made in a long-standing industry demand in the critical mineral segment. Fully exempting cus-

REDUCTION IN DUTY

Commodity	From (%)	To (%)
Gold and silver bars	15	6
Critical minerals (including lithium and nickel)	10/7.5/5/2.5	Nil
Cancer drugs*	10	Nil
Certain additional capital goods for use in manufacturing solar cells and modules	7.5	Nil
Mobile phones	20	15
Wet white, crust and finished leather	10	Nil

*Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib, Durvalumab; Source: Union Budget

toms duties on 25 critical minerals, Sitharaman said that minerals such as lithium copper, cobalt and rare earth elements are critical for sectors like nuclear energy, renewable energy, space defence, telecommunications and high-tech electronics.

BCD on two other critical minerals was also reduced in order to provide a "major fillip to the processing and refining of such minerals" and help secure their availability for these strategic and important sectors.

"Steel and copper are important raw materials to reduce the cost of production,

I propose to remove the BCD on ferronickel and blister copper. I'm also continuing with nil BCD on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode and concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap," Sitharaman said.

Like most countries around the world, India is heavily dependent on imports from China to meet rising demand for critical minerals. "Further, China's overwhelming dominance in the supply of processed critical minerals and materials for energy transition renders a true decoupling between the two nations neither easy nor likely," the Economic Survey 2024-25 said.

Sitharaman reduced duty on input material for the marine industry and leather and textile sector too.

"India's seafood exports in the last financial year touched an all-time high of more than Rs 60,000 crores. Frozen shrimp accounted for about two-thirds of these exports. To enhance their competitiveness, I propose to reduce BCD on certain broodstock, folicate, worms, shrimp and fish feed to 5 per cent. I

also propose to exempt customs duty on various inputs for the manufacture of shrimp and fish feed," Sitharaman said.

To enhance the competitiveness of exports in the leather and textile sectors, Sitharaman proposed to reduce BCD on real down filling material from duck or goose.

"I am also making additions to the list of exempted goods for the manufacture of leather and textile garments, footwear and other leather articles for export. To rectify inversion in duty, I propose to reduce BCD subject to conditions on Methyl Diphenyl Isocyanate for the manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 per cent to 5 per cent," she said.

Gold prices plummeted by over five per cent after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a sharp import duty cut in gold and silver prices. Gold prices declined by 5.72 per cent, or ₹4,162, at ₹68,556 per 10 grams on the MCX platform amid speculation that gold imports will rise after the duty revision. Silver prices fell by 4.77 per cent to ₹84,949 per kg after the duty cut.



"With states, our govt will facilitate development of cities as growth hubs... through economic & transit planning, and development of peri-urban areas"



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

POWER DEMAND

To bolster grid, push for thermal & energy storage

High efficiency 800 MW thermal plant to be set up; plans for energy storage policy with focus on hydro

AGGAM WALIA & AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN AN attempt to counterbalance the variability of renewable energy and strengthen India's baseload power capacity, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced plans to set up the country's first 800 MW advanced ultra-supercritical (AUSC) thermal plant based on indigenous technology.

Sitharaman also unveiled plans to formulate a policy for energy storage focusing on promoting pumped storage projects (PSPs). "A policy for promoting pumped storage projects will be brought out for electricity storage and facilitating smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy with its variable & intermittent nature in the overall energy mix," she said.

Pumped hydro storage is a large-scale energy storage technology that uses gravity to generate electricity. During low demand, excess power is used to pump water to an elevated reservoir; when demand peaks, this water is released through turbines to generate electricity. It is considered a supplement to renewables like solar or wind.

As of May 2024, eight PSPs are operational in India with a cumulative storage capacity of 4,745 MW, according to data with the Central Electricity Authority. At the same time, four projects of 2,780 MW are under-construction and 33 projects of 42,150 MW are undergoing feasibility studies.

Nuclear power

The budget has signalled a fresh push for nuclear energy through the deployment of still-under-development small modular reactors (SMRs). Sitharaman said the government will partner with the private sector for research and development and deployment of indigenous SMRs. But she did not offer any timeline or deployment target.

SMRs are advanced nuclear plants with a capacity of up to 300 MW per unit, much smaller than conventional reactors. Their modular design ensures faster construction and deployment. Potential advantages include lower capital costs, scalability, and enhanced safety. At the same time, SMRs are not considered replacements to conventional nuclear plants, which serve as base load plants.

Barring one reactor in China and another in Russia, SMRs are not in operation anywhere in the world right now, and the technology is still under development.

But much more nuclear energy is needed to power India's clean energy transition. Since it is available all the time, nuclear energy is considered the only viable alternative to thermal power for providing baseload electricity. SMRs are meant to serve this demand for a quick ramp up of nuclear energy, even though integrating them into the electricity grid may still be a few years away.

Recognizing the need for boosting elec-

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Recognizing the need for boosting elec-

INSTALLED POWER GENERATION CAPACITY (IN MW)

Generation Source	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Biopower	10,023	10,314	10,682	10,802	10,941
Small-Hydro	4,683	4,786	4,848	4,944	5,003
Solar	35,607	41,236	53,996	66,780	81,813
Wind	37,693	39,247	40,357	42,633	45,886
Coal	2,05,454	2,09,344	2,10,749	2,11,905	2,17,589
Hydro	45,845	46,355	46,748	46,868	46,928
Nuclear	6,780	6,780	6,780	6,780	8,180
Gas	24,922	24,890	24,866	24,814	25,028
Total	3,71,009	3,82,955	3,99,029	4,15,527	4,41,370
Growth rate (y-o-y)		3.2%	4.2%	4.13%	6.22%

Source: iced.niti.gov.in

CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS



* (up to Nov 2023)

TOTAL LENGTH OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS



Source: pib.gov.in

Govt looks to boost e-commerce exports, will set up PPP hubs along lines of Southeast Asian countries

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday announced the setting up of e-commerce export hubs across the country in public-private partnership (PPP) mode along the lines of several Southeast Asian countries that are benefiting from the rapid growth of e-commerce exports.

While Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and artisans in China, South Korea, Japan and Vietnam have witnessed a surge of exports through e-commerce, India's exports through this route, at \$5 billion, have only been a fraction of its total goods exports of \$450 billion. In contrast, China's exports through this medium alone have crossed \$300 billion.

The step comes at a time when Indian goods exports are facing several disruptions due to external shocks emanating from the Russia-Ukraine war, the Red Sea crisis and container shortages due to growing trade tensions between US and China. Goods exports during the last financial year had slipped by 5 per cent.



India's exports through the e-commerce route, at \$5 billion, have only been a fraction of its total goods exports of \$450 billion. File

"To enable MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets, E-Commerce Export Hubs will be set up in public-PPP mode. These hubs, under a seamless regulatory and logistic framework, will facilitate trade and export related services under one roof," Sitharaman said.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry in

1 crore houses for poor & middle class under Ph-2 of urban housing scheme

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

HIGHLIGHTING URBAN development as one of the nine priorities of the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 — with ₹2.2 lakh crore central assistance over five years — to construct one crore houses.

"Under the PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0, housing needs of one crore urban poor and middle-class families will be addressed with an investment of ₹10 lakh crore. This will include the central assistance of ₹2.2 lakh crore in the next five years. A provision of interest subsidy to facilitate loans at affordable rates is also envisaged. In addition, enabling policies and regulations for efficient and transparent rental housing markets with enhanced availability will also be put in place," the minister said.

The Cabinet had last month approved three crore additional houses — two crore in rural areas and one crore in urban areas — in its first meeting in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

With PMAY-U coming to an end on December 31 this year, the Budget made a provision of ₹30,170.61 crore for the scheme. This would include funding for PMAY-U 2.0, ministry sources said. The amount included

₹3,000 crore for credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) for the economically weaker section (EWS)/Lower Income Group (LIG), ₹1,000 crore for CLSS for Middle Income Group (MIG) and ₹500 crore for the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust, which is a restructuring of an earlier scheme that will help informal sector workers who apply for home loans to get credit guarantee.

The details of the scheme, including the income criteria for applicants of different categories, were still being finalised, sources said. Launching the scheme is on the Ministry's agenda for the first 100 days of the Modi government's third term, it is learnt.

"For redevelopment of existing cities, government will formulate a framework for enabling policies, market-based mechanisms and regulation. Transit-oriented development plans for 14 cities with a population above 30 lakh will be formulated..." she said.

She also announced water supply, sewage treatment and solid waste management projects for 100 large cities in partnership with state governments and multilateral development banks. The government will come up with a scheme for development of 100 weekly haats or street food hubs in select cities in five years, she said. The allocation for the PM Svanidhi scheme, which gives street vendors working capital loans, was reduced from ₹468 crore in BE 2023-2024 to ₹326.32 crore.

India's current e-commerce export provisions are a patchwork of rules framed for regular business-to-business (B2B) exporters. This creates an enormous compliance burden on small firms, and India needs to address all such issues in one place. To address such needs, the report recommends that the Indian government issue a separate e-commerce export policy," the GTRI report said.

While growth of Southeast Asia's e-commerce market has accelerated since the mid-2010s, the COVID-19 pandemic has propelled it into a new phase, McKinsey & Company said in a report. "From 2016 to 2021, the total value of e-commerce sales grew fivefold, or 40 per cent, annually. And e-commerce's share of all retail sales surged to 20 percent, from 5 percent," the report said.

India's thermal capacity addition has slowed down in recent years, growing only at 6 per cent to 218 GW in FY24 from 205 GW in FY20. At the same time, generation by coal-fired thermal plants grew by 34 per cent from 960 billion units (BU) to 1,290 billion units (BU) and the average plant load factor (PLF), or capacity utilisation, jumped from 53 per cent to 68 per cent.

The slowdown in thermal capacity addition has come at a time when lack of effective storage options to counterbalance the variability of surging renewables capacity has increased the pressure on India's grid managers. Peak electricity demand, typically during late evenings, often coincides with reduced output from solar and wind capacities due to natural constraints. As a consequence, the grid depends heavily on thermal and nuclear plants to maintain base load capacity and ensure overall system stability.

Recognizing the need for boosting elec-

tricity storage options, the Finance Minister unveiled plans to formulate a policy on pumped storage projects (PSPs). "A policy for promoting pumped storage projects will be brought out for electricity storage and facilitating smooth integration of the growing share of renewable energy with its variable & intermittent nature in the overall energy mix," she said.

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10 EMPLOYMENT

THE INDIAN EXPRESS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024



"Open architecture databases for rapidly changing labour market.. a mechanism to connect job-aspirants with employers will be covered"

MONTHLY ALLOWANCE OF ₹5,000, ONE-TIME ASSISTANCE OF ₹6,000

Internship for 1 crore youth, industry seeks clarity

To provide opportunities in 500 top companies; expected to cost about ₹66,000 crore, with each company likely to shell out over ₹13 crore for the govt's plan

GEORGE MATHEW & SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

EVEN THOUGH the general consensus across the industry about the government's announcement to create internship opportunities for a crore individuals at hundreds of top companies in the country was largely one of optimism, a number of questions around how the scheme would actually be operationalised on the ground has tempered the sanguine mood.

The scheme is part of the central government's larger focus in the Union Budget 2024 on creating employment avenues for the country's youth, and comes after the issue became a hot button during the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year.

To fill the talent void and also generate initial employment for young people, the government will launch a scheme for providing internship opportunities in 500 top companies for one crore youth in five years,

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. An internship "allowance" of ₹5,000 per month along with a one-time assistance of Rs 6,000 will be provided. Companies will be expected to bear the training cost and 10 per cent of the internship cost from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.

The scheme is expected to cost about ₹66,000 crore, with each company having to shell out over ₹13 crore for the government's plan, corporate circles said.

However, a section of the corporate sector is uncertain about the implementation of the scheme. There are doubts within the industry whether all the companies will be ready to execute the plan. Clarity on these fronts is expected in the next few days.

"There are a lot of fine print details needed to understand how successful the internship scheme can be. For instance, the government has said that it will provide internship opportunities at top 500 companies. But, what are these companies going to do? Is the government going to decide it? Is there going to be a bureaucratic hurdle or de-



The scheme comes after employment became a hot button issue during the Lok Sabha polls held earlier this year. File

lay in the decision making process?" Rituparna Chakraborty, co-founder of staffing firm TeamLease Services, told *The Indian Express*.

Naushad Forbes, co-chairman of Forbes Marshall, told this paper that with the scheme, the government could be trying to "incentivise lower end job creation, and is a

EXPLAINED

E. CONCERNS OVER CRITERIA

WHILE THE industry has largely welcomed the internship scheme, some concerns have emerged over the eligibility criteria for companies that would be selected as part of the plan, whether it will be mandatory and the basic qualifications an individual needs to have to qualify as a beneficiary.

goods, electronics etc. and if India has to create lower-end jobs, these are the sectors that need to be targeted," he added.

"We are waiting for the fine print of the scheme. How will they select the companies? Is it on the basis of market capitalisation? Is it mandatory for a company to implement the scheme? The big question is whether it's workable," an official of a Mumbai-based firm, said.

Chakraborty also flagged whether these internships can fall under the Apprenticeship Act. "From a labour law perspective, anything that is not an apprenticeship falls under employment. Apprentices receive stipends and employees receive a salary. But the term used in the Budget is allowance. It is unclear what an allowance means in that context," she said.

A senior executive from a major industry group said that the scheme should also clarify the individuals who could be eligible to be beneficiaries. "Are these people going to be undergraduates, graduates, or even school dropouts? A lot of clarity is needed," they said.

PLI schemes for automobile and electronic sectors get a major push

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

EXPECTING HIGHER manufacturing output and employment in sunrise sectors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Union Budget 2024 presentation on Tuesday substantially hiked allocation for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for automobiles, auto components, smartphones, laptops, IT hardware and the food processing industry.

While there was no new PLI scheme announced in the Budget, the hike in allocations were seemingly done based on the performance of the scheme. The better performing schemes among the 14 schemes originally announced in 2020 have received higher budgetary allocation in Budget 2024-25.

The PLI scheme for automobiles and auto components saw a 620 per cent jump in allocation to Rs 3,500 crore in the Budget Estimate (BE) 2024-25 compared to Rs 484 crore as per the Revised Estimate (RE) 2023-24.

This comes after the scheme attracted a proposed investment of ₹67,690 crore, against which ₹14,043 crore that has been invested till end-March 2024, as per the Economic Survey 2023-24. Applicants have proposed employment generation of 1.48 lakh, against which 28,884 of employment has been generated, the Survey added.

A substantial hike of 37 per cent was announced for PLI schemes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) -- from ₹4,560 crore to ₹6,200 crore. The PLI for mobile phones under MeitY has been driving manufacturing and exports in the segment and the ministry is now looking to replicate the same model in produc-

tion of laptops and semiconductors. Moreover, the budgetary allocation for Research and Development (R&D) in the IT and electronic sector has also been increased from ₹1,000 crore to ₹1,148 crore.

However, amid concerns of leakage, allocation for the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME) scheme has been reduced by 44 per cent to ₹2,651 crore from ₹4,807 crore. This comes after an investigation by the heavy industries

ministry revealed that these companies have availed fiscal incentives under the scheme by violating norms. The central government reportedly sought ₹469 crore from seven electric two-wheeler makers, including Hero Electric and Okinawa, for claiming incentives while not complying with the FAME II scheme norms.

Ahead of the Budget presentation, the Indian industry had sought a widening of the PLI scheme to labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather sectors as they have been witnessing a decline in exports due to adverse global demand in the West.

A renewed push in these sectors comes as the Economic Survey concluded that the evidence of India's enhanced global supply chain participation is reflected in increased investment by foreign firms in electronics, apparel and toys, automobiles and components, capital goods and semiconductor manufacturing in India.

The Survey stated that India's large domestic consumer market is an added attraction for firms setting up shop here as firms such as Apple assembled 14 per cent of its global iPhones in India in FY24 and Foxconn invested in the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to set up new manufacturing plants for components.

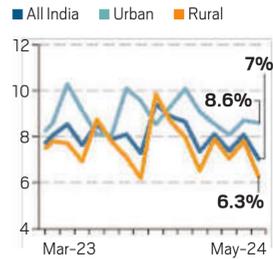
Amid concerns of leakage, allocation for the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India scheme has been reduced by 44 per cent



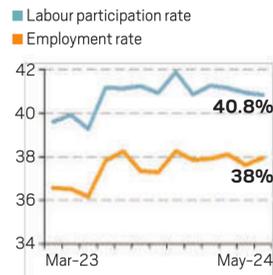
Illustration: Suvajit Dey

LABOUR MARKET CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



PLI ALLOCATION UP FOR ELECTRONICS, AUTOMOBILE SECTOR

PLI sector	FY24 RE	FY25 BE
Automobiles and auto components	484	3,500
FAME Hybrid and EVs	4,807	2,671
Food processing industry	1,150	1,444
MeitY	4,560	6,200
R&D in IT/ Electronics	1,000	1,148

Source: Union Budget 2024-25, Revised Estimates (RE), Budget Estimates (BE) in ₹(crore)

'Focus is on being future-ready by investing in education, employment, skilling'

BY NILESH SHAH

DESPITE MULTIPLE continuing global uncertainties, the Indian economy has continued to thrive like an "oasis in the desert". It is against this backdrop that all eyes were on the Union Budget of 2024-25 to see whether further steps would be taken by the government to achieve the Viksit Bharat dream.

The biggest takeaway from the Budget was the continuing focus on fiscal consolidation with the targeted fiscal deficit going down to 4.9 per cent of the GDP. This figure is well ahead of the 5.1 per cent set in the interim Budget earlier this year. The reduced

fiscal deficit target indicates the government's continued focus on maintaining macroeconomic stability.

The Union Budget has maintained a fine balance between productive expenditure and fiscal consolidation. It has made good use of the additional ₹1,23,000 crore dividend that the government received from the RBI this year. The assumption of growth in tax collections for the year also seems quite conservative. Therefore, we believe the intended fiscal deficit figure is credible and realistic. More importantly, the government continues to move ahead on the path of fiscal consolidation seeking to bring down the fiscal deficit to below 4.5 per cent of the GDP in FY26, along with guidance to reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio in the future. As a consequence, net and gross market borrowing will be lower than the levels of FY24.

The Budget outlined four key segments for focus -- the poor, women, youth and farmers -- and nine priority areas for growth and development of the economy.

Building productivity and resilience in



Budget focuses on investing in education, employment and skilling. File

the agricultural segment seems to be one of the priorities, as the government focuses on its policy of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" in every sector of the economy. This should also help strengthen the rural economy over a period of time. Increased focus on road connectivity in rural areas and three crore additional houses to be built under the Pradhan Mantri

Awaz Yojana (PMAY) scheme should also help rural development.

This Budget also reaffirms policy continuity in areas of manufacturing and infrastructure development, including urban development, energy security and housing.

The commitment towards investment-led growth is visible in the Budget presented on Tuesday. Over the last decade, we have built as much infrastructure as was built until then after Independence. This has created a multiplier effect and has pushed India to become the fifth-largest economy -- given the current growth trajectory, India will likely become the third-largest in the near future.

Supply-side reforms of the last decade have to now pave the way for "next-gen re-

forms" to meet rising aspirations and to generate employment opportunities for all. The budget focuses on being future-ready by investing in education, employment and skilling. The slew of employment-based incentives for creating new and additional jobs is a welcome move, and a much-needed one.

While priority has been given to growth and productivity, energy transition and mitigating the impact of climate change have not been forgotten. The Budget emphasises green energy, energy security and transition focusing on environmental sustainability.

In terms of taxation, the budget seeks to enhance compliance, simplicity of structure and bringing more people under the tax net. Some relaxation is also provided on the income tax under the new tax regime, with

changes in slabs/rates and an increase in the standard deduction. While the short-term and long-term capital gains taxation were increased, the fact that there is no change in the tenure for long-term capital gains tax for equities should aid a longer-term investment horizon. Rationalisation of tax rates between financial and non-financial assets should help investors make the right choices based on risk-return profile, rather than tax arbitrage. The government has also mentioned its intention of further rationalisation of taxation structure over the next six months.

In summary, the Union Budget walks the talk in terms of the policy focus of the government towards sustainable and productive expenditure while maintaining fiscal prudence. It also promotes manufacturing with a focus on employment generation. The transformative changes outlined in the Union Budget should help in building a strong foundation for a Viksit Bharat. As always, execution will be key to achieving the goals that have been set out.

The writer is MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC



"For Annadata, we had announced higher MSP for all major crops, delivering on the promise of at least a 50% margin over costs"

DPI IN AGRICULTURE ROLLED OUT

Govt takes a big leap to digitise farming sector

Overall agriculture allocation ₹1.5 lakh cr; digital crop survey in kharif season to cover 6 cr farmers

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced the implementation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture over three years, an ambitious plan that would, among other things, ease farmers' access to government schemes and services and allow them to receive customised advisories.

She also announced a DPI-based crop survey in 400 districts across the country during the ongoing Kharif season (June-October), which will create a digital database of six crore farmers and their crops.

"Our government, in partnership with the states, will facilitate the implementation of the Digital Public Infrastructure in agriculture for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years. During this year, a digital crop survey for kharif using the DPI will be taken up in 400 districts. The details of 6 crore farmers and their lands will be brought into the farmer and land registries," Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

This Budget, the overall allocation for agriculture sector is ₹1.52 lakh crore.

Sitharaman had announced the creation of DPI for agriculture in the 2023 Budget, saying it would be "an open source, open standard and interoperable public good". "This will enable inclusive, farmer-centric solutions through relevant information services for crop planning and health, improved access to farm inputs, credit, and insurance, help for crop estimation, market intelligence, and support for

agri-tech industry and start-ups," she had said. Since then, Agriculture Ministry officials had been working to roll out pilot projects under the DPI in agriculture, in coordination with the state governments. According to sources, 14 states and UTs have already signed MoUs with the Centre, while many more were getting ready.

According to sources, DPI in agriculture is aimed at enabling the "development of innovative farmer-centric digital services" and to make "timely and reliable" agricultural information available. It comprises three broad components — "AgriStack, Krishi-DSS, and Soil Profile Maps".

Under AgriStack, sources said, three foundational registries will be prepared — a farmers' registry, an Aadhar-like unique ID of farmers linked dynamically with land records; a crop sown registry, based on digital crop survey of crops sown, and Geo-referenced maps of villages.

The farmers' registry was rolled out as a pilot in one district each of UP and Maharashtra in the last fiscal. While six crore farmers will be enrolled in the current fiscal, sources said another 3 crore will be added in 2025-26 and 2 crore in 2026-27.

The Krishi-DSS is a repository of Geospatial data covering various indicators like weather, soil, crop and groundwater data. It will enable evidence-based decisions by officials, said a source.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said: "It takes at least 15-20 days to get a crop loan today. With the digital system, this will be completed in half an hour... farmers will find it easy to sell their produce."

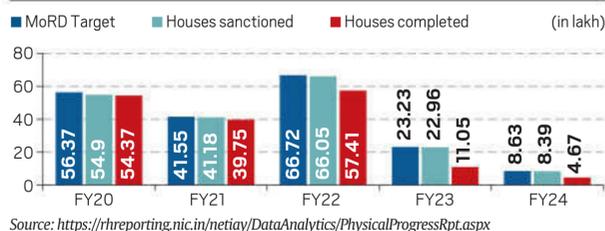
EXPLAINED DYNAMIC DATABASE

DPI in agriculture will create a dynamic digital database of farmers, crops and land. It will enable farmers to easily avail govt schemes and help the govt take evidence-based decisions. It will also pave the way for development of new services and solutions.



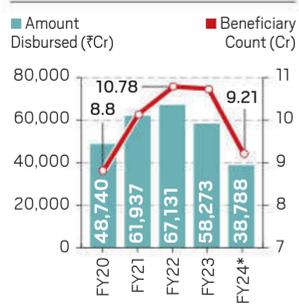
Illustration: Bivash Barua

PMAY-GRAMIN



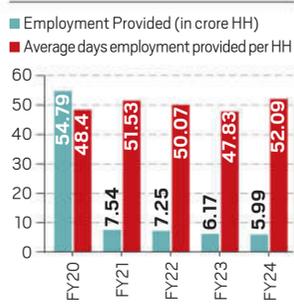
Source: <https://rthereporting.nic.in/netaiy/DataAnalytics/PhysicalProgressRpt.aspx>

PM-KISAN



*As on 31.01.2024
Source: Lok Sabha reply in February, 2024

NREGA EMPLOYMENT



Source: <https://nreganep.nic.in/netnrega/MISreport4.aspx>

2 CRORE ADDITIONAL HOUSES UNDER PMAY-GRAMIN; ₹69,000 CRORE FOR JAL JEEVAN

PMGSY stretches into 4th phase: 25,000 villages to be linked with all-weather roads

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman announced Phase IV of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to connect 25,000 villages with all-weather roads, and allocated an outlay of Rs 19,000 crore for the financial year 2024-25.

She also announced three crore additional houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in rural and urban areas. Of these, 2 crore homes will be constructed in villages under PMAY-Gramin (PMAY-G) with an allocation of Rs 54,500 crore.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has been allocated Rs 69,926.65 crore, Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

While the overall outlay for rural development is Rs 2.66 lakh crore — up 11.2% from Rs 2.39 lakh crore in the last fiscal — the three announcements on PMGSY, PMAY and Jal Jeevan are a big push to capital expenditure that will spur investment and growth in rural areas.

Under PMGSY, which was launched in

2000 by the then NDA government headed by PM Vajpayee, over 7 lakh km road length of the sanctioned 8.25 lakh km has been completed — in three phases and a separate component for areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.

The three PMGSY phases were supposed to be completed by 2024-25. Now, Phase-4 means the rural roads scheme will continue.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that the launch of Phase IV of PMGSY was on the Rural Development Ministry's 100-day agenda after the BJP-led NDA came to power for the third consecutive time in June.

The PMAY-G, launched in 2016, was aimed at constructing 2.95 crore rural houses, of which 2,94,66,340 have been sanctioned till July 23, 2024.

In her Budget speech, Sitharaman said, "Three crore additional houses under the PM Awas Yojana in rural and urban areas in the country have been announced, for which the necessary allocations are being made." Of these 3 crore houses, two crore will be constructed under the PMAY-G, as Sitharaman had earlier announced in the Interim Budget



The three PMGSY phases were supposed to be completed by 2024-25. Phase-4 means the rural roads scheme will continue

in February.

Granting formal approval to these additional 3 crore houses was the current Government's first Cabinet decision.

The Government has also decided to in-

crease the unit cost under PMAY-G from the existing Rs 1.2 lakh to 2 lakh in plain areas, and Rs 1.3 lakh to Rs 2.20 lakhs in IAP districts/Hilly/ North Eastern States and difficult areas from 2024-25 onward. It is estimated that Rs 4,18,200 crore (including 2% Admin Funds) will be spent on the scheme in the coming years.

Construction of one PMAY-Gramin house of 25 sq mt (267 sq ft), on an average, requires 9,000 bricks, 110 cement bags, 750kg steel, 12 cubic metre (cmt) sand, 40 mm x 3 cmt metal, and wood/steel for four doors, four windows, said a source. PMAY-G also generates employment, directly and indirectly. Generally, the labour component in a house construction is about 25 per cent, said a source.

Sitharaman also announced rural land related reforms. "Rural land-related actions will include (1) assignment of Unique Land Parcel Identification Number or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands, (2) digitisation of cadastral maps, (3) survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership, (4) establishment of land registry, and (5) linking to farmers registry. These actions will also facilitate credit flow," she said.

₹500 crore for Namu Drone Didi scheme, ₹365 crore for natural farming mission

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated ₹500 crore for Namu Drone Didi scheme, an initiative aimed at providing drones to 15,000 selected women self-help groups (SHGs). She also announced support to one crore farmers for natural farming.

The Namu Drone Didi scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 selected women SHGs during the period 2023-24 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers.

In her budget speech, the minister said, "In the next two years, 1 crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding. Implementation will be through scientific institutions and willing gram panchayats.

10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres will be established."

The Finance Ministry has allocated ₹365.64 crore for National Mission on Natural Farming for 2024-25, which is lower than last year's allocation of ₹459 crore and higher than the revised estimate of ₹100 crore.

On agriculture research, Sitharaman said, "Our government will undertake a comprehensive review of the agriculture research setup to bring the focus on raising productivity and developing climate resilient varieties. Funding will be provided in challenge mode, including to the private sector. Domain experts both from the government and outside will oversee the conduct of such research."

"New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops will be released for cultivation," she said. The minister also announced that issuance



Namu Drone Didi scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 women SHGs. File

of Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit will be enabled in five states. Jan Samarth, an online platform provides a single window facility for 13 government schemes application submission.

Referring to the missions for pulses and oilseeds, Sitharaman said, "For achieving self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds, we will strengthen their production, storage and marketing. As announced in the interim budget, a strategy is being put in place to achieve 'atmanirbharta' for oil seeds". The announcement is significant as India is dependent on imports to meet its edible oil demand.

On vegetable production and supply chains, the Finance Minister said, "Large-scale clusters for vegetable production will be developed closer to major consumption centres. We will promote farmer-producer organisations, cooperatives and start-ups for vegetable supply chains, including for collec-

tion, storage, and marketing."

A National Cooperation Policy will be brought for an all-round development of the cooperative sector, Sitharaman said.

"Fast-tracking growth of rural economy and generation of employment opportunities on a large scale will be the policy goal," she said.

On shrimp production and export, Sitharaman said, "Financial support for setting up a network of nucleus breeding centres for shrimp broodstocks will be provided".

Of the ₹1.52-crore allocation made for agriculture and allied sector, ₹1.32 lakh crore have been earmarked for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, while an allocation of ₹1,137 crore has been made for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The Finance Minister, however, kept the allocation of the PM-Kisan at Rs 60,000 crore.



"For helping youth... I am happy to announce a financial support for loans up to ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions"

HEALTH SECTOR

Customs duty cut on 3 cancer drugs: Hope for patients

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

IN HER Budget speech Tuesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "To provide relief to cancer patients, I propose to fully exempt three more medicines from customs duties," she said, referring to trastuzumab deruxtecan, osimertinib and durvalumab, three targeted therapy drugs with effective treatment outcomes that work by precisely identifying and inhibiting the growth of cancer cells.

At present, these patented drugs, which are imported, are prohibitively expensive, costing around Rs 5 lakh a month, keeping it out of reach for most patients. Which is why, Sitharaman's announcement – of slashing customs duty on the three drugs from 10% to zero – holds out hope for cancer patients, bringing the cost of a vial to under a lakh.

These drugs have proved to be lifesavers for many, including a 60-year-old woman from Delhi's Saket area. Two years ago, when she was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer, doctors gave her between two and nine months to live. With the targeted therapy drug osimertinib, she has outlived her doctor's prognosis. Same is the case of two other women with the same cancer – a 77-year-old woman from CR Park and a 53-year-old who was being treated at AIIMS for gastrointestinal complaints but was diagnosed with the cancer and put on the osimertinib therapy.

Osimertinib – sold as Tagrisso – is a medication that helps in treating certain types of lung cancer by blocking the action of a protein that leads to the cancerous cells multiplying. It costs around 1.5 lakh for a strip of ten pills. Trastuzumab deruxtecan – sold as Enhertu – is a monoclonal antibody that is used for the treatment of breast and stomach cancers.

The drug was first approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for gastric and gastrointestinal cancers in 2021. Earlier this year, the US regulator approved the drug for all cancers with HER-2 receptor, including breast cancers.

The cancerous tissues grow quicker when there are HER-2 receptors. Patients have to shell out around ₹1.6 lakh per vial of the medicine. Durvalumab – sold as Imfinzi – is used for the treatment of certain lung and bladder cancers. It trains the body's immune system to look for a PD-L1 protein that is found on cancer cells and attack it. This drug costs around ₹ 1.5 lakh for every 10ml vial.

Even an exemption of 10 per cent duty on these expensive drugs is a significant one given the financial burden these long-term therapies place on patients.

Dr Abhishek Shankar, oncologist from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), explains, "The drugs are still under patent, which means we do not make them here, and hence cost a lot as they have to be imported. These cost typically over a lakh. But these are all targeted immunotherapy

THE THREE DRUGS

TRASTUZUMAB DERUXTECAN
USE: Breast and stomach cancers that have HER-2 receptors.
CURRENT COST: Rs 1.6 lakh per vial of the medicine

OSIMERTINIB
USE: Lung cancer
CURRENT COST: Rs 1.5 lakh per strip of ten pills.

DURVALUMAB
USE: Ccertain lung, bladder, liver and biliary tract cancers.
CURRENT COST: Rs 1.5 lakh per 10 ml

drugs which give much better results than other available therapies for certain types of cancers. This is the reason we prescribe these therapies to even patients at AIIMS and they shell out huge amounts. Any reduction in the prices will help patients."

There was a time when the family of the 77-year-old lung cancer patient from Delhi's CR Park had to make a hard decision before the treatment protocol.

"We first chose a second-generation drug called Afatinib but then she had severe side effects like diarrhoea, itching and toe infection. We were told osimertinib, the third-generation drug, could give her up to three years, improve her quality of life and have fewer side effects. But we signed up for osimertinib only when its manufacturer, AstraZeneca, put us on a patient programme that allowed us to get three strips of ten pills each for Rs 1.5 lakh. Otherwise, each strip costs Rs 1.5 lakh. Still, we ran out of money and then got the drug from the grey market at lower prices," says her daughter.

Dr Ankur Bahl, senior director of medical oncology at Fortis Gurugram, who is treating the 60-year-old patient of lung cancer, says he prescribes osimertinib to two or three patients every week.

"I have prescribed it for a particular type of lung cancer which accounts for 25 to 30 per cent of incidence in non-smoking women. I know patients who have survived with this medicine for four years. But many have to either sell their assets to get the therapy or opt for two other drugs – knowing that they are not as good – because they cannot afford osimertinib. Any reduction in the costs will help," he says.

Dr CS Pramesh, Director, Tata Memorial Hospital, says that after the customs duty cut, the pharma industry should ensure that the tax benefit is passed on to patients.

"These three drugs have all been shown to improve outcomes in breast, lung, and some other common cancers, and the customs duty cut will make these drugs more affordable for patients with these cancers," he says.

WITH INPUTS FROM RUPSA CHAKRABORTY

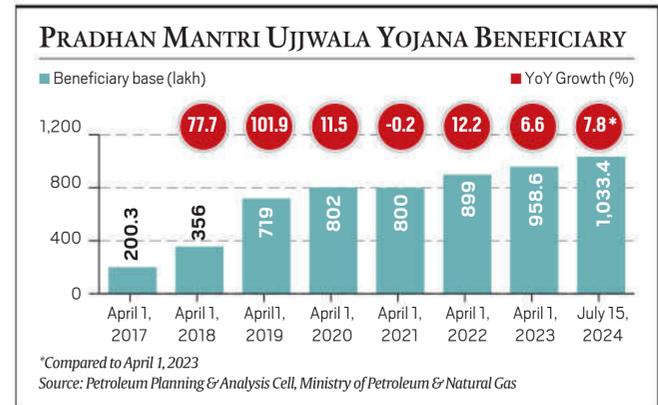


Illustration: Bivash Barua

Loan support for higher education, UGC sees big cut

Provision of ₹1.48 lakh cr in Budget for education, employment, and skilling

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FOR YOUTH who are not eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Union Budget speech Tuesday announced financial support for loans up to ₹10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions.

"E-vouchers for this purpose will be given directly to 1 lakh students every year for annual interest subvention of 3% of the loan amount," Sitharaman said.

With the Budget emphasising on employment and skilling, Sitharaman announced that a provision of ₹1.48 lakh crore has been made in the Budget for education, employment, and skilling.

In collaboration with state governments and industry, Sitharaman announced a new centrally sponsored scheme for skilling which will benefit 20 lakh youth over a period of five years. For this purpose, 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will be upgraded in

"hub and spoke arrangements with outcome orientation". The course content and design will be aligned to the skill needs of industry, and new courses will be introduced for emerging needs, she said.

As announced in the provisions of the interim budget in February, allocations for certain school education related schemes have gone up. This includes the PM-POSHAN scheme, the school meal programme, for which allocation has increased by ₹867 crore. In this year's Union Budget, a provision of ₹12,467 crore for PM-POSHAN has been made compared to ₹11,600 in 2023-24.

The PM-SHRI scheme, which aims to set up "exemplar schools" that showcase aspects of the National Education Policy 2020, has

EXPLAINED STRESS ON RESEARCH

In a fillip for central universities, there has been an increase in Budget allocation by Rs 4,400 crore – from ₹11,258 crore last year to ₹15,928 crore this year. Research and innovation section has also seen a hike in allocation by around ₹144 crore.

also seen an increase in allocation by around ₹2,050 crore. In the Union Budget this year, ₹6,050 crore for the PM-SHRI scheme has been allocated up from ₹4,000 crore in 2023-24.

Allocation for the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project is also up by ₹450 crore, from ₹800 crore last year to ₹1,250 crore in this year's Budget. The STARS project supports the states in developing and implementing interventions that can "improve education outcomes."

Altogether, school education has seen an increase of ₹4,203 crore in Budget allocation. Last year, it was ₹68,804 crore as against

this year's ₹73,007 crore.

In higher education, allocation for the University Grants Commission (UGC), as was indicated in the interim budget, has been slashed by ₹2,860 crore in the Budget.

Compared to an allocation of ₹5,360 crore in the 2023-24 Budget, the UGC was allocated ₹2,500 this year. Similarly, for IIMs there has been a decline in allocation from ₹300 crore last year to ₹212.21 crore this year.

On the allocation for UGC, the commission's Chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar said that the Budget for the UGC comprises three pivotal components - UGC, central universities, and deemed universities. "Starting from the financial year 2024-25, funding for specific colleges affiliated with central universities is realigned from the UGC budget line to the central universities budget line. This realignment comes with enhanced funding under the central universities budget line... and reduction under the UGC budget line," he said.

In a fillip for central universities, there has been an increase in Budget allocation by ₹4,400 crore – from ₹11,258 crore last year to ₹15,928 crore this year.

The IITs have also seen an increase of ₹663 crore in allocation – from ₹9,661 crore last year to ₹10,324 crore in this year's Budget. The research and innovation section, which includes schemes like the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration, has also seen a hike in allocation by around ₹144 crore – from ₹210.61 crore in 2023-24 to ₹355 crore this year.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been allocated ₹13,000 crore as compared to ₹12,847 granted in the last Budget

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been allocated ₹13,000 crore, which is Rs 539 crore more than what was granted last time, and a massive 70% more compared to the revised estimate of ₹7,605 crore for 2023-24.

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has been allocated ₹13,000 crore as compared to ₹12,847 granted in the last Budget – 30% more than the revised es-

timate of ₹9,835.32 crore. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was allocated ₹1,225.27 crore, which was a paltry rise against last year's ₹1,225.15 crore.

Central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes of both ministries saw a rise in allocation. The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), established to provide quality education to ST students in residential schools, were allocated ₹6,399 crore, a rise of ₹456 crore over last

year's allocation. The scheme's allocation was revised down substantially to ₹2,471.81 crore last year.

The post-matric scholarship for ST students also saw a rise in its allocation. From ₹1,970.77 crore, the allocation was hiked to ₹2,432.68 crore.

Furthermore, the PM Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM), which promotes livelihoods and entrepreneurship among ST communities, saw its allocation slashed by ₹136.17 crore in this Budget. Last year, the scheme's allocation was reduced to ₹143 crore from ₹288.49 crore.

In the central sector schemes implemented by the Department of Social

Justice and Empowerment, the PM DAKSH scheme, which is aimed at skilling people from the SC and ST communities, saw its allocation increase from ₹92.47 crore to ₹130 crore.

The allocation for the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for SCs, which provides comprehensive financial coverage for higher studies in foreign universities, was hiked to ₹95 crore from ₹50 crore.

The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme, aimed at eliminating manual scavenging by replacing it with mechanised cleaning of sewers, was allocated ₹116.94 crore compared to last year's ₹74.1 crore grant.

In govt outreach to tribals, a new scheme for development of 63,000 villages

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

WITH A saturation approach for achieving social justice, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday announced a new scheme for socio-economic development of 63,000 tribal villages that will aim to cover 5 crore people from tribal communities.

In the Budget for Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, the government has also increased allocations for skilling of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), the National Overseas Scholarship

Scheme for SCs and mechanised sanitation. In her Budget speech, Sitharaman said the government will launch the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan by "adopting saturation coverage for tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts".

The scheme signals continuation of the government's welfare outreach to ST communities. In the previous Budget, Sitharaman had announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), a welfare scheme targeted to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

13 ALLIES IN FOCUS

THE INDIAN EXPRESS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

THE POLITICS

Budget reflects new reality of Modi govt: Allies, job concerns and MSME issues



PM Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari in Lok Sabha as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the Budget. PTI

MANOJ CG, LIZ MATHEW & VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE NARENDRA Modi government's first Budget after returning to power for a third consecutive term reflects the changed political dynamics after the Lok Sabha polls — including the BJP's reliance on coalition partners for lack of a majority, and the realisation that unemployment and rural distress likely played a role in the party's tally dropping from 303 to 240.

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi highlighted this in his reaction to the Budget. Congress leaders also pointed to the Budget's big announcements as bearing a resemblance to the party's Lok Sabha election manifesto.

Gandhi posted: "Kursi Bachao Budget. Appease Allies: Hollow promises to them at the cost of other states. Appease Cronies: Benefits to AA with no relief for the common Indian. Copy and Paste: Congress manifesto and previous budgets."

The focus on jobs and by extension youth was, in fact, the most striking feature of the Budget. In the interim budget ahead of the polls, which the BJP had expected to sweep, the word "employment" had appeared seven times and "job" once. In Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech Tuesday, the words job and employment, including in subheadings, featured eight and 34 times, respectively, as she announced three "Employment Linked Incentive" schemes, apart from internship opportunities in 500 top companies for one crore youths over five years.

The Opposition can read this as a political victory, given its emphasis on the unemployment issue during the elections.

Sitharaman began her Budget speech by talking about MSMEs, and went on to refer to them 21 times in her speech. Again, the Congress was quick to point out that a helping hand to the MSMEs — struggling under the successive blows of demonetisation, GST and Covid — was another key issue for the Opposition during the elections.

The third focus was farmers, even though the Budget did not really have much for them. Among the promises was "109 new high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 crops", and initiation of "1 crore farmers" into natural farming.

Apart from these issues, the Modi government Budget wore its alliance loyalties on its sleeve. So, there was a separate section on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, with promises to facilitate financial support for the development of the state's capital Amaravati, a pet project of BJP ally TDP.

For Bihar, there were a list of proposals

for financial and industrial support, which are expected to help sustain the political fortunes of the BJP's other big partner, JD(U).

In its first reactions to the Budget, the Congress said the Modi government appeared to have borrowed its ideas from its Lok Sabha poll manifesto, starting with the scheme to provide internship opportunities to youth. The Congress manifesto had promised a "right to apprenticeship programme", which Gandhi referred to in his campaign speeches as "pehli naukri pakki (guaranteed first job)" scheme.

Congress communications head Jairam Ramesh posted on X: "The Finance Minister has taken a leaf out of the INC's Nyay Patra 2024, with its internship program clearly modelled on the INC's proposed Apprenticeship Program... However, in their trademark style, the scheme has been designed to grab headlines, with arbitrary targets (1 crore internships) rather than a programmatic guarantee..."

Another Congress promise was to "create a new employment-linked incentive (ELI) scheme for corporates". The party said the Budget's announcement of three employment-linked schemes, including one under which the government will provide one month's wage to those entering the workforce in all sectors, was similar to this.

Another Budget promise, of setting up working women hostels to promote their participation in the workforce, had also found a mention in the Congress manifesto. "In partnership with state governments, the Central government will double the number of working women hostels in the country," the Congress manifesto had said.

The Congress also claimed credit for the Budget proposing the abolition of angel tax for all classes of investors.

The party said Sitharaman's announcement that the Central government will set up a critical mineral mission as a reflection of its manifesto promise too. The Congress manifesto had promised to "launch a strategic mining programme to explore and mine rare earths and critical minerals, with the object of increasing the share of mining to 5 per cent of the GDP and creating 1.5 crore jobs".

The Budget was largely silent on poll-bound Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand, despite how crucial these elections are for the party. BJP leaders from Maharashtra and Haryana did not hide their disappointment.

CPI(M) MP John Brittas said that even in putting Andhra and Bihar front and centre, the Budget had failed to address their concerns with any finesse. "All of a sudden, eastern corridors have been redrawn to stretch them to Andhra Pradesh since power in Delhi runs through there."

well placed as a party whose support the government relies on to remain in power — which was also evident during the 25 years of coalition governance in the country from 1989-2014.

Nitish and Naidu appear to have played their cards well in choosing hard cash to propel their development agenda for their states, rather than benefits such as lucrative Cabinet posts. They did not even insist on the post of Speaker, as once expected of them to do, and which the Opposition parties egged them on to demand. A Speaker's position can become critical in a coalition ministry if splits take place and the ruling party tries to acquire a majority.

Equally significantly, this deal appears to have suited Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, in the trade-off, ensured unchallenged political control for himself and for the BJP. The heavyweight portfolios as well as the Speaker's post remain with BJP leaders, helping the Modi government give the impression of business as usual and of being as much in control of the situation as when the BJP had a majority on its own. Modi would be well aware of how weakened a PM buffered around by his allies can appear.

However, what remains to be seen is how the states which voted for the BJP will react to Andhra and Bihar cornering the Budget's benefits. The party did some juggling in this regard with Sitharaman talking of a "Purvodaya" plan for development of the eastern region, in which she included West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra. The eastern belt has been on the BJP's radar for quite some time now.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Poll-bound states left in cold as Andhra, Bihar bag hefty shares

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

WHILE IN the Union Budget presented in Parliament Tuesday, the Narendra Modi government announced hefty financial packages for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar — the states ruled by the BJP's two major NDA allies TDP and JD(U) respectively — the poll-bound states, including Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand, and the UT of J&K failed to get any such benefits.

These states as well as J&K are slated to go to the Assembly polls later this year.

The government's move has sparked a slugfest with Jharkhand Congress spokesperson RK Sinha accusing it of "strengthening its crutches" through the Budget, referring to BJP's critical dependence on its allies TDP and JD(U) for remaining in power.

"The people of Jharkhand are feeling betrayed by the BJP, which tries every tactic to come to power in the state but takes no special step for welfare of its people," he said.

However, the Jharkhand BJP's spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said, "The Centre has launched a plan for tribal welfare and Jharkhand will benefit from it. State was not mentioned in the scheme but it is covered in the Budget."

Significantly, Jharkhand is the only poll-bound state that found mention in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech as a part of the Centre's "Purvodaya (rise of the east)" scheme, which is aimed to ensure all-round development of eastern states like Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Jharkhand, which has a nearly 26% tribal population, will also reap indirect benefit under the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities. A total of 34 of the 81 seats in the Jharkhand Assembly are reserved for the STs.

Haryana BJP spokesperson Sanjay Sharma said, "Haryana is a land of farmers, who will reap the benefits of allocations for them and the agriculture sector. Salaried people will benefit from relaxations in income tax. Youth, women and traders also will benefit."

Package good start, Bihar taken care of, says JDU

SANTOSH SINGH & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
PATNA, NEW DELHI, JULY 23

WITH A slew of projects announced for the state, the Union Budget appeared to have done enough to satisfy JD(U), the third largest constituent in the NDA with 12 Lok Sabha MPs.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, JD(U) advisor and chief national spokesperson K C Tyagi said "we are very happy with what Bihar got".

"Let the Opposition cry foul over it. The idea is to ensure development of Bihar. An annual package of ₹1 lakh crore has made a good start for us," he said. "When a TMC leader calls it a 'Bihari budget', it means special care is taken of Bihar. What a special category status (for the state) would have done is to create employment and discourage migration, besides addressing poverty. All the projects, especially making Bihar a part of the Kolkata-Amritsar economic zone with its headquarters in Gaya, announced today

would generate employment," he said.

"We got approval for an airport and a medical college, locations for which will be decided by the state government. Besides, we also got Patna-Purnia, Bodhgaya-Vaishali and Bhagalpur-Buxar highway projects," he said.

Speaking to reporters shortly after the Budget presentation, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar said, "We had proposed if special status wasn't feasible for technical reasons, Bihar should receive special assistance (vishesh madat) from the Centre in another form, which has been announced today."

"The CM has been demanding a special package for Bihar. This is as close to it as it can get. Then we have a government for five years. As and when the need arises, the government will provide more assistance," JD(U) working president Sanjay Jha told *The Indian Express*.

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president and Union minister Chirag Paswan said the budget's announcements for Bihar will help realise his vision of "Bihar first Bihari first".



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

Budget adds fresh fuel to Naidu's Amaravati dream

REENIVAS JANYALA & NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, JULY 23

ACKNOWLEDGING THE "need" for Andhra Pradesh to have a capital, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday said the Centre will "facilitate special financial support" of ₹15,000 crore "through multilateral development agencies" in current financial year.

Amount will be key to develop Amaravati, CM Chandrababu Naidu's dream project which was shelved once Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power. This will be followed up with special financial support in subsequent years too, Sitharaman said.

She also announced two industrial corridors — Visakhapatnam-Chennai and Hyderabad-Bengaluru — would be established to "promote industrial development".

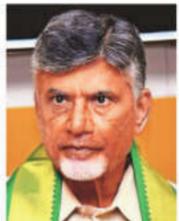
A special backward areas fund has also been announced for "backward regions of Rayalaseema, Prakasam and North Coastal

Andhra". She also announced the Centre would extend funds and help to complete the Polavaram irrigation project, "which is lifeline for Andhra Pradesh and its farmers" and "will facilitate our country's food security as well".

The ₹15,000 crore for Amaravati is a big boost for Naidu, whose party TDP is an NDA partner with 16 Lok Sabha MPs. "Today Centre promised ₹15,000 crore financial support in the budget. There is hope that happy days are here again. Had Amaravati been completed, the state would have had a ₹2-3 lakh crore asset," Naidu said in the Assembly.

In a post on X, Naidu wrote, "On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for recognising the needs of our state and focusing on a capital, Polavaram, industrial nodes and development of backward areas in AP".

Andhra Pradesh IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh said, "A new sunrise for Andhra Pradesh. I am extremely delighted and grateful for the Union Finance Minister's announcement today in the Budget."



Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu

Interim budget to now, BJP govt changes tack, shows poll lessons learnt

Nitish, Naidu chose cash for development rather than Cabinet posts. It also suited PM well to keep the portfolios and retain impression of business as usual



THE NEERAJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

A COALITION government is in the saddle again. That was the underlying message of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's seventh consecutive Budget on Tuesday, with BJP allies Nitish Kumar and N Chandrababu Naidu cornering a major share for their states. It was also a response to Mandate 2024 — and the lessons drawn from it.

The TDP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Naidu is known to be a tough negotiator, and his bargaining skills were on display in Sitharaman allocating Rs 15,000 crore

to his state this year for his dream capital Amaravati — with a promise of more funds in the years to come. There was also the promise to build industrial corridors between Vizag and Chennai, and Hyderabad and Bengaluru, apart from development of three backward regions in the state, for starters.

Nitish, known more for his savvy in forging successful caste alignments, also showed financial acumen. Or his team did. While the CM may not have got special status for Bihar, as demanded by the JD(U), Nitish has reason to be happy given the announcements of expressways, airports, bridges over the Ganga, and development of religious and cultural centres in Gaya and Bodh Gaya and Nalanda to promote tourism.

Primarily, the 16 MPs of the TDP from Andhra and 12 of the JD(U) from Bihar — apart from others such as 5 of Chirag Paswan's Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas) and 1 of Jitin Majhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha — prop up the Modi government.

And in a coalition ministry, no one is as

well placed as a party whose support the government relies on to remain in power — which was also evident during the 25 years of coalition governance in the country from 1989-2014.

Nitish and Naidu appear to have played their cards well in choosing hard cash to propel their development agenda for their states, rather than benefits such as lucrative Cabinet posts. They did not even insist on the post of Speaker, as once expected of them to do, and which the Opposition parties egged them on to demand. A Speaker's position can become critical in a coalition ministry if splits take place and the ruling party tries to acquire a majority.

Equally significantly, this deal appears to have suited Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, in the trade-off, ensured unchallenged political control for himself and for the BJP. The heavyweight portfolios as well as the Speaker's post remain with BJP leaders, helping the Modi government give the impression of business as usual and of being as much in control of the situation as when the BJP had a majority on its own. Modi would be well aware of how weakened a PM buffered around by his allies can appear.

However, what remains to be seen is how the states which voted for the BJP will react to Andhra and Bihar cornering the Budget's benefits. The party did some juggling in this regard with Sitharaman talking of a "Purvodaya" plan for development of the eastern region, in which she included West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra. The eastern belt has been on the BJP's radar for quite some time now.

Normally, it is the interim budget presented before the elections which is populist in nature — for reasons that are obvious. This year though the interim budget focused more on fiscal consolidation and less on sops, which was seen as a sign of how confident the Modi government was about coming back to power without any need for populism.

Again, normally, the first Budget of a government takes the tough decisions — like, say, second-generation economic reforms, which have been pending. But the government went against the grain Tuesday, governing closer to the nature of a coalition government's politics.

Besides keeping its allies in good humour, the BJP brass is conscious of the need to win state elections due year end in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand — to seize the political initiative again and undo the impression that the party is losing ground. While there were no overriding promises for the poll-bound states, the Modi government appears

to be calculating that the larger focus on jobs will help it fight the public discontent reflected in the Lok Sabha results.

Sitharaman's outreach to the middle class is also an attempt to win back many in the BJP's former base, who may have voted against it but may have begun to feel guilty that the party ended up losing its majority.

This suggests that the BJP has drawn the right lessons from the general elections, particularly regarding issues such as jobs, MSMEs and rural distress which it has been accused of ignoring. And has shown flexibility to make the concessions that rivals have accused it of being incapable of making.

In fact, on Tuesday, the Congress's refrain was about the many "parallels" between its poll manifesto promises and the Budget. A backhanded compliment to Nirmala Sitharaman?

Neeraja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, *The Indian Express*, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of *How Prime Ministers Decide*



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Prudence and plumbing

With fiscal space exhausted, demand will have to come from structurally lifting consumption, exports



SAJJID Z CHINOI

HOPE DEFERRED: A HOLDING OPERATION

First budget of Modi 3.0 is circumscribed by the election verdict. On jobs and private investment, a patchwork of proposals; on taxation, some good ideas — a bold, reformist plan is elusive

UNION FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman's sixth full-fledged budget — the first in the Narendra Modi-led government's third term — does not adequately address the three major problems confronting the Indian economy: Investment, employment and consumption. It performs a holding operation instead of presenting a coherent economic framework to deal with these pressing concerns as well as the more long-term structural impediments to growth. Whether the lack of policy boldness or reform impetus in the budget has to do with the BJP being unable to secure a majority in the recent national elections isn't clear. The budget's focus seems to be more on the Modi government's efforts to cement its stability by securing the support of key allies, especially the JD(U) in Bihar and TDP in Andhra Pradesh.

Both states have been provided significant financial assistance. This includes Rs 15,000 crore to AP for the development of its capital Amaravati and the early completion of the Polavaram irrigation scheme, and a new 2,400 megawatts power plant, along with projects for road connectivity, flood control, airports, medical colleges and religious tourism for Bihar. Of course, a fiscal stimulus like this for Bihar has positive cascading effects. But there's no escaping the politics behind this economics — no wonder that other states are calling it out.

WITHIN THESE CONSTRAINTS — many of them self-imposed by a dispensation used to governing without the pulls and pressures of coalition compulsions — the budget has specific positives. It stays the course on fiscal consolidation. The finance minister has targeted the Centre's fiscal deficit at 4.9 per cent of GDP in 2024-25, a significant reduction from 5.6 per cent last year. Sitharaman has also restated her intention to bring down the deficit to below 4.5 per cent by next year. More importantly, the government aims to keep the annual deficit from 2026-27 at levels that ensure that its debt-GDP ratio is on a declining path.

This commitment to macroeconomic stability — also extending to low inflation and current account deficit — is necessary for long-term sustainable growth. Equally welcome are the proposals to abolish the angel tax for all investors in the start-up ecosystem, lowering of the corporate tax rate on foreign companies from 40 to 35 per cent, and further incentivising of the shift to the new income tax regime sans exemptions. The budget has raised the capital gains tax, on both short- and long-term assets, and also the securities transaction tax rate on futures and option trades in securities. This was in line with the Economic Survey noting that financial assets are "claims on real goods and services" and "it is a harbinger of market instability" if these are excessively high. The government believes, based on the evidence, that the markets are overheated and asset price inflation, whether in equities or real estate, could present a new source of macroeconomic instability. The stock markets didn't take kindly to the announcements initially, but recovered during the day. Ultimately, it is earnings, not irrational exuberance, that should drive prices.

THE ECONOMIC SURVEY had outlined the "real" challenges facing the country — the need to create an estimated 78.5 lakh jobs annually and the private sector not investing enough to enable the same. The government may have done its bit in capital spending, which is budgeted at Rs 11.11 lakh crore or 3.4 per cent of the GDP in 2024-25. But the augmented public investment is yet to really crowd-in private sector investments. The latter has not taken the baton, which alone can sustain a virtuous cycle of investments, job creation, income generation and consumption.

The budget does not offer a way out of the conundrum. What it has is a patchwork of proposals: Providing a one-month wage of upto Rs 15,000 to all new entrants in the formal workforce; reimbursing employers up to Rs 3,000 a month for two years for their contribution to the employees' provident fund; and a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000 for those doing a one-year internship at the top 500 companies. These schemes, however, do not tackle the primary problem of why corporates aren't investing in the first place — hard to believe how a financial transfer to those who have got jobs will create jobs.

Fixing that will call for steps to assuage genuine risk concerns of companies, investments in education and skill development, and factor market reforms. The budget has no big ideas that will inspire investor confidence or set in motion a process that will prepare the next generation for the disruptive changes that lie ahead. At best, it does no great damage. That is not what one would expect from the first budget of a government that claims a historic mandate in its third term.

But given that the next budget will be due in just over six months, the current budget, it can be argued, has a limited shelf life. Hopefully, by then the government would have learnt to work constructively with its coalition partners as well as manage a resurgent Opposition. That will then enable it to present a more ambitious economic plan that a country with a growing young population with rising aspirations desperately needs. That's the hope.

ACTS OF RESISTANCE

James C Scott's work nudged social scientists to look at ways in which marginalised struggle against power

IN THE LATE 1950s, when a young doctoral researcher at Yale University left for fieldwork in a Malaysian village of 70 families, several of his friends and teachers warned that the "unglamorous" move could prove detrimental to his career. About three decades later, the experience would provide James C Scott the basis for his groundbreaking work, *The Weapons of the Weak*. It explored the techniques used by peasants to resist state power and launched Scott as one of the leading figures of resistance studies. Scott, who died on July 19 aged 87, often described the book that explored the non-ideological ways in which the farmers opposed authorities — food dragging, evasion, gossip — as a piece of work that gave him the most satisfaction. "The greatest emancipatory value for human freedom and the promise for liberty," he was to write in one of his last works, *Two Cheers for Anarchism*, "have not been the result of orderly institutional procedures, but disorderly spontaneous action cracking open the society".

Scott's work has been a major influence on scholars — practitioners of the Subaltern Studies school, for instance — who believe that most resistances do not speak their name. It made social scientists realise that by paying attention only to formal organisations and public protests, they had pushed away a lot of resistance from their radar. *Weapons of the Weak* gave a new lens to examine acts such as jaywalking, army desertions — as opposed to mutinies — as struggles for citizenship rights. It nudged sociologists and economists to examine assembly-line slowdowns as a form of resistance against factory elites.

Other works — *Seeing Like the State* and *The Art of Not Being Governed* — placed Scott amongst the ranks of seminal critics of the hyper-rationalism and overconfidence of the modern state. Ironically, as a student on field work, the anthropologist had given information to US intelligence on his Southeast Asian respondents. Scott has written about this experience as a matter of fact, and it is not known if he ever regretted his actions. What is well known, however, is his support for "open democratic politics as a process of gradual education".

TO UNDERSTAND THIS year's budgetary choices and trade-offs, it's first important to appreciate the global and domestic context against which it was presented. There seem to be two conflicting forces at play. First, even as global growth has remained resilient, global disinflation has been gradual and halting, such that interest rates in some parts of the world remain at multi-decade highs. Add to this, elevated geopolitical uncertainty and the prospect of a US election that could upend the world order, and the global backdrop borders on the hostile. At home, despite strong growth last year, India's combined public debt/GDP actually edged up. All this would suggest there was no room for macroeconomic adventurism. Fiscal deficits would need to keep coming down. The only question was how much?

But there were other forces pulling in the opposite direction. Thus far, the heavy lifting on investment in India has been undertaken by the public sector. However, given the aforementioned fiscal and debt constraints, the investment baton will eventually have to be handed over to the private sector. The good news is that corporate balance sheets are the healthiest in years. The challenge is that firms need more demand visibility to invest with conviction. This is dramatically accentuated by events in China. The sheer quantum of manufacturing excess capacity there has created fears of a China Shock 2.0, wherein China's excess capacity (and deflationary impulses) are being exported around the world. Consider this: The US Treasury estimates China's planned production capacity of electric vehicles in 2030 will be above 70 million, even as total global EV sales that year will be just 44 million! All this simply raises the bar on-demand visibility for the private sector to invest around the world, including in India. Where will that visibility come from? In India's case, with the public sector having to retrench, it will have to come from private consumption and exports.

This, then, was the delicate balance the budget had to pull off: It has to remain fiscally prudent and yet sow the seeds for private consumption and exports to lift more structurally.

On fiscal prudence and budgetary math, policymakers have checked all the boxes. First, this year's deficit is pegged at 4.9 per cent of GDP, even lower than the interim budget. This, in conjunction with last year's

larger-than-expected consolidation, means the Centre's fiscal deficit will be reduced by a sizeable 1.5 per cent of GDP across two years, which will go a long way in helping with inter-temporal debt sustainability. Second, assumptions on the revenue side are very conservative. After a realised tax buoyancy of 1.4 last year (gross taxes growing at 13.5 per cent on nominal GDP growth of 9.6 per cent) the assumed buoyancy is just 1 this year (taxes are budgeted to grow at 10.8 per cent on nominal GDP growth of 10.5 per cent). Third, the extra resources the government had (around 0.4 per cent of GDP) vis-à-vis the interim budget were used in a balanced manner, with half being assigned for more consolidation and the other half to increase revenue expenditures. Fourth, the quality of discretionary expenditure (measured as the ratio of capital to revenue expenditures, ex-interest) has doubled from 0.2 in 2020 to 0.4 in 2024. Fifth, one potential concern of reducing the deficit too quickly is the contractionary impact on aggregate demand.

Fortuitously, this year's consolidation is helped by the large RBI dividend, a large fraction of which was non-contractionary because it accrued from foreign interest income and Rupee revaluation profits. Therefore, even as this year's fiscal consolidation is a sizeable 0.7 per cent of GDP, the contractionary impulse is less than half of that. A case of fiscal consolidation without commensurate economic compression.

The fiscal prudence was accompanied by financial vigilance. The relentless rally in equity markets and the surge in futures and options create the prospect of financial stability risks down the line. It was, therefore, important to throw some sand in the wheels, which authorities did in the form of increasing capital gains and securities transaction tax. In doing so, the budget has sent an important signal that asset prices should not veer too far away from underlying economic fundamentals.

Fiscal and financial prudence apart, the real contribution of this year's budget is in starting a much-needed conversation on the plumbing of different parts of the economy. With fiscal space exhausted, demand will have to come from structurally lifting consumption and exports growth. In turn, the fate of private consumption is inextricably linked to quality employment. In particular, a growing concern over the last two decades is that, even as India is undergoing its demographic transition, manufacturing

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A SETBACK FOR THE FARM

Neglect of agriculture R&D in budget risks growth and food security



ASHOK GULATI AND PURVI THANGARAJ

LET US START with the good news. In 2023-24, the Indian economy registered an overall GDP growth rate of 8.2 per cent, and it is likely to remain above 7 per cent in FY25 according to most projections. However, growth in the agriculture sector declined from 4.7 per cent in FY23 to 1.4 per cent in FY24. Against this backdrop, one would have expected that agriculture would get a booster dose in the budget.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has provided a roadmap for the pursuit of Viksit Bharat @2047. She has identified nine key priority areas — productivity and resilience in agriculture, employment and skilling, inclusive human-resource development and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation, research and development and next-generation reforms. Agriculture being at the top of the list raised hopes of a significant allocation for improving productivity and increasing climate resilience.

The best way to do that would have been to focus on agri-R&D. It's well known that the marginal returns of investing in agri-R&D are over 10 times — in other words, an extra investment of 1,000 crore will mean Rs 10,000 crore in terms of agri-GDP.

Such an investment could have pushed agriculture towards a higher growth trajectory. But, the budget expenditure numbers don't give such an assurance. The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has received Rs 99.4 billion, a marginal increase of just 0.7 per cent from Rs 98.8 billion (RE) in FY24. This is way below expectations, and in fact, in real terms, it is a climbdown.

Our research shows that agriculture R&D Expenditure touched Rs 160 billion in 2020-21, with 89 per cent coming from the public sector and 11 per cent from the private sector. While these numbers give an idea of the scale, it is important to consider the percentage relative to agriculture's

Gross Domestic Product (Agri-GDP), estimated as Agriculture Research Intensity (ARI). The ARI peaked at 0.75 per cent in 2008-09 and stands at 0.43 per cent in 2022-23. This will fall further in FY25, as the allocation to this segment has gone down in real terms. This is not good news for the country's food security as well as for arresting food inflation.

The vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 could remain unrealised if the agrarian-rural economy is left behind. Almost two-thirds of India still lives in rural areas and agriculture engages the largest segment of the working population (45.8 per cent in 2022-23).

The budget has allocated Rs 1.52 trillion for the agriculture and allied sectors. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare received a budget of Rs 1.22 trillion (BE), an increase of just 5 per cent from Rs 1.16 trillion (RE) in FY24 — this barely compensates for inflation.

The allocation to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has increased 27 per cent — Rs 56 billion (RE) in FY24 to Rs 71 billion (BE). This is a good sign for this fast-growing sector.

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larger-than-expected consolidation, means the Centre's fiscal deficit will be reduced by a sizeable 1.5 per cent of GDP across two years, which will go a long way in helping with inter-temporal debt sustainability. Second, assumptions on the revenue side are very conservative. After a realised tax buoyancy of 1.4 last year (gross taxes growing at 13.5 per cent on nominal GDP growth of 9.6 per cent) the assumed buoyancy is just 1 this year (taxes are budgeted to grow at 10.8 per cent on nominal GDP growth of 10.5 per cent). Third, the extra resources the government had (around 0.4 per cent of GDP) vis-à-vis the interim budget were used in a balanced manner, with half being assigned for more consolidation and the other half to increase revenue expenditures. Fourth, the quality of discretionary expenditure (measured as the ratio of capital to revenue expenditures, ex-interest) has doubled from 0.2 in 2020 to 0.4 in 2024. Fifth, one potential concern of reducing the deficit too quickly is the contractionary impact on aggregate demand.

Similarly, on the exports front, it was refreshing to see customs duties across several sectors reduced or done away with. A foundational theorem in trade theory is that an import tariff is equivalent to an export tax. If we can continue on this path of rationalising tariffs, we are simply making our exports more competitive.

Finally, the budget spoke about the need to undertake factor-market reforms encompassing land, labour and capital in conjunction with the states. It also spoke about developing a vision for the financial sector and undertaking a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act, all important cogs in the structural reform agenda. Implementation, however, is now the key.

What is the bigger message? We live in a dangerous and unpredictable world. Cyclical policy space is largely exhausted. Sustaining growth will require the less flashy task of fixing the economy's plumbing. This will be a hard slog but is unavoidable to improve competitiveness and ensure the fruits of growth are more equitably distributed across the factors of production. The budget must be commended for acknowledging this and starting down this path.

The writer is Chief India Economist at JP Morgan. Views are personal

budget (Rs 48 trillion) and a notable 21.4 per cent of the central government's net tax revenue for FY25.

The food subsidy is budgeted at Rs 2.05 trillion, down from INR 2.12 trillion in FY24. Despite this decrease, the subsidy still predominantly benefits consumers rather than farmers. Providing free rations to more than 800 million people through the PM-Garib Kalyan Yojana is perhaps correct from a political perspective.

However, questions remain about the necessity of continuing this support for such a large population. This is especially pertinent in light of the FM's statement that approximately 250 million people have been lifted out of multi-dimensional poverty during 10 years of the Modi government.

The Government of India has reflected our concerns in the Economic Survey 2023-24 by recognising the need to reorient agricultural policies that have been working at cross-purposes, overlooking farmers' interests and inadvertently harming natural resources. Although these policies have increased agriculture productivity, they have diminished soil fertility, depleted groundwater, increased nitrous oxide and methane emissions and starved crops of nutrients.

They have also undermined public health by becoming a catalyst for a diet rich in sugar and carbohydrates, instead of fibre and protein. There is an urgent need to transform agriculture into an engine of growth through farming practices that benefit both farmers and the planet.

Effective policymaking through re-orienting subsidies, can generate higher value addition in agriculture, boost farmers' incomes and create opportunities for food processing and exports. Perhaps that has been left for the next budget.

Gulati is Distinguished Professor and Thangaraj a consultant at ICRIER. Views are personal

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

A five-year roadmap

With an eye on generating employment, improving infrastructure and rationalisation of GST, Budget 2024 offers elements of a medium-term framework for economic policy



R KAVITA RAO

THERE WERE TWO clear expectations for the economy from the first budget of the NDA government's third term, which was presented on July 23: First, a roadmap on fiscal consolidation and second, a roadmap for medium-term interventions, in terms of the challenges facing the economy. The budget speech paid attention to both of these fronts.

The Finance Minister needs to be commended for sticking to the path of fiscal consolidation with a further reduction in the fiscal deficit target, compared to the interim budget. The estimated fiscal deficit for 2024-25 is 4.9 per cent of the GDP, bringing it closer to the target of 4.5 per cent in the next fiscal. Debt to GDP for the central government too has been forecast to reduce from 58.2 per cent to 56.8 per cent. While the budget speech does not provide a clear roadmap beyond 2025-26 in terms of target fiscal deficit, it does propose "to keep the fiscal deficit each year such that the central government debt will be on a declining path as percentage of GDP." The flexibility provided by the lack of firm announcements would allow for nimble policymaking but limits predictability for the wider economy.

While fiscal consolidation is one primary concern of the government, augmenting expenditures is often seen as the other priority. In the last three years, additional fiscal space, made available through more buoyant tax revenues, has been utilised to raise the allocations for various spending programmes. Unlike in previous years, some of the additional resources available have been used for fiscal consolidation as well — the resources to undertake fiscal consolidation in this budget can be traced to the surplus to be received from the Reserve Bank of India. Some additions to expenditure and marginal compression in tax revenues too are observed when compared to the interim budget.

Working on the challenges flagged by the Economic Survey 2023-24, the budget speech presents an overview of the initiatives proposed for the current year as well as the next five years. Concerns regarding employability and employment for the youth and improved infrastructure in the country emerge as key points for motivating policy initiatives. A number of initiatives are proposed to create better employability through skilling and higher employment through financial support for provident fund contributions. While these initiatives are welcome and flag the concerns of citizens and the government, an overall framework would help identify the synergies among potential initiatives. The government's proposal to present an economic policy framework is a welcome announcement in this regard — it can help establish consistent medium-term expectations on likely reforms to be undertaken.

On the tax front, the budget communicates a season of changes. Within indirect taxes, it signals the possibility of rationalisation



CR Sasikumar

of the GST rates and expansion in the base and continued recalibration of customs duties. Apart from the initial years which witnessed a slew of rate changes, the GST regime has been remarkably stable in terms of structure and design of the tax. However, some rationalisation of the structure is called for. The likely changes in the GST regime are widely anticipated and discussed, and would constitute an important step in completing the reform of the regime before it can settle into a stable and predictable regime for taxpayers as well as governments.

Unlike the GST regime, the customs duty regime is now used to address varying concerns in the economy — to reduce competition in some cases and to increase competition in others. The need for regular recalibration in customs duties too could benefit from an overall framework. The proposed economic policy framework could provide a basis for this, suggesting stability and predictability in the regime.

The medium-term approach is evident in the section pertaining to direct taxes as well: It begins with a proposal to undertake a review of the Income Tax Act with the objective to 'make the Act concise, lucid, easy to read and understand'. A recurring theme in this section is the intent to reduce disputes and litigation. The budget proposes to introduce a 'Vivad se Vishwas, 2024' scheme to reduce the amount of revenue locked in litigation. Manpower allocated to address the

The medium-term approach is evident in the section pertaining to direct taxes as well: It begins with a proposal to undertake a review of the Income Tax Act with the objective to 'make the Act concise, lucid, easy to read and understand'. A recurring theme in this section is the intent to reduce disputes and litigation. The budget proposes to introduce a 'Vivad se Vishwas, 2024' scheme to reduce the amount of revenue locked in litigation.

backlog of cases of first appeals too is proposed to be augmented. Further, the budget proposes to limit the cases of appeal by the departments in case of income tax, excise and service tax cases — cases involving small liabilities are not to be contested. The focus on dispute resolution is commendable; the source of large numbers of disputes too perhaps could use some attention.

Emerging discussions on direct taxes across the globe flag concerns of increasing inequality and the need to bring in higher levels of tax on "the rich". The Economic Survey articulates the concern in terms of differential taxation of labour income and capital income. The budget seeks to address this concern by raising the taxes on capital gains, both short-term and long-term, while providing some relief to retail investors by raising the exemption to Rs 1.25 lakh. This initiative, along with the enhanced securities transaction tax on futures and options transactions, could cool some of the fervour in the capital markets in the short term and reduce some of the irrational exuberance, bringing in stability for the medium term.

While the budget provides some elements of a medium-term framework, adding more elements to it would be helpful for stability and predictability in the economy.

The writer is Director, NIPFP

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Compromises are what allows Europe to move forward. It's not too late for France to draw inspiration from this method."
— LE MONDE, FRANCE

Responsible and inclusive

The budget has struck a welcome balance between pushing growth, welfare and keeping India on the right fiscal path



PRACHI MISHRA, SHOHAN MUKHERJEE, AND ANKITA NAIR

THE FY25 BUDGET continues the commitment to being responsible. The fiscal deficit is projected at 4.9 per cent of GDP in FY25 and seeks a large 0.9 pp correction relative to FY24 (and a 0.2 pp lower deficit even compared to the interim budget) — a decline of 1.8 pp over the last four years. This would be the largest annual reduction in deficit since 2013, excluding the post-Covid normalisation. This is despite the skew towards capital spending in the budget (the capital to current ratio increasing from 18 per cent to a projected 30 per cent), with obvious multipliers. The Finance Minister also pointed to the plan to bring down the deficit further to 4.5 per cent in FY26, and emphasised the goal to bring sovereign debt on a declining path as a percentage of GDP. A modest nominal GDP growth and tax buoyancy also suggest prudence, giving room for upside surprises, and flexibility to deal with unknowns.

That said, is the consolidation envisaged in the near- and medium-term enough? Ultimately, what matters for macroeconomic stability and growth are the overall fiscal deficit and liabilities of the sovereign. The budget aims for restraint on borrowings of Central Public Sector Enterprises (flat at 1.1 per cent of GDP). Even excluding state PSEs, for which we do not have reliable estimates, the consolidated deficit is running at 8.8 per cent of GDP, and debt/GDP at 82 per cent. In FY24, the Centre is estimated to have spent close to 40 per cent of its revenues on servicing its debt burden. Notably, interest payments are budgeted at three-quarters of the fiscal deficit, while the primary deficit (deficit excluding interest payments) is projected at only 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY25. Deleveraging by the sovereign will be essential to convert the outlook upgrade by rating agencies into actual rating increase, which is long overdue. The budget clearly signals continued progress towards this goal.

The sustained push towards capital spending indicates consistency. The encouragement through Rs 1.5 lakh crore for capital spending as a 50-year interest-free loan is effectively a grant to states and should enable them to utilise these resources in critical areas like health and education. States, however, had not used such additional resources. Ironically, because states are unable to spend on capital outlays, it provides fiscal room to the Centre. As the Economic Survey correctly pointed out, the goal of Viksit Bharat can be achieved only through a collective compact, and states have to be an integral part of it.

The budget emphasised agriculture and MSMEs, sectors crucial for employment and for the low- and middle-income population. Apart from increased allocation to agriculture, the budget has focused on sustainability, whether through the promotion of pulses, climate-resilient varieties, or veg-

etable clusters. There was also a push for branding and certification to promote natural farming. While we can address the issue of value distribution through cooperatives, there is a need for value creation in agriculture, which has been recognised. The emphasis on safety and quality can be a springboard for agri-exports which the budget highlights. We know that only productive firms or farms succeed in exports. The mix of the push to productivity along with credible systems for quality, safety and health can be a major factor in scaling up success in agriculture.

Exports are not necessarily about selling to other countries — different states can export to each other, and there can be trade based on comparative advantage. We need to look at all possible trade links and the whole matrix of trade costs and the budget sends the right signals.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 indicated increases in demand and approval of credit guarantees under the CGTME scheme, which features credit pooling for MSMEs. The budget indicates further leveraging of the digital footprint of MSMEs in the economy, and enhanced credit assessment to help to cover enterprises without formal accounting systems. Doubling Mudra loan limits on the condition of successful repayment of previous loans is also welcome.

Digitalisation also extends to land, a necessary area of reform for the China+1 goal. Unique identification of rural and urban land records is being introduced via the unique land parcel identification number (ULPIN), in addition to better map digitisation. This will allow for the quicker flow of agricultural credit.

What does the budget do for India's commitment to the orderly transition to a Green Economy? The commitment to an enabling mechanism will allow for greater capital flows to climate adaptation and mitigation practices.

Does the budget sufficiently address the health and education sectors? The government has made education and skilling for employment a huge priority by allocating Rs 1.48 lakh crore. There are provisions for educational loans up to Rs 10 lakh for each student pursuing higher education in Indian institutions. India with her glorious past can be the university for the world, just as she has been the pharmacy of the world. Despite some encouraging steps, the overall budget allocation for both health and education remains minimal, and low by global standards.

Finally, the budget takes a step towards reducing inter-state disparities by allocating resources for "Viksit Bihar", the state with the lowest per capita income. When India gained independence, an explicit government objective was to have a more egalitarian society, coupled with the balanced development of different regions. Active state intervention was envisaged to reduce disparities. The budget, through allocations for the poorer states, moves the needle in the right direction to fulfil this vision.

Overall, the budget strikes the right balance between responsible, inclusive, and sustainable growth.

Mishra is former Chief of Systemic Issues Division at the IMF and Professor of Economics at Ashoka University. Mukherjee and Nair are research associates at the Observer Research Foundation

An economy in search of a plan

Budget seems to lack vision for fundamental structural changes



ROHIT LAMBA

"MEN ARE HAUNTED by the vastness of eternity, and so we ask ourselves: Will our name echo across the centuries? Will strangers hear our name and wonder who we were? How bravely we fought? How fiercely we loved?"

The opening lines of Hollywood's 2004 adaptation of Homer's *Iliad* kept coming to me as I thought about the economic vision of Modi 3.0. Walking into his mid-70s, does Narendra Damodardas Modi think of how history will remember him? Of course he does, kept coming the reply, almost axiomatically. They all must when destiny puts them in such positions of high power. And yet, on the economic front, the question endures.

The honourable Prime Minister's hand of destiny is different from his peer group in that it is simply a big hand — the only leader since Jawaharal Nehru to get three consecutive terms in the de facto highest office of the land. While the cultural agenda under his tenure may have had a cogent vision, the economic one is arguably still meandering, in search of a plan.

For starters, it is not clear if the government understands that India's current economic growth rate is overstated — it simply cannot be, as Josh Felman and Arvind Subramanian have convincingly argued, that consumption, jobs and inflation remain low even as growth is going gangbusters.

Measuring growth numbers is not a partisan issue, but an academic one, and this record must be set straight.

The question endures because even while marketing the growth story externally, there is a gnawing fear that the truth is not even being spoken of internally. This is important because the policy prescriptions for an economy at 8-9 per cent GDP growth (with manageable inflation) are different than a 5-6 per cent one. But what is our growth rate?

To the credit of the government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech seems to have internalised that there is indeed a jobs problem — there are few good jobs on offer, the emerging pool of workers is simply not skilled enough, and the youth is delaying joining the labour force. To that end, employment-linked incentives have been proposed to induce the private sector to hire more formal workers and presumably train them.

This is a laudable start but is unlikely to have much effect unless the more basic problems of fixing labour practices are addressed. Why will an employer who has set up an entire business on contract labour take the risk of hiring permanent labour in return for a Rs 3,000 monthly subsidy in EPFO contributions for two years?

The question remains, for out beyond

the myopia of a scheme here and a freebie there, it does not seem like the government has the consistency to see through fundamental structural changes in the economy. New reforms have often been approached in an event-management style, setting them up for failure — demonetisation and farm laws come to mind.

I was trying to count the number of times the honourable Finance Minister used the word "scheme" in her speech, and at some point, I gave up. For a young country yearning for prosperity, this itself should be the cause of a revolution, at least an intellectual one. As a budding economist, I was excited when the Prime Minister had categorically stated in 2014 that his will be a "minimum government" with "maximum governance". But alas, the answer to all questions today is a scheme.

The question endures because the Modi 1.0 and 2.0 legacy is a repackaging of Indira Gandhi's *labharthi* model, albeit with better targeting, and combining it with a return to crony forms of capital. Yes, pushing through the digital stack and infrastructure reforms are praiseworthy. But, at this point, one has to ask if there is enough audacity in the Modi machinery to follow its *dharma*, of doing what is right, not worrying about the next election, but working in the infinite justice of the universe, of asking the Homeric ques-

tion: Do I want to be remembered in world history as the one who changed the course of India's economic trajectory?

The good news is there are enough good homegrown ideas out there to know what should be the *dharma*. Read Sajjid Chinyo on fiscal and monetary policy, Manish Sabharwal on labour, Karthik Muralidharan on education, Nachiket Mor on health, Ajay Shah on finance, Ashok Gulati on agriculture, Navroz Dubash on climate, Yamini Aiyar on governance, to name a few.

Oh, how the biography would read: The one who centralised power to remain in power, then systematically decentralised it to revolutionise delivery of primary health and education. Oh, how our grandchildren may applaud how universities were liberated from the clutches of the state and went to produce world-class ideas, and that the industry, liberated from tax raids, commercialised these ideas into world-beating products.

We need to think big, do big, as Deng Xiaoping did for China, and Narasimha Rao initiated for us in the early '90s. There are simply no two ways about it. Hopefully, in the next budget.

The writer is an economist at New York University Abu Dhabi and Cornell University, and a co-author of *Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEST FOR DEMOCRATS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Biden bows out' (IE, July 23). Good sense eventually belatedly when President Biden dropped out of the race for the upcoming US election. Many Democrats quickly endorsed current Vice President Kamala Harris as the nominee for the presidential race. She is most eligible, considering her ability to connect with multiple sections of society. Since only three more months are left for campaigning, she has to use her talent prudently to influence the electorate. Hopefully, she will remain balanced in her speeches including the September 10 presidential debate, and fight the good fight. This is an opportunity for the United States to get its first female black President.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Biden bows out' (IE, July 23). Biden's move has come a little late, a mere four months before the decisive, presidential election. For the Democrats, there are two options. One, nominate Kamala Harris and make her a possible scapegoat in Biden's stead — given Trump's post-shooting bravado with the vivid image of a clenched fist. Two, stage a grand debate where their candidates battle over how they intend to run the nation. The party convention must set exemplary tenor and substance

CLIMATE BLINKERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Who's the greenest of all?' (IE, July 23). The exposition on Chapter 13 of the Economic Survey, a special on Climate and Mission LIFE — revealed the obduracy of the developed world in refusing to accept any responsibility for the overexploitation of natural resources in its capitalist dream at the cost of serious climate change proving to be an unmitigated challenge for the world. The US and other Western countries engrossed in climate pledges put preconditions and propose the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) contributions to be "voluntary" which reflects the mindset of neo-colonialism towards the Global South. Studies suggest that although the Global South is the least responsible for emissions, most low-income countries face the worst impacts. Climate change is one of the legacies of colonialism and requires decolonisation.

L R Murmu, New Delhi



"This Budget provides special attention to MSMEs. We have formulated a package for MSMEs to help them compete globally"



WHAT STAKEHOLDERS SAID

"Budget 2024 looks to be the Government's continued and focused commitment and support with robust Central investments for the infrastructure sector, facilitating states' investments for the sector and providing Viable Gap Funding for promoting private investments in the sector for overall strengthening of the nation's infrastructure. Overall, the Budget is going to be a big booster to facilitate India's economic growth; roads and highways sector, being the prominent infra sector, is expected to get much-needed impetus through adequate fund allocations.

VIRENDRA D MHAISKAR,
CMD, IRB INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPERS LTD

This is a bold Budget by the Government, keeping in view longer-term fiscal prudence. With no easy giveaways, it focuses on a longer, more sustainable path of job creation through manufacturing in the country and a strengthened role of the MSMEs. Skilling the youth, formalising job creation, continued infrastructure spending, and urban development, along with the climate of enhanced local capex spending will encourage the private sector to join in... The key to unlocking the full potential will be execution on the ground and simplification of a plethora of taxes and compliances, as promised.

SANJAY NAYAR,
PRESIDENT, ASSOCHAM

Illustration: Bivash Barua

PUBLIC BANKS TO ASSESS CREDIT ELIGIBILITY; HARASSMENT WILL END: FISME

New credit rating mechanism for smaller units; Mudra loan limit up

Mudra loan limit up to Rs 20L; new credit guarantee scheme for purchase of equipment without collateral

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA & AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech Tuesday, proposed a new assessment model for credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that requires public sector banks (PSBs) to assess credit eligibility themselves instead of relying on external assessment.

She also proposed to increase the limit of Mudra loans from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh and introduce a credit guarantee scheme for purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral or third party guarantee.

"[PSBs] will also take a lead in developing or getting developed a new credit assessment model, based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs in the economy. This is expected to be a significant improvement over the traditional assessment of credit eligibility based only on asset or turnover criteria. That will also cover MSMEs without a formal accounting system," she said.

The credit guarantee scheme for purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral will operate on pooling of credit

risks of MSMEs seeking to benefit from the scheme, Sitharaman said. "A separately constituted self-financing guarantee fund will provide to each applicant guarantee cover up to 100 crore rupees. While the loan amount may be larger, the borrower will have to provide an upfront guarantee fee and an annual guarantee fee on the reducing loan balance," she said.

In a press release, the Federation of Indian Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) said: "Instead of going through a complicated project assessment process, businesses can now seek loans under the scheme to buy machinery without any collateral or third-party guarantee. This will significantly boost technology upgradation."

FISME added that the move to ask banks

EXPLAINED

E

BASED ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

UNDER THE new assessment system, PSBs will have to assess credit based on MSMEs' digital footprint. It is expected to be a significant improvement over the traditional system, based on asset or turnover, and will also cover MSMEs that do not have a formal accounting system.

to develop their own risk assessment models was a demand it had raised with the Ministry of Finance. "This will end the expenses and harassment MSMEs faced at the hands of rating agencies," it said.

Sitharaman also increased the turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform from Rs 500 crore to Rs 250 crore. TReDS is an online platform that allows MSMEs to unlock working capital by converting their trade receivables from buyers into cash.

"This measure will bring 22 more CPSEs and 7,000 more companies onto the platform. Medium enterprises will also be included in the scope of the suppliers," Sitharaman said in her speech.

Vinod Kumar, president of India SME

Forum, said: "Doing away with external credit ratings, the reduction of the turnover threshold to enterprises with a turnover over Rs 250 crore for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform... will significantly improve liquidity for smaller enterprises and unlock working capital more efficiently."

Sitharaman also announced that the loan limit under PM Mudra Yojana will be enhanced to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun' category.

The flagship scheme of the MSME Ministry was launched in 2015 to facilitate easy collateral-free micro-credit to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro-entrepreneurs for income-generating activities.

To further improve access to credit, Sitharaman said SIDBI will open new branches to serve all major MSME clusters within 3 years, including 24 branches this year, which will expand coverage to 168 out of 242 major clusters.

Budget will play a key role in creating jobs: Mandaviya

New Delhi: Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said that the announcements for jobs in the Union Budget will play a crucial role in creating more employment opportunities for youth, skilling the labour force and facilitating ease of doing business.

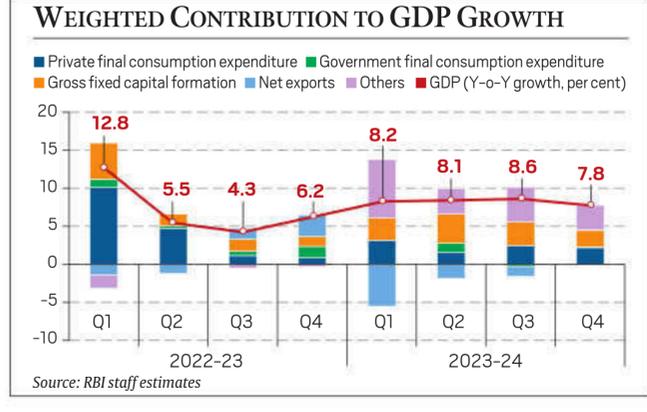
The initiatives, such as the employment linked incentive schemes and substantial investments in education and skilling, are designed to generate numerous job opportunities across various sectors, an official statement quoted him as saying.

By incentivising first-time employees and supporting both employees and employers,

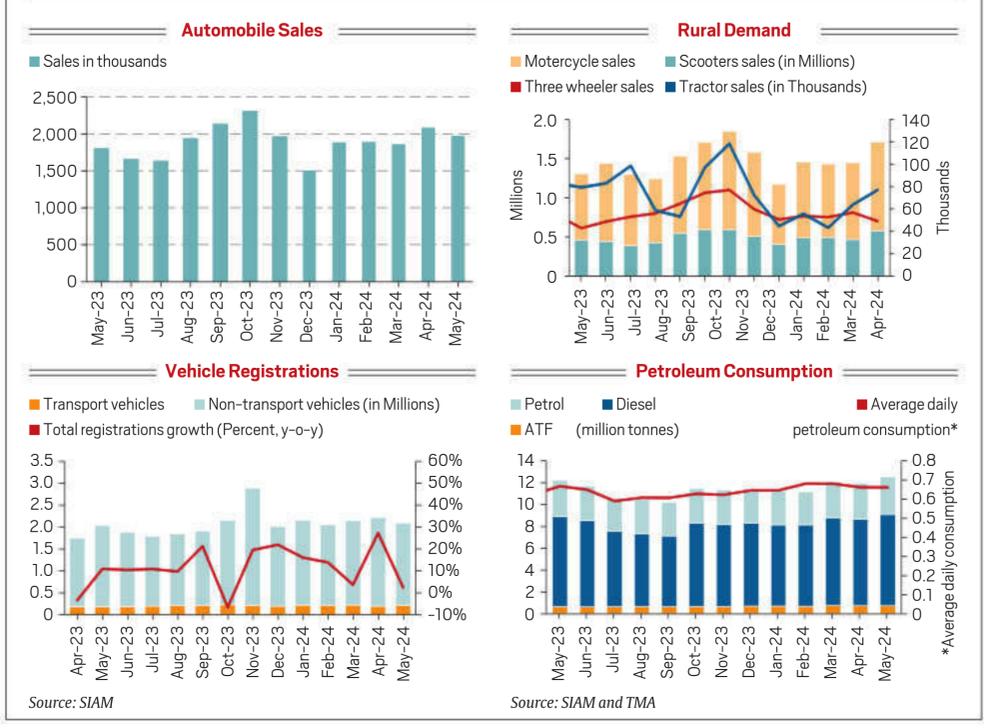
the government aims to integrate more individuals into the formal workforce, he said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday announced three employment-linked incentive (ELI) schemes for two years and an internship programme in partnership with India Inc for five years, in a bid to push employment in manufacturing and job creation in formal sectors of the economy.

With only eight months remaining in the ongoing financial year, the schemes have been allocated Rs 12,000 crore for this year, out of which Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the three ELI schemes. ENS



AUTOMOBILE SECTOR INDICATORS



New credit relief system for stressed MSMEs; 'halfway house', says FISME

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced a new mechanism for facilitating continuation of bank credit to MSMEs with stressed loan accounts under the special mention account category. The proposed mechanism is likely to bring relief to stressed MSMEs that have faced difficulty in utilising existing credit lines to pay dues.

"While being in the 'special mention account' (SMA) stage for reasons beyond their control, MSMEs need credit to continue their business and to avoid getting into the NPA stage. Credit availability will be supported through a guarantee from a government promoted fund," Sitharaman said.

In a press release, the Federation of Indian Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) said members have welcomed the announcement of a fund to help stressed

MSMEs red-flagged under the SMA category. "However, they termed the measure a 'halfway house' as the major issue of a lack of empowered officials at branch levels remains unaddressed," it said.

Before a loan account turns into NPA (non-performing asset), banks are required to identify incipient stress in the account by creating a sub-asset category called special mention accounts. An account is transferred to this category once the earliest signs of sickness or irregularities in loan repayment are identified.

There are three types of SMAs: SMA-0 (when principal or interest payment is not overdue for more than 30 days but account is showing signs of incipient stress); SMA-1 (when principal or interest payment is overdue between 31-60 days); and SMA-2 (when principal or interest payment is overdue between 61-90 days).

Classification under SMA can trigger penal actions, impact credit score, and even restrict access to credit.

plained that the current SMA classifications, instead of supporting businesses, effectively restrict them from accessing credit at crucial times. They argue that the moment an MSME loan account is classified as SMA-0, the banker will single it out and block access to credit.

In the weeks leading up to the Budget, associations representing MSMEs met with officials from the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India to extend the threshold period for stressed loan accounts under the SMA-2 category to 180 days from 90 days currently as it can take up to 200 days for an MSME to get paid by buyers. They argued that the current timeline pushes stressed MSMEs towards default.

As per industry data compiled by India SME Forum, the gross NPA in the MSME sector stood at 4.4 per cent in March 2024, compared to 6.8 per cent in March 2023. Sectoral experts have argued that incidence of NPA has grown in recent years, especially after the Covid pandemic.

When I say I'll review the income tax... there's a lot that needs simplification. We'll work towards it. So you don't need to read such a big book on income tax, it'll just be a simple form. Even the follow-up should be simple

It's one thing you give MSPs, PM-Kisan... But farmers today require high-quality seeds and better inputs, and we need good research. I announced 109 varieties of climate-resilient seeds, both for field crops and horticulture



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

'Opportunities not adequate, job schemes to benefit 4.1 cr youth'

'The way in which we have decided to spend money in building capacities, in making sure youth get trained properly to get into good quality jobs... all this will generate economic activity'

If we have to summarise the entire Budget, it promises employment. What are your thoughts behind focusing so much on employment?

Today, Indian youths are working in great places worldwide. Employers trust them when it comes to talent. But the opportunities for them in India are not adequate. Therefore, through the government, we launched these five schemes. We will spend more than 2 lakh crore in this regard, benefiting 4.1 crore youths. Some youths reap benefits through these schemes in the form of their first jobs, some in terms of getting better employment. In both these situations, we are also providing benefits to the employers so that they make the effort to hire these youths and retain them for at least two years. In the last 15-20 years, there has been not enough investment in state-controlled Industrial training institutes (ITIs) for teaching material, machines and equipment for hands-on training. There's a demand for Industry 4.0, which means that even if an investment was made then, the requirements today are different. We will buy Industry 4.0-ready equipment for the ITIs with the help of the private sector. The Central government, in partnership with the private sector, will hire good trainers for the ITIs. Close to 1 crore youths will directly benefit (from these efforts) because the Government of India will directly talk to the top 500 companies, which will join this initiative through their CSR efforts. These companies can provide trainers in ITIs and give exposure to these youths on their company floor through year-long hands-on learning internships. If one of these companies is on their CVs, their value in the job market will increase, giving rise to the readiness of employers to hire them. Through these five schemes, we have created training modules for youths on every level. With the Prime Minister's focus, these schemes have been tailor-made.

You've provided ₹1.52 lakh crore for the agriculture sector and ₹2.66 lakh crore for rural development. How does this meet the goal of making agriculture an engine for growth?

See, one thing I want to dispel. When we say these kinds of amounts, people don't realise these are other than what are running as schemes. (People say) the Finance Minister has not mentioned MGNREGA. It doesn't mean that I'm going to stop MGNREGA to run this. They are on-demand programmes which keep going, for which I've made provision. I have not mentioned it in the speech, but it is in my records. It's in the Budget. So this misconceived notion that it doesn't appear in the speech, it's not there at all is wrong. I want to make that clear. Inputs worthy for farmers to toil in the soil are very important. So it's one thing you give MSPs, it's one thing you give PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, all that will go on. But farmers today require high-quality seeds and better inputs, and we need good research for that. I made one announcement also in this Budget: 109 varieties of climate-resilient seeds, both for field crops and horticulture. Most of our farmers today buy seeds that can't take this extreme

heat, sudden flooding and scarcity of irrigable water. Indian agriculture scientists have come up with these 109 resilient varieties, which I'm sure will soon be launched. We will be taking it down to the farmers so that they can benefit. We are looking at giving input support. More than 50 per cent cost should be met by the amounts that we give them. Rural development is looking at not just PM Gram Sadak Yojana or PM Awas Yojana, where big amounts are going. Three crore new homes, 25,000 new Gram Panchayats will get road network. We are looking at actually hard infrastructure in the rural areas. Whether you're having silos for the storage of grains, three-phase power going there with smart meters and making sure that 5G connectivity reaches them because today e-commerce for agriculture, MSMEs and meeting the global markets is a requirement in the villages.

Can you clarify if older schemes like MGNREGA, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and PM-Kisan will continue?

Absolutely. In my speech, which was one and a half hours long, how many subjects will I be able to cover? Several states complained that I did not talk about them in my speech. This does not mean that no money will go into that state. Every scheme is functioning

in that state. Apart from these schemes, even those projects that are being carried out in those states with the help of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank will continue. In the last 70 years, the country did not think of Maharashtra. It will soon get the Vadnavan Port, the country's largest, which will draw some of the best large vessels to Indian shores. Our Cabinet has approved ₹76,000 crore for that project. But was it mentioned in the Budget? I want to clarify that existing schemes will continue.

You did mention projects for Bihar and allocation for Andhra Pradesh. Are you sending out a special message here?

No, first of all, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act required all this to be done anyway. In the ten full years since the AP Reorganisation Act came into being — the two states were bifurcated — we have been giving money for the backward districts programme, taking some of the primary institutions — AIIMS, IIT, IIT — (to the state). So there are certain projects which are getting staggered. Polavaram is one of the biggest national irrigation projects with a dam, storage capacity being immense. Godavari waters being kept there, and from there irrigation going into the fields. This is a national project, we will certainly support it, and that is what I have em-

phasised. Similar is the backward region development in Andhra Pradesh — Rayalaseema and north coastal Andhra Pradesh — are all part of that. We are only definitely assuring the newly elected government in Andhra Pradesh that we are with them.

We will stand by them, we will ensure those promises which are given in the AP Reorganisation Act will be fulfilled.

You announced projects worth ₹47,000 crore for Bihar in a speech. Can you talk about it?

Every year, north Bihar goes through loss due to floods. It makes you feel sorry. If you analyse this, it is not Bihar's fault; the rivers are coming from Nepal. We have been talking to the Nepal government for years. It is nobody's fault. But there has been a delay. Till the matter is resolved, will Bihar get some relief or not? Therefore, we launched the Kosi-Mechi project. We are trying to divert the scattered water for irrigation so that Bihar does not suffer due to floods.

How will these e-commerce hubs that are being set up with the public-private partnership work and how will the benefiting MSMEs reach the international markets?

The e-commerce hubs, we announced it

for the MSMEs. You look at the example of what this open network for digital commerce (ONDC) is doing. It's actually given at the cost of the government, meaning they don't have to pay any charge for it, access for MSMEs to reach the global markets. ONDC has proven a very powerful catalyst. Now when you form e-commerce hubs, you are making sure because of these digital assets that we have, and MSMEs in particular can benefit from, it's like creating a special economic zone, somewhat.

In the new tax regime, you had kept no tax till ₹7 lakh. Under the new slab, what's the motive? You said you'll review the Income Tax act in the next six months. Are we going towards a direct tax code?

Yes. We are moving toward it to simplify it. Why was the new tax regime needed? Instead of filling forms in the same system with a hassle, whether you need an exemption or not, come into this system. Rate is less too. If you don't need exemptions, you're getting a better rate here.

Secondly, after the scheme's launch, people said to give the minimum possible standard deduction. We took it till ₹50,000. This time, that has been raised to ₹75,000. So that people have money left in their hand.

Apart from this, even in the rate, we've simplified and reduced. So the middle class gets relief in income tax, and we're moving to have more money in their hands. This time, with the tax rates and standard deduction, it's relief for the middle class.

When I say I'll review the income tax... I gave the example of the old and new regime, but there's a lot else that needs simplification. We'll work towards it. So you don't need to read such a big book on the income tax, it'll just be a simple form and you can file taxes. Even the follow-up should be simple...

And your overall tax proposals, you talk about a revenue foregone of about ₹7,000 crore. So is this a shortfall, or do you hope to make this up because we are having growth and tax GDP ratio is going to improve?

Yes, because the way in which we have decided to spend money in building capacities, in making sure there are more efficiencies brought, productivity increase, and making sure youth get trained properly to get into good quality jobs... all this will generate economic activity which will give me that comfort to make up for revenue foregone. Which net out, I read it out today, that ₹7,000, ₹8,000 crore we can, we hope. Because the ways in which we are bringing in factors for productivity gains will help us.

And other than that, of course, we also make sure that the tax net is widened...

How will the youth benefit from the schemes announced in the Budget?

...Today, for instance, in scheme one, if you recruit a new fresh employee, the government will give ₹15,000 as one month's wage, which will be spread in three instalments. In this, the employer also receives because he'll register him as an EPFO employee. This is one scheme. Here, the employee and employer get incentive.

The second scheme looks at employees which are first time, and also for somebody else who can get into the job, for him we give allowances for both employee and employer. In this, if the employer doesn't retain him for two years, and removes him within a year, let's say, every incentive given to the employer will have to be refunded or paid back.

We are making sure that under each scheme, there are more and more new people coming in, fresh appointments happening, companies will be incentivised to grow. Suppose you're already running a company of 100, and you can get 50 more, you get the incentive.

Is your seventh budget. What framework do you see for the economy?

Like our president said, our budget has a futuristic vision. Technology has been included. Training our youth for Industry 4.0 is not because we don't have jobs or something like that. Train youths in such a way that they're job-ready. We've got a cruise to India. It will increase employment, tourists, there'll be hotels in each centre, people who work there will increase, opportunities for handicraft will increase.

EDITED EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO DD

Budget brings new energy & opportunities, will create more jobs, empower all: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

HAILING THE Union Budget 2024 as one that would "empower every section of society", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said it will usher in better growth and development.

"Today's Budget brings with it new energy and opportunities. It will bring better growth and a bright future. It will be a catalyst for India becoming the third largest economy and a developed nation," Modi the Prime Minister said in an address after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget.

Modi said the Budget will help in job creation and uplift the poor. "The government has announced an employment-linked in-

centive scheme in this Budget. Through it, crores of new jobs will be created. Under this scheme, our government will give the first salary of a youth who gets the first job in life," he said. "With 1 crore internships for the youth, sons and daughters of poor and rural families will work in top companies. New doors of possibilities will open for them."

Focusing on steps taken for MSMEs and employment generation for the disadvantaged, the Prime Minister said, "We have to create entrepreneurs in every city, village and home. For this, the limit of Mudra loan has without guarantee been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh. This will help generate self-employment for women, Dalit, Adivasi and backward households."

"Together, we will make India a global manufacturing hub. The MSME sector is associated with the middle class. Its owners



PM Narendra Modi speaks on the Budget on Tuesday. PTI

are middle class and it gives a lot of employment to the poor. Empowering MSMEs is an important step. This Budget has announced a new scheme to increase ease of credit for MSMEs."

"It is a Budget that will take villagers, the poor and farmers on the path of prosperity. In the last 10 years, 25 crore people have come out of poverty. This Budget is a Budget for constant empowerment of the new middle class that has been created. It will give countless new opportunities to the youth. It will provide a new scale to education and skill. It will give a new strength to the middle class," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also said that "farmers are a big focus of this Budget". "After the biggest storage scheme of the world, we are going to create vegetable production clusters. Small farmers will access new markets;

for the middle class, there will be higher production of food and vegetables," he said.

"There have been announcements to end poverty and empower the poor. Three crore new houses for the poor will be constructed. Jan Jatiya Uन्नat Gram Abhiyan will join 5 crore tribal families with basic services. Gram Sadak Yojana will connect 25,000 new rural areas with all-weather roads."

Touching upon other aspects of the Budget, Modi said, "E-commerce, export hubs, 100 units for food quality testing — these will help the campaign for one district, one product. For our startups and innovation ecosystem, this Budget has brought many new opportunities. To give a boost to the space economy, there will be a fund of ₹1,000 crore. Many decisions like the one to do away with angel tax have been taken. It will be a driving force of a high capex economy."

18 EXPLAINED

THE INDIAN EXPRESS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024



"Effective implementation of several of these reforms requires collaboration between Centre and the states, building consensus..."

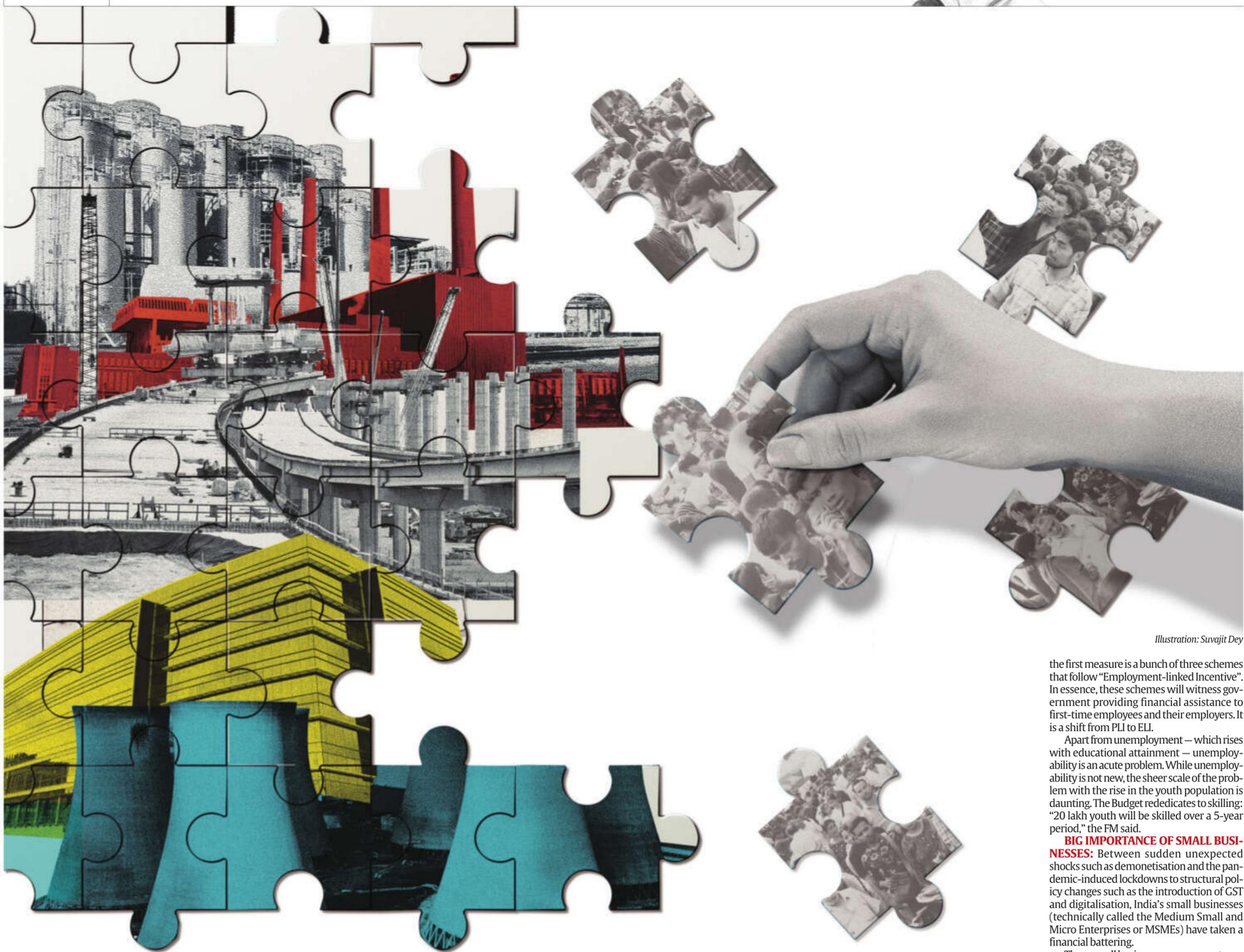


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE UNION Budget for 2024-25 — Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's seventh in a row and the twelfth Budget of the Narendra Modi government — departs significantly from all previous Budgets presented by this government in its approach towards managing India's economy.

Budgets serve two essential purposes. They provide details about a government's finances, how much the government earned, how much it spent, and how much it borrowed during the past financial year, and what its projections are on all these three counts for the next financial year.

Too much borrowing by the government (technically referred to as the fiscal deficit) adds to the overall burden of the country's debt, which has to be paid by taxpayers — present or future. Prudential norms suggest that the government should always look to reduce deficits and spend in such a manner that overall debt — as a proportion of the country's total economic output or GDP — keeps coming down.

But budgets are also the most important instrument in the hands of the government to manage India's economy. Whom does the government tax and how much, where does it spend and how much — such questions qualitatively shape the fortunes of millions of businesses and billions of people across the various sectors of the economy.

Approach since 2014...

Prime Minister Modi's first two terms were unique in one very crucial respect: these were the only two governments since the beginning of economic reforms in the 1990s in which a single political party enjoyed a majority in Lok Sabha.

This situation allowed the BJP to boldly follow its economic philosophy for India's growth. Until then, ruling coalitions often pulled in different directions — a situation that is captured well by the former Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia's observation that India had "a strong consensus for weak reforms".

To be sure, Prime Minister Modi came to power with a bold declaration: "Minimum government, maximum governance". He appeared to believe that the Indian government should move out of the way and allow the private sector take the lead in the economy.

This meant that both in terms of the things that it did and the people that it employed, the government would shrink in size — even though the necessary governance that a modern economy requires would be protected.

In this philosophy, government revenues would go up not because the government

would raise tax rates, but because it would reduce tax rates while widening the tax base and encouraging compliance.

Another necessary corollary would be strict adherence to prudential fiscal norms — driven by the understanding that if the government borrows less money from the market, it would leave more for the private sector to borrow (and presumably at lower interest rates) for their expansion needs.

While the government spends more and more on building essential infrastructure (technically called capital expenditure), the bustling private sector would provide jobs to the millions entering the Indian labour market each year.

More formalisation and digitalisation would allow the government to efficiently monitor the economy, raise resources without getting entangled in the inefficiencies that are typical of the public sector, and the rent-seeking and red-tape that are often a defining feature of large bureaucracies.

...had limited success

For the past 10 years, expectations have been running high that India would finally usher in the so-called second generation reforms — pending on the agenda since the first generation of reforms that began in 1991, opening up the Indian economy to global competition, and liberalising it internally by removing the dreaded licence-permit raj and inspector raj.

That did not happen — however, the past decade has, indeed, witnessed several big reforms that had been left on the table by previous coalition governments. These included the restructuring of India's indirect taxes (called the Goods and Services Tax), the bolstering of the insolvency architecture (now called the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) and a massive push towards digitalisation and the financial inclusion of millions of Indians.

Perhaps the biggest bet taken by the government was the historic cut in the corporate tax rate that was announced in late 2019. This was in line with the broader philosophy espoused by the government — that lower taxes would encourage businesses to make fresh investments, which would create lots of jobs and which would, in turn, bring all

round prosperity.

But as many have pointed out, the decision was poorly timed. India's economy had started to lose momentum from 2017 onward. In 2019-20, the GDP grew at less than 4%. All the data pointed to an alarming rise in unemployment and an all-round stagnation in incomes, which together started to take a toll on overall consumption levels in the economy.

And then came the Covid-19 pandemic that destroyed incomes and ate into people's savings.

Low levels of consumption since — including a K-shaped recovery where the rich recovered much faster out of the pandemic than the majority of Indians — led to an unravelling of the government's growth strategy. Most Indian businesses simply pocketed the corporate tax breaks instead of creating fresh and additional capacity because they did not see the business case for doing so.

The 2024 election

Up until the time the Interim Budget was presented on February 1 this year and perhaps ever later, the government in its statements and decisions appeared to be in denial about the broader economic distress in the country.

At the same time, it questioned the private sector for not responding to the strat-

egy it had laid out. Finance Minister Sitharaman compared India's corporate sector to Lord Hanuman in an episode of the Ramayana where He had forgotten about His ability to fly.

Then came the results of the Lok Sabha election. Contrary to expectations of the BJP retaining, if not improving upon, its 2019 tally of 303 in Lok Sabha, the election stripped the party of the majority it enjoyed in the House.

The result in UP, which sends the most members to Lok Sabha, was a serious setback.

The proposals in the Union Budget should be viewed in this background: the broader economy hasn't been doing as well as the GDP growth numbers suggest, and the government has probably learnt that there can be a political cost to denial.

Course-correction

A COALITION BUDGET: Crucial NDA coalition partners in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and N Chandrababu Naidu's TDP respectively, have had several proposals directed the way of their states. Bihar will get several road connectivity projects such as the Patna-Purnea and Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressways, and a bridge over the Ganga, flood control structures, and a new power plant in Pirpainti. The Finance Minister has announced that "new airports, medical colleges and sports infra-

structure" will also be constructed in Bihar.

The FM's plan for the all-round development of the eastern regions of the country (called Purvodaya), will cover both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, apart from Odisha (where the BJP has just won the state Assembly elections) and Jharkhand.

Andhra Pradesh will get funds for promoting industrial development and essential infrastructure such as water, power, railways and roads.

RECOGNITION OF AGRARIAN & RURAL DISTRESS: One of the oldest promises of the Modi government has been the doubling of farmer incomes. However, income growth has been disappointing, and farmers have seen repeated instances where either the prices of their produce were too low to be remunerative, or when policy measures stopped them from benefiting from higher prices.

One of the biggest policy flashpoints in the previous term (2019-24) was the three farm laws that aimed at modernising Indian agriculture. They were bitterly opposed, leading to their repeal.

The FM started her Budget speech by delineating nine top priorities, and agriculture topped the list. The Budget has promised to transform farm research, new missions aimed at boosting the output of pulses and oilseeds (which India imports in large quantities), and promoting natural farming.

FOCUS ON JOBS & SKILLS: In its previous term, the government had introduced a Production-linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. The government would provide companies a subsidy that was linked to levels of production. Critics had pointed out that in a labour-surplus country, providing PLI was sub-optimal since it was possible for companies to replace labour with machinery and collect the subsidy.

PLI did little to boost job creation. Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan had pointed out that taxpayers have to shell out Rs 3.2 crore per job created at the proposed Micron semiconductor plant in Gujarat. Other economists have pointed out that previous Budgets did little to promote labour-intensive industries such as textiles and leather products.

This Budget's second biggest priority is Employment and Skilling. Within this, too,

the first measure is a bunch of three schemes that follow "Employment-linked Incentive". In essence, these schemes will witness government providing financial assistance to first-time employees and their employers. It is a shift from PLI to ELI.

Apart from unemployment — which rises with educational attainment — unemployment is an acute problem. While unemployment is not new, the sheer scale of the problem with the rise in the youth population is daunting. The Budget rededicates to skilling: "20 lakh youth will be skilled over a 5-year period," the FM said.

BIG IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESSES: Between sudden unexpected shocks such as demonetisation and the pandemic-induced lockdowns to structural policy changes such as the introduction of GST and digitalisation, India's small businesses (technically called the Medium Small and Micro Enterprises or MSMEs) have taken a financial battering.

These small businesses serve a great purpose — they contribute about 45% of manufacturing output, more than 40% of exports, and more than 28% of the GDP while employing more than 11 crore people, often far from the big cities. Yet most of the policy decisions and focus — such as the corporate tax cut — continued to focus on big businesses.

The fourth top priority in the Budget is "Manufacturing and Services", but what is crucial to note is that all the initiatives under this head pertain to alleviating the stress in the MSME sector. "This Budget provides special attention to MSMEs and manufacturing, particularly labour-intensive manufacturing," the FM said.

RECOGNISING THE CENTRE CAN'T DO IT ALONE: Over-centralisation in policymaking can undo even the best of policies when it comes to implementation since all implementation happens at the state level. The Centre having done its bit in terms of policy — be it the push towards capital expenditure or the cut in corporate tax rate or initiatives such as PLI — the Budget speech showed acceptance that genuine change requires working along with states as partners instead of political opponents. Across initiatives, the FM reiterated the need to work with the states.

While talking about second generation reforms (such as those relating to land and labour), the FM said: "Effective implementation of several of these reforms requires collaboration between the Centre and the states and building consensus, as development of the country lies in development of the states. For promoting competitive federalism and incentivising states for faster implementation of reforms, I propose to earmark a significant part of the 50-year interest-free loan."

Similarly, while talking about industrial parks, the FM said: "Our government will facilitate development of investment-ready 'plug and play' industrial parks with complete infrastructure in or near 100 cities, in partnership with the states and private sector, by better using town planning schemes."

The Budget upshot

Both in its priorities and in its approach, the Budget signals that the policy tools adopted during the time of the BJP's single-party majority are no longer the primary instruments. The first Budget of Modi 3.0 recognises that despite several big policy reforms and decisions, and notwithstanding encouraging growth rates of GDP, there is considerable economic distress in the country.

The recognition of distress is the first step towards finding solutions. Sitharaman has stated that the government will come out with an economic policy framework which will "delineate the overarching approach to economic development and set the scope of the next generation of reforms for facilitating employment opportunities and sustaining high growth."

Making sense of the Budget

India's broader economy has not been doing as well as the GDP growth numbers suggest, and the Lok Sabha election result has conveyed to the government that there is a political cost to denial. Major proposals indicate an attempt at course-correction

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman started her Budget speech by delineating nine top priorities. Agriculture, employment, and skilling topped the list

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19 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan. File

PAKISTAN Imran, wife move court for better jail amenities

Islamabad: Jailed Pakistan prime minister has moved a top court here to get jail amenities in line with international standards for him and his wife, according to a media report on Tuesday. Geo News reported that Khan and Bushra Bibi filed the petition at Islamabad High Court on Monday to seek "high-quality facilities" at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail where they are lodged. The plea also requested that a complete list of those persons who wanted to meet the jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder at the Rawalpindi jail should be summoned, as well as a report on the duration of their meetings. **PTI**

THAILAND Marijuana to be legalised for medical use

Bangkok: Thailand will work towards legislating marijuana for medical use, a deputy prime minister said Tuesday, signalling a U-turn on plans to re-criminalise the plant and another change in the government's hazy position on cannabis. Deputy premier Anutin Charnvirakul, whose party was instrumental in pushing for marijuana liberalisation, said Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin had now agreed that legislation was the appropriate step to take. **REUTERS**

SOUTH AFRICA President signs 1st broad climate change Act

Johannesburg: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law a broad climate change act that will set caps for large emitters and require every town and city to publish an adaptation plan. The Climate Change Bill aims to enable South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris climate agreement, the presidency said in a statement on Tuesday. South Africa, which is the world's most carbon-intensive major economy and among the top 15 greenhouse gas emitters, is on track to miss those targets because of its heavy reliance on coal for electricity. **REUTERS**

RUNNING MATE TO BE PICKED BY AUG 7; BIDEN SET TO ADDRESS NATION

Harris close to clinching ticket with Democratic delegates' endorsements

Outlines plans to attack Trump, refers to her past of pursuing 'predators', 'fraudsters'

REUTERS
JULY 23

VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris will campaign in the critical battleground state of Wisconsin on Tuesday for the first time as a presidential candidate after enough Democratic delegates pledged to endorse her, clearing her path to the nomination.

Less than 36 hours after President Joe Biden endorsed Harris, she secured the nomination on Monday night by winning the pledged support of a majority of the party's delegates, the campaign said. Meanwhile, President Joe Biden said he will give a prime-time televised address on Wednesday night about his decision to drop out of the 2024 presidential race.

An unofficial survey of delegates by the AP showed Harris with more than 2,500 delegates, well over the 1,976 needed to win a vote in the coming weeks.

The Wisconsin trip offers an opportunity for her to reset the Democrat campaign and make the case that she is best positioned to beat Trump. She offered a sense of how she plans to attack Trump, referring to her past of pursuing "predators" and "fraudsters".

Democratic National Committee chair Jaime Harrison said the party had to move quickly to get the ticket on ballots in all 50 states, and that the vice presidential pick needed to be made by August 7. Potential running mates include Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, say people familiar with policy discussions.



Kamala Harris speaks at her campaign headquarters in Wilmington on Monday. AP

AFTER FACING BIPARTISAN CONDEMNATION

Secret Service chief quits over Trump shooting

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JULY 23

US SECRET Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned on Tuesday after the agency came under harsh scrutiny for its failure to stop a would-be assassin from wounding former President Donald Trump during a campaign rally, according to media reports.

The agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Secret Service, which is responsible for the protection of current and former US



Secret Service chief Kimberly Cheatle at the Capitol Hill for a hearing on Monday. Reuters

presidents, faces a crisis after a gunman fired on Trump from a roof overlooking the rally in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13.

Cheatle faced bipartisan condemnation when she appeared before the House of Representatives Oversight Committee Monday, declining to answer questions from frustrated lawmakers about the security plan for the rally and how law enforcement responded to the suspicious behavior of the gunman.

Cheatle, who has led the agency since 2022, told lawmakers she took responsibility for the

EXPLAINED 'Prosecutor versus felon' theme

THE PROSECUTOR-VER-SUS-FELON approach may appeal to undecided voters who had been sour on both Trump and Biden. It may also goad Trump into using the language he has used against other Black female prosecutors, whom he has called "racist" and attacked in personal terms. Facing a Black opponent could also scramble Trump's attempt to win over Black and Latino men without college degrees, who have been more receptive to him than any Republican in modern history.

ISRAELI PM TO ADDRESS U.S. HOUSE TODAY

Deal could be near to free hostages: Netanyahu to kin

MAAYAN LUBELL & NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI
JERUSALEM, CAIRO, JULY 23



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told families of hostages held in Gaza that a deal that would secure their release could be near, his office said on Tuesday, as fighting raged in the battered Palestinian enclave.

Israeli forces pressed on with a raid into Gaza's southern area of Khan Younis after ordering civilians to evacuate some districts they said had been used for renewed attacks by Palestinian militants. Thousands of people were fleeing for safer areas as Israeli airstrikes hit, UN officials said.

Netanyahu is currently in Washington and is expected to meet U.S. President Joe Biden later this week after making an address to Congress.

Speaking in the U.S. capital on Monday to families of hostages, he said: "The conditions (for a deal) are undoubtedly ripening. This is a good sign." Efforts to reach a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas have gained momentum over the past month.

"Unfortunately, it will not take place all at once; there will be stages. However, I believe that we

can advance the deal and leave us in possession of the leverage to bring about the release of the others," Netanyahu said.

Ruby Chen, the father of dual U.S.-Israeli citizen Itai Chen, a soldier whose body is being held in Gaza, was one of the family members who met with Netanyahu. "He did say that conditions were ripening but I'm talking that with a pinch of salt," Chen told Israeli Army Radio. Chen said he hoped Biden would apply more pressure on Netanyahu to secure the deal.

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters there was nothing new in Netanyahu's stance. "Netanyahu is still stalling and he is sending delegations only to calm down the anger of families of Israeli captives," he said.

An Israeli negotiation team was due on Thursday to resume talks that would include hostages being released in return for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. **REUTERS**



Palestinians flee parts of Khan Younis amid Israeli air and ground offensive on Monday. AP

Bangladesh to formally accept court ruling on quotas after protests

REUTERS
DHAKA, JULY 23

BANGLADESH IS expected on Tuesday to formally accept a court ruling to cut most government job quotas, meeting a key demand of students whose protests have sparked one of the deadliest outbreaks of violence in years.

There was no fresh trouble for a second straight day in Dhaka and most major cities but the army chief said security had still not been entirely restored after he surveyed the capital city by helicopter. The government shut mobile internet services, imposed a curfew and deployed the army from Saturday at midnight to contain clashes between protesters and security forces that spread across the country.

Almost 150 people have been killed in the protests with more than 1,600 arrested.

Students were furious because quotas left less than half of state jobs open to merit amid an unemployment crisis, particularly in the private sector, making government sector jobs with



Police inspect people amid a curfew in Dhaka, Tuesday. AP

their regular wage hikes and perks especially prized.

Protesters on Sunday gave the government 48 hours to meet eight new demands, such as a public apology from Hasina and the reopening of university campuses shut when the violence began, but did not say what would happen if the deadline wasn't met.

Hasina told business leaders in Dhaka on Monday that her political opponents were responsible for the violence, and that the curfew would be lifted "whenever the situation gets better". The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) denied involvement in the violence.

Russian MPs seek punishment for troops using smartphones amid war

REUTERS
MOSCOW, JULY 23

RUSSIA'S LOWER house of parliament, the Duma, has proposed disciplinary detention for up to 10 days for troops using devices with camera and geolocation functions in combat zones such as Ukraine, Russia's TASS state news agency reported.

Mobile phones have been used by both sides to identify targets in the Ukraine war, both by tracking signal locations and by



Russian soldiers at an undisclosed location. AP

accessing the photographs or messages posted, according to Russian and Western officials.

Founder of South Korean tech giant held over K-Pop stock manipulation

THE NEW YORK TIMES
SEOUL, JULY 23

THE BILLIONAIRE founder of the South Korean technology giant Kakao, Kim Beom-su, was arrested on Tuesday over allegations of stock price manipulation related to the company's investment in one of the country's largest K-pop agencies.

A high-profile bidding war broke out over the agency, SM

Entertainment, early last year. Prosecutors accused Kakao of manipulating SM Entertainment's stock price to block Hybe, the company behind BTS, from acquiring the agency.

Kakao ultimately acquired a major stake in SM Entertainment, in a move intended to help it expand abroad by establishing a foothold in K-pop.

The Seoul Southern District Court confirmed that Kim had been arrested Tuesday morning

on similar suspicions. While Kim has not been formally charged, the court issued an arrest warrant to allow prosecutors to question him in custody. Kakao said in a statement released last week that Kim had told staff: "The allegations are not true. I have never instructed or condoned any illegal acts."

Asked for comment about Kim's arrest, a Kakao spokeswoman said that "the current situation is unfortunate."

In Beijing, Hamas, Fatah agree on unity govt in Gaza after war

REUTERS
BEIJING, CAIRO, JULY 23

PALESTINIAN FACTIONS including rivals Hamas and Fatah agreed to end their divisions and form an interim national unity government during negotiations in China that ended on Tuesday, China's foreign ministry said.

The Beijing Declaration was signed at the closing ceremony of a reconciliation dialogue among 14 Palestinian factions held in China's capital from July 21-23, according to the readout.

The meeting was held amid attempts by international mediators to reach a ceasefire deal for Gaza, with one of the sticking points being the "day-after" plan.

Senior Hamas official Hussam Badran said the most important point of the Beijing Declaration was to form a Palestinian national unity government to manage the affairs of Palestinians. "This cre-



(From left) Fatah deputy chief Mahmoud al-Aloul, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Hamas official Musa Abu Marzuk in Beijing, Tuesday

ates a formidable barrier against all regional and international interventions that seek to impose realities against our people's interests in managing Palestinian affairs post-war," Badran said.

"Instead of rejecting terrorism, (Fatah leader) Mahmoud Abbas embraces the murderers and rapists of Hamas," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X.

FRANCE HOSTS WORLD'S LARGEST SPORTING EVENT AMID HEIGHTENED SECURITY FEARS, POLITICAL TURMOIL

Macron's failed political gamble casts a lingering shadow over Paris Olympics

ELIZABETH PINEAU & MICHEL ROSE
PARIS, JULY 23

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron hoped the Paris Olympics would cement his legacy. But a failed bet on a snap legislative election has left him politically stunted, casting a lingering shadow over Macron's moment on the international stage.

As he prepares to welcome more than 100 heads of state and tens of thousands of spectators for Friday's opening ceremony, Macron is a fragile force - an unpopular president presiding over a caretaker government as it hosts the world's largest sporting event

amid heightened security fears. "Macron expected to welcome the Games like an emperor," said French historian Patrick Weil. "But now he's a lame duck."

Walking around the Olympic Village on Monday, Macron defended his decision to dissolve parliament and denied the ensuing political instability would overshadow the Games.

"It was me who decided," he said, referring to his determination to call the election ahead of the Games. "There is no bitter taste. On the contrary, we did the things that needed to be done before (the Olympics). Now we can fully focus on the Games."

And in a bid to keep the crisis at bay for a few weeks, he ap-

peared to suggest he was unlikely to name a prime minister until the Games were over. "There is a sort of truce," he said.

Macron called the legislative vote after a thumping by the far-right National Rally (RN) in last month's EU election, saying he wanted the poll to provide clarity. Instead, French voters delivered a hung parliament and no bloc has so far been able to form a government, leaving Macron's previous cabinet to manage day-to-day affairs in a caretaker capacity.

Macron aides, Olympics officials, lawmakers and public figures stressed to Reuters that the show would go on, with years of security and logistics planning unaffected by the politics. But some



President Emmanuel Macron with volunteers at the Olympic village for the 2024 Summer Olympics on Monday. Reuters

acknowledged the fallout from the political crisis would hang over the Games.

It was not supposed to be this way. In his New Year's Eve address to the nation last December, Macron spoke with pride and optimism about the year ahead. "Only once in a century does one host the Olympic and Paralympic Games," he said. "2024 will be a year of determination, of choices and of regeneration."

But six months later, Macron's hopes of regenerating his mandate have evaporated, while the political crisis provoked by his quickfire election has also contributed to weaker-than-expected tourist appetite for the Games.

Flight and hotel bookings to

Paris during the Olympics have come in lower than expected, Reuters reported earlier this month, with experts pointing the finger at high travel and accommodation costs, security fears and political turmoil.

The ceaseless drama of the U.S. election - which has so far included an assassination attempt against Republican candidate Donald Trump and President Joe Biden dropping out of the race - has also lured eyeballs away from Macron's flagship event.

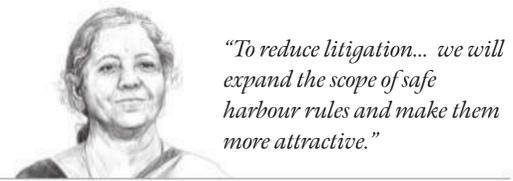
At the Olympic Village Monday, Macron shook hands with volunteers, wearing a confident smile. "We are ready," the president told police officers before thanking Olympic Village staff.

French Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera acknowledged that the last few weeks had been "difficult politically". But she rejected the idea that the political crisis had stained the Games.

Arielle Dombasle, a U.S.-born French singer and actor, recently set social media alight with her performance of a stomping, operatic Olympic number at Paris City Hall, in which she was dressed in a white, hooped, floor-length skirt and peroxide wig.

"There is a terrible bashing among the French of the Olympics... There is an atmosphere of anxiety. The world is in disorder, to say the least. But these Games are the occasion for the greatest celebrations." **REUTERS**

20 UNION BUDGET 2024-25



"To reduce litigation... we will expand the scope of safe harbour rules and make them more attractive."

MHA gets ₹ 2.19 lakh cr, major share to central armed police forces

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated Rs 2,19,643.31 crore to the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the majority of it - Rs 1,43,275.90 crore - being given to central armed police forces (CAPFs) that are responsible for internal security, border guarding, and security of vital installations.

This time, ₹ 1,309.46 cr have been allocated for census. This is a significant reduction from 2021-22 when ₹ 3,768 cr was allocated for the decadal exercise. It was ₹ 578.29 in 2023-24. ₹ 42,277.74 cr has been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir. ₹ 5,985.82 cr has been given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, ₹ 5,862.62 cr to Chandigarh, ₹ 5,958 cr to Ladakh, ₹ 2,648.97 cr to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and ₹ 1,490.10 cr to Lakshadweep.

Among the paramilitary forces, the CRPF got ₹ 31,543.20 cr, up from a revised estimate of ₹ 31,389.04 cr in 2023-24, the BSF got ₹ 25,472.44 cr (₹ 25,038.68 cr in 2023-24), the CISF was allotted ₹ 14,331.89 cr (₹ 12,929.85 cr in 2023-24), the ITBP got ₹ 8,634.21 cr (₹ 8,203.68 cr in 2023-24), the SSB was given ₹ 8,881.81 cr (₹ 8,435.68 cr in 2023-24) and the Assam Rifles was allotted ₹ 7,428.33 cr (₹ 7,276.29 cr in 2023-24).

The Intelligence Bureau (IB) has been allocated Rs 3,823.83 cr (₹ 3,268.94 cr in 2023-24), the Delhi Police got Rs 11,180.33 cr (₹ 11,940.33 cr in 2023-24), the Special Protection Group got ₹ 506.32 cr (₹ 446.82 cr in 2023-24).

Meanwhile, ₹ 3,756.51 cr has been allocated to the Border Infrastructure and Management, ₹ 3,152.36 cr has been given for developing police infrastructure, ₹ 1,105 cr for women's safety, ₹ 9,305.43 cr for various projects and schemes sponsored by the home ministry, ₹ 3,199.62 cr for security-related expenditure and ₹ 1,050 cr for Vibrant Villages Programme.

WEST BENGAL, KERALA CMs COMPLAIN OF IGNORING STATES

4 Opp CMs to boycott NITI Aayog meeting over 'discriminatory' Budget

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 23

AT LEAST four chief ministers, including three from the Congress, are set to boycott the NITI Aayog meeting scheduled for July 27 in protest against the "discriminatory" Union Budget, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday.

While Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin made the announcement at a press conference on Tuesday evening, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal, in a social media post at night, wrote, "The Union Budget presented today was extremely discriminatory and dangerous, which completely goes against the principles of federalism and fairness that the Union Government must follow. In protest, INC CMs will be boycotting the NITI Aayog meeting. This government's attitude is completely antithetical to Constitutional principles. We will not participate in an event that is solely designed to hide the true, discriminatory colours of this regime."

The Congress CMs include Telangana's Revanth Reddy, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah, and Himachal Pradesh's Sukhvir Singh Sukhu.

"We don't feel Kannadigas are heard, and hence there is no point in attending the NITI Aayog meeting," Siddaramaiah posted online. "We have decided to boycott the NITI Aayog meeting, which will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 27, as a mark of protest."

"Despite my earnest efforts in calling for an all-party MPs meeting in New Delhi to discuss Karnataka's essential needs, the Union Budget has neglected our state's demands," Siddaramaiah said. "Even our farmers' demands to approve Mekedatu and Mahadayi have been ignored. There was no attempt to rectify their sin of reducing funds to our state under various categories.



(Clockwise from left) M K Stalin; Revanth Reddy; Sukhvir Singh Sukhu; Siddaramaiah

Funds for metro and other infra projects are still a distant dream."

He said the PM had not looked beyond Andhra Pradesh and Bihar in the Budget in order to protect his government. "This budget is anti-people and has completely neglected the poor, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in particular. A big injustice has been done to the farmers in this budget. Farmers have been demanding the creation of the Minimum Support Price Act for five years. But there is no mention about this in the budget," Siddaramaiah said.

Stalin said Tamil Nadu had suffered the "biggest betrayal" in the Budget. He expressed a strong discontent with the Centre's fiscal policies and allocations that have "consistently ignored the needs and demands of Tamil Nadu". He also highlighted the negligible increase in allocation for crucial sectors such as health, education, and agriculture, describing it as "alarming given the current needs of the state".

He criticised the Budget for failing to address critical issues like unemployment and inflation which, he said, are "severely affecting the common people".

He pointed out that the allocation for state welfare schemes has been drastically cut, with no mention of any new initiatives to support the economic develop-

ment of Tamil Nadu. "The state government has been continuously demanding a fair share of central funds, but this budget has once again ignored our legitimate demands," he said. The reduction in funding for social welfare programs, according to Stalin, will "directly impact the most vulnerable sections of our society".

He said the state's request for financial support to improve road and transport infrastructure has been overlooked. "It is also disappointing to note that there has been no increase in the allocation for infrastructure development in Tamil Nadu," he said.

He described the Budget as "short-sighted" and accused the Centre of failing to take into account the ground realities faced by the states. "The budget lacks a long-term vision and is more focused on short-term political gains," he said.

Stalin said DMK MPs would stage a protest on Wednesday in Delhi. "The central government boycotted Tamil Nadu in the Union Budget," Stalin said, echoing similar sentiments expressed by his colleagues in the INDIA bloc. He accused the BJP of selectively announcing schemes to satisfy a few regional parties, ultimately to keep the NDA government afloat. "To satisfy a few regional parties that made a 'minority BJP' into 'majority BJP', schemes were announced for a few states," he said.

He also highlighted the regional imbalance in disaster relief funding. While Tamil Nadu submitted a detailed report requesting Rs 37,000 crore as disaster relief, he said, the Centre has released only about Rs 276 crore so far. In contrast, Bihar alone will receive Rs 11,500 crore for disaster mitigation. "This is a great injustice to the people of Tamil Nadu," Stalin said.

While they have not joined the NITI Aayog boycott so far, West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee and Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan also criticised the Budget for ignoring their states.

OPP SLAMS GOVT FOR 'NEGLECT'

Kursi Bachao Budget. Appease Allies: Hollow promises to them at the cost of other states. Appease Cronies: Benefits to AA with no relief for the common Indian. Copy and Paste: Congress manifesto and previous budgets

RAHUL GANDHI,
LEADER OF OPPOSITION IN LS

In order to satisfy a few regional parties that made a 'minority BJP' into 'majority BJP', schemes have been announced in the Budget for a few states. Tamil Nadu has been completely ignored. DMK MPs will stage a protest in Delhi on July 24

MK STALIN, TAMIL NADU CM

The Union budget has neglected most of the states including Kerala. The budget made several announcements which are essential for the political survival of Union govt

PINARAYI VIJAYAN,
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

The Budget ignored the interests of the youth and farmers and it has nothing for UP. The allocations for Bihar and Andhra reflect BJP's political compulsion to save its government

AKHILESH YADAV,
SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

Bengal has been completely deprived in the Budget, which

doesn't look into the interest of the poor. The Budget is directionless. It is only to serve a political mission

MAMATA BANERJEE,
WEST BENGAL CM

The Union Budget... follows the same old pattern, where except for a handful of rich and wealthy people, it offers little hope of good days for the country's poor, unemployed, farmers, women, labourers...

MAYAWATI, BSP CHIEF

Nirmala Sitharaman has given Karnataka 'Chompu' (a small, round water container). Karnataka has got nothing

SIDDARAMAIAH,
KARNATAKA CM

I can understand the BJP wanting to save its govt and giving Bihar and Andhra a huge sum. But what is Maharashtra's fault? That we are the largest taxpayer? Was Maharashtra mentioned even once in Budget? Why does the BJP hate and insult the state so much?

AADITYA THACKERAY,
SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

It is a kursi bachao budget (budget to save chair). NDA means 'Naidu-Nitish Dependent Alliance'

REVANTH REDDY,
TELANGANA CM

Cong: Copycat Budget... from our manifesto



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

TERMINING THE Union Budget presented on Tuesday as a "copycat" Budget, the opposition Congress said the government borrowed from its election manifesto ideas such as the Apprenticeship Scheme and abolition of Angel Tax. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi called the Budget a "Kursi Bachao" Budget. "Appease Allies: Hollow promises to them at the cost of other states... Appease Cronies: Benefits to AA with no relief for the common Indian... Copy and Paste: Congress manifesto and previous budgets," he posted on X.

Calling it a "copycat Budget", Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the government "could not even copy Congress's justice agenda properly". Kharge said: "After 10 years, limited announcements have been made for the youth who are bearing the brunt of the slogan of two crore jobs per year."

"There is no revolutionary scheme for Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, minorities, middle class and rural poor people like the one implemented by Congress-UPA," he said.

Taking a dig at the government, former Finance Minister and Congress MPP Chidambaram

said he is "happy" that the Finance Minister read the Congress's manifesto after the Lok Sabha elections. "She has virtually adopted the ideas underlying our proposals on Employment-linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, the Apprenticeship Scheme with an allowance to the Apprentice, and on the abolition of the Angel Tax. I wish she had adopted many more ideas from the Congress manifesto," he said.

Stating that "unemployment is the biggest challenge facing the country", Chidambaram said, "The response of the government is too little and will have only little impact on the grave unemployment situation. The claim that the schemes announced by the FM will benefit 290 lakh people is highly exaggerated."

He listed inflation as "the other major challenge" and said that Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation is 3.4 per cent, Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is 5.1 per cent, and food inflation is 9.4 per cent. On healthcare, Chidambaram said that "public healthcare is growing quantitatively but not in quality".

The former minister said that "wages have stagnated in the last 6 years after adjusting for inflation". Chidambaram also said that "the minimum wage should be fixed at Rs 400 per day for every kind of employment". FULL REPORT ON: www.indianexpress.com

₹1,000 cr fund to boost space economy by 5 times in next 10 years

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday announced a ₹ 1,000 crore venture capital fund to give a push to the space economy. "With our continued emphasis on expanding the space economy, by 5 times in the next 10 years, a venture capital fund of ₹1,000 crore will be set up," said Sitharaman.

This is the government's vision to increase India's share in the global commercial space economy to 10% by 2030. Despite being a major spacefaring nation, India currently accounts for only 2 per cent of the global space market. While the government had been hand-holding the upcoming private players - providing policy support, technical assistance, and even sharing infrastructure - this is likely the first policy to provide financial assistance as well.

Lt. Gen. AK Bhatt (Retd.), Director General, Indian Space Association (ISPA) said: "We previously advocated for increased

financial incentives to support the burgeoning space startups in the country. The announcement of a ₹1,000 crore VC fund is a step forward, addressing the funding challenges faced by these nascent ventures in this capital-intensive domain. These measures are pivotal for the growth and development of India's space ecosystem."

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) does have a seed funding scheme, but it is a limited amount meant for a select few working towards using space technology to solve challenges of the man. The sector was opened to private players in 2020, to capture the global market, while ISRO worked on missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Aditya-L1, and Gaganyaan.

Sitharaman also reiterated the government's commitment of setting up a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore to provide long-term, interest-free loan to encourage research and development by private sector. The Anusandhan National Research Fund will support research and prototype development.

Next tourism destination to be in East: From UP, focus shifts to Bihar, Odisha

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

WHILE BIHAR got the biggest share of the tourism pie in the Union Budget this time with the development of Vishnupad temple in Gaya, Mahabodhi temple in Bodhgaya, along with Nalanda and Rajgir finding a pride of place in Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech, a plan for an overall development of tourism sites in Odisha was also announced. The BJP recently formed its first government in Odisha.

While Uttar Pradesh got maximum focus in Narendra Modi government's previous terms, with Ayodhya and Varanasi getting an overhaul with the redevelopment of temples and upgradation of ground infrastructure, the tilt seems to have moved eastwards to Bihar and Odisha, along with the party's political ambitions and successes.

While presenting the Budget, Sitharaman said they have formulated a plan called 'Purvodaya' for the all-round de-



The Finance Minister has promised to support the development of Nalanda as a tourist centre. File

velopment of the eastern region of the country, including Odisha.

"The states in the eastern part of the country are rich in endowments and have strong cultural traditions. We will formulate a plan 'Purvodaya' for the all-round development of the eastern region of the country covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. This will cover human resource development, infrastructure, and the generation of

economic opportunities to make the region an engine to attract Viksit Bharat," she said. The Union Ministry of Tourism had recently announced a change in its approach from circuit-based tourism to destination-based tourism, wherein overall development of one destination will be taken up - in terms of tourist facilities, infrastructure, connectivity and other related aspects. In line with this, the outlay

for the Swadesh Darshan scheme has seen a spike from Rs 1,412 crore in the 2023-24 Budget to Rs 1,750 crore this time. The outlay for the other flagship scheme for pilgrimage-related tourism - the PRASAD scheme - has remained more or less the same over the last few years - at Rs 240 crore this time.

Sitharaman said tourism has always been a part of India's civilization and the government's efforts in positioning India as a global tourist destination will also create jobs, stimulate investments and unlock economic opportunities for other sectors. On Odisha, she said the temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, national landscapes and pristine beaches of Odisha make it an ultimate tourism destination. "Our government will provide assistance for their development," the Finance Minister said.

However, stakeholders in the industry were not too buoyed with the tourism-related announcements as they had held several rounds of discussions before the Budget and were expecting some relief in taxation.

NEPAL, SRI LANKA, BHUTAN, MALDIVES, AFGHANISTAN AND MYANMAR GET LION'S SHARE

Neighbourhood first in External Affairs' allocation for aid to countries

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

A MONTH ago, when the NDA government began its third term, India spelt out clearly that it would focus on its neighbourhood. The presence of leaders from the neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region, including Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe, at the inauguration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term,

reaffirmed that policy. In keeping with that, a major chunk of the Ministry of External Affairs' outlay, Rs 4,883 crore, has been earmarked for "aid to countries", of which countries from the neighbourhood - Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan and Myanmar - get the lion's share. Bhutan has emerged as the top recipient of Indian government aid to foreign countries, according to the Union Budget doc-

uments released after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 Tuesday. It gets the highest aid at an estimated Rs 2,068.56 crore, which is slightly less than Rs 2,400 crore last year. The provision is for India's multilateral and bilateral aid and assistance programmes to neighbouring and other developing countries. This assistance is provided to immediate neigh-



Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in Ahmedabad on Monday. ANI

boring countries and also to the countries of Africa, Central Asia, South Asia and Latin America.

Maldives will get Rs 400 crore in the new Budget, the same as last year, even as the revised Budget for 2023-2024 showed a higher amount of Rs 770.90 crore. Despite the anti-India protests as well as remarks from its top leadership late last year, which caused a diplomatic row, India's investment in the archipelago nation continues to remain consistent. Nepal stands out as a signifi-

cant beneficiary with an allocation of Rs 700 crore, marking a substantial increase of Rs 150 crore from the previous year's budget of Rs 550 crore, later revised to Rs 650 crore. Besides Nepal, there have been increased allocations for Sri Lanka and Seychelles as well, at Rs 245 crore (up by Rs 95 crore from last year's allocation of Rs 150 crore) and Rs 40 crore (up from Rs 10 crore), respectively.

The increase is dependent on the needs and requirements of each country. These allocations are intended for infrastructure

support and development projects. Afghanistan and the Maldives have not seen any changes in their allocations, remaining at Rs 200 crore and Rs 400 crore, respectively.

The Chabahar port project in Iran continues to receive a steady allocation of Rs 100 crore, unchanged for the past three years.

The total Budget estimate for the MEA for 2024-25 is Rs 22,155 crore, which exceeds the Rs 18,050 crore allocated in 2023-24. However, it falls short of the revised estimate of Rs 29,121 crore for the same fiscal.

BRIEFLY

MAHARASHTRA
Cops probe IAS trainee's claim of parents' divorce

Pune: The Pune City police have started an investigation to determine if trainee IAS officer Pujja Khedkar's parents, Dilip and Manorama Khedkar, are divorced which she reportedly claimed in her application while applying for the Civil Services Examination held by the Union Public Service Commission. Confirming the investigation into her parent's marital status, a senior officer of Pune City police said, "On the instruction of the Central Government, we have commenced a probe to verify if Dilip and Manorama Khedkar are divorced." ENS

MADHYA PRADESH
23-year-old woman killed over dowry in Rajgarh

Bhopal: A 23-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her in-laws for dowry in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district, police said. Police identified the deceased as Reena Tanwar. Her family alleged that her in-laws cut off her limbs before cremating her. They said she was under pressure for dowry. "We went directly to Kalipeeth police station. From there, we reached the spot with the police. On seeing us with police, Reena's in-laws fled the spot, leaving her burnt body on pyre," said Reena's father, Rampreasad Tanwar. ENS

NEW DELHI
Pradeep Bhandari appointed BJP spokesperson

New Delhi: BJP president J P Nadda has appointed Pradeep Bhandari, a pollster who runs Jan Ki Baat, as the national party spokesperson, with immediate effect, from Tuesday. He had worked with TV channels. ENS

Defence budget pegged at ₹6.22 lakh cr, minor hike in modernisation allocation

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

AMID A spike in terror attacks in J&K and the ongoing military standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, India's defence budget for 2024-25 saw a minor hike of ₹500 crore over the interim budget figures of ₹6,21,540 crore announced in February this year.

The total defence budget earmarked at ₹6,21,940 crore, including defence pensions of ₹1,41 lakh crore, is 4.79% higher than ₹5.94 lakh crore allocated in the previous fiscal. The allocation is approximately 12.9% of the total budget outlay for 2024-25.

The defence budget saw a hike of over 44% from 2019-20 when the Narendra Modi government assumed its second term in office, and an increase of over 171% from ₹2.29 lakh crore allocated in 2014-15 during the Modi government's first term in office.

The military modernisation budget for the three defence services for 2024-25 stands at ₹1.72 lakh crore, a hike of over 6% from ₹1.62 lakh crore allocated in the

previous fiscal.

Like in the interim budget, the defence budget for 2024-25 did not make public the individual capital budgetary allocations for the Army, Navy and the Air Force, a departure from the norm in the previous years.

The ministry had earlier said this was aimed at fostering jointness among the services by consolidating the demands of the three services into similar items of expenditure such as land, aircraft and aero engines, heavy and medium vehicles among others.

As per sources, the limited hike in the capital budget for defence is due to fewer new contracts signed by the Armed Forces and certain slippages in scheduled payments and deliveries. The revised estimates of the capital budget for 2023-24 at ₹1.57 lakh crore was lower than the ₹1.62 lakh crore allocated in that fiscal, reflecting this as well.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Finance Minister for presenting an "outstanding budget, which will help in moving towards making a prosperous and self-reliant Viksit Bharat". "Inspired by PM Shri

Narendra Modi's vision of Inclusive and fast paced Development this Budget will accelerate India's economic transformation," Singh posted on X.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said its allocations are the highest among the ministries. An additional allocation to the tune of Rs 400 crore has been made for innovation in defence through Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADIT) scheme, under which the Defence Ministry engages with "start-ups/MSMEs and innovators to develop Def-Tech solutions and supply the Indian military with innovative and indigenous technological solutions".

While the government did not list out the expenditure plan for the defence capital budget for this fiscal, during the interim budget it had said that modernisation of existing Su-30 fleet, along with additional procurement of aircraft, acquisition of advanced engines for existing MiG-29, acquisition of transport aircraft C-295 and missile systems will be funded out of it.

It also mentioned that Navy projects such as acquisition of

deck-based fighter aircraft, submarines and next generation survey vessels will materialise through this allocation.

The overall revenue budget for defence, which includes pay and allowances for the Armed Forces and allocations for stocking up on fuel, ammunition and maintenance of assets through procurement of critical spares and other capabilities, saw a raise at ₹2.82 lakh crore from ₹2.7 lakh crore in the previous fiscal. This also includes an allocation of over ₹6,000 crore towards the Agnipath scheme under the three services.

However, the revenue expenditure (other than salary) which is meant for sustenance and operational commitment stands at ₹92,088 crore.

The total allocation to Ex-Servicemen Welfare Scheme for 2024-25 at Rs 6,968 crore is 28% higher than the previous fiscal. The budgetary allocation to Defence Research and Development Organisation has been increased to ₹23,855 crore in 2024-25 from ₹23,263.89 crore in the previous fiscal.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Courts should stay bail orders only in exceptional circumstances, says SC

'The court must record brief reasons for staying bail'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday ruled that an order granting bail can be stayed only in exceptional circumstances when a very strong prima facie case of the existence of the grounds for cancellation of bail is made out.

A bench of Justices A S Oka and Augustine George Masih said that the prima facie case must be of a "very high standard" and that if the high court or sessions court concludes that an exceptional case is made out for the grant of stay, the court must record brief reasons and set out the grounds for coming to such a conclusion.

The bench also cautioned against ex-parte stay of the order granting bail and said that

"as a standard rule, (stay) should not be granted".

Such power "has to be exercised in very rare and exceptional cases", it said adding "the court concerned must apply its mind and decide whether the case is very exceptional, warranting the exercise of drastic power to grant an ex-parte stay...".

The court said that "liberty granted to an accused under the order granting bail cannot be lightly and causally interfered with by mechanically granting an ex-parte order of stay" and added that the court "must record specific reasons why it concluded that it was a very rare and exceptional case...".

"Since the issue involved is of the right to liberty of accused guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution, if an ex-parte stay is granted, by issuing a short no-

notice to the accused, the court must immediately hear him on the continuation of the stay," the SC said.

The bench pointed out that an "undertrial is not a convict". It added that if and when the bail is cancelled, the accused has to be taken into custody and "hence, it cannot be said that if the stay is not granted, the final order of cancellation of bail, if passed, cannot be implemented".

The bench was hearing a plea by one Parvinder Singh Khurana, accused in a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, challenging the Delhi High Court order staying a June 17, 2023, trial court order granting him bail.

The Supreme Court set aside the High Court stay order and said that the trial court order granting bail will continue to operate.

'If you need tiffin money, I will give': Mamata slams Bose for fine on MLAs

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, JULY 23

A DAY after West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose directed two newly elected TMC MLAs to pay a fine of Rs 500/day for attending the Assembly, saying their oath-taking was in violation of the Constitution, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused him of "creating hurdles" in the functioning of the Assembly. Speaking in the Assembly after four more newly elected TMC MLAs were administered oath by Speaker Biman Banerjee, the chief minister said: "(The Governor) should know that Raj Bhavan is selected and the Assembly is elected. He (Bose) can't fine criminals or those involved in the NEEET scam. He can only fine those who were elected. (He) should not be biased towards a political party."

"Don't you have enough money? Do you need tiffin



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

money? Ask me, and I will arrange it," the chief minister said in a retort to the Governor's directive.

On Monday, when the Assembly convened for a 10-day session, two TMC MLAs — Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar — received letters from Governor, telling them that their swearing-in on July 5 was an instance of "constitutional impropriety", and therefore if they would take part in Assembly proceedings or vote in the House, they would have to pay a fine of Rs 500 per day. In the letter, the Governor contended that he had assigned Deputy Speaker Ashish Banerjee to administer the oath to the new MLAs, but instead Speaker Biman Banerjee presided

over the swearing-in ceremony. When the Constitutional head of the state designated someone to administer the oath to the MLAs, the Speaker had no jurisdiction in the matter, the Governor wrote, citing Article 193 of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, Speaker Biman Banerjee on Tuesday administered oath to four TMC MLAs — Supti Pandey (Maniktala), Madhuparna Thakur (Bagdah), Mukutmani Adhikari (Ranaghat Dakshin), and Krishna Kalyani (Raiganj) — who were elected in the July 10 bypolls.

Backing the Speaker's decision to administer the oath to the newly elected MLAs in the Assembly, the chief minister said: "I have read in media reports what the Governor said. I fully support the Speaker. What the Speaker has done is correct. There is a tradition in democracy. The tradition is that newly elected MLAs take oath in the Assembly."

2 years after major paper leak, Arunachal passes prevention of unfair means Bill

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JULY 23

THE ARUNACHAL Pradesh assembly unanimously passed the Arunachal Pradesh Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill Tuesday — a development that comes two years after the state was rocked by a major paper leak.

The Bill, which follows similar legislations passed by the Centre and a clutch of other states, has penalties of imprisonment of up to 5 years and fines up to Rs. 1 crore for candidates found guilty of engaging in unfair practices in recruitment examinations. Under the

Bill, service providers engaging in such practices are liable to fines up to Rs 10 crore as well as having the proportionate cost of conducting the examination recovered from them.

Individuals engaged in organised crime face a longer sentence — up to 10 years along with a fine of Rs 1 crore — and institutions engaging in organised crime will be subject to their property being attached.

The state had witnessed public outrage over the functioning of the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) following a 2022 leak in a recruitment exam for assistant engineers and had cast a shadow over Chief Minister Pema Khandu's

last government. The current assembly session is the first after he was voted back to power with a BJP government in the state earlier this year.

"The origin of this bill is that in 2022, the whole system had been shaken by news of the paper leak in the public service commission examination. I remember the first day on which this news came in the media, at that time I was in Ziro for a tour programme. Media persons there had questioned me then on the news of these events in Itanagar which was spreading, and I had told them on that first day that this was very unfortunate news and that I have no words to define the criminality involved in this. I had said that

we will deal with this matter with an iron hand," he told the assembly on Tuesday.

He also acknowledged the loss of credibility the government had faced after the leak.

"It posed a lot of problems for the government in the last couple of years and rightly so, because the future of our state and society is the youth and working in a government institution is an aspiration. This is a hope for their parents as well. Since there has been a complete overhaul of the APPSC. Chairman and members and all the staff have been changed, they have worked on their SOP and the recruitment process for some positions has begun as well," he said.

HC grants bail to man in cow slaughter case with a condition: 'Deposit ₹25k to Gau Seva Aayog'

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 23

THE ALLAHABAD High Court granted bail to an accused booked under the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, imposing a condition to deposit Rs 25,000 to UP's Go-Seva Ayog. The court directed the accused to deposit the money within four weeks from his release date and to submit the receipt before the trial court. The court passed the order while hearing the bail plea of Shabbir, who was booked along with three others in a case lodged under the cow slaughter act sections 3.5, and 8, at Gainsari police station, Balrampur, in April this year. Shabbir has been in jail since May 1 2024.

Based on information of cow beef being sold, a police team arrested four persons, including Shabbir. The police allegedly recovered 70 kg of cow beef along with a knife and other articles.

The petitioner's lawyer alleged that his client has been falsely implicated, as there are no independent

witnesses to the recovery. A chargesheet has been filed in the case, and the accused has no previous criminal history, the lawyer said. The government advocate opposed the bail and submitted a medical analysis report stating that the recovered meat was from a cow.

Taking into consideration that the applicant has no criminal history and charge-sheet has already been filed, "arguments advanced by learned counsel for the parties, for the period for which he is in jail and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, I find it to be a fit case for enlarging the applicant on bail," said the court.

The court ordered bail for Shabbir "on his furnishing a personal bond and two sureties each in the like amount to the satisfaction of the court concerned with the following conditions which are being imposed in the interest of justice: The applicant shall deposit a sum of Rs.25,000/- with Gau-Sewa Ayog, U.P. within a period of four weeks from the date of his release from jail on bail and submit a receipt thereof before the trial court".

Indrani Mukerjea told not to travel abroad till July 29

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed former media executive Indrani Mukerjea not to travel to the United Kingdom and Spain until July 29 as it passed an ad interim order on the Central Bureau of Investigation's plea.

The CBI had challenged a special court order permitting Mukerjea, who is accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora in 2012 and is currently out on bail, to travel to these countries once for 10 days within the next three months. ENS

EXPRESS Careers

Advertisement No. 67/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Corporate Planning & Personnel)
in
Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on **19th August, 2024**
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 15.00 hours on **28th August, 2024**
For details login to website <http://pesb.gov.in>

Ahmednagar Jilha Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj
Lal Taki Road, Ahmednagar, 414001.
Tel : (0241)2329649 Email : ajmvs2016@gmail.com

WANTED

Applications are invited for the post of **Principal** in the following Non-Grant Colleges of the Sanstha, which are affiliated to the Savitribai Phule Pune University Pune.

SR. NO	Name of the College	Total Post	Reservation
1	Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj College, Deolali Pravara, Tal. Rahuri, Dist. Ahmednagar	01	
2	Janata Arts and Science College, Ruichhattishi, Tal. Nagar, Dist. Ahmednagar	01	Open to All
3	Shree Mulikadevi College, Nighoj, Tal. Parner, Dist. Ahmednagar	01	

Note :- 1) Qualification, Experience, Pay-scale & Service conditions will be as per Govt. of Maharashtra, Savitribai Phule Pune University and UGC rules 2) All relevant copies of mark sheets, certificates and other testimonials should be attached. 3) Candidate should submit their verified A.P.I. records as per the requirement of the post. 4) Appointment for the said post will be for a tenure of five years from the date of appointment or upto the attainment of superannuation, whichever is earlier. 5) Apply within 15 days from the publication of this advertisement. 6) Candidates who are in service should send their application through proper channel. 7) Incomplete/late application will not be entertained. 8) Right to fill the above post is reserved by the Management. 9) Working hours of the Sanstha office is, hours Monday to Friday 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Saturday 10.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m 10) T.A., D.A. will not be paid for attending the interview.

Adv. V. D. Athare
(Secretary)

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Union Bank of India

Regional Office-Patna, Nasheman Bhavan,
1st Floor, Mazharool Haque Path,
Frazer Road, Patna

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13(2) read with Sec.13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Demand Notices were issued to the below mentioned borrower/guarantor in respect of loan availed by them and after the loan account becoming NPA giving them 60 days' time to pay the outstanding dues of the bank. Notice(s) sent but acknowledgment yet not received. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of secured assets detailed below in case of failure of borrower/guarantor in repaying the outstanding dues within the said time of 60 days. These borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are notified hereby to repay the outstanding dues as mentioned below within 60 days from the publication of this notice to avoid further action under SARFAESI Act.. They are also advised to collect detailed notice lying in our office.

Sl. No.	Name of Account / Borrower's / Guarantor's / Mortgagee's and Branch	Description of secured assets and date of mortgage	Date of NPA/Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount/ Unapplied Interest/ Total Dues (Rs.)
1.	1. Sri Vijay Kumar S/o Late Raghu Nath Prasad, Musallahpur Hatt, Macchli Bazar, Mahendru P.S-Kadamkuan, Patna-800007 2. Smt. Kiran Kumari W/o-Vijay Kumar, Musallahpur Hatt, Macchli Bazar, Mahendru P.S-Kadamkuan, Patna-800007 Branch :- Shrikrishna Nagar	Land with building thereon in name of Vijay Kumar, s/o Late Raghu Nath Prasad under khesra survey plot no 57, kahata no 76, thana no .2, tauzi no 228, municipal survey plot no 759, 760 & 761(part), sheet no. 105, circle no 36, ward no 13(old), 48 (new), holding no 157 (old), 59/3/164,238/16B (new) situated at mauza musallahpur p.s pirthahore, patna area admeasuring 2 ½ katthas and bounded by: North-govt road, South- house of Laxmi Dubey & others, East- house of Sita Ram., West-house of Luxmi Dubey & others.	31.08.2017./ 31.05.2024	Rs.7,09,211.00/ Rs.330991.00/ Rs.10,40,202.00
2.	1. Dolly Kumari, W/o Sunil Kumar Raw C/o Jai Prakash Singh, V.K.S Nagar Road No 2, Janta Road Gardnibagh, Patna - 800001. 2. Sri Sunil Kumar Raw, C/o Jai Prakash Singh, V.K.S. Nagar Road No 2, Janta Road Gardnibagh, Patna - 800001 Branch: - Rajabazar 45320	Land With Building Thereon In Name Of Dolly Kumari S/o Sri Raj Kishore Prasad Rao R/o Maghra Sarai , P.s Deepnaga Biharsharif Nalanda , Vacant Plot Situated At New Etwarpur West Of Railway Line Mauza - Vishnuapur Pakri , P.s Phulwarisharif Patna Thana No 31,tauzi No 5331 Khata No 240 Khesra No 859 (p) Total Land Area 0.3 Katha Bounded By: North-6 Ft Branch Rasta, South- House Of Jainandan Rai, East-House Of Nij Pattidar West- House Of Shankar Prasad.	01.05.2019 / 30.06.2024	Rs.8,59,183.30/ Rs.2,18,840.22/ Rs.10,78,023.52
3.	1. Sri Pramod Pandey, S/o Ram Sudar Pandey, Villi Amba P.O - Amba, Aurangabad-824111. 2. Smt. Chumchum Devi, W/o Pramod Pandey, Villi: Amba PS - Amba, Aurangabad-824111 M G Road Branch:- Aurangabad	Land With Building Thereon In Name Of Chum Chum Devi W/o Pramod Kumar Pandey Situated At Plot No..530 , Kahata No 50, Thana No. 470, Tauzu No. 2892 Area 0.780 Decimal Situated At Mauza Amba P.s - Kutumba, North-10ft Road, South- House Of Ram Subhag Singh, East- Ram Subhag Singh., West- House Of Yamuna Sao	15.04.2024 / 30.06.2024	Rs.6,18,335.35/ Rs.30,156.07/ Rs.6,48,491.42
4.	1. Mr. Pramod Tiwari, S/o Baliram Tiwari, Siddharth Nagar, Pani Tanki Road, Near Zero Mile, Post Anaith, Arrah, Distt-Bhojpur (Bihar) 802302 2. Mr. Baliram Tiwari, S/o Late Nandlal Tiwari, Siddharth Nagar, Pani Tanki Road, Near Zero Mile, Post Anaith, Arrah, Distt-Bhojpur (Bihar) 802302 Branch:- Arrah.	Land and Building standing in the name of Sri Baliram Tiwari situated at Mauza- Anaith, Thana- Ara, Block- Ara, Distt-Bhojpur, Old Ward no-17, Nigam Ward No 43, New khata No 54 (Not Final), Old Khata no-102, New Khesra No 3473, Old khesra No 1639 having area admeasuring 1.875 Decimal i.e 12 dhur and bounded as: North: Nij Lekhyakari, South: Digar Baidar, East: Private Rasta, West: Amar Koiri	28.02.2024 / 28.02.2024	Rs. 6,29,993.00/ Rs. 4,571/-/ Rs. 6,34,564.00
5.	1. Mr. Rahman Faisal, Flat No- 797 Mohiuddin Enclave, Kautliya Nagar, BMP Road, Raja Bazar, PO- B.V College, PATNA- 800014 2. Mr. Fahad Rahman, Flat No- 797 Mohiuddin Enclave, Kautliya Nagar, BMP Road, Raja Bazar, PO- B.V College, PATNA- 800014. Branch:- Shrikrishna Nagar	All Piece and Parcel of land and Building admeasuring about 2415 sqft along with Construction thereon located at Mauza-Kumhrar Muhalla- Kautliya Nagar, Survey Thana - Phulwari sharif, Present Thana Gardnibagh Sub Registry office, Dist-Patna bearing survey Plot no-12 holding no- 208/220c within the jurisdiction of PMC. Bounded as follows:- North- Plot No. 154, South-Road, East- Plot No. 175, West -Road	29.07.2018 / 31.05.2024	Rs. 9,79,979.37/ Rs.5,16,396.00/ Rs.14,96,375.37
6.	1. Mr. Vinay Kumar, S/o Sri Sipahi Thakur, At C/71 Near Kali Mandir, Hanuman Nagar Kankarbagh, Patna 800020. 2. Mr. Sipahi Thakur, S/o Late Sudama Thakur, At C/71 Near Kali Mandir, Hanuman Nagar Kankarbagh, Patna 800020 Branch:- Kankarbagh Main Road	Land and building having Area 1 Katha in the name of Sri Sipahi Thakur son of Late Sudama Thakur situated at Mohalla - Kankarbagh Colony, K - Sector, P.S. - Patrakamagar, Dist. Patna bearing Ward No. 45, Circle No. 50A, Plot No. C-71, Hanuman Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna Holding No. 771/3/C(old) 688 (new) and bounded as under: North - Road, South- Plot No. 70, East- Raj Kumar Sharma, Plot No. 71, West - K 190.	10.01.2024 / 30.06.2024	Rs.7,28,501.77/ Rs.23,150.50/ Rs.7,51,652.27
7.	1. Mr. Dhruv Prasad, S/o Late Laala Ram, Langer Toli, Nala Road, Near Tempo Stand, Distt- Patna (Bihar), Pin-800004 2. Mr. Deepak Kumar, S/o Dhrub Prasad, Langer Toli, Nala Road, Near Tempo Stand, Distt- Patna (Bihar) Pin-800004 Branch - Shrikrishna Nagar	All that Piece and Parcel of land and Building admeasuring about 18.5 Dhurs, situated at Mouza- Kajipur Virpur, Mohalla-Langer Toli, P.S- Kadamkuan, District- patna Bearing Survey No 942, Khata no-104/1, Tauzi no- 4, Ward no. 42, Circle no. 28, Khesra Survey Plot No. 26, Sheet No. 70 and Holding No. 227/188. Bounded as follows:- North- House of Kapil Prasad, South- Gall, East- Sheo Babu & brothers, West- Sohrai Sao.	01.05.2019 / 31.05.2024	Rs. 4,49,506.03/ Rs. 1,96,129.97/ Rs. 6,45,636.00

As per section 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained / prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the bank. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Patna Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

Classifieds

PERSONAL

My Son's correct name is Arnav Kumar instead of Arnav Uttreja which is wrongly mentioned in his school records, S/o Kapil Kumar, H.No.284, Paschim-Vihar Extension, Delhi-Flats Madipur DDH-63.

0040739840-5

It is for general information that I, Yashka, D/o Mohd Arif Hussain, R/O G-715/14, 3rd Floor, Jaitpur-Extension Part-2, Gali No.-14, Badarpur, Delhi-110044, declare that name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as Arif Hussain and Gudra in my educational documents. The actual name of my father and mother are Mohd Arif Hussain and Mobin Begum respectively and they may be known with their actual name in all respect.

0040739816-10

It is for general information that I, Prem Dass, S/o Bichhu, Presently residing at, H.No-474, Sector-6, R.K. Puram, New Delhi, Delhi-110022. Permanently residing at, Nadipar Katra, Mauranipur, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh-284204 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Vishavnath in my Arms Licence No-SDLC/7/2006/14. The actual name of my father is Bichhu.

0040739809-6

It is for general information that I, Pankaj Bagri, S/O Surender Kumar, R/O, H.No-10824, Gali No-16, Pratap-Nagar, Delhi-110007, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Pankaj in my voter ID Card No. MMX0633883 and SC Caste Certificate No. 148629. The actual name of mine is Pankaj Bagri.

0040739816-8

It is for general information that I, DEVKI, W/O Pankaj Nimesh, R/O J-1326, Vijay-Nagar, Sector-9 Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANJANA in my minor son name Bhavya Nimesh in his 10th-class marksheet cum certificate educational and birth-certificate no-GHANN-2008-031610-86-50-148. The actual name of mine is DEVKI, which may be amended accordingly.

0040739816-9

I, hitherto known Bharti, W/O Pankaj Rathore, R/O-F15, mohan baba-nagar tajpuran, badarpur border, new delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bharti Rathore.

0040739837-5

I, ZAINAB BATOOL, D/O-AMIR HASNAIN, R/O-A-312, GALI, NUMBER-15, 3RD-FLOOR BRIJIPURI-GOKALPUR, NORTH-EAST, DELHI-110094, IS HERE- BY, DECLARE THAT BATOOL IS NOW-WRITTEN AS GIVEN-SURNAME IN MY PASSPORT AND CONSIDERED AS ZAINAB BATOOL, for all future purposes.

0040739816-6

I, Vipin Kumar S/o Ramji Dass R/O A-11, Inder Prashta, Apartment Sector-14, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Vipin Sagar.

0040739840-2

I, Vikas @Vikas Punia, S/O Sh.Vir Bhan R/O-1445, Vijay-Nagar, Ward.No.24, Jind-126102 (Haryana), is also known as Vikas Punia both-name are of one-person the same-person.

0040739809-4

I, Sunita Drall W/O Ashok Kumar, R/O Village Neelwal, PO-Tikri Kalan Mundka Delhi-110041, have changed my name Sunita for all purposes.

0040739851-1

I, Shreyansh Birendravinita S/o Birendra Kumar Singh R/O C-2, Flat no.2521, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Shreyansh Singh.

0040739840-1

I, Shashi Kumar S/o Om Prakash R/O H.No.87, Village-Bakoli, Delhi-110036, in my son's school-records his name was written as Pragyan, whereas his correct name is Pragyan Gautam.

0040739840-10

I, SHOAB AHMAD, S/O-JAMIL AHMED, R/O-TUGLAKABAD VILLAGE, HOUSE NO.753, GALI, NO.15 CHHURIYA MOHALLA JAITPUR SOUTH EAST DELHI-110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHOYAB AHMED.

0040739837-4

I, SHABBIR KHAN, son of, Sarif Khan, residing at, House, No-352 At-Nainana jat Dist-Agra State, Uttarpradesh Pin-282001, have changed my name, from SABBIR KHAN to SHABBIR KHAN vide-Affidavit dated-15.05.2024.

0040739809-9

I, SANJEEV BAISOYA, S/O SH.PRAKASH CHAND, H.No-6, 1ST FLOOR, ALIGANJ, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, NEW DELHI-110003, Changed my minor son name from AARAV to AARAV BAISOYA, permanently.

0040739850-2

I, SAGAR YOGESH S/O RAVINDRA KUMAR, ADDRESS-16/417-418, JOSHI ROAD KAROL BAGH DELHI-110005, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO YOGESH SAGAR.

0040739816-1

I, Mukesh Kumar Sharma S/o Mahendra Sharma, R/O:RFZ-432, Raj Nagar Part-II, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077 Have Changed My Name to Mukesh Sharma for all Purposes.

0070914137-1

I, RAVI BANSAL S/O SURESH KUMAR R/O 435, WARDNO.18, GALINO.1, UTTAM-NAGAR, GOHANA, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131301. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVI. 0040739809-3

I, Preeti Kharbada W/o Harmeet Singh R/O.H.No.2462, Basti Punjabian Roshanara Road Delhi110007, have changed my name to Preeti Sarna. 0040739840-6

I, Praveen Kumar Rastogi, S/o Late Shree Radhy Shyam Rastogi, R/O M-73B, Malviya-Nagar New-Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Praveen Rastogi. 0040739840-3

I, Poonam, W/O Amardeep Singh Rawat, R/O-B-72 Subhash Park Extension Uttam-Nagar, D.K Mohan Garden, west delhi-110059, have changed my name to Poonam rawat. 0040739850-7

I, NAWAZ MOHD KHAN, S/O-AYAZ MOHD KHAN, R/O-02, MOHAMMADPURBARWALA GULSHAR, BARWALA, BULANDSHAHAR, SIANA, UTTAR PRADESH-245403, Have Changed My Name, From NAWAZ MOHA KHAN TO NAWAZ MOHD KHAN. 0040739850-1

I, Nitin Sinha, S/o Raviansh Kumar Sinha, R/O 130 SFS Flats, Ashok Vihar Phase-3, Shakti Apartments, Ashok Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052, have changed the name of my minor daughter Iva aged 6-years and She shall hereafter be known as Iva Jain Sinha. 0040739816-11

I, Neha Manghani, D/o-Neel Kant Datta, R/O-Flat.No.-703, Tower Tulip, Divine Meadows, sector-108, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP, have changed my name to Neha Datta, for all purposes. 0040739837-8

I, Naresh Jasoria S/o Inder Raj R/O RZ-H/74, Gali No.9, Raghu Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Jasoria. 0040739837-1

I, Monika Sharma w/o Brajeshwar bhushan, R/O A-27A Maharani Enclave, Hastal viii, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name Monika Sharma to Monika Sinha. 0040739850-6

I, Mohd. Usman, S/o Akbar Khan, R/O H.No.1024/5, Pipal Wali Gali Patel-Nagar Garuon-Vihar Lakkarpur, Haryana, have changed my name to Usman Khan. 0040739809-5

I, Mohd Rashid s/o Mohd Irfan Qureshi, R/O H.No 1028, Rajan Street, Farash Khana, Delhi 110066, Have changed my name Mohammad Rashid, permanently. 0040739816-3

I, MUKESH JAIN S/O BHOPAL SINGH JAIN R/O D-115, SAKET, MEERUT CANTT, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH-250001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH KUMAR JAIN. 0040739837-9

I, JYOTI W/O ARJUN DABAS R/O 661, VILLAGE LADPUR, DELHI-110081, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JYOTI DABAS FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040739840-7

I, Harsh S/O Vijay Kumar R/O RZ-73/2 Puran Nagar Palam Village Delhi-110045, Have Change My Name From Harsh To Harsh Kumar. 0040739850-3

I, HARISH KUMAR S/O PURAN CHAND, House No.418, SECTOR 07, GOHANA, Haryana, 131301, Have Changed My Minor Son's Name RAGHAV TO RAGHAV BAJAJ, Permanently. 0040739850-4

I, Ghulam Kibriya, S/O Kasim, R/O-138, Sultanpur, Sultan Pur, South Delhi, Delhi-110030, have changed my name to Gulam Kibriya, Correct Date-of-birth-25.07.1966, for all, future purposes. 0040739816-4

I, Gagan Kumar Gupta, S/O Anil Kumar Gupta, R/O 5/32, Sikatter Bagh, Farrukhabad, UP, have changed my name to Gagan Gupta, for all purposes. 0040739837-7

I, Ex-No-9099476A, NK(TS) Mohd Shokat S/O Latif Lohar R/O Tangdar, Tehsil-Karnah, District-Kupwara. In my service records name and DOB of my son and wife has been wrongly mentioned as Abuzar D/O/B 29/10/2011 Wife as Naida Bana D/O/B 12/10/1986 instead of son as Aman Shokat D/O/B 29/10/2012 wife as Naida Bano D/O/B 01/06/1985 as in education certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to unit 10 JAKLI. 0020478789-1

I, Durgesh Gupta, D/o Chandra Shekhar Gupta, W/o Titu Gupta R/O-584/86, Arjun Gali, Vishwas Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Sanjana Gupta. 0040739837-6

I, Deep Chand S/O Chhabil Dass R/O F-68 Second floor Kalkaji Ji, New Delhi-110019, Have changed my Name to Deepak Garg Permanently 0040739809-2

I, AMIR HASNAIN, S/O RAHAT ALI, R/O, A-312, GALI NUMBER-15, 3RD-FLOOR BRIJIPURI GOKALPUR NORTH EAST, DELHI-110094, have changed my name to AMIR HASNAIN, for all, future purposes. 0040739816-5

I, Mehtab S/O Noor Mohammad R/O Inchoi, Meerut, UP, have changed my name to Mehtab Ahmad. 0070914173-1

I, Kavinder S/O Chandrapal, Address-G-53/C block G Harkesh nagar Delhi 110020, changed my name to Kavinder Kasana. 0070914137-1

0040739816-2

I, DHANANJAI KUMAR PANDEY, S/O-CHANDRA PRATAP PANDEY, R/O-206, SHIPRA-APARTMENT NEAR-EDM KASHAMBHI, E SHAIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201010, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO DHANANJAI PANDEY, FOR ALL PURPOSE. 0040739851-3

I, Ashutosh, S/O-Shri Parhlad Rai, R/O-Pocket-8/85-86, First Floor, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ashutosh Garg. 0040739851-5

I, Ashok Kumar Drail W/o Dilip Singh, R/O Village-Neelwal, PO-Tikri Kalan Mundka Delhi-110041, have changed my name Ashok Kumar, for all purposes. 0040739851-2

I, Alisha Khan, W/o Raju, R/o Plot.No.-189, Flat.No.-G-2, B-BKlock, Shalimar-Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005 have changed my name from Alisha Khan to Mohini Mehta, for all future purposes. 0040739809-1

I, ANIL KUMAR, S/O RAM RICHH PAL, H.NO-185-C, MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-1, POCKET-1, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-0110091, have changed my name to ANIL SINGLA, for all, future purpose. 0040739840-4

I, AMANDEEP SHARMA, W/O PRASHANT SHARMA, R/O-A-190, NEAR LAVKUSH PUBLIC SCHOOL, G.D COLONY, MAYUR VIHAR, PHASE-3, EAST DELHI-110096, have changed my name to AMANDEEP KAUR. 0040739850-5

I, AARTI KALRA, W/O VIPIN DHINGRA R/O HOUSE NO-L-207, MODEL TOWN, REWARI, HARYANA-123401, have changed my name to AASHU DHINGRA Permanently. 0040739837-2

I, hitherto known as RASHI LALWANI ALIAS DIMPLE CHANGLANI D/O RAMESH CHANGLANI W/O KAPIL LALWANI R/O A2/17, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RASHI LALWANI. 0070914188-1

I, hitherto known as RAHUL S/O SH. CHHATRA PAL R/O HOUSE NO. C-337, NEAR ROOP KRISHNA PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHAHBAZ DAIRY, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAHUL CHAUDHARY. 0070914182-1

I, Surendra Kumar S/O Krishan Kumar, R/O T-2580, Gali No.21A, Vishwakarma Marg, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Surender Kumar. 0040739811-1

I, Sukhdev Singh S/O Baldev Singh Saini R/O WZ-197/5A, Gal No-3, Virender Nagar, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Sukhdev Singh Saini 0070914166-1

I, Sheenu w/o Awadh Narayan, R/O A-283, Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Seenu Kharwar. 0040739811-4

I, Sharuti Behl W/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar Behl, R/O J-1, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-18, have changed my name to Shruti Behl for all future purposes. 0040739756-1

I, Sarajuddin S/o Jumma R/O 87, Kamruddin Nagar, Mandhyaee Sardhana, Meerut with have changed my name to Sirajuddin. 0070914172-1

I, Sanyam S/O Pradeep Bhagat R/O Flat-202, Tower-19, Lotus Boulevard, Sector-100, Noida, UP-201304 have changed my name to SANYAM BHAGAT for all future purposes. 0070914136-1

I, Sanjeev Arora s/o Late Madan Lal Arora, R/O MG-1/69, Second Floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Sanjiv Arora. 0040739811-2

I, Kusam Devi W/o late Naresh Kumar R/O A-502/2, Shastri Nagar, North West, Delhi 110052 have changed my name to Kusum Devi for all future purposes. 0070914177-1

I, Sachin Varshney S/O Santosh Kumar Gupta, R/O M1 block Gyan Sarovar, Near Ramesh Vihar Road, Koil, Aligarh, UP-202001 have changed my name to Sachin Kumar Gupta. 0070914119-1

I, SIDHARTH KACHROO S/O SHRI PUSHKAR NATH KACHROO R/O J-42, 4TH FLOOR, GAUR GRANDVIEW, SECTOR-119, NOIDA, DISTT-GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P.-202037, have changed my name from SIDHARTH KACHROO to SIDHARTH KACHROO. 0070914170-1

I, Nitya Rajan W/o Sumit Gaur R/O Flat No.1905, Tower-4, Panchsheel Wellington, Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my name to NITYA GAUR for all future purposes. 0070914135-1

I, Nitesh Kumar R/O F-381, Hari Nagar Extn.-3, Badarpur, Delhi-110044 have changed the name of my minor son Ansh, aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as Shreyansh 0070914165-1

I, D.K.KANVARIA, Son of Shri H.P.Kanvaria, resident of C-164, Millenkunjan Apartment, Sector-18, Rohini, New Delhi-110089, am the same Person known as Darmender Kumar Kanvaria or Dharmender Kumar Kanvaria as per Aadhaar. 0070914131-1

0040739816-7

I, Nilesh Mankare S/o Dayaram Mankare R/O Flat No.503, Tower-N7, Royal Nest, Techzone-1V, Greater Noida West, UP-201318 have changed the name to NILESH DAYARAM MANKARE for all purposes. 0070914162-1

I, Nakhat Parveen W/o Mirza Mosharraf Alam R/O K-2-A, Flat No.103, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Nakhat Parveen Mirza to NAKHAT PARVEEN for all future purposes and legal documents. 0040739739-1

I, MOHAMMAD NADEEM S/O MOHD YUSUF R/O 124 GALI BANDOOK WALLI AJMERI GATE DELHI-110006, have changed my name to MOHD NADEEM Permanently 0070914123-1

I, Lalit Kumar Uppal S/O Late Sh. Vidya Prakash Uppal R/O AD-12C, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 declares that Lalit Kumar S/o Sh. Vidya Prakash, Lalit Uppal S/O Sh. Vidya Prakash Uppal and Lalit Kumar Uppal S/o Sh. Vidya Prakash Uppal are name of one and the same person. My original name is Lalit Kumar Uppal S/O Sh. Vidya Prakash Uppal and there is no fraud or misrepresentation in making this affidavit. 0070914195-1

I, Chandra Shekhar Chandak alias Ashok Chandak alias Chander Sekhar Chandak alias Chander Shekhar S/O Brijlal Chandak R/O 2602, 26th Floor, Tower-C2, Cleo County, Sec-121, Noida, G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, Have changed my name to Chandar Chandak. Henceforth, I would be known by the name of Chandar Chandak for all future purposes. 0070914138-1

I, Avadh Narayan s/o Ram Milan, R/O A-283, Sudershan Park, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Awadh Narayan. 0040739811-3

I, VIPIN KUMAR S/O DILBAG RAI R/O HOUSE NO-L-207, MODEL TOWN, REWARI, HARYANA-123401, have changed my name to VIPIN DHINGRA Permanently. 0040739837-3

I, Ankita Harplani D/o Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta and W/o Sh. Gaurav Harplani R/O 160, 1st Floor, Block 6, Ramleela Ground, Subhash Nagar, Subhash Nagar West, P.O. Tagore Garden, Delhi-110027 have changed my name from Ankita Gupta to Ankita Harplani, vide affidavit number IN-DL9588894039130W, dated-19/07/2024, before Judicial Magistrate Faridabad, for all future purposes. 0040739742-1

I, Ankita Chaudhary w/o Vikram Rana R/O 180, Vijay Nagar, Chhipi Tank, Meerut-250001 have changed my name to ANKITA RANA. 0040739770-1

I, Amit Sharma S/o Vishnu Prasad Sharma R/O 805/N1, Supertech Zee, Omicron-1, Greater Noida U.P., have changed my daughter name from Kiara Sharma to Radhya Sharma for all future purposes. 0070914178-1

I, Ajitesh Kumar S/o Anil Kumar Dubey R/O C-3 Sharda Puri, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ajitesh Dubey for all future purposes. 0040739749-1

I, ASHIKA SINGH R/O F-4049, Gaur Green City, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, UP have changed my name to ANSHIKA SINGH. 0070914124-1

I, ASGHARI, W/O Anees Ahmed, R/O 3175, Phatak Tejiyan, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to ASGARI, for all purposes. 0040739737-1

I, AKANSHA KHANNA, W/O SAGAR BHASIN, R/O E-202, FIRST FLOOR, NEW RAJINDER NAGAR, RAJENDER NAGAR, CENTRAL DELHI-110066, have changed my name to AKANSHA KHANNA BHASIN for all future purposes 0070914158-1

I, Tarun/ Tarun Chandak S/o Chander Shekhar Chandak R/O 2602, 26th Floor, Tower-C2, Cleo County, Sec-121, Noida, G.B.Nagar, UP-201301, Have changed my name to Tarun Chandak for all future Purposes. 0070914139-1

I, Pradeep Nailwal S/O, Tara Datt Nailwal R/O J-1501, Ajnara Le Garden, Gh-02, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh Pin-201306 have changed my name to Pradeep Chand Nailwal. 0040739777-1

I, Neha w/o Chandan Bhatia R/O 678, first floor, GH-13, Paschim Vihar Delhi-87, Have changed my name to Neha Bhatia for all purposes. 0070914175-1

I, Meraj Unnisa Alias Syed Meeraj Unnisa Alias Syed Maqdoom Pasha and W/o Syed Sameer Pasha R/O 4-6-216/1, Prakash Nagar, Municipality, Khammam (Urban), Khammam Telangana-507001, have changed my name to Merajunnisa Begum 0070914160-1

I, Km Kanchan Chaudhary D/o Surendra Pal Singh W/O Vijendra Kumar R/O Flat No.102, F-8/F-13A, Gal No.28, Madhu Vihar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Kanchan for all purposes. 0040739743-1

According to my 10th marksheet, the spelling of my name is "SOURABH SINGHAL", which should be changed to "SAURABH SINGHAL". My full name should also be considered as DR.SAURABH SINGHAL as well, S/O AVDESH SINGHAL, R/O.Flat. No G-01, T-10, Amarpali Grand, Sector Zeta-1, Gautam-Buddha-Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301. 0040739816-7

epaper.indianexpress.com

I, Hitherto Known As Yogesh Pensia S/O Tansukh Ram, Residing At Ward No. 2, 4HH Mahiyawanli, Sriganaganagar Rajasthan 335002, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Yogesh Chaudhary. 0050264498-1

I, Apurva Shukla resident of white house, Bangermur Unnao have changed my daughter's name from Aarima to Aarima Shukla vide Affidavit dt 22 July 24. 0070914116-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Sachin Singh S/O Shri R.P Singh R/O 19/401, Satyam Khandi, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, have lost my original Allotment letter, Disc. no. 15428 dated-13.10.2000. FIR NO 2024000602769 has been made on 20/07/2024, if found then contact at the above address- 0070914191-1

I, Ravinder Singh Chopra, S/O Late Shri J.S. Chopra, R/O-99-B, Pocket Iv, Near Durga Temple, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi had lost my Registry of my SHOP NO.08B, on Ground Floor The Mall, Scottish Gardens situated at Ahinsa Khand-II, Indirapuram, if found please contact SANDEEP BANSAL # 92056 69939 0040739851-4

RECRUITMENT

SITUATION VACANT

OTHERS

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VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

POSITION

1. CONTENT DEVELOPER
2. ENGLISH-HINDI TRANSLATOR (PRIOR EXPERIENCE)

for GENERAL STUDIES

Medium English / हिन्दी

Work Made Offline Only

Location: Delhi

Desired Skills

- Experience with the Civil Services (Main) examination
- Strong research and analytical skills
- Ability to create engaging and educational content
- Excellent written communication and presentation skills

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Smt. Kamlesh W/o Late Sh. Prabhu Dayal R/O H.No.49, Mohanmadpur Village, South-West Delhi, Delhi-110066, have severed all their relations from their son, Sh. Vikas Singh, and his wife, Smt. Sonam, and his wife Sonam were disowned & debarred them from all movable and immovable properties, assets and bank balances and shall not be responsible for the acts, debts, omnisious and things done by Shri Hemraj and his wife Sonam in present, present or future.

Omveer Singh Advocate Ch. No. 723 Saket Court New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients, 1. Ram Chander Gupta, 2. Shiv Kumar, and 3. Harikr. all sons of Daya Nand Gupta and Phoolwati, and grandsons of the Late Janki Dass Gupta, hereby declare that they are the legitimate and real sons of Shri Daya Nand Gupta and Phoolwati. My clients make this declaration in good faith and to the best of their knowledge and belief. They acknowledge that the deed of the family will was executed by their parents, registered under numbers 395 and 396, dated 12.9.2014. They hereby declare that they all abide by the will registered by their parents.

Abhimanyu (Advocate) Ch. No. 609, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Jagdish Sharma S/O Late Ram Lal Sharma & Smt. Sunita Sharma W/O Jagdish Sharma both Resident of House no. R-2-46A, Sita Puri Part-I, Gali no. 10, Palam Village, S.O. South-West Delhi-110045 sever all relations & debar their son Neeraj Sharma and his wife Anita Banerjee from all movable and immovable properties, due to their misconduct, misbehavior and immoral attitude. My Clients & their family members & relatives will be not responsible for their any act, debts and whatsoever. Anybody deal with them shall do at his/her own cost and risk.

MANOJ KUMAR Advocate Ch. No. 917, Rohini Court Complex, Rohini, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that I am Surender Kumar, S/o Sh. Kanhaiya Lal, R/O C-1995, Madangir, New Delhi-110062, (Mob. No. 9350206993), Builder By Agreement and Allotment Letter of the property bearing U.S. No. 429, 4th Floor for Project Trade, Cloudf Towers, Vaishali Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh are theft from my home. FIR already registered bearing FIR No. 80702/2024 before the Police Station Police Station (Ambedkar Nagar, South District), District Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 21.07.2024.

It is further informed to

Office of the Executive Engineer (C) Postal Civil Division Old Building, 1st Floor, HPO Compound, Civil Lines, Allahabad

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD Notice Inviting Bid 01/2024-25 Bid for 1. Plantation & Maintenance Work of Plants for Five Years, Near: DTO New RHB Colony HMM, Rs. 132.60 Lacs.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender No. 06235169A Date: 22.07.2024 CORRIGENDUM BATCH No. 15 A/24

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR No. NIT/2024-25/784-56 अरवकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 074-2024-25

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Nandu Verma R/o Village Bakhtawar Pur, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown found dead on 17.07.2024 at 14:48 hrs. Gate No. 5, Tis Hazari Court, Gokhale Market, Delhi.

CORRIGENDUM Due to unavoidable circumstances, the last date of submission of e-Tender vide No. 1- 88/GEN/ TLDA/ 2023 bearing tender ID No. 2024_ARDD_50550_1

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the India invited e-open tender (E-Tender Notice No. - CW-Sonpur-09-2024) from experienced contractor for the work given below-

आरखण्ड सरकार क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका। अति अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, Delhi. 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street New Delhi - 110001. Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused (1) RAFIQ S/O Mohammad USMAN HAJI (2) JAHAGIR S/O Mohammad RAFEEQ (3) UJALA W/O RAVI

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE (Construction Department) Open e-Tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work-

Bank of Baroda Branch: Mathura Main POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 Integrated Infrastructure Development of 20M & above wide Roads, Construction of Various Major & Minor Structures (Viz Flyover, Minor Bridges, VUPS, PUPS etc.)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr.PC) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Sagar @ Rahul, S/o Chandu Yadav R/o H.No. I-93, J.J. Colony, Shakurpur, Delhi

ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT UT SECRETARIAT, LADAKH

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE On behalf of President of India, DYM (Commercial), E.C. Railway, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya invites e-auction for leasing of parcel space in SLR Coach of under mentioned Coaching trains originating over Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya division.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, Delhi. 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street New Delhi - 110001. Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993

Appeal for Identification General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 35 Yrs., Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Red Colour T-Shirt, Green Colour Lower and Green & Yellow Colour Rabad Band

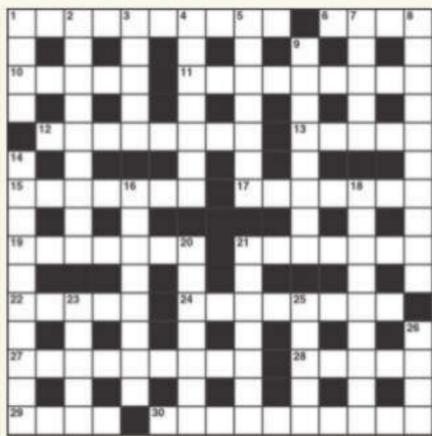
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER National Rural Employment Program, Ranchi. Very Short e-Procurement Notice e-Tender Reference No. - National Rural Employment Program, Ranchi/RANCHI-13/2023-24

कार्यालय जिला परिषद, हजारीबाग। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या :- 10 / 2024-25

कार्यालय जिला परिषद, हजारीबाग। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या :- 10 / 2024-25

SEARCH FOR MISSING General public is hereby informed that a male namely Suresh Kumar S/o Nawal Chaudhary R/o Dharambir ka makan, Ambe colony k sambe, Holi chowk, Village- Pochanpur sector 23-B, Dwarka New Delhi has been missing since 01/05/2024

CROSSWORD 5424



ACROSS
 1 Dukes aren't given to breaking promises (10)
 6 Lay in some vanilla ice cream (4)
 10 A deal leads to a game (5)
 11 He struggles with valiant monstrous beast (9)
 12 One who talks one round to composing some music (8)
 13 See cat jump off piano (5)
 15 Above and just behind the clock (7)
 17 He plays by himself (7)
 19 Take strong objection to marriage of Ted and Tess (7)
 21 Book covering part of North Africa (7)
 22 Last sign of the Greeks (5)
 24 Height could mean a slight change of latitude (8)
 27 Being villainous, use no fair play (9)
 28 Limit where fires may be lit (5)
 29 Made to go in tens perhaps (4)
 30 He has to pay the price of publicity (10)

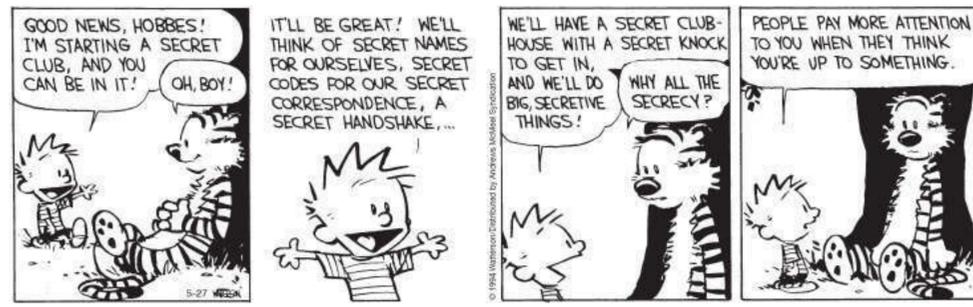
DOWN
 1 Fruit sounding nothing like a peach (4)
 2 Land of France in the depression is very off-putting (9)
 3 Crow bar? (5)
 4 Free in general (2,5)
 5 People won't be satisfied with this description (7)
 7 Wooden pale (5)
 8 Satisfied I raise no argument (10)
 9 An outstanding singer perhaps (8)
 14 Praiseworthy features of a railway? (4,6)
 16 Desmond marries but doesn't expect to be happy (8)
 18 Detectives appear in new tennis events (9)
 20 British naval man opposite to a landlady? (3,4)
 21 Maybe it's me as a painter (7)
 23 Mischievous out of self-interest (5)
 25 Sailor turns to playing cards (5)
 26 Try and listen (4)

Solutions Crossword 5423 Across: 1 Rubbish, 5 Tessa, 8 Big dipper, 9 Ado, 10 Pupa, 12 Reticent, 14 Static, 15 Curate, 17 Eyesight, 18 Reef, 21 Par, 22 Exception, 24 Evens, 25 Illness Down: 1 Rub up, 2 Beg, 3 Irs, 4 Hopper, 5 Terminus, 6 Stalemate, 7 Apostle, 11 Plane tree, 13 Tidiness, 14 Steeple, 16 Chichi, 19 Funds, 20 Opal, 23 Ice

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLER WORDS

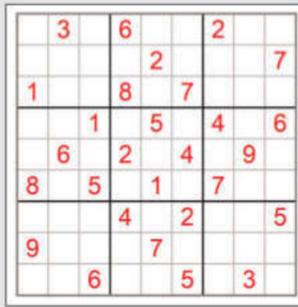
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

CZAEER **AILTCC**
GPROY **DEODDM**

SOLUTION: CRAZE, FORK, LACTIC, DOOMED

SUDOKU 5631

Difficulty Level 2s
 Instructions
 To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level 1s
 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5630



UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that a Male person Namely: **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found at Footpath, near Najafgarh Road in front of Dominoz, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi on 19.06.2024 at 01.17 a.m. In this regard vide DD No: 8A dated 19.06.2024 has been lodged at P.S Rajouri Garden, New Delhi.

The description of the deceased is given as below:
 Name: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: Approx 55 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", Wearing: White Colour Shirt with Black line designed and Blue Pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the deceased but no clue has come to light so far. Anyone having information about the deceased, please inform the undersigned.

SHO
 DP/9577/WD/2024 P.S Rajouri Garden, New Delhi
 Phone : 011-25448885

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No. NFR-HQ/COMM(BDU)/1/2024 Dated: 22.07.2024
 Notice inviting expression of interest (EOI) for Hiring Management consultancy for strategic advisory services (freight & logistic market study) for enhancement of freight traffic throughout on Northeast Frontier Railway.

This EOI document is being published by Northeast Frontier Railway. The purpose of this EOI document is to provide interested parties with the relevant information and understand the scope of the scheme and furnish budgetary quotations for this EOI document carefully before submitting their quotation for the same from interested and eligible "Parties". The parties are advised to study this EOI notice. The quotation received as part of the response to this EOI document may be used towards formalizing the tender which is proposed to be released in the near future. This EOI document is not transferable. Brief details are as below:

SN	Information regarding EOI
1	Mode of submission Interested parties can submit their interest in sealed cover through registered post and directly by hand at following address:- Dy.CCM/Rates & IT O/o-Commercial Rates Office, Headquarters Office Complex, Northeast Frontier Railway, Maligaon, Guwahati - 781011
2	Date of notification 22.07.2024
3	Website to download Notification of EOI www.nf.indianrailways.gov.in (under tender tab)
4	Notification of EOI can be downloaded from website (timing) From 10:00 hrs. of 23.07.2024 to 17:00 hrs. of 12.08.2024
5	Last date of submission of EOI Up to 17:00 hrs. of 12.08.2024
6	Date of opening of EOI 13.08.2024

Dy. Chief Commercial Manager (Rates & IT)
 For Chief Commercial Manager (FM)/NFR
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
 "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. Victoria Park, Meerut.

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE Open tender is invited through e-tendering for supply of 13349 Nos. 11/4 KV 25 KVA Distribution Transformers against tender specification no. PVVNL- MT/MM /96/24-25, Tender Cost :- Rs. 29,500.00 (with GST), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)- Rs. 1,12,81,000.00 (with GST), Last Date of tender submission & Time:- 24.08.2024 at 2:00 PM, Date of tender opening (Part-1st & IInd) & Time:- 24.08.2024 at 5:00 PM, Note:- In case of any amendment in tender specification or date of extension, the same shall be uploaded on e-tender website www.etender.up.nic.in and www.pvvnl.org Superintending Engineer (MM-1) "Help Line Number For Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180- 3002 (Meerut), & 9412207451"
 पत्रांक- 291 दिनांक- 23-07-2024 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (MM-1)

TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED (Erstwhile TANGEDCO) NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl. No.	Specification No.	Description of Materials	Due date & time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal-165 Dated 22.07.2024	Supply of 4600 GAR imported Steam coal of any origin for delivery at Kamarajar Port, Ennore for a period of three years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 through global e-tender followed by e-reverse auction under variable price mechanism as and when required basis for MCTPS - III.	13.08.2024 @ 14:00 Hours.

Submission of E-Tender: Through this hyperlink <https://ntenders.gov.in/nigcep/app> Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification: 24.07.2024 @ 17:00 Hrs. Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification: 13.08.2024 @ 14:00 Hrs. Tender will be opened: Through the Tamil Nadu Government e-procurement Portal <https://ntenders.gov.in/nigcep/app> CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH/COAL TANGEDCO / CHENNAI-2
 DIPR/2493/Tender/2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Sr.DME/Diesel, Northern Railway, Diesel Loco Shed, Tughlakabad for and on behalf of President of India invites e-Tenders for the following work: The tender will be accepted online only in the prescribed tender document.

Subject	Description
Name of work	Provision for Modification required in existing Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad
Place of work	Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044.
Completion Period	04 Month
Approximate cost of work	Rs. 29,97,200/- Inclusive of GST (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred only)
Amount of Bid Security	Rs. 60,000/- (Rs. Sixty Thousand Only)
Description of Similar Service Contract	The approved definition of similar nature of work is- "Successful completion of work of Installation & Commissioning OR Operation & Maintenance OR AMC of Water Treatment plant/Effluent Treatment plant or sewage treatment plant of min. 30 KLD capacity in any central Govt./Railway unit/Metro/State Govt./PSUs"
Technical Eligibility Criteria	As per clause 10.1 of tender form (second sheet) of Tender Document.
Financial Eligibility Criteria	As per clause 10.2 of tender form (second sheet) of Tender Document.
Website to download and upload e-tender document	www.ireps.gov.in
Due date & time of uploading of Tender by tenderer	12.08.2024 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Tender opening	12.08.2024 after 12:00 Hrs.
Validity of offer	60 days from opening of tender
Allocation	05-0313-32

Tender Document can be downloaded from Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. For details of work experience, scope of work and terms & conditions please see Tender document. TENDER NOTICE NO. DSSL/TKD/OT/ETP/ MOD/2024 dated : 20.07.2024 2237/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN

General public is hereby informed that these children namely (1) Mamta D/o Vinod Das R/o H. No. 4466, Gali No.6, Ajeet Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-31 Age: 17 years, Height : 4'9", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow wearing yellow colour kurta & pajami, red colour dupatta and black colour chappal in feet and (2) Tanu S/o Raj Kumar R/o Jhuggi Pura, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-31 Age: 14 years, Height : 4'6", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Small, Identification: Mole near mouth & name tattoo on hand wearing black colour T-shirt and blue colour lower have been missing from their home. In this regard Mamta: FIR No. 449/23 dated 2.10.2023 & Tanu: FIR No. 261/23 dated 19.06.2023 have been registered at P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: 24368639, Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO : P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi, Ph. : 8595895116, 7065036024
 DP/9210/SHD/2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि e-Procurement Notice (Very Short Notice) Tender Ref. No. BCD/EE, Building Div. Jamshedpur 16/2024-25, Dt. 20.07.2024 जिसका पी०आर० संख्या-330235 Building(24-25)-D है, जो समाचार पत्रों में दिनांक- 23.07.2024 को प्रकाशित हुआ है, जिसमें टंकणीय भूलवश वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 27.07.2023 (वर्ष 2023) अंकित हो गया, जिसे संशोधित कर वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 27.07.2024 पढ़ा जाय।

अन्य कार्य एवं शर्तें पूर्व की भाँति यथावत् रहेगी।
 कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर।
 PR.NO.330406 Building(24-25):D

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown**, was found dead from the area Near Budh Vihar Picket in front of Monastery Market, Ring Road, Civil Line, Delhi, on 21.07.2024. In this regard DD No.: 29A, Dated 21.07.2024, has been lodged at Police Station Civil Lines, Delhi.

Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
 Sex : Male, Age: Approx 50 years, Height : 5'8", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Beard: White, Build: Thin, Wearing: Not wearing any Clothes. The dead body of deceased preserved for 72 hours in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for identification.

If any one having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned.

SHO
 P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi-110034
 Ph.: 011-23815444, 23810633
 DP/9595/N/2024 Mobile: 8750870127, 9560532339

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 The Sun is now urging you to take a deeper and more thoughtful perspective on current developments. It would seem likely that before the week is out you will have decided upon a sudden change of plan. But, then, that's your all over.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
 For the next month you must put additional effort into your professional goals, or into any activity which holds out the promise of enhanced respect and prestige in your community. Within a few days, you may be forced to depart from previous practice.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 There is too much at stake now for you to risk losing your head or giving up on a major objective. Press ahead with your present path and don't allow purely temporary delays to obstruct your progress. Even if you take two steps back, you'll soon be taking three steps forward.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
 You may be sure that whatever begins now will not be completed until some time next month. Certain important developments won't even come to your attention until after several days have passed, so don't judge the far-distant future by what happens today.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 Seeing as this is such a lively time of year, why don't you indulge your instincts and get away for a while? Even if nothing is planned, you can be sure that a change of scene will be deeply stimulating and highly enjoyable. There's still time for a sentimental journey.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
 Amongst the new developments in your life this week is an increasing desire for adventure. I would strongly advise that you set other considerations aside in order to allow time for a journey of exploration. But will you be embarking on a voyage of the body, or the spirit?

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 You must expect to be the centre of attention over the next fortnight, not so much because of the Sun's influence in your sign as for the simple reason that partners, symbolised by the planet Uranus, are inspiring you to new and amazing heights of achievement.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
 Social success and emotional happiness are very much questions of adopting the right attitude. If you are open and ready to accept partners on their own terms, they will respond with love and generosity. A legal matter may come in.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
 There is now nothing to hold you back. Even at work, where you might be more than usually conscious of delays and obstacles, you may get around any problem with a little imagination and sensitivity. It's all a matter of explaining your feelings with an understanding of partners.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
 You probably feel that you're about due for some recognition for all the hours of effort you've put in, often with little or no thanks. It's about time people in general paid you more attention and took better notice of your fine qualities. You're like a delicate flower and you need to be cared for.

VIRO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
 In many ways, it is possible for you to become a law unto yourself. Not a bad thing, you might think. Yet there are times when you should listen carefully to the wishes of people around you who, it must be said, are more experienced: you still have a great deal to learn.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 Believe it or not, you are still in a privileged position and will be saved from some of the troubles besetting other people. Yet now you must reflect on your long-term ambitions and ask if these are really right for you. Bouncing ideas off others.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AT 220KV S/STLN TITRAM (KATHALI) (CIVIL WORK)	19.07.2024 05.08.2024	81.15 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
2	HVPNL	PROVIDING OUTSOURCING SERVICES REGARDING GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND UP KEEP OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, CLEANING OF ROADS, PATH, DRAIN, ARBORESCULE, ARRANGEMENT, WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND WATCH AND WARD OF 132 KV SUB STATION, HVPN ROHTAK DURING FY 2024-25 (FROM 01.08.2024 TO 31.03.2025)	19.07.2024 25.07.2024	15.96 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
3	HVPNL	CREATION OF ONE NO. 33KV LINE BAY FOR FEEDING 33KV S/STLN, LOHARI RAGHO AT 220KV S/STLN, MASUDPUR (HISAR)	19.07.2024 29.07.2024	3.95 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

F1-13/2/2023-Estt. (E-File No.5555)

Recruitment Notice

Delhi State Health Mission is inviting online registration for various vacant posts under National Health Mission. Online registration is mandatory prior to appearing in interview. Last date for registration is 13th August 2024. The engagement will be purely on contract basis as per the policy of National Health Mission. For details of posts, eligibility criteria, date of Interview, skill test (if required) and registration link please visit our websites <https://health.delhi.gov.in> & <https://dshd.delhi.gov.in>

Sd/-
 Mission Director,
 DHP/Shabdarth/Classified/0135/24-25
 DSHM

25 EXPRESS NETWORK

Top court rules out NEET re-test: Paper leak in Patna & Hazaribagh, not systemic breach



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

READY TO ROAR

LEADER OF Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's speech during the first session of Parliament was a major point of discussion during Tuesday's meeting of the Opposition INDIA bloc. Many leaders said that Gandhi and the Opposition together could "eclipse" the ruling alliance in the House. This "realisation" prompted the leaders to decide to use the floors of both the Houses and other parliamentary forums such as standing committees to take on the government and show off their unity, sources said. Some leaders suggested that the Opposition should take part in all discussions in Parliament instead of disrupting the proceedings. The Budget Session, thus, could see a more aggressive Opposition and fewer disruptions, said the sources.

BUDGET MANIFESTATION

THE SPECIAL financial package for Andhra Pradesh, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget on Monday, didn't seem to have surprised many Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders in the Capital. Even before the Budget was tabled, TDP sources were pretty confident that their demands would be fulfilled by the Finance Minister. One source even said that the Centre will allot packages based on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. The prediction came true when Sitharaman referred to the 2014 legislation in her Budget speech and said that the Centre is committed to honouring the promises made in the Act.

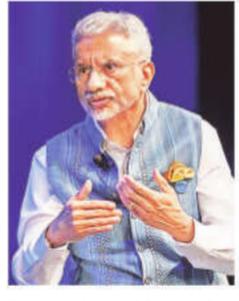
EXTRA TIME

CHIEF JUSTICE of India D Y Chandrachud, also the administrative head of the court, recently issued a curious amendment to the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. On the face of it, the amended Order II, Rule 1, 2 and 3 that deal with the working hours of the SC registry, seemed same as earlier — "court shall open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, except for Sundays and holidays" — but a close look at the order showed that an innocuous part of the rule — "no work, unless of an urgent nature will be taken up after 4.30 pm" — was dropped in the amendment. The last half an hour of the day will now be the same as the rest of the day for the registry.

Jaishankar to visit Japan, Laos to attend meetings of Quad and ASEAN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar is headed to Japan and Laos later this month to attend crucial meetings of Quad and ASEAN respectively. During the meeting of the Quad in Tokyo on July 29, foreign ministers will take forward discussions held during the last meeting in New York in September 2023, said a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. File

They will also exchange views on developments in the Indo-Pacific region, and review progress on Quad initiatives and working groups, it said. Jaishankar is visiting Tokyo from July 20 to 30 at the invitation of Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, the MEA said. India is also expected to hold the Quad Summit later this year.

At the Quad meeting which will see participation from Japan, Australia and the United States, the ministers would discuss regional and international issues, and guide future collaboration to achieve the shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region by addressing contemporary priorities of the region through delivery of public goods, the statement said.

Just before his Tokyo visit,

Jaishankar will visit Vientiane from July 25 to 27, at the invitation of Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Laos, to participate in the Foreign Ministers' Meetings under the ASEAN framework.

The visit is of particular significance since this year marks a decade of India's Act East Policy which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 9th East Asia Summit in 2014, said the MEA.

Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other countries on the margins of the ASEAN-related meetings, said the MEA.

'Unparalleled courage': Head constable Aashiq Ali saves Shiv bhakt Monu Singh at Haridwar ghat during Kanwar Yatra

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, JULY 23

A ROUTINE day for Aashiq Ali — a head constable with Uttarakhand's State Disaster Response Force, patrolling Haridwar's Kangra Ghat during the ongoing Kanwar yatra — took a dramatic turn when he noticed 21-year-old kanwariya Monu Singh drowning in the river Ganga on Tuesday.

"He was trying to swing across the river from the other side, but after crossing around

60 meters of the 100-meter-wide stretch, he started drowning in the fast-flowing stream. I jumped and swam around 40 meters to save him," said Ali, whose act was captured by his colleague on video.

This was just one of the rescues Ali and his team executed on Tuesday.

"Every year, on average, we save 40-50 kanwariyas here... We have around 500 meters to cover with just six jawans, but we try our best," Ali told The Indian Express.

Ali highlighted the challenge

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday turned down demands for cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024, saying that "at the present stage, there is absence of sufficient material on record to lead to the conclusion that result of the... examination stands vitiated or that there is a systemic breach to the sanctity of the examination".

The Bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to revise the NEET-UG results by correcting the error of awarding marks for two options to a Physics multiple choice question, and asked it to treat only one — option 4 — as the correct answer.

On Monday, the SC had asked the IIT-Delhi director to constitute a team of three experts to look at the question and inform it of the correct answer.

Delivering its ruling on a clutch of petitions seeking cancellation of the exam, the Bench said: "We are of the considered view that ordering the cancellation of the entire NEET-UG 2024 examination is neither justified on the application of the settled tests which have been propounded in the decisions of this court, nor on the basis of the material on the record."

"Adding to the absence of conclusive material on record at the present stage, the data which has been produced on record city-wise, centre-wise and the comparison for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, is not indicative

of a systemic leak of the question paper which would indicate a disruption of the sanctity of the examination," it said.

The Bench said it "is also mindful of the fact that directing a fresh NEET-UG exam for the present year would be replete with serious consequences for over 2 million students who have appeared in the examination, including, in particular, (i) disruption of the admission schedule for medical courses (ii) cascading effects on the course of medical education (iii) prejudicial impact on the availability of qualified medical professionals in the future and (iv) a serious element of disadvantage to the marginalised group of students for whom reservation has been made in allocation of seats".

Saying that the CBI is still investigating the matter, the court made it clear that any student found to have been involved in malpractice would face action, and would have no right to continue his/her admission.

"In arriving at the ultimate conclusion, the court is guided by the well-settled test on whether it is possible to segregate tainted students from those whose candidature does not suffer from any taint. Moreover, it would need to be clarified that if the investigation reveals the involvement of an increased number of beneficiaries than those who are suspects at the present stage, action shall be pursued against any student found to be involved in wrongdoing at any stage, notwithstanding the completion of the counselling process. In other words, no stu-

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

- MAY 5:** NEET-UG holds exam at 4,750 centres in 571 cities.
- MAY 17:** SC seeks replies from Centre, NTA on plea alleging irregularities in the exam.
- JUNE 4:** Results declared; 67 candidates bag top rank.
- JUNE 11:** SC seeks replies from Centre, NTA on plea seeking a fresh exam on grounds of alleged question paper leak.
- JUNE 13:** Centre cancels grace marks to 1,563 candidates who took the exam, and informs SC. Centre says it will have the option to either hold a retest or forgo compensatory marks.
- JUNE 14:** SC seeks replies from Centre, NTA on plea seeking a CBI probe into the allegations.
- JUNE 18:** SC says even if there was '0.001% negligence' on the part of anyone in conduct of the exam, it should be dealt with thoroughly.
- JUNE 23:** About 813 of the 1,563 candidates earlier awarded grace marks appear for a retest, officials say.
- JULY 1:** Candidates sharing top rank reduce to 61, from 67.
- JULY 5:** Scrapping the exam would 'jeopardise' lakhs of



AISA members protest against cancellation of NEET-UG re-test, in Patna on Tuesday. ANI

honest students, Centre tells SC.

JULY 10: Centre tells SC there was neither any indication of 'mass malpractice' nor a localised set of candidates being benefited, leading to abnormal scores.

JULY 18: SC directs NTA to declare centre and city-wise results by 12 noon on July 20, while masking identities of the aspirants.

JULY 22: SC asks IIT-Delhi director to form a team to go into a particular question of Physics asked in the exam, and submit a report on the correct answer by the next day.

JULY 23: SC rules out cancellation and retest.

-With PTI inputs

dent who is revealed to have engaged in acts of fraud or to have been the beneficiary of malpractices would be entitled to claim the vested right or interest in the continuation of the admission in the future," the SC said.

Pronouncing the brief order, the SC said: "In a matter like the present, it is imperative that the final conclusions of the court be

recorded at the present stage since there is an urgent need to provide certainty and finality to a dispute which affects the careers of over 2 million students". The Bench added that it will come out with a detailed judgment later.

"The fact that the leak of the NEET-UG 2024 paper took place at Hazaribagh in Jharkhand and

National Test Agency to issue revised merit list in two days, 44 toppers to see ranks slip by at least 88 positions

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

KEEPING IN line with the directions of the Supreme Court, the National Testing Agency (NTA) is expected to issue a revised merit list for the NEET undergraduate examination, a move that will affect 44 exam toppers who may see their ranks slip by at least 88 positions, if not more, The Indian Express has learned.

In the results announced on June 4, there were a record 67 candidates who had scored a perfect 720 marks and tied for the top spot. Of these, six topped due to being compensated with extra marks for time lost during the examination because of mistakes

made by invigilators. Apart from that, as many as 44 made it to the top because they got an answer to a basic physics question wrong and received "grace marks" for it.

Although the NTA agreed to compensate the 44 candidates with an additional five marks because the incorrect answer they marked was based on an erroneous reference in their old Class 12 NCERT science textbook, the Supreme Court decided that there would be just one accurate answer and anyone responding with anything other than that would not receive marks for it.

This means these 44 candidates would now have their scores revised to 715 out of 720.

Apart from the remaining 14 candidates who have scored 720,

there are another 70 who have scored 716 marks out of 720. These 44 will now be ranked only after them. "This means their rank will most likely be only after the 88th and maybe even in the hundreds," said a source.

On Tuesday, after the Supreme Court verdict, Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters that the NTA would release a new merit list in two days. Welcoming the Supreme Court's rejection of the demands for cancelling NEET-UG, Pradhan said: "Truth prevails, we welcome the order of the Supreme Court. We have said from the beginning, our priority is the students of the country... over the past two months, the government's stand has been that

there has been no large-scale breach. Today, in the Supreme Court, this was shown to be right."

He added that the government is "committed to make the NTA a transparent, tamper-free, error-free organisation", and "take strict legal action against those who were involved in this chaos".

On the UGC-NET which was cancelled a day after it was held in June, on the grounds that the paper may have been leaked on the darknet, Pradhan said the NTA has announced a new date, indicating that a retest is still on the cards.

Pradhan also attacked the Opposition on Tuesday, and said that the Opposition had attempted to mislead students and create confusion.

"In light of the NEET issue, the

Accused entered strongroom, leaked NEET paper: CBI to SC

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JULY 23

THE PAPER leak in the NEET-UG in May occurred in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh, the CBI told the Supreme Court on Tuesday — the first time that the agency has officially made the claim since it took over probe into the case in June.

The CBI told the SC the paper leak occurred at Oasis School in Hazaribagh on May 5, the day of the medical entrance exam. The paper was solved in the district, confirmed by the CBI. Oasis School principal Ehsanul Haque and NEET-UG exam centre's superintendent Imtiaz Alam, who are in the CBI custody at present, have denied any wrongdoing.

"We've CCTV footage showing that the main accused, Pankaj Kumar alias Aditya, had access to Oasis School strongroom... Kumar entered the campus at 7.12 am and sat in the staff room adjacent to the strongroom. At 7.53 am, the front door of the strongroom was locked... He entered the strongroom via the rear door at 8.02 am and left at 9.23 am," the CBI said.

Kumar allegedly sent photos of the paper to another accused, who shared it with the 'solver gang'. "They... solved the questions, scanned a hard copy of the answer sheet and sent it to another location in Hazaribagh and two more in Patna," the CBI said.

The Centre, in its affidavit to the SC earlier, had said IIT-Madras had found "no abnormality" or "any indication of mass malpractice".

The SC said the objections of the petitioners to the IIT-Madras report would be considered in the course of the reasoned judgment which will follow.

"At this stage, in order to obviate any controversy, the court has independently scrutinised the data which has been submitted on record by the NTA," the top court said.

UK Foreign Secy to visit New Delhi today

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

JUST OVER a fortnight after the Labour Party led by Keir Starmer swept the polls in the United Kingdom ending 14 years of Conservative Party-led government, the newly-appointed British Foreign Secretary David Lammy is coming to India on Wednesday on a day-long visit.

Arriving in New Delhi on Wednesday morning, Lammy will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and will head for the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Laos capital, Vientiane. Jaishankar is also attending the

Laos meeting. This will be the first visit to India by a top official of the government led by Starmer, who had said that he looked forward to further deepening the "strong and respectful relationship" between both the countries.

A day after he led the Labour Party to a landslide election victory, Starmer had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and they agreed to work towards an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-UK free trade agreement (FTA). The British PM, while discussing the FTA, had said he stood ready to conclude a deal "that worked for both sides".

He had also welcomed Prime Minister Modi's leadership on key



British Foreign Secretary David Lammy. Reuters

global challenges, such as climate change and economic growth, according to the British government's statement issued on July 6.

Downing Street had said the leaders agreed there was a wide

range of areas across "defence and security, critical and emerging technology, and climate change" for the two countries to deepen cooperation.

Modi, on the other hand, had congratulated Starmer on his "remarkable victory" and had said he looked forward to "positive and constructive collaboration" to further strengthen bilateral ties.

In the last week of June — just about 10 days before the elections in the UK — Lammy had used his speech at the inaugural day of India Global Forum's IGF London 2024 to send a key message to the Narendra Modi government, emphasising the Labour Party's readiness to finalise an FTA with India.

Environmental release of GM Mustard: Apex court gives split verdict

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday delivered a split verdict on a petition challenging the conditional approval granted by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) to the Delhi University's Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP), for the environmental release of transgenic mustard, DMH-11, and its subsequent approval by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), with one of the judges striking it down and the other upholding it.

While Justice BV Nagarathna, who was part of the two-judge bench, held the decision as "vitiating", Justice Sanjay Karol, who was the other judge on the bench upheld it as "independent, reasoned and in consonance with the rules (Rules for manufacture, use, import, export and the storage of hazardous microorganisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989)".

Both the judges, however, asked the centre to formulate a national policy on genetically modified (GM) crops and organisms and to ensure compliance with labelling of GM foods, in accordance with the Food Safety

The SC bench urged the Centre to formulate a policy on GM crops

and Security Act, 2006.

Justice Nagarathna noted that the grant of approval by GEAC is governed by Rule 13 of the 1989 Rules, she said that it "does not contemplate any role for... MoEF&CC in the decision-making process" and "therefore, the lateral intervention by the said Ministry seriously undermines the credibility and integrity of the decision making as well as the regulatory process".

Justice Karol, however, said that the "conditional approval granted... shows that the approval... was on the basis of multiple documents and not only the comments of the expert committee, as alleged by the petitioners".

He said that "the conditional release of DMH-11 was made subject to several conditions including, among others, that the MoEF&CC/GEAC may impose further conditions as may be necessary". "The effect of accepting the submission... would mean that a person of science, by being a member, simpliciter of the Government body, would be discounted as an 'expert'..."

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, अररिया
कार्यालय आदेश संख्या-60 अररिया
निरस्तीकरण / (Cancellation)

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल, अररिया अन्तर्गत मुख्यमंत्री ग्रामीण पेयजल निश्चय योजना (मुणवता प्रभावित) के तहत अत्यकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या/NIT No 04/2023-24 (SBFe), Group No 01, 02, 03 & 04, PR No. -013613 (PHED) 2023-24 को NIT Clause संख्या-29 के अलावा में अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य प्रमंडल अररिया
 PR- 004408 (PHED) 2024-25

नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

Date: 22.07.2024

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1. Name of the Work	Flood Resilient Road Works under SDMF & Impvt. to Road under Deposit Scheme
2. Total No. of works:	02 No. of Road Works
3. Estimated Cost of the work:	Varies from Rs. 328.65 lakhs to Rs. 499.42 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
a) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 lakhs up to Rs. 3.00 Crore	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
b) Estimated cost more than Rs. 1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crore	A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 6.00 Crores up to Rs. 50.00 Crore	Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5. Period of completion	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6. Offered rates by bidder	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7. Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Date & Time of opening of tender
Chief Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender-Online-C.C.19 of 2024	From 29.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M. To 13.08.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	14.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. To be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
 CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE BHUBANESWAR

बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, गोरखा वाहिनी, पटना
अत्यकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-01/2024-25

1. विभाग का नाम :- बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, गोरखा वाहिनी, पटना।

2. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- समादेष्टा, बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, गोरखा वाहिनी, पटना।

3. निविदा समर्पित करने की तिथि एवं समय :- निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन होने की तिथि से तीन सप्ताह तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 12.08.2024 को समय 14.00 बजे।

5. निविदा प्राप्ति के स्थान :- समादेष्टा का कार्यालय, बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, गोरखा वाहिनी, पटना।

6. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- समादेष्टा का कार्यालय, बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, गोरखा वाहिनी, पटना।

7. मद का नाम :- वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में समादेष्टा का कार्यालय, बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, गोरखा वाहिनी, पटना के वाहिनी मुख्यालय एवं सभी कम्पनिमें में दैनिक इस्तेमाल किये जाने वाले सामग्रियों की सूची वाहिनी के जी०पी० शाखा कार्यालय से निविदा समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक किसी भी कार्य दिवस के दिन प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

निविदा का प्रपत्र अनुसूची-1 एवं अनुसूची-2 बिहार पुलिस के वेबसाइट Police.bihar.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है, जहाँ से इसे डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

समादेष्टा,
 PR- 004433 (Police) 2024-25

बिहार विशेष सशस्त्र पुलिस-1, पटना
नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

TAMIL NADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
 (A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
 No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
 Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in E-Mail : gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngprdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai - 600008, for the supply of **Anti Hemophilic Drugs** from the Licensed Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Good Manufacturing Practice Certificate (as per revised Schedule "M") issued by the Drug Control Authority. Direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experienced in the field for a minimum period of three years and Loan Licensees having valid Loan License are also eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1	Online Tender for the supply of Anti Hemophilic Drugs to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance	e-012/M(P)/HEMO/TNMSC/2024, Dated 24.07.2024	24.07.2024 at 4.00 PM to 22.08.2024 upto 11.00 AM	09.08.2024 at 10.00 AM to 22.08.2024 upto 11.00 AM	23.08.2024 at 11.00 AM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at <https://tntenders.gov.in>. The tender document can also be downloaded at www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in for reference purpose.

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)
 DIPR / 2531 / TENDER / 2024

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
परिचमी कोशी नहर प्रमंडल, झंझारपुर

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-01 / 2024-25
 (केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (लाख रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में) (ऑन लाईन अग्रघन की राशि मासिक मंत्रालय)	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (अग्रघन/मासिक) (केवल ऑनलाइन मासिक मंत्रालय) रु० में	बेल्डों का वेय सिड प्रोसेसिंग की राशि (केवल ऑनलाइन मासिक मंत्रालय) रु० में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
01	Widening and black Topping work NH-27 to 345 meter of right afflux dam of sugarway river near village Arariya in Jhunjhpur block under Madhubani district from .	171.08790	342200.00	10000.00	3540.00	28.02.2025

02. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, परिचमी कोशी नहर प्रमंडल, झंझारपुर, जिला-मुधुनी (बिहार), पिन-847403. Email id - wkcdjpp@gmail.com मोबाइल नं० -7463889752

03. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि :- दिनांक 19-07-2024

04. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड/अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि :- दिनांक 05-08-2024 से 12-08-2024 के अग्रघन 3 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

05. प्रो-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि :- दिनांक 07-08-2024 को अग्रघन 03.30 PM बजे मुख्य अतिथि, सिचाई वृत्त, जल संसाधन विभाग, दरभंगा के कार्यालय में।

06. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 12-08-2024 के अग्रघन 3.30 PM बजे केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

07. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पर्यवेक्षक द्वारा चाप में केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की जायेगी।

08. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

09. निविदा की श्रेष्ठता की अंतिम तिथि :- 120 दिन।

10. विषय जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

11. ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने हेतु संवेदक को पंजीकृत होना होगा, जिसके लिए उन्हें उपयोगकर्ता का नाम (User ID) पासवर्ड (Password) अतिथि हस्ताक्षर (Digital Signature) आवश्यक होगा। वह उन्हें वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in से डाउनलोड करने/ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने की योग्यता प्रदान करेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 004365 (W R D) 2024-25

कार्यपालक अभियंता
परिचमी कोशी नहर प्रमंडल, झंझारपुर

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER

DRM(CAW), DRM office, Bikaner acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders no.: 06-Mech-CnW-2024-25, dated 20.07.2024. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date 12.08.2024 up to 15:00 hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Name of work with its location: Provision of CAMTECH Design Quick Watering System/Facilities at SOG station on Platform Nos. 1, 2 and 3 & 4. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 1,23,95,541.56/-

Bid Security to be deposited: ₹ 2,12,00,00/- (Online Payment through net banking or payment gateway in F/O Sr. DFM, NWR, Bikaner) **Date and time for submission of tender:** Submission of e-tender up to 12.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Date and time for opening of tender: opening of e-tender on 12.08.2024 at 15:30 hrs. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0/-

Website: www.ireps.gov.in

860-AR/24

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Notice of Inviting E-Tender

Dy.CME /Carriage Workshop, Ajmer North Western Railway acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender no. Carriage-10-2024 Date 23.07.2024. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Name of work with its location: "Green Co Rating of Carriage Workshop, NWR, Ajmer location (As per Scope of Work) (Approximate area 200000 SqM) Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 6,48,410.00/- **Tender Document Cost:** ₹ 00.00/- **Earnest Money to be deposited:** ₹ 13,00,00/- **Date and time for submission of E-Tender:** Submission of E-Tender up to 14.08.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. **Website particular:** www.ireps.gov.in **Eligibility Criteria:** Not Applicable. **Note:** Earnest Money to be deposited online through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website only.

857-AR/24

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Railway Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15:30 hours on the date shown as below. **E-Tender Notice No.:** ENGG-JP-2024-25-61. **Name of Work with its Location:** JP-Division: Gradient verification of stations yards and sections using Lidar Survey technology. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 2,15,78,000.00/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,57,900.00/- **Detail is available on N.W.Rly website:** www.ireps.gov.in and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. **Tender No. ENGG-JP-2024-25-61** is to be closed on 13/08/2024 at 15:30 hrs and opened on 13/08/2024 at 16:00 hrs.

859-AR/24

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
ई-अति अत्यकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-निविदा सं० :-03/RE/2024-25/RWD/EE/HAZARIBAG दिनांक :- 22.07.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र. सं.	आइटेम विवरण संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	प्रकार	कार्य का नाम	प्राकृतिक राशि (हयरा में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	कोल
1	RWD/HAZS/TPKG/01/2024-25	बढ़कागों	सी०सी०एल० उरीमारी चेक पोस्ट से तिलैया तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-2.300 कि०मी०)	12,85,12,200/-	15 (पन्द्रह) माह	द्वितीय
		बढ़कागों	उरी मोड से मंडली उरी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-1.860 कि०मी०)			
		बढ़कागों	पुन्दील से मरदुसोली तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-2.020 कि०मी०)			
		बढ़कागों	टी०२ से सुकुल खपिया तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-2.800 कि०मी०)			
	केरवारी	पतरा से कण्डबेर तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य (लंबा-7.500 कि०मी०)				

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 29.07.2024
 3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 07.08.2024 अग्रघन 5.00 बजे तक।
 4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि, एवं समय :- 08.08.2024 अग्रघन 5.30 बजे।
 5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पर्यवेक्षक का पदनाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग।
 6. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० :- 06546-265286।
 विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग

PR 330485 Rural Work Department(24-25):D

झारखण्ड सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल विभाग
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट अत्यकालीन निविदा सूचना
PR.No. 293481 का चतुर्थ आमंत्रण
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या DWSD/Lohardaga/26/2022-23 दिनांक: 23.07.2024

1. कार्य का नाम - Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of Weir with allied works etc. all complete job for Arkoas and Adjoining villages Rural Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Lohardaga by turnkey basis."

2. प्राकृतिक राशि	1253.79 लाख रुपये
3. अग्रघन की राशि	12.54 लाख रुपये
4. परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य	0.10 लाख रुपये
5. कार्य पूरा करने की अवधि	09 months + 3 months (Trial and run for rectification of defects etc.)
6. वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	26.07.2024, 05.30 बजे अग्रघन से
7. प्रो बीड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं स्थान	दिनांक 03.08.2024, समय 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न में अभियंता प्रमुख, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग का कार्यालय, नेपाल हाउस, राँची
8. निविदा प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन विंडो) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	12.08.2024, 03.30 बजे अग्रघन तक
9. सरकार के संघ, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई-गवर्नेंस, झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, के द्वारा 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के आदेश में विवरण का मूल्य एवं अग्रघन की राशि Online जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	12.08.2024, 03.30 बजे अग्रघन तक
10. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	13.08.2024, 11:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से
11. तकनीकी बीड खोलने का स्थान	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा।
12. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पर्यवेक्षक का नाम/पदनाम एवं मोबाइल नं०	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा। मो० 8084794990
13. ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन नं०	8084794990

नोट- वैसे समवेदक जो पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित नहीं है, वे भी निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं, परन्तु कार्यपालक अभियंता के अतिरिक्त पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधन करवा लेना अनिवार्य होगा। ऐसी स्थिति में उन्हें विभागीय पत्रांक 678(CDO) दिनांक 20.10.2012 के अनुसार इस आदेश का साथ पत्र देना अनिवार्य होगा कि सत्यानुराग किसी भी थाने में उनके विरुद्ध कोई अपराधिक मामला दर्ज नहीं है और वे निविदा के अन्य सभी शर्तों को पूरा करते हैं। प्राकृतिक राशि घट या बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
 विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://jarkhandtenders.gov.in> से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
 पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा

PR.NO.330449 Water Resource(24-25):D

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR ALLOTMENT OF REMAINING RETAIL LIQUOR ZONES IN TEN (10) DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE EXCISE POLICY YEAR 2024-25.

1. It is notified for the information of general public that e-tenders for allotment of 13 retail liquor zones of country liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor vends (L-2/L-14A) in 10 districts in the State of Haryana are hereby invited for the excise policy year 2024-25. The district wise detail of zones available for e-bidding is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Zone Code
1.	Faridabad	ZFB073
2.	Gurugram (East)	ZGE008
3.	Hisar	ZHSR01
4.	Jhajjar	ZJHA22
5.	Kurukshetra	ZKKR01
6.	Narnaul	ZNNL19
7.	Panipat	ZPNP16
8.	Rewari	ZRWR31
9.	Rohtak	ZRTK05
10.	Sirsa	ZSR14

2. The schedule for submission of e-bids for these zones and evaluation thereof shall be as under:-

Starting date and time for placing e-tenders	From 25 th July, 2024 (9.00 AM)
Closing date and time for placing e-tenders	Till 25 th July, 2024 (04.00 PM)
Evaluation of e-tenders	25 th July, 2024 (5.00 PM)

3. The reserve price and quota of these 13 zones for the purpose of e-tendering has been decided as per the provisions of clause 2.16 and other relevant provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25.

The zone-wise detail of reserve price and quota of these 13 zones shall be displayed in the excise arrangement.

4. The e-tenders for these zones can be submitted online through the official website of the department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The remaining terms and conditions of e-tenders and allotment of zones shall be same, as informed vide the Public Notice, published in leading newspapers on 18th May, 2024, for inviting e-tenders for allotment of retail liquor zones of all districts in the State of Haryana. The copy of Public Notice dated 18th May, 2024 is also available on the official website of department i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in. The detailed procedure of registration for participation in the allotment process and submission of e-tenders is also available on the official website.

5. The excise arrangements of these zones containing number of vends, liquor quota, location of vends, command area as applicable and reserve price thereof, as well as the venue for evaluation of e-tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETCs (Excise) and DETCs (ST) of the districts concerned. These details shall also be available on the official website i.e. www.haryanatax.gov.in.

6. All allotment(s) and grant of licence(s) shall be subject to the provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914, the rules framed thereunder, orders/instructions issued by the competent authority and the Excise Policy for the year 2024-25. Any clarification regarding the procedure may be obtained from the office of DETCs (Excise) in any of the districts. The copy of Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2024-25 is available on official website of the department.

7. All allotments of licenses are subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Financial Commissioner). The ETC (FC) may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be, within 10 days of the date of allotment. In case no decision of Excise and Taxation Commissioner (FC) is conveyed within the stipulated period of ten days, the allotment shall be deemed to have been approved by the ETC(FC).

28127/HRY

Excise and Taxation Commissioner,
 Haryana.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER

CPM/GSU/NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work up to 15:00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No.:** CPM-GSU-AII-MD-VB-2024. **Name of work:** Construction of inspection pit line with catwalk, Covered Shed for pit line, Path way & other miscellaneous works in c/w Upgradation/ Development of maintenance infrastructure and maintenance facilities for Vande Bharat trains at Madar of Ajmer Division. **Approximate cost of work:** ₹ 10,51,75,062.48/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 6,75,900.00/- **Date & Time of closing E-Tender:** 20.08.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. **Date & Time of opening E-Tender:** 20.08.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. The details of above E-tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in 858-AR/24

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER

CPM/GSU/NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work up to 15:00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No.:** CPM-GSU-AII-MD-VB-02-2024. **Name of work:** Earth work in formation, extension of minor bridges, ballast supply, transportation of P-way material and linking of track in stabiling lines and pit line and other ancillary works in connection of up-gradation/ Development of maintenance infrastructure and maintenance facilities for Vande Bharat trains at Madar of Ajmer Division. **Approximate cost of work:** ₹ 3,42,60,915.26/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 3,21,300.00/- **Date & Time of closing E-Tender:** 20.08.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. **Date & Time of opening E-Tender:** 20.08.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. The details of above E-tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in 856-AR/24

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
SUPPLY OF STORE ITEMS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TENDERS
TENDER NOTICE No. S/52/NWR/II/2024/02 Date: 22.07.2024. Sr. DMM/NWR/AJMER acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-tender on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. The E-tenders will be closed on 06.08.2024 at 14.25 hrs. **Tender No.:** 52245259C. **Brief Description:** Supply, installation and Commissioning of IBR Steam Boiler, as per Annexure-A. Qty: 1 Nos. Unit: Nos. Due Date: 06.08.2024 at 14.25 hrs. **Note (1)** Interested tenderers may visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for Full details/ description/Specification/EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 25 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit www.ireps.gov.in 853-AR/24

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, इंडीयन रेलवे, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अंतर्गत निर्धारित प्रवर्गों में निविदा निम्न कार्य के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1) ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 2024-25: 92. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Improvement to staff quarters in RTGH-DNA section. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 2,00,52,930.95. बयाने की राशि: ₹ 2,50,300/-

2) ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 2024-25: 93. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Construction of Road under Bridge subway (2x4.0x2.75) in lieu of manded LC No. C-100 in Merta yard, & (1x6.00mx5.00) LC No. 1 (1 km 0/7-8 on MTD-MEC), LC No. 99 (km 520/1-2 on DNA-MTD) and LC No. 99A km 0/7-8 on MTD Bye Pass) (Total 04 no. RUB over Jodhpur division). अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 31,13,278.51. बयाने राशि: ₹ 17,06,600/-

3) ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 2024-25: 94. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Left over work of Provision of constructing Ino.225 KL & 2no. 110 KL capacity RCC over Head Tank and under ground Hauze at Nagaur, Merta Road /c with separate water supply network for sweet & salty water in the section of ADEN/Merta Road of Jodhpur Division, अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 1,06,36,052.27. बयाने की राशि: ₹ 2,03,200/-

4) ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 2024-25: 95. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Through ballast recoupment of 48.53 Km. between LN-SMR section under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/West/JU, अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 3,41,64,340.48. बयाने राशि: ₹ 3,20,800/-

निविदा सूचना संख्या 92 to 95 of 2024-25 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 07/08/2024, 09/08/2024 & 12/08/2024 को 15.00 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है- www.ireps.gov.in 852-AR/24

WESTERN RAILWAY-BHAVNAGAR DIVISION
INTERLOCKING & REPAIRING WORK

No. W/118/NIT/E-Tender/2024-25/WA/14 Date 17/07/2024; Divisional Railway, Bhavnagar para invites e-tenders for the following works: Tender Details are as under:- Sr. No. (1); E-Tender No: 79/2024-25; Name of Work: Bhavnagar Division: Supply installation, testing and commissioning of signaling gears in connection of (I) Dhasa - Rajula; Interlocking of LC gate No. 41. (ii) Dhasa - Rajula: Interlocking of LC gate No. 56; Tender Value: ₹ 9319728.44; EMD: ₹ 186400.00; Sr. No. (2); E-Tender No: 80/2024-25; Name of Work: LHS No. 44/B (Old LC No. 35); repairs to LHS for safe Traffic movement and to prevent seepage of water as recommended by IIT Gandhinagar; Tender Value: ₹ 862260.28; EMD: ₹ 17300.00; For above both tenders: Date of Bidding Start Date: 25/07/2024; Date of Bidding Closing: 08/08/2024; The NIT has been uploaded on Railway web site www.ireps.gov.in on 17/07/2024. 59

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer/C, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic-tenders for under noted work:-

Name of the Work Reconditioning of Wheel Burns/scabs and Reconditioning of cupped welded joints over Delhi Division under DEN/Track/DLI.

Approximate Cost of work ₹77.59.500/-

Earnest Money to be deposited ₹1.55.200/-

Completion Period 12 Months **Date of Opening** 13.08.2024

The e-tender is to be submitted through railway website <http://ireps.gov.in>. The tender can be submit on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 13.08.2024 and shall be opened there after.

No.: 128/W/SR/DEN-C/NIT-06/2024-25-WC Dated : 22.07.2024 2227/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice for E-TENDER

1. Name of the work with location: Rate contract of vendors (firms/distributors/chemist shops) in Local Purchase to supply of Medicines, Surgical items & Consumables, etc. at Northern Railway Divisional Hospital, Delhi as well as Health units of Delhi division (situated in Delhi NCR area, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh).

2. Approximate estimate cost : Rs. 29,00,

ROAD TO PARIS

The lonely grind of athletes and their journeys that defy all odds; breaking down intricate concepts and capturing the buzz on the ground, *The Indian Express* goes behind the scenes in the build-up to the Olympic Games

PARIS SNIPPETS

Pogacar withdraws due to fatigue

Paris: Three-time Tour de France winner **Tadej Pogacar** withdrew from the road race at the Paris Olympics late Monday, one day after becoming the first rider to win the Tour and the Giro d'Italia in the same season in nearly three decades. The Slovenian Olympic Team announced Pogacar had withdrawn from the Aug. 3 road race due to fatigue. His professional teammate, Domen Novak, will replace him rather than Primoz Roglic, the defending Olympic time trial gold medalist, who was left off the nation's provisional lineup and is likely still recovering from the crash that took him out of the Tour. **AP**



Rapper Snoop Dogg to carry torch

Paris: American rapper Snoop Dogg will be among the torchbearers carrying the Olympic flame in the final stretch before the opening ceremony of the Paris Games on Friday. Snoop Dogg, 52, will carry the torch through the streets of Saint-Denis, the underprivileged northern Paris suburb that is home to the Stade de France Olympic Stadium, the town's mayor Mathieu Hanotin said on social media platform X. "Saint Denis: last step before the Eiffel Tower. An international cast @SnoopDogg for the last stretch of the Olympic Flame," Hanotin wrote. The rapper, who is also contributing to *NBC Primetime's* coverage of Games, is better known in the sports world for his Snoop Youth Football League. The championship game is called the "Snooper Bowl". **REUTERS**

MEANWHILE...

Athletes test anti-sex beds, show they're sturdy

Paris: Olympic athletes, including British diver Tom Daley, have been putting the cardboard beds in the athletes' village in Paris to the test. The beds are part of France's efforts to make this year's Olympics more sustainable. The beds, that were unofficially labelled 'anti-sex' beds, were used at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics too, and questions were raised if they were sturdy enough. Four-time Olympic medal winner Daley sought to reassure his TikTok followers there was nothing to worry about. The 30-year-old athlete gave fans a sneak preview tour of the cardboard, mattress and mattress topper construction, before hopping up and down on the bed and saying: "As you can see, they're pretty sturdy!". Australian tennis players Daria Saville and Ellen Perez have put the beds to the test with a series of workout exercises. **AGENCIES**



Dhinidhi Desinghu made it in women's 200m freestyle for the Paris Olympics on a universality quota and will compete along with Indian swimming veteran Srihari Nataraj. *Special Arrangement*

DHINIDHI DESINGHU, 14 YEARS OLD

Making waves, having fun

India's youngest Olympian in Paris aims to improve her personal best at the Games, and meet some of her sporting idols

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
JULY 23

DHINIDHI DESINGHU had trouble speaking till she was about three years old. Even subsequently, she was shy and scared to approach others, preferring to keep to herself. That prompted her parents to involve her in a sport and swimming was an obvious choice as they had a pool right next to their home. Her parents just wanted Dhinidhi to make a few friends.

"But I didn't like the water, I didn't want to get in. I couldn't get my feet into the pool, I couldn't get my head inside. It was a struggle," Dhinidhi tells *The Indian Express*. "I was six back then. When I returned the next year, I was still too scared."

"In fact, before I learnt how to swim, my parents did so. They got into the pool to make me feel comfortable and that is how it all started."

Fast forward to 2024. Dhinidhi, all of 14, will be the youngest member of the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics. The teenager made it in women's 200m freestyle on a universality quota and will compete along with Indian swimming veteran Srihari Nataraj. A dream realised, much earlier than she had anticipated.

It wasn't easy though. Even after she got comfortable in water, Dhinidhi had trouble handling the pressure. Her mother Jesitha recounts an anecdote from when Dhinidhi was around eight year old. "I knew she had the talent. She does very well in the pool. But then at competitions, she felt the pressure. Either she would fall sick the previous day with a fever or she would vomit when she got to the pool for the event."

A state-level open meet in Mangalore was the turning point. Jesitha and Desinghu were starting to worry if they were putting their daughter under undue pressure, but decided to stick with it.

"I just decided to book a bus ticket. I too have motion sickness and we were continuously vomiting throughout. After reaching there, Dhinidhi said, 'no, I am scared. I don't want to swim'. But we had suffered so much to get there so I said we'll just go to see the pool and then return if she was not up for it. She walked around the pool, turned to me and said, 'I think I can do it'. She came up with the gold. That's it. Thereafter, she never had any fever or vomiting before a competition," Jesitha recalls.

Prodigious talent

As of now, Dhinidhi has the distinction of being the youngest female swimmer to win seven gold medals at the National Games. She already holds the national record in women's 200m freestyle, and has been to the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games.

Dhinidhi trains at Dolphin Aquatics in Bengaluru, which is headed by Dronacharya awardee Nihar Ameen, and is coached by Madhu Kumar. The youngster recalls not even understanding the basic terms of swimming when she joined the academy.

"I knew the strokes... backstroke, breaststroke, and (butter) fly. But that was all I knew. There were all these kids who were around 13. And then there was one like me, just nine years old. I was scared to ask for help. I didn't know what to do."

But Madhu recognised the talent she had once he saw her swim in Rajkot in 2019. And once she got past the initial hurdles, Dhinidhi

...at competitions, she felt the pressure. Either she would fall sick the previous day with a fever or she would vomit when she got to the pool for the event."

JESITHA,
DHINIDHI DESINGHU'S MOTHER



EARLY PROMISE

DHINIDHI DESINGHU
BORN: 17 MAY 2010, BENGALURU

EVENT IN PARIS:
Women's 200m freestyle

TRAINING CENTRE:
Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru

COACHES:
Nihar Ameen / Madhu Kumar

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:
■ 7 medals at 2023 National Games
■ Competed at Asian Games at 13
■ Youngest athlete at Paris 2024

BEST TIMINGS
(NATIONAL RECORDS)

Women's 100m freestyle
57.08s

Women's 200m freestyle
02:04.24s

proved to be a quick learner.

"Since she's been with us here at Dolphins, there's never a day when she hasn't worked hard," Madhu says. "There are times when we have to call her out of the pool, as we know she's struggling and don't

want to push her. But she'll be adamant. It's the passion she has for swimming. She is also ready to make every sacrifice for that. She knows she cannot hang out with friends, cannot go to birthday parties, but she knows what it takes."

At Paris, Dhinidhi is hoping that her experience of the Asian Games will help. She didn't have the best of swims there but there was a lot to learn. Hangzhou was overwhelming for her.

"I realized that whatever I see on the screen is nothing like real life. We enter the stadium and the aura is so different. Standing on those blocks compared to watching on TV is so different. It felt a little scary but it has really helped me. I learned how the other competitors swim over there, how they focus on their food and how the (Athletes) village feels like, the way the buses go back and forth all the time," she says. Dhinidhi also got the chance to meet Neeraj Chopra and get a picture with him during dinner.

Have a good time

Madhu, proud of Dhinidhi being an Olympian at 14, says all he wants from her is enjoying the occasion in Paris. "In 200m freestyle, her speed is really good in the first 50m but she can get better at finishing. If she can improve her third and fourth 50m segments, she can get a Personal Best. For Paris, that is our aim. If she can improve her PB, it will be good and then we have the next four years to prepare her for LA 2028," the coach says.

Having Srihari alongside will help too, as Dhinidhi idolises him. She recalls meeting him as a kid and preserving his autograph from a meet when he turned up as the chief guest.

While most athletes speak about following the process, just focusing on day-to-day routines, Dhinidhi jots down everything in black and white.

She has a diary where she writes about every workout session. In the back of that diary, she notes down the timings she wants to achieve, her best practice times, the national records and so on.

"I write all of it down so that in case I want to know what I have to aim for, I know how far I am. For me, setting goals is a little better because if I have something to work towards, it makes me realise why I am doing all this."

Apart from the diary, Dhinidhi also has a blog. She says writing about her experiences gives her an outlet, and it might one day help someone else overcome the issues she faced as a kid.

She is also hoping to meet some of the world's best sportspeople.

"I have made this little gift for Katie Ledecky... well, not a gift, more like a letter. I wrote her something actually last year and thought, 'okay, if I get a chance to go to Paris, I would give this to her'. I still have it. So I'll try to give it to her. And I am going to take a little book where I'll ask everybody for signatures and pictures," Dhinidhi says.

For a shy kid who once struggled to speak and hated getting into the pool, she has come a long way. So much so that she now enjoys racing in relays, being part of teams. Once she started enjoying the adrenaline rush that came with competing, Dhinidhi knew this was it for her. And her dream was always to go to the Olympics.

"But now that I'm here, I want to reach for higher stuff. I want to see how much better I can be."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Paris goes green with vegan-heavy menu, reduces meat, dairy items

ered, made from recycled and bio-based building material.

Paris has an ambitious plan for curbing its carbon footprint – they are estimating a carbon footprint of 1.58 million metric tons of CO₂, less than that of the Covid-hit Tokyo Olympics (1.96 million metric tons of CO₂). London 2012 had a CO₂ emission of 3.4 million metric tons.

Building new venues is what drastically increases emissions. The organisers also convinced four contingents (the Netherlands, Britain, Belgium and Switzerland) to travel via train to Paris and is requesting visitors from the continent to do the same. There is a robust public transport system and bicycles are available for local travel. But the biggest change is the reduction in animal protein intake.

But why food? And particularly, why animal protein?

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, livestock farming – the act of growing cattle for food – contributes to 15 percent of global greenhouse



Team Ireland athletes at a food kiosk at the Olympic Village in Paris. *Reuters*

emissions and essentially puts animal protein in the same bracket as the transport industry. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2024 says that when a large group of

people eat plant-based meals, employ sustainable public transport for travel and make environment-friendly choices, it forces businesses to cater to changing trends.

According to estimates, the Olympic Games Village will prepare 13 million meals and snacks. The International Olympic Committee says 60 percent of them will be plant-based options. The target is 1 kilogram of CO₂ per meal – half of the norm at previous Olympic Games.

It aims to meet that target by including more fruits and vegetables while also using seasonal and local produce (in order to stop excessive transport of food, France intends to source 80 percent of ingredients from within the country).

Meat-based diet

On a day-to-day basis, veganism isn't the predominant food choice in France. The global average meat consumption is estimated to be 28.1 kg per capita annually. In France, that number shoots up to 83.5 kg.

Changing food habits has been tough. Until 2022, the country had one Michelin star restaurant that was vegan – it shut down

within a year. One way in which the Paris Olympics has tried to tackle this issue is by finalising a menu based on four geographical regions (France, Asia, African-Caribbean, World), with 40 different meals on offer every day.

Some of those meal options are 'Veggie Bourguignon', 'Cauliflower and baked potato with turmeric' (a possible French variant of the humble Aloo gobi), 'Bell pepper, onion, tomato and pepper stir fry' and 'Veggie Moussaka'.

At La Concorde, where the 3x3 Basketball, Breaking, BMX Freestyle and Skateboarding events are set to take place, all food provided will be vegetarian. "We wanted to focus on vegetarian options," said Philipp Würz, who is responsible for food & beverages at Paris 2024. "60 percent of the recipes for the general public will be vegetarian. We are convinced that with these Games, we have a unique opportunity to do things differently and show that another model is possible."

INDIA'S BEST ARRIVE IN PARIS



Shafali shines on a night of experiments for India

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
JULY 23

ON A NIGHT of few experiments, India were still too good for Nepal as they finished the group stage of Women's Asia Cup with a perfect record. Opting to bat first, and employing a changed batting line-up, India posted 178/3, led by Shafali Verma's T20I best score of 81. Nepal managed to play out the 20 overs in the run-chase, finishing on 96/9.

The first of many changes for India was Smriti Mandhana walking out for the toss. Harmanpreet Kaur, who didn't field for a half of India's defence against UAE but insisted she is fine after the match, was evidently rested. Her Mumbai Indians teammate Sajana Sajeevan got a game, as did Arundhati Reddy, who replaced Pooja Vastrakar, who has been playing non-stop in recent weeks.

Another experiment came right away after Mandhana won the toss, as she didn't walk out for the rest of the Indian innings. It was Hemalatha Dayalan who got the nod to open the batting, alongside Shafali. The jury will be out on whether the experiment worked. On the one hand, Hemalatha got some time out in the middle, staying till the 14th over. It wasn't always the easiest pitch to bat on, the weariness resulting in slowness and lowness.

But, having said that, a 42-ball innings that resulted in 47 runs doesn't do her a lot of good, especially if India continue to bat her at No 3 against tougher opponents. She had shown sparks of good intent recently against Bangladesh. But presuming Yastika Bhatia returns to the scheme of things at some point, and the value Jemimah Rodrigues could bring in at one-down, the pressure is bound to remain on Hemalatha.

There were no such worries for Shafali though, who breezed to yet another career-best knock in quick time. Not long after her double century in the Test against South Africa in Chennai, Shafali employed much of the same tactics to punish the Nepal bowlers. She avoided going for cross-batted shots, targeted mainly the 'V' region from extra-cover to mid-wicket, and used the forearm power to good effect. Nepal's poor catching did help her along the way, but to Shafali's credit, she is starting to show the application to play longer knocks and that augurs well for India.

"I tried to back my strengths and I was able to execute it, so that was nice," Shafali, the player of the match, said. "Yes, the consistency

Murray says Paris Oly will be final career event

REUTERS
PARIS, JULY 23

BRITON ANDY Murray, the first male tennis player to claim two Olympic singles gold medals, said on Tuesday that he will play the final event of his glittering career at the Paris Games before heading into retirement.

Murray, widely regarded as one of Britain's all-time great sportsmen, won gold in London 2012 beating Roger Federer in the final and successfully defended his title in Rio

four years later defeating Juan Martin del Potro. The 37-year-old, who in 2013 ended a 77-year wait for a British men's singles champion at Wimbledon and won the trophy again in 2016, had previously said that he was unlikely to continue his career beyond this year.

"Arrived in Paris for my last ever tennis tournament @Olympics," Murray said on social media, alongside a picture of himself on the Rio podium.

"Competing for Britain has been by far the most memorable weeks of my career and I'm extremely proud to get to do it one final time." Murray, who was knighted in 2017 for his services to tennis and charity, was hailed by International Tennis Federation chief Dave Haggerty for his contributions.

"Sir Andy has lived and breathed the values of tennis throughout his long career, championing equality and helping to send the message that our sport is for everyone," Haggerty said.

"We will of course remember his two Olympic golds; his Grand Slam wins and his never-say-die attitude on the court. We will also remember his Davis Cup victory with Great Britain in 2015, helping his team to the title for the first time since 1936.

"While this wonderful chapter of his career is now drawing to a close, we know that Sir Andy's love of tennis will see him continue to be involved in helping to grow and develop our sport globally."

The injury-plagued Murray received a star-studded, emotional farewell earlier this month at Wimbledon, the venue where he won two of his three major titles, following a first-round doubles defeat partnering his brother Jamie.



Shafali Verma scored 81 in India's win over Nepal on Tuesday. ACC

is coming in but I still would like to finish my innings better. Of course, the 200 in the Test gave me a lot of confidence. It is a big achievement for a batter, and it gave me a lot of confidence that I hope to take forward."

Rodrigues gave India a little bit of push in the end to take them close to 180 even though it felt at half-way stage that Nepal had done well to prevent the tournament favourites from reaching 200 in back-to-back matches. But the target was always going to be tough for an inexperienced Nepal side, with Deepti Sharma once again leading the way for India. The off-spinner added a three-fer to her name to go along with a direct hit for run out. Arundhati too bowled impressive line and lengths to pick up a couple of wickets and keep her name in the mix for a more consistent spot in the first XI.

"Really happy with the way Shafali batted," Mandhana said after the match. "We finished off really well. Not a lot of pre-decision (in making the changes). The wind is different to what we have back home, so we just want the middle-order to get some time in the middle."

India's semifinal opponents are yet to be officially confirmed but having topped the group comfortably, they are likely to face Bangladesh, barring any major upset on Wednesday. Pakistan, who have found some momentum after a heavy defeat against India, have finished second in the group and will likely take on Sri Lanka in the other semifinals.

BRIEF SCORES: India 178 for 3 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 81; Sita Rana Magar 2/25) defeated Nepal 96 for 9 in 20 overs (Sita Rana Magar 18; Deepti Sharma 3/13).

SREEJESH'S LAST DANCE

PR Sreejesh, who has announced that he was retiring after the Paris Olympics, posed with his latest jersey as well as his first-ever jersey from 2000 at the Olympic Village.

Earlier in a thread on X, Sreejesh wrote about how he started his hockey journey at GV Raja Sports School, went to Australia for the first time, and how the London Olympics was a learning experience.

Sreejesh is India's former captain, an integral part of the country's Tokyo bronze medal conquest and was also part of two Asian Games gold medal-winning campaigns, among other accolades.



BADMINTON STAR Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) with Rafael Nadal at the Olympic Games Village in Paris on Tuesday.



VISHNU SARAVANAN will participate in his second Olympics at Paris after debuting at the Tokyo Games.



NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI

An Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Education
Department of School Education & Literacy, Government of India

Admission Notification to Class VI in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (2025-26)

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JASPRIT BUMRAH

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