



BRIEF



Artists perform at a cultural programme for delegates participating in the G20 Education working Group Meeting 2023, in Mamallapuram, Thursday.

Adjourned

■ **New Delhi:** The Opposition on Thursday forced adjournment of proceedings of the Rajya Sabha for the day soon after it reconvened for the afternoon session as the parties sought a debate on allegations of fraud against the Adani Group. Soon after the afternoon session resumed, opposition members continued their demand and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced adjournment of the proceedings of the Upper House for the day.

Bail

■ **New Delhi:** A Delhi court Thursday granted bail to a man, arrested for allegedly fleeing from a five-star hotel here without paying a bill of over Rs 23 lakh, noting that he has already settled the outstanding dues. Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala said accused Mahamed Sharif, who had stayed in The Leela Palace for about four months by posing as a functionary of the UAE government, noting that he was not required for further custody.

Solo

■ **Agartala:** The opposition Tipra Motha on Thursday said it will contest the assembly elections in Tripura without any alliance. Tipra Motha president Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawli told PTI that the party is confident of winning the February 16 election on its own. "We are going to fight the elections without any alliance, and on the demand of Greater Tipraland for the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of the people. We are confident of winning the elections," he said.

No decision

■ **New Delhi:** There has been no decision "as of now" on the implementation of a uniform civil code in the country, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government had requested the 21st Law Commission to undertake examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendations. "The term of the 21st Law Commission ended on August 31, 2018.

Weather	
	High 29 Low 11
MARKET	
NIFTY	17,610.40 ▼
SENSEX	59,932.24 ▲
BULLION	
GOLD	58,400
SILVER	71,721

ADJOURNMENTS IN LS, RS

Oppn parties seek Parl debate, JPC on Adani stock rout

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI)

Opposition parties Thursday sought a debate in Parliament and a probe by a joint committee into the fraud-allegation-triggered rout in Adani group company stocks, forcing adjournment of proceedings in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the pre-lunch session.

The Congress, Shiv Sena, the Left, Aam Aadmi Party and other opposition parties tried to raise in both Houses of Parliament the issue of allegations levelled by a US short seller against the Adani group and the subsequent mayhem on company stocks but were disallowed by the chair. Unhappy with the ruling, they raised slogans, forcing the adjournment of proceedings till 2 pm without

transacting any official business. The rout in Adani group stocks has threatened the value of investments made by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and public sector banks. Adani group stocks, where LIC is heavily invested, have lost over USD 100 billion in value since a tiny New York short seller came out with a damning report alleging financial and accounting fraud by the ports-to-energy conglomerate. The Adani group has denied all charges and called the report malicious and full of lies. In the Lok Sabha, MPs from almost all opposition parties rushed to the Well of the House raising slogans and sought a probe into the business practices of the corporate giant. Speaker Om Birla asked members not to

make unsubstantiated claims and said Question Hour was an important part of Parliamentary proceedings which should not be disrupted. As the slogan shouting continued, the Speaker adjourned the Lower House proceedings till 2 pm.

Nine MPs, including Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi and Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, gave notices in the Rajya Sabha under rule 267. They sought the suspension of regular business to discuss the Adani group stock rout and its impact on millions of small investors as well as the hard-earned savings of crores of Indians being endangered in loss of value of

investments of LIC.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected all the notices, saying they were not in order. This infuriated the opposition MPs who rose in their places to protest.

Dhankhar called for order in the House but the MPs continued to raise their demands, which also included the constitution of a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the entire fiasco.

With the MPs not relenting, he adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. No business was transacted.

Outside the House, Kharge said the opposition parties want day-to-day reporting of the Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) or the SC-monitored probe into the issue which concerns public money.

MAJOR MISHAP AVERTED

Five bogies of Satyagrah Express detach from engine

Muzaffarpur, Feb 02:

Five bogies of the Satyagraha Express train detached from the engine near Majhulia station in Bihar's Bettiah. The incident took place at the Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj railway section and triggered panic among passengers. East Central Railway officials immediately rushed to the spot and reattached the bogies to the train running from Bihar's Raxaul district to New Delhi. No passenger reported any injuries. East Central Railway officials have launched a probe into this matter. Reportedly, due to the malfunction of the coupling, which is used to connect two bogies together, the bogies separated from the engine.



Goods train derails, rail traffic hit

Koraput: A goods train derailed near Sivalingapuram Yard in Odisha-Andhra border area on Thursday, disrupting rail traffic and cancellation of a train on the route. There was no report of anyone getting hurt after eight loaded trains of the goods train from Bacheli towards Visakhapatnam derailed near Sivalingapuram Yard before Tunnel-7 in Sivalingapuram-Boddavara section, sources said.

Nagpur, Feb 02:

In a major electoral setback for the BJP in one of its most significant bastions, the candidate for the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition on Thursday defeated the party's contender in polls to a Maharashtra Legislative Council seat in Nagpur. Contestant Sudhakar Adbale, supported by the MVA, won the Nagpur teachers constituency defeating his closest rival Nagorao Ganar, a BJP-backed independent and the sitting MLC from the seat.

What makes the results a huge blow for the BJP is that the constituency houses the headquarters

BJP wins Konkarn seat

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Dnyaneshwar Mhatre won polls to the Konkarn division teachers constituency of the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Thursday. Returning officer and divisional commissioner Mahendra Kalyankar, who announced the results of the Konkarn teachers constituency after counting of votes in Navi Mumbai, said Mhatre polled 20,683 votes, while Patil bagged 10,997. Although there were eight candidates in the fray, the main contest was between Mhatre and Patil.

of its ideological parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and is the home turf of prominent leaders like Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

Rare rocks for Lord Ram idol reach Ayodhya

■ From Nepal

Ayodhya (UP), Feb 02 (PTI):

Special rocks from which the idol of Lord Ram will be carved out and placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Temple has arrived from Nepal, a senior functionary of the temple trust here said.

The rocks or 'shilas' arrived here late on Wednesday night.

Special prayers were held on Thursday afternoon following which the rocks were presented to the Shri Ram Janambhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Fifty-one vedic teachers also worshipped the rocks, officials said. Mahant Tapeshwar Das of the Janaki Mandir in Nepal presented these rocks to Champat Rai, general secretary of Ram Temple



Priests perform rituals near Shaligram (non-anthropomorphic representations of Lord Vishnu in Hindu religion) stones dispatched from Nepal, upon their arrival in Ayodhya, Thursday.

Trust, they said. The idol of Lord Ram's 'baalroop' (child form) carved out of these stones will be placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple which is expected to be ready by January next year. Vishwa Hindu Parishad's national secretary Rajendra Singh Pankaj had started from Mustang district of Nepal

on January 25 with the consignment of the two sacred rocks.

These rocks, that are 60 million-years-old, reached Ayodhya from Nepal on two different trucks. One rock weighs 26 tonnes and the other weighs 14 tonnes, Prakash Gupta, office in-charge of temple trust had earlier said.

HUMANITY AFTER DEATH

Man donates organs, saves four lives

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI):

The family of a 50-year-old man who was declared brain dead at AIIMS here, donated his organs, offering fresh lease of life to four patients.

According to an official statement, Bijender Sharma's organs were donated to recipients through the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

Sharma's heart was transplanted in a patient at Fortis Escorts while his liver was transplanted at the ILBS Hospital. His kidneys were transplanted in two patients in AIIMS, Delhi, and the Army Hospital (Research And

Referral), the statement said.

His corneas have been banked at the National Eye Bank in AIIMS, it said.

Sharma, a furniture designer was on his way back home from work on January 30 when he met with a road traffic accident in Faridabad, the statement from AIIMS said, adding that he was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Sharma's son tried reaching him over phone when he was being unusually late to reach home. He was shocked when, instead of his father, a stranger picked his call and informed him about the accident, it said.

MARCH TOWARDS SELF-RELIANT

Grant for IIMs reduced by half

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI):

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which are counted among the noted business schools in the country, have faced a budget cut this year with the Centre reducing their grant by half.

The top institutes, however, believe that the move might hurt new IIMs but not the second or first generation IIMs.

There are 20 IIMs across the country.

In the budget for 2023-24 announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, the funding for IIMs has been brought down to Rs

What top B schools say...

The top institutes, however, believe that the move might hurt new IIMs but not the second or first generation IIMs. However, through this cut, the government perhaps is sending signals to the leadership of individual IIMs to be more innovative in funding their growth plans like promoting use of PPP model and also to the industry to support academic institutions of national importance through CSR initiatives and other donations," IIM Udaipur Director Ashok Banerjee said.

300 crore from the previous fiscal year's Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs 608.23

28 MONTHS, AFTER LONG FIGHT

Journalist Kappan walks out of jail

■ On bail

Lucknow, Feb 02 (PTI)

Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan walked out of jail on Thursday, a day after the sureties required for his bail were submitted in court.

Two sureties of Rs 1 lakh each were submitted on Wednesday in the special PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court here.

Kappan was released from jail around 9.15 am, Jailor of Lucknow District Jail Rajendra Singh told PTI.

"I struggled," Kappan said minutes after he walked out to camera



Journalist Siddique Kappan poses for photos following his release from the Lucknow District Jail, in Lucknow, Thursday.

crews, a small curious crowd -- and to his wife and teen son, waiting patiently, just as they had for the more than two years since he was imprisoned on his way to Hathras. "It has been 28 months. I am out after a lot of fight. I am happy,"

he said. Speaking to PTI, the journalist added, "I am coming to Delhi. I have to stay there for six weeks."

Asked about the purpose of his visit to Hathras, Kappan told the assembled reporters that he had gone there for "reporting". About those who had accompanied him, he said they were students. Kappan and three others were arrested in October 2020 while they were going to the Uttar Pradesh town where a Dalit woman died allegedly after being raped. They were accused of trying to instigate violence over the death of the Hathras woman.

SAND ART WITH A DIFFERENCE



Sand artist Ajay Rawat creates a sand art for the upcoming Jaisalmer Desert Festival 2023, in Pushkar, Thursday.

BAGHEL QUESTIONS NPS INVESTMENT

Is money deposited in NPS scheme invested in Adani group ?

Raipur, Feb 02:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday claimed that state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India continued to invest in the Adani group despite the shares of its companies crashed after short seller Hindenburg alleged financial irregularities by the conglomerate.

Talking to reporters here he wondered if money deposited by government employees in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) was also invested in the Gautam Adani group.



Asked about a report by Hindenburg Research, Baghel said, "When we used to speak against the BJP, we were dubbed as anti-Hindu and when against the Prime Minister and home minister, we were described as anti-national. Now the comments have come (from

Adani group) that they (Hindenburg) are Bharat Virodhi (anti-India). They (Adani group) are saying it is an attack on Bharat and not on Adani. Who is Bharat? Is Adani ji Bharat?"

Adani group stocks, where LIC is invested, have lost over \$100 billion in value since the New York-based Hindenburg came out with a damning report alleging financial and accounting fraud by the ports-to-energy conglomerate. The Adani group has denied all charges and called the report malicious, full of lies and a "calculated attack" on India.

RELIEF TO CANDIDATES

SC rejects plea seeking one candidate, one seat

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea seeking to bar persons from contesting elections from more than one seat, saying it is ultimately the Parliament's will as to whether the political democracy in the country is furthered by granting a choice. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud observed that candidates may contest polls from more than one constituency due to a variety of reasons. The bench, also comprising justices PS Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, was dealing with a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who had sought to declare as invalid and ultra vires to the Constitution section 33(7) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which allows a person to contest a general election or a group of bypolls or biennial elections from two constituencies.

शान्ति मिलन



जन्म 03.06.1982

निर्वाण 28.01.2023

स्व. मनीष शर्मा

(डायरेक्टर - सन् एंड सन् ज्वेलर्स)

नियति कई बार परीक्षा लेती है, तब कई बार कठिन प्रश्न पैदा होते हैं, मन निराशा से भी भर जाता है, तब परिवार और स्नेहीजनों के साथ से जीवन को फिर से रफ्तार पकड़नी ही पड़ती है। मनीष का यूँ 40 वर्ष की उम्र में चला जाना हम सबको निःशब्द और स्तब्ध छोड़ गया है, पर हम सबको उसकी चिर-परिचित मुस्कान, संयमित जीवन शैली, आकर्षक व्यक्तित्व, पारिवारिक प्रतिबद्धता और विदुषी और जिवांशी में उसकी प्रतिमूर्ति को अपना साथ बना कर उसकी स्मृति को चिरस्थायी बनाना है। ईश्वर अपने श्री चरणों में उसे शाश्वत स्थान दें!

कार्यक्रम- शान्ति मिलन

दिनांक : 03.02.2023 (शुक्रवार), समय : शाम 4 बजे से 5 बजे तक

स्थान : पुजारी पार्क "मानस भवन" पचपेढ़ी नाका रोड, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

शोकाकुल

कैलाश चंद्र शर्मा (दादाजी), राजेन्द्र शर्मा (पिताजी)

मनोज शर्मा, संजय शर्मा, दिनेश शर्मा, महेश शर्मा, सुनील शर्मा, श्याम शर्मा (चाचाजी)

एवं समस्त शर्मा परिवार (सन् एंड सन् ग्रुप, रायपुर)

विशेष अनुरोध : आज का यह कार्यक्रम अंतिम सामाजिक शोक मिलन कार्यक्रम है। इसके उपरांत शोक सम्बन्धी कोई बैठक नहीं होगी।

: संबंधित प्रतिष्ठान :

- सन् एंड सन् ज्वेलर्स • शर्मा इण्डस्ट्रीज • श्री शर्मा आयुर्वेदिक फार्मसी
- संदीप कोल्ड स्टोरेज • सन् एंड सन् इन्फ्रामेट्रिक प्रा.लि. • सन् एंड सन् कोल्ड एंड ट्रेड प्रा. लि.

Central and state govts will make joint efforts to save the cultural heritage of state

MoU signed between the CGDA & IGNC in presence of Minister Amarjeet Bhagat

Raipur, Feb 02:

The Central and State Governments will collaborate to save, maintain, and promote Chhattisgarh's cultural and historical heritage. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today in the presence of Minister Amarjeet Bhagat between the Directorate of Archaeology, Abhilekhaghar (Archive) and Museums, Raipur and the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

According to the terms of the agreement, in Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum on the rock art of Chhattisgarh, as well as the rock art of the world and India, has been set up separately in



Raipur by the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts in order to familiarize local students, tourists, researchers, and the general public with the real aspects of their ancient culture.

In addition, both institutions will be helpful in various academic programs-projects such as research training, a compilation of

digital resources, surveys, archiving, and conservation-preservation of state-protected rock shelters. Meanwhile, Expressing satisfaction over this arrangement, Culture Minister Bhagat stated that 'this MoU is significant in the direction of conservation and promotion of Chhattisgarh's heritage and culture. The cul-

ture department is dedicated to maintaining Chhattisgarh's cultural and archaeological significance. The central representatives were greeted with 'Rajkiya gamchha' by the Culture Department. On this occasion, Director of Culture and Archeology Department Vivek Acharya, Deputy Director Dr. P.C. Parakh, Excavation Assistant Mr. Praveen Tirkey, Dr. Rajeev Minj and Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (I.G.N.C.A.) From New Delhi, Head of the Department of Rock Art Dr. Ramakar Pant, Assistant Professor Dr. Dilip Sant, Project Assistant Mr. Zakir Khan, and Project Associate Mr. Praveen C.K. were present.

RMC evicts carts, kiosks from Telibandha Marine Drive



Raipur, Feb 02:

Taking a major action against hawkers, the Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) removed carts and kiosks from Telibandha Marine Drive - the most crowded part of Raipur on Thursday morning. Bulldozers were pressed in action to remove the carts.

RMC officers arrived with the entire team in the morning and did the work of evicting the carts and kiosks. Hawkers were also seen arguing with the RMC staff who reached the area in the morning, but kiosks were removed within a few hours. The said area remains abuzz with activities with visit of about five thousand people

Action taken due to traffic jam

in evening. Considering traffic jam caused due to crowd, the RMC decided to remove Chowpatty from the area. RMC staff had tried to remove carts and kiosks two months back but they had to stop action after facing wrath of the hawkers. The action caused resentment among the hawkers. They said that they were evicted in a one sided action without proper rehabilitation. More than 40 carts were seized. Meanwhile the corporator of Telibandha area Ajit Kukreja said that the next project of RMC includes proposal of allotment of space to hawkers for 'chowpatty' on the portion of road under expressway just before Telibandha Police Station.

One nabbed with 10 bottles of banned cough syrup



Raipur, Feb 02:

The Police has nabbed one Chandan Kumar Mandal with banned cough syrups and psychotropic drugs. Amanaka Thana got tip from an informer that a person standing near Gate No. 4 of AIIMS is waiting to sell banned cough

syrups. On this Addl. SP (W) Dev Charan Patel and City (SP) Mayak Gurjar directed TI Amanaka Thana to nab the accused red handed.

On this the Amanaka Thana police went to the site and nabbed the accused with banned cough syrup. On conducted search, they found Codistar cough syrup (with combination of Codin Phosphate and Chlorofeniramin Millet syrup) in a bag. Failing to produce any valid documents related to syrup, the accused Chandan Kumar was nabbed and 10 bottles of this banned syrup were seized. A case under section 21 (B) of Narcotics Act was filed against him. The accused is resident of H.No.213 of RDA Colony, Heerapur, Kabir Nagar Thana.

DUSTY ROADS



Two-wheeler riders are facing problems in almost all the main roads of capital city left without tarring after the digging work for laying of cables.

BJP Minorities hold Cong responsible for the miserable condition of minorities



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 02: National President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minorities Morcha Jamal Siddaqui on Thursday held the Congress responsible for the reported miserable condition of the Minorities in the country.

Addressing a press conference at party office situated at Ekatma Parishar after attending the National Executive Body meeting of the frontal organisation, the National

head Siddaqui said that the Minorities Morcha is trying to associate the exploited and deprived minorities by informing them about the reality of political parties and added that the Narendra Modi-led BJP is focusing on development of the nation.

He said that Global leaders would be aware with the Indian Culture during the G-20 meeting and extended gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for organising it in 56 cities across India. He

also claimed the Osaduddin Owashi to be second variant of Jinna and alleged that he is using sentiments of the people for his political gains which in the process is breaking the Unity and Integrity of the Nation.

Replying to a question, he said that the previous governments have been treating the Minorities as political vote bank whereas the Modi government is proving new opportunities to them for growth and progress.

Drugs department conducts raids in shops



On complaint of mixing Allopathic chemicals in Ayurvedic medicines

Raipur, Feb 02: The Drugs Department of state capital conducted raid in Gitanjali Nagar, Birgaon, Shankar Nagar and other areas of city here on Thursday. In Gitanjali Nagar, the raid was conducted at Bajrang

Aushadhi Bhandar and here hundreds of cartons were seized. Its samples were taken and sent to lab for checking. It is worthwhile to mention here that it was based upon complaint of mixing of allopathy chemicals in the Ayurvedic medicines that this raid was conducted. During this a total of four teams of the Drug department conducted raids at many places in city and conducted search.

Three-day Vikram Sarabhai Space exhibition inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 02: School Education Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh Tekam on Thursday inaugurated the three-day Vikram Sarabhai Space Exhibition being organized at NH Goel World School, under the aegis of ISRO, Ahmadabad.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Dr Tekam requested the ISRO scientists to start a center in Chhattisgarh also so that the students can get guidance in this field.

He also launched an e-book published by ISRO on the occasion.

In his speech, the Guest of Honour, Rajesh Singh



Rana, IAS (Director SCERT), urged the students to benefit from such exhibitions and develop love for the subject so that our nation is never bereft of scientists. The Director, IISRO, Nilesh M Desai in his online address briefed the audience about ISRO. He told the audience that the organization which was established in the year 1972 has been tirelessly working towards

making India a super power. It has many satellites and rocket launch to its credit.

The eminent luminaries decorating the exhibition include NJ Bhatt along with his team members Ms Rachna Patnaik, Paresh Sarvaiya, Dr SP Vyas, Jagdev Thakor, Bhavesh Solanki, NirajKumar, JitendraBhai Nadav. During the inaugural ceremony, the students

sang peans in praise of science which helps in maintaining world peace and order. The Vice Principal of the school, Dr Awinash Pandey expressed his gratitude to the ISRO and the scientists to have consented to organize the science fair in the school premises.

NJ Bhatt, senior scientist, VSSE SAC, Ahmadabad appreciated the efforts of the students, staff and management for organizing the exhibition. After the ceremonial formalities the exhibition was declared open. The major attractions of the fair are different kinds of science activities, conversation with the scientists and mobile exhibition.

The students will be explaining the process of rocket launch which works on the Newton's Third law of Motion.

State service preliminary exam on Feb 12

Raipur, Feb 02: The State Service Preliminary Examination-2022 organized by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission will be conducted in two shifts on February 12 from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3 pm to 5 pm in the (57) examination centers determined by the commission. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure has appointed transport officer and flying squad in-charge for the examination centers for the smooth conduct of the examination. Observers will conduct continuous inspection to prevent unethical activities in the allotted examination centers during the examination. During the examination, it will be mandatory for all the examinees and officers-employees to follow social distancing, sanitization, wearing masks and all other guidelines as per the guidelines of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I-talk on Intellectual Property Rights held



Raipur, Feb 02: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Innovation Cell organized an I-talk about "Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Its Relevance for Faculties & Students of Institutes/Startups" on Thursday. The I-talk was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Saurabh Gupta, Faculty In-charge, Innovation Cell. Meghdut Bhattacharya, IPR Attorney, and Startup Advocate was the event's guest speaker. Bhattacharya opened the event by encouraging the students to propose business ideas and explained how innovations can be protected through I.P.R. He compared IPR to moats and talked about its importance in start-ups. He discussed different types of IPR such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, their applications, and the duration till which they last. He stated that business concepts cannot be protected but the busi-

ness processes can be secured through IPR.

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OBITUARY Rama Vasudeva



Raipur: Rama Vasudeva R/o Vivekanand Nagar, breathed her last here on Thursday. She was W/o Late Shri Dharamvir Vasudeva and mother of Gaurav Vasudeva. The final journey will leave from her residence on Jan 3 to Marwari crematorium at 12:00 noon.

Fifty one medical students become first time blood donors

'Tum Mujhe Khoon Do Abhiyan'

Raipur, Feb 02:

The Department of Pathology of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur has launched a drive "Tum Mujhe Khoon Do Abhiyan" with the aim of providing scientific information related to blood donation to college students, removing related doubts and misconceptions and motivating them to donate blood. To this end

on January 09, the college's M, Dr Arvind Neral organised a lecture session for MBBS First Year students of the college on January 9. As many as 51 students including 17 girls donated blood for the first time in their life at special blood donation camp or-



ganised on the occasion. The special blood donation camp was organised at blood donation mobile vehicle in the college campus only for the MBBS First Year students.

Fifty one students aged 19 to 22 years had a pleasant experience of donating blood for the first time.

The feelings of happiness, and satisfaction of giving their valuable contribution in a noble social cause were clearly visible on the faces of these young blood donors. Dr Arvind Neral congratulated them on becoming the first blood donors and advised them to become a "regular blood

Sitaraman's budget a boon for middle class with IT slab reduction

The union budget 2022-23 presented by Union Finance Minister Sitaraman has been well received from all sectors except for few sparks. Though the agriculture, health and education sector has been given a boost but all other issues related to it has not been addressed. The Union Budget 2023 has evoked mixed reactions among the middle class with IT slab reduction. Meanwhile, the business community has termed in as the budget which will be favourable for the growth of trade and industries. The reduction in income tax slab will be a boon for middle class.

Welfare and Growth oriented holistic budget



The Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is far-sighted, balanced development and growth oriented holistic budget. The budget will ensure that India continues to be a shining star of the world economy. The Budget laid down concrete policies to address the issues of unemployment, inflation and slowdown in economic growth. As far as unemployment is concerned, this Budget will encourage the creation of jobs. We are making huge investments from Rs 7.5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore. It is encouraging the cooperative sector as well as MSMEs. The Budget has taken care of every section of the society. The Budget indicates that the "economic structure" of the country remains "strong and stable", while giving relaxation to those who need it. The Finance minister has remained very liberal for allotting the funds probability next Lok Sabha election was in her mind. The finance minister is to be appreciated for preparation of this growth oriented holistic budget.

Dr. Hanumant Yadav,
Economist

Budget that will shape a new India: Malu



Reacting to the general budget presented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, Harakh Malu, former president of Raipur Sarafa Association, said that due to the indigenous production of LGD (Laboratory Created Diamonds) sheads and machines, one more step will be taken towards this and this entire budget is going to build a new India. The announcement made by the Union Minister will greatly benefit the local businessmen as well as the traders. Now the bullion traders will not be dependent on foreign countries because due to the production of lab-made diamonds, the bullion traders will get relief from the import duty. Union Minister Sitharaman expressed gratitude to Harakh Malu, former President of Raipur Sarafa Association, for fulfilling the demand of increasing the exemption limit of income tax which was earlier Rs. The number will increase as well as the income of the central government will also increase. He said that by increasing the limit of income tax exemption, the common businessman will be benefited, just as earlier he used to get 187500 tax when he earned 1000000, now he will have to pay only 10 percent income tax after increasing the limit of income tax.

Harakh Malu,
Former President, Raipur Sarafa Association

Good budget with emphasis on agriculture, youth and health



The budget 2023 takes an integrated approach to modernise education through technology and upskill youth and make them ready for jobs through futuristic skills like coding, AI, IOT and Mechatronics as well as development of soft skills. The budget also makes clear the aim of National Education Policy for skilling and job creation, setting up of 30 skill India centres across. The setting up of 740 Eklavya Model Schools for 3.5 lakh students. The National Apprenticeship Scheme and the provision of stipend to 47 lakh youth in the next three years. All these are steps that are welcome and if implemented properly will equip India and it's youth to take the country forward. Exemptions to startups are also welcome.

Dr. Jawahar Suriseti,
Educationist

A populist budget by Modi Govt



The Modi Government's last full budget has been populist in all aspects as it will help boost Auto Sales all around. While the capital outlay of Rs 10 Lakh Cr in infra spending will definitely aid CV sales, the aim to scrap all old government vehicles by aiding State Governments will boost all segment sales. Apart from this, the reduction in individual tax slabs will benefit the ailing entry level 2W and PV segment. Reduction in highest tax surcharge from 37% to 25% will also benefit luxury vehicle sales. With focus on Electrification, relaxation on import duties of Lithium ion batteries will help in price reduction of EVs, thus make it affordable for the masses. On business front, being part of the MSME universe, cost of credit guarantee will reduce by 1% thus helping Auto Dealers in raising funds. The budget has also focussed on ease of doing business by reducing more than 39K compliances and enabling entity level digilocker for storing and sharing documents.

Manish Raj Singhania, President
Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA)

A budget transitioning into Digital Sunrise



I listened to the budget speech carefully and found that the Hon Finance Minister used the word "Transition" six to seven times. Overall focus on most of the announcements are in the direction of digital infrastructure development. As such, it can be seen as a unique and a landmark budget which helps Bharat transition into the digital ecosystem seamlessly. When it comes to education, this budget emphasises the importance of digital skill based setup. Be it the establishment of the National Digital Library at Panchayat level or the creation of National Book Trust, allocation for research and innovation in the pharmaceutical or the announcement of the three Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence, the overall budget provisions are indicating the governments focus on the new age technology. I wish to make a specific mention of the introduction of PMKVY 4.0 which apparently promises focus on a revised teaching learning pedagogy which involves, on the job training, 3D Programming, Drones, Coding, AI, IOT enabled technology etc. Overall a very satisfactory and a promising nature of the budget provisions.

Dr. Ajit Varwandkar, Director
Myglakadam.com

Balanced budget



It focuses on various types of capital investment, infrastructure, whether it is PM Awas Yojana, new railway schemes, transport infrastructure, 50 new airports, assistance to replace old vehicles, employment, trade, industry with these there will be development in all including transport and the country's GDP will touch a new height. For those who have failed in MSMEs, the new scheme is to return 95% capital, which is a good thing for MSMEs, the income tax slab has been increased, which will result in less tax on income. The slab of audit has been increased from two crores to three crores, this is a good start. Free food scheme has been extended for the next 1 year; this is a good thing for the rice mill business.

Parmanand Jain,
Working President,
CAIT

The Saptarishi Budget



As a Career Psychologist, I am very happy at various proposals made by the Finance Minister Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman. The first on recall is the announcement of 157 new nursing colleges attached with the previously existing medical institutions. This shall not only generate a lot of employment but also bridge the gap of ever growing health-care professionals. The announcement to develop the National Book Trust, in order to recover the learning loss induced in the school going youth during pandemic is a very innovative programme. It would be interesting to see the mechanism in which this plan unfolds into execution. The Saptarishi guideline of seven key areas viz. 1) Inclusive Development 2) Reaching the Last Mile 3) Infrastructure and Investment 4) Unleashing the Potential 5) Green Growth 6) Youth Power 7) Financial Sector covers the overall aspects of all key dimensions in the interest of the growth of Bharat. I must say this budget shifts the focus from employment to self-employment, from urban to rural ecosystem, from physical to online and digital economy and from standard education to skill-based knowledge gathering.

Dr. Varsha Varwandkar
Career Counsellor & Educational Psychologist

'Sarvajana Hitaya Sarvajana Sukhaye': A very good budget



The world is accepting India's model, India is moving fast on the path of economic development, this is because of many big achievements of India. India's per capita income has doubled, no one has been allowed to sleep hungry during the Covid pandemic, working on the vision of prosperity through cooperation. 6.5 crore ITRs have been processed this year. For the first time in the history of the country, minimum/medium/excess income tax i.e. all classes got the benefit of exemption together, according to this last full budget of the government, now those earning less than 7 lakh in income tax will not have to pay any income tax. This benefit will be given only in the new tax regime, although the option of the old tax regime will also be available. In the new tax regime also, now the benefit of standard deduction will be available, this will greatly benefit the taxpayers. At present, senior citizens could deposit a maximum of Rs 15 lakh, this limit has been increased to Rs 30 lakh.

Kishore Bardia, CA

Union Budget evokes mixed reaction



The Union Budget 2023 has evoked mixed reactions among the middle class. The middle class got some benefit under the tax regime but no benefit under saving scheme. As India is agriculture based country, the startup business in the agro-based sector has been encouraged in the Budget. Education sector were given priority with opening of nursing colleges.

Nitin Patel, CA,
Director, Shri Balaji
Group of Hospitals and
Colleges

One of the best budget in Indian history



BJP media in-charge and CA Amit Chimnani reviewed the budget presented today. He termed as the one of the best budgets in Indian history. He said that the budget is for the poor farmer and it will help a lot in building the dream of modern India. The budget presented today will encourage many countries of the world to invest in India, which will provide employment opportunities to the people of India and also strengthen the economy of India. With the capital expenditure of 10 lakh crores, India will be very strong in infrastructure, due to which

many countries of the world will be attracted to invest in India and employment will be created, as well as will increase the purchasing power of the people of India. Amit Chimnani, a CA by profession and a member of the Advisory Board of Accountant General of Chhattisgarh, said that

the biggest feature of the Modi government's budget is to increase the fund allocation by four to five times, compared to 2013. Today education, agriculture, health, Defense all these have been increased by 4 to five times, due to which people of every sector will be able to get the benefit of new schemes. Railways getting the biggest ever budget of Rs 24 lakh crore and allocation of about Rs 6 lakh crore to the defense budget is enough to give sleepless nights to the enemies.

Amit Chimnani,
CA and BJP media in-charge

A growth-oriented budget



"Through the Union budget 23-24, the Government continues to focus on the empowerment of youth, women, OBCs & farmers. With a keen focus on the future of the country with a growth-oriented budget, we applaud the FM's vision of enabling an inclusive and sustainable development growth chart for infrastructure. An increased capital outlay for a third year in a row to INR 10 Lakh crores amounting to 3.3% of the GDP, a hike of 66% to over 79,000 crores for PM Awas Yojana and the 9000 cr Credit

Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs, will have a positive multiplier effect on economic growth and help realize the PM's vision for 'Housing for All'. Continuing its focus on urban planning reforms to develop sustainable cities for tomorrow, the allocation

of INR 10,000 crores to the NHB for infrastructure development, the highest ever railway outlay at Rs 2.4 lakh crore, and increased regional connectivity through 50 more additional airports, along with other connectivity projects will also boost regional connectivity and will add impetus for infrastructure development, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities which will help the Indian economy to remain less impacted by a global slowdown."

Mrinal Golcha,
Chairman, CREDAI,
Chhattisgarh

Union Budget a big relief to common men



Merchant Association President Satish Jain has welcomed the union budget as it provided relief to the common people with IT slab reduction. Every sector has been taken care in the budget. This budget will motivate infrastructure development, investment in railway, PM Housing and Horticulture. National Digital Library and Millet Institute is a welcome step which will make economic strong and provide new opportunity to the common men.

Satish Jain, President,
Merchant Association.

A balanced budget for micro, small and medium traders and industrialists: CAIT



National Senior Vice President of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangal Malu, Amar Gidwani, State President, Jitendra Doshi, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhiya, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, Treasurer Ajay Agarwal and media in-charge Sanjay Choubey said that CAIT CG regard-

ing the budget presented in the Parliament today. A live reaction was given by the CAIT CG Chapter, in which heads of various business organisations from across the state were present. The budget presented was a balanced budget for traders ranging from micro, small and medium class to upper class businessmen and industrialists. According to Nirmala Sitharaman, this budget is the blueprint for the coming year for inclusive development. But it remains to be seen how the

big announcements made will be implemented on the ground. CAIT's National Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani and State In-charge President Mr. Parmanand Jain said that in the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister is a balanced budget. Income tax exemption has now been given by the government to traders and citizens up to 7 lakh, which was welcome by CAIT CG Chapter but relief was expected in diesel, petrol and gas. Nothing concrete has been announced with regard to simplification and rationalization of the GST tax structure which is against the principle of "One Market - One Tax" and also on arbitrary behavior by foreign companies in e-commerce, there is a lot of disappointment among the traders due to not saying anything.

"Chhattisgarh is an agriculture-dominated state and announcements related to promotion of natural farming, agri-start-ups and millet cultivation will benefit the farmers of the state," President of Chhattisgarh Small Industries Association Harish Kedia told PTI. Several schemes have been announced to promote

'Chh'garh to benefit from budget push for infra, millet cultivation, natural farming'

Though no specific measures were announced in the Union Budget on Wednesday for Chhattisgarh, where polls are due by end-2023, experts hailed several provisions in the annual document, including hike in capital expenditure for infrastructure, focus on millet cultivation and push for natural farming, saying these will benefit the state.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel termed the budget for 2023-24, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha, as disappointing for the Congress-ruled state.

Small scale industries which are also a welcome step, he added. Vice-Chancellor of Atal Bihari Vajpayee University, Bilaspur, and renowned economist ADN Bajpai said the change in I-T slabs will benefit tax payers and enhance purchasing power of middle class families.

Bajpai said the central government has accepted the millet power of Chhattisgarh and has started making India a millet hub.

Dr Santosh Rai, an educationist from Durg district, said provision of huge investment in basic infrastructure and agriculture will benefit common people, including those from Chhattisgarh.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Baghel termed the Union Budget as 'nirram' (cruel), claiming it lacks provisions to double income of farmers, create employment opportunities and control inflation.

Balance Budget by Finance Minister: Chamber

State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golchha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal said on the general budget that live reaction was organised at Chamber Bhavan regarding the budget presented in Parliament in which heads of various business organizations from across the state were present. The budget presented was a balanced budget for traders ranging from micro, small and medium class to upper class businessmen and industrialists. According to Nirmala Sitharaman, this budget is the blueprint for the coming year for inclusive development. But it re-



mains to be seen how the big announcements made will be implemented on the ground. State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Amar Parwani said that in the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, farmers, youth, job professionals, women and senior citizens, along with traders-industrialists, have been specially kept in view of long-term goals. Balanced budget has been

prepared. The income tax has now been exempted by the government to traders and citizens up to 7 lakhs, which the Chamber welcomes, but relief was expected in diesel, petrol and gas. Nothing concrete has been announced with regard to simplification and rationalization of the GST tax structure which is against the principle of "One Market-One Tax" and also on the arbitrary behavior of foreign companies in e-commerce.

Training imparted to BJYM workers in R'gaon

● Held for three days

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahiwara, Feb 02: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Chhattisgarh State Training Class was held on January 29, 30, 31 at a private hotel in Rajnandgaon and it concluded on Wednesday.

In the said training class, training was given by the national and state seniors of B.J.P. State Working Committee member Dau Anand Tamarkar, who resides in Ahiwara mandal of Durg district, was present



in the training class. For this training class, Tamarkar said that the state training class organized by BJYM was very

State President Ravi Bhagat, Training Head Surendra Sahu, General Secretary Dual System Chief Upkar Chandrakar, Ankit Jaiswal were present.

BJYM extended greetings for the arrangements made from beginning till the end for this unique event and expressed gratitude on behalf of all the trainees. Leaders said that by implementing the training received on the ground, the party would be able to uproot the corrupt Congress government in the state and make 'Lotus' bloom once again in the state.

commendable. The selection of all subjects, adjustments, all kinds of arrangements were commendable. The entire team including

Annual function held in Middle School Telga

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Feb 02: The annual function at Govt Pre-Secondary School Telga was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The programme began with prayers to photo of Goddess Saraswati by Gram Panchayat Telga Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch, Panchs, President of School management samiti and on behalf of the villagers.

The school students organised cultural programme, painting, poster competition, and other events, along with



'Anand Mela'. The students taking part in the programme were presented prizes on behalf of the School's family. In this programme Gram Panchayat Sarpanch's rep- Santosh Verma, Dy. Sarpanch

Narhar Nirmalkar, President School Prabhndhan Samiti Ramanand Nishad, Panch- Rajendra Yadu, Tularam Sahu, Anandgaon, Sankul co-ordinator, head master KK Sinha, from School's

staff- Yogendra Sahu, Mamta Tandon, Diwakar, Ramesh Thakur, Rakesh Sahu, Lalit Dewangan, Mannu Sahu, Namrata Nishad and party leaders from BJYM Bhimbhouri were present in large number.

Collector inspects Lomash Rishi Ashram



Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 02: Collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi here visited the Ashra Kendra Rajim Triveni Sangam Sthal of the zone and made a thorough site inspection to take stock of the preparations for the Maghi Punni fair to be held from February 5 and also inspected the dyeing-painting work going on at Lomash Rishi Ashram.

Along with this, instructions were given to Additional Collector Chandra Kant Kaushik to complete the work of construction of temporary ap-

proach road from the lower part of Laxman Jhula to Dome before February 5.

Apart from this, along with adequate lighting in the Kuleshwar Mahadev temple, making separate arrangements for entry and exit doors for the convenience of the devotees, making necessary arrangements in the royal bath area, arranging separate toilets for saints and seers was discussed. On this occasion, officers of concerned departments including Gariaband Superintendent of Police Amit Kamble were present.

Bastar MLA Baghel takes charge of 'Haath se Haath Jodo Yatra'



Central Chronicle News

Bastar, Feb 02: Bastar MLA Laksheshwar Baghel reached Block Gram Panchayat Madhota's dependent village Hidmapara and met the people by telling them about the basic facilities and public welfare schemes of the government, as part of Join hands campaign. This initiative was started by Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel by flagging off all the workers of Bastar Vidhansabha from Maa Danteshwari temple premises.

On the instructions of the Congress Committee, the Join Hands Yatra was started all over the country, and after the success of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress has started 'Haath se Haath Jodo Yatra', along with this the preparations for the elec-

tions to be held in 2023 have also started in full swing. In Chhattisgarh, Congress has covered a distance of 175 kilometers in the Bastar Assembly in the 'Hath Se Hath Jodo' campaign.

In this journey, a letter of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be delivered door to door and in the letter 'Golden India' has been promised and various schemes of Chhattisgarh Naruva, Garuva, Ghurva Bari, Chhattisgarh Mahtari, Chief Minister Haat Bazar Yojana, Rajiv Yuva Mitam Club, has been highlighted.

During this State Secretary Jail Visitor members Dinesh Yadu, Harish Parakh, Jitendra Tiwari, Rajesh Kumar, Tulsi Ram, Thakur, Mahadev, Sanuram, Chandra Ram, Karu Ram, and workers and were present.

35th annual festival of SSMV concludes

Central Chronicle News

Surajpur, Feb 02: The 35th annual festival of Saraswati Shishu Mandir Vidyalaya (SSMV) located at Bhaiyathan Road of the district headquarters was completed with much fanfare.

It is noteworthy that this school was started in the year 1984 from Rajkumar Lakdi Mill Campus located on Ketka Road in the city and then in 1998 Saraswati Shishu Mandir Higher Secondary School was established on two and a half acres of land near Dulhi Talab located on Bhaiyathan Road in the city.



Started in 1984 with 75 children, this school has taken a grand shape today with 967 students and there are 40 teachers working in the school. After the principal of the school, Kailash Yadav

welcomed all the guests on the stage and introduced the school, Nigar Bano and Riya Choubey gave presentations.

44 programs with different presentation of 31 dances with Garba

Rajsthani and Kathak were also presented, along with a drama based on superstition was the center of attraction. A large number of students and villagers were present.

Lord Venkateswara Swamy's procession taken out

● In Balaji temple annual festival

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Feb 02: On January 31, the first day of the Balaji temple anniversary, Lord Venkateswara Swamy was taken out in a procession from the temple premises accompanied by musical instruments.

Women carrying Urns participated in large numbers in the procession. The anniversary program at Balaji temple will continue till February 4 and during



which various puja rituals will be performed.

In the procession taken out on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of Venkateswara Swamy Balaji Temple, the chariot was decorated with flowers brought from Andhra Pradesh and 164

silver Urns were kept. The same women were carrying 108 bronze and more than 2000 earthen Urns.

The procession reached back to the temple premises via Agrasen Chowk, Sanjay Bazar, Danteshwari Temple, Gol

Bazar Chowk, Main Road and Chandni Chowk. The dance troupe of 'Madded' as well as the 'Gedi dance troupe' were also included in the procession.

Collectors chair meeting for Rajim Mela

That of Gariaband and Dhamtari

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 02: Gariaband and Dhamtari District Collector Prabhat Malik and Rituraj Raghuvanshi and Superintendent of Police, Gariaband Amit Kamble here held a meeting of Punni Mela preparations at Rajim Rest House for organizing Maghi Punni Mela to be held from February 5 -18 at Rajim Triveni Sangam.

Necessary directions were given to the officers the officer duo did a thorough inspection of the Maghi Punni Mela site organized every year at Triveni Sangam site of Mahanadi, Pairi and Sondur rivers.

Along with this, instruc-



tions were also given to ensure cleanliness of all the access roads, adequate electricity, lighting, bio-

toilets, coloring of ghats and temples, availability of drinking water etc. before the event.

Apart from this, instructions were also given to the concerned officers to construct an approach road till the dome to be built at the meeting place of saints and seers.

District Panchayat CEO Roktima Yadav and Rita Yadav, Additional Collector duo, Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue and officers of Dhamtari and Gariaband districts were present on this occasion.

TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Office Address as 11th Floor, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013. Branch Address: Pujari Chambers, Block 1, Near Pachpedi Naka, Tikrapara, MH-43, Raipur - 492001

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

LOAN ACCOUNT NO:21191983: MR. KUNAL JAISWAL

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below Borrower/ Co-Borrower that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd. (Secured Creditor/TCFSL), the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd. (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **28th Day of February 2023** "As is where is basis" & "As is what is and whatever there is & without recourse basis".

Whereas the sale of secured asset is to be made to recover the secured debt and whereas there was a due of a sum of Rs. **1,88,53,464.95/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Eight Lakh(s) Fifty Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four And Ninety five paise Only)** as calculated up to 20.05.2021 in Loan Nos. 21191983, demanded by issuing notice under Section 13(2) dated 20th May 2021 from (1) KUNAL JAISWAL, H. NO. 45/4 MOTILAL NEHRU NAGAR, EAST BHILAI, DIST - DURG, BHILAI - 490020, ALSO HAVING ADDRESS AT: "NECO GARDENS", FLAT NO. -72, 'LOTUS', 7TH & 8TH FLOOR, SURVEY NO. 208/2 VIMAN NAGAR, LOHAGAON, PUNE - 411014, MAHARASHTRA, (2)VIJAY KUMAR JAISWAL, H. NO. 45/4 MOTILAL NEHRU NAGAR, EAST BHILAI, DIST - DURG, BHILAI - 490020, (3) XTREME AGRO FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED, REPRESENTED BY MR. KUNAL JAISWAL, 4/1 PRIVADARSHINI PARISAR (WEST), BHILAI DURG, BHILAI - 490020 (4) KRISH CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED, REPRESENTED BY MR. VIJAY KUMAR JAISWAL, 4/1 PRIVADARSHINI PARISAR (WEST), BHILAI DURG, BHILAI - 490020.

Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said property shall be sold by E- Auction at 2.00 P.M. on the said on **28th Day of February 2023** by TCFSL, having its branch office at: Pujari Chambers, Block 1, Near Pachpedi Naka, Tikrapara, MH-43, Raipur 492001. The sealed E- Auction for the purchase of the property along with EMD Demand Draft shall be received by the Authorized Officer of the TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD till 5.00 P.M. on the said **27th Day of February 2023**.

Description of Secured Asset	Type of Possession Constructive / Physical	Reserve Price (Rs)	Earnest Money EMD (Rs)
Plot No. 19, Block No. 4, Comprising of Area - 330.00 Sq. Mt, Situated at Priyadarshini Parisar (West) Awasiya Yojna, Bhilai, Kosa Nagar, Ward No. 03, Tahsil & Dist - Durg, Chhattisgarh.	PHYSICAL	Rs. 89,10,000/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakh(s) Ten Thousand Only)	Rs. 8,91,000/- Rupees Eight Lakh(s) Ninety One Thousand Only)

The description of the property that will be put up for sale is in the Schedule. Movable articles/Household inventory if any lying inside and within secured asset as described above shall not be available for sale along with secured asset until and unless specifically described in auction sale notice. The sale will also be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the 'Authorized Officer' or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid. At the sale, the public generally is invited to submit their tender personally. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the rules/conditions prescribed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002. The E-auction will take place through portal <https://disposalhub.com> on **28th Day of February 2023** between **2.00 PM to 3.00 PM** with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD", payable at Raipur. Inspection of the property may be done on **10th Day of February 2023** between **11.00 AM to 5.00 PM**.

Note: The intending bidders may contact the Authorized Officer Mr. Ayan Bhattacharya, Email id : Ayan.Bhattacharya@tatacapital.com and Mobile No.+91 9289724441.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditor's website, i.e., <https://bit.ly/3XU6UeF> or contact Authorised Officer or Service Provider- Nexsen Solutions Private Limited.

Sd/-
Place- Raipur
Date- 03/02/2023
Authorized Officer
Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd.

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)				
S. NO	Name of Borrower(s) (A)	Particulars of Mortgaged property/ (ies) (B)	Date Of NPA (C)	Outstanding Amount (Rs.) (D)
1	LOAN ACCOUNT NO. S0120XVI-1 (Earlier Loan Account No. HHLRPR00214919 of IHFL) 1. RONI BROWN PROPRIETOR SHREYA BOUTIQUE 2. SHREYA BROWN	PART OF MUNICIPAL HOUSE NO. 24/521 AND 522, ABADI KH NO. 158/1, PH NO. 109, PANDRI TARAI RAJA TALAB, PANDIT RAVISHANKAR SHUKL WARD NO. 24 OLD DURG CHOWK, RAIPUR-492001, CHATTISGARH	16.01.2019	Rs. 7,09,558.09/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Eight and Paise Nine Only) as on 08.12.2022

That the above named borrower(s) have failed to maintain the financial discipline towards their loan account(s) and as per books of accounts maintained in the ordinary course of business by the Company, Column D indicates the outstanding amount. Due to persistent default in repayment of the Loan amount on the part of the Borrower(s) the above said loan account has been classified by the Company as Non Performing Asset (as on date in Column C) within the guidelines relating to assets classification issued by Regulating Authority. Consequently, notices under Sec. 13(2) of the Act were also issued to each of the borrower.

In view of the above, the Company hereby calls upon the above named Borrower(s) to discharge in full his/her liabilities towards the Company by making the payment of the entire outstanding dues indicated in Column D above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Company shall be entitled to take possession of the Mortgaged Property mentioned in Column B above and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Company in law.

Please note that in terms of provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, "A borrower can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Secured Creditor only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Further it may also be noted that in terms of Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, "If the EMD amount is not available in the Global EMD Wallet, the system will not allow the bidding. The registration, KYC documents verification and EMD deposited in the wallet should be done in advance before the auction. As per the information of the authorized officer, there is no other encumbrance on the properties, yet the interested bidders/buyers should get all requisite information from the concerned officer/department any encumbrances related to the property before submitting their bid. The decision regarding properties to be taken at the discretion of the bidder. The e-auction will be online and sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. Process of e-auction from Bank's recognized service provider M/s. MSTC Ltd. will be conducted by Web Portal: <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp>. Online Auction Sale Tender Documents, Online E-Auction Tender Form, Declaration Form, Terms and Conditions are available on the website. For details of terms and conditions of sale, kindly visit the website of State Bank of India Secured Creditor i.e. <http://www.sbi.co.in> and <https://www.ibapi.in> (website details) given.

This publication is also a 30 days notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors under the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date: 03.02.2023, Place: Bhatapara

Sd/-
For Asset Care and Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of ACRE 102 Trust
Authorized Officer

STATE BANK OF INDIA Branch-A.D.B. Bhatapara (01843) Nandghat Road, Opp. City Center, Bhatapara, District Baloda Bazar (C.G.)

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND KYC DOCUMENTS ON/BEFORE 01/03/2023, UPTO 4.00 PM

Appendix- IV-A [See Proviso to Rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Date & Time: 04.03.2023 11:00 AM TO 2:30 PM 10 Minute Extension with unlimited time

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable / Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable/Immovable property hypothecated/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **04.03.2023 (11 A.M. TO 2.30 P.M.)** for recovery of dues to the secured creditor from Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s). The reserve price will be (as mentioned against the property, listed in the table below) and the earnest money deposit will be (as mentioned against the property, listed in the table below), the latter amount to be deposited through Banker's Cheque, DD, Pay Order, NEFT/RTGS only with the Bank on or before 01.03.2023 (upto 4.00 pm).

S. No.	Name of Account (Borrower / Guarantor)	Description of Property & Incumbrance if any	Outstanding Amount after netting subsequent credit if any and Date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (₹) EMD (₹) Bid Increase (₹)
1.	Borrower- Mrs. Poonam Mishra W/o Mr. Yogendra Mishra, Dhaurabhata, Dhabadhi, Bhatapara (Chhattisgarh)	Diverted Land & building situated at khasra no.34/11, 58/20, Area- 3000Sq.ft Residential Construction Area- 488 Sq.ft., PH No.-12, R.N.M. & Tehsil - Bhatapara, Dabri Talab, Opposite Sidd Baba Mandir, Dhaurabhata, Bhatapara (C.G.), Owner- Mrs. Poonam Mishra W/o Mr. Yogendra Mishra	₹ 10,71,881.00 + Further Interest & Charges Demand Notice Dt. 01.02.2017	₹ 90,000.00 ₹ 9,000.00

Interested bidders/buyers participating in e-Auction process is required to register before the reasonable time of auction through Bank's recognized Service Providers M/s. MSTC Ltd. Auction web page/portal <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp>. Bidders/buyers have to transfer the EMD amount to their Global EMD Wallet using online mode by registering with respective e-auction web portal of <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp>. If the EMD amount is not available in the Global EMD Wallet, the system will not allow the bidding. The registration, KYC documents verification and EMD deposited in the wallet should be done in advance before the auction. As per the information of the authorized officer, there is no other encumbrance on the properties, yet the interested bidders/buyers should get all requisite information from the concerned officer/department any encumbrances related to the property before submitting their bid. The decision regarding properties to be taken at the discretion of the bidder. The e-auction will be online and sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. Process of e-auction from Bank's recognized service provider M/s. MSTC Ltd. will be conducted by Web Portal: <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi/index.jsp>. Online Auction Sale Tender Documents, Online E-Auction Tender Form, Declaration Form, Terms and Conditions are available on the website. For details of terms and conditions of sale, kindly visit the website of State Bank of India Secured Creditor i.e. <http://www.sbi.co.in> and <https://www.ibapi.in> (website details) given.

This publication is also a 30 days notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors under the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date: 03.02.2023, Place: Bhatapara

Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

SBBI भारतीय स्टेट बैंक
शाखा-पिथौरा, महासमुंद (छ.ग.)

वाहन विक्रय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

हमारी शाखा द्वारा जम किये गए निम्न वाहनो का "जहाँ है जैसा है" आधार पर निविदा द्वारा विक्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है:-

क्र.	वाहन का नाम	वाहन का विवरण	न्यूनतम आरंभित मूल्य	अंतिम राशि
1.	श्री रामप्रसाद बरिहा पिता श्री गैरे बरिहा, गाव- बरेकेल खुर्द (छ.ग.)	Eicher Tractor 380 CG 06 GM 4547	₹ 3,00,000/-	₹ 30,000/-

वाहन निरीक्षण हेतु दिनांक **10.02.2023** तक प्रातः 10 बजे से सायं 4 बजे तक याई में उपलब्ध रहेगी। दृष्टिकर खरीदार **EMD (रिजु)** अंतिम राशि कोलम में दर्शायी गई राशि का SBBI डाफ्ट अथवा बैंकर्स चेक, **भारतीय स्टेट बैंक शाखा-पिथौरा, महासमुंद (छ.ग.)** के नाम पर निविदा के साथ बैंक लिफाफे में जमा कर सकते हैं। निविदा का पूर्ण विवरण नीचे दर्शाया गया है:-

- निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : **13.02.2023** शाम **3.00** बजे तक
- भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, शाखा-पिथौरा, महासमुंद : **+91 9752539165**
- वाहन निरीक्षण तथा अधिक जानकारी हेतु संपर्क : **13.02.2023** शाम **4.00** बजे

बैंक के पास बिना कोई कारण बताये कोई भी निविदा / सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया निरस्त करने अथवा स्थगित करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित रहेगा।

दिनांक - 03.02.2023, स्थान- पिथौरा (छ.ग.) प्राधिकृत अधिकारी

Chhattisgarh Engineering College
Borsi-Dhaora Road, Durg (C.G.) PH: 0788-2344781-85

APPOINTMENT
Application are Invited for Appointment in Degree/Diploma Engineering

Post: Principal, Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Training & Placement Officer, Lab Technician, Office staff and Supporting staff

Department: Mechanical, Civil, Computer Science, Applied Physics, Applied Chemistry, Mathematics & English.

All the appointments shall be done as per AICTE/CSVTU Norms. All the applicants are requested to submit Bio-Data along with copy of 10th, 12th, UG, PG, Experience, Aadhar Card, PAN Card & Passport size photographs. Application can be submitted either by Email (cecdurg@gmail.com) by post or by hand within 7 days from date of publication of this advertisement.

CM dedicates new building of SAGES in Jamgaon (M)



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: On Thursday, the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Jamgaon (M) to inaugurate the new building of Swami Atmanand School Jamgaon (M). He visited the Astro Bab established here. The children explained to the Chief Minister how the effect of gravity varies on different planets.

In the discussion with the children, the Chief Minister said that the students will get information about astronomy in a very beautiful manner. The Chief Minister also saw the telescope. There is also a display of the work of Indian astronauts including Rakesh Sharma and Kalpana Chawla. The Chief Minister also visited the Physics Lab, Chemistry Lab and Bio



Central Chronicle News

Lab of the school. He oversaw the children doing the practical experiments and asked them questions. The Chief Minister asked the children how they felt about studying in this school. The children said that they are feeling very good. The students added that they are getting all the facilities. The students said that the teachers are very good and teach in an in-

teresting manner. The students also learn at smart class where they get all the information through audio visual content. The Chief Minister also saw the audio-visual class. Pradeep Chandrakar, a child, explained photosynthesis at the Smart Class. The Chief Minister praised the teachers and said that the process of reading and learning must be enjoyable for the

children. The Chief Minister also met the parents of the students.

The parents thanked the Chief Minister for providing free education at SAGES which has all the facilities and the teachers teach in the best manner. The Chief Minister also interacted with the teachers and praised them. It needs to be mentioned here that the school has been constructed at a cost of Rs Two Crore. Along with educational facilities for the children, there is also a playground and the sports facilities for the children.

Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena said that proper arrangements have been made for the teachers in the school, as well as all the resources have been made available for the development of the children.

Shiromani awards given in URM department



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: Karm Shiromani awards were given away in Universal Rail Mill of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant for exemplary work by employees. P Kalashankar Rao, Manager (URM) was awarded the Pali Shiromani award while Majesh Kumar, OCT was given the Karm Shiromani award. Anish Sengupta, CGM

(URM), Rahul Shrivastav, GM (URM), Shishir Shukla, GM (URM), Elias Ahmad, GM (URM) and other Senior officials were present on the occasion. Employees are short-listed for this award for innovations, better resource utilisation, following Safety standards etc at the workplace. The awardees shared that such awards act as a morale booster and inspire them to con-

tribute more to the department.

A certificate, memento, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to Karm awardees by Anish Sengupta, CGM (URM). He appreciated the contribution of the awardees to their department.

Narendra Ingle, SM (Personnel) compered the programme while Jasbeer Singh supported in organising the programme.

Annual Flower Show 2023 on February 05

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: Horticulture section of Town Services department of SAIL-BSP will be organising Flower show 2023 at Maitri Baag on February 05, 2023.

Entries from residential and school gardens, potted Cactus, Bonsai, Croton, Foliage and seasonal plants like Sevanti, Dahlia, Roses, cut flowers of plants, floral decoration, special vegetables and fruits grown in kitchen garden of BSP employees will be on display in the Flower show.

Rangoli competition for students and women will be held. Bouquet and Salad making competi-

tion for BSP and private schools will be organised during the programme. Applications for participation can be deposited in Horticulture section, Maitri Baag, 3rd floor, Horticulture section, Town Services department in the Township. There is no entry fee for participation in the competition.

Those interested in Rangoli competition, Sand art or other exhibits can contact 0788285331 or 07882857171. Work is in full swing in organising the Flower show on a large scale at Maitri Baag. General public is invited to attend the Flower show in large numbers.

BSP collective clocks best ever January performance

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: January 23 has been a watershed month in the history of BSP, as it achieved Best Monthly Performance in all major Physical Parameters, right from Oven Pushing, Hot Metal Production and Crude Steel Production to Finished Steel Prod, Saleable Steel Production and Saleable Steel Dispatch, surpassing previous Best figures by good margins. Also for the first time, Plant crossed 5 lac Ton mark in all 3 items: Hot Metal Production, Crude Steel Production and Saleable Steel Production.

Several departments of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant including Universal Rail Mill, Coke oven, Blast

Furnace-8, Steel Melting Shop 3, Sinter Plant-3 etc have recorded best ever January month performances, breaking their previous records in production and technical parameters. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) congratulated the concerned departments and at the same time congratulated the whole collective from mines to dispatch and all other allied agencies.

Coke oven made Best ever Daily Eq. Oven Pushing of 806 in January 2023, surpassing the previous best of 792 in December 2009. SAIL-BSP's



Universal Rail Mill (URM) has made monthly records in different production parameters. URM achieved best ever monthly production in January 2023 by rolling 77,513 T finished rails, 72,506 T Prime rails, surpassing the previous record of rolling of 76,496 T finished rails and 72,026 Prime rails in November 2022. This feat has been made possible due to the continuous support of

RITES and support extended by Indian Railways.

Congratulations to team BF-8 for record of Monthly CDI Rate. BF-8 achieved Highest Monthly CDI Rate of 159 kg/THM in Jan'23, which is Best achieved figure for any Blast furnace in SAIL, surpassing Previous Record of 158 kg/THM (Apr'18) held by RSP BF-5.

SMS 3 made Best ever crude steel production of 3,04,758 Ton was achieved

in January 2023, surpassing the previous best of 286,195 Ton in November 2022.

SP-3 made Best ever Sinter production of 5,17,703 Ton was achieved in January 2023, surpassing the previous best of 5,17,266 Ton in March 2022. The Plant recorded highest ever total Hot Metal production of 5,54,034 Ton in January 2023, surpassing previous best of 5,19,819 Ton achieved in the March 2021, and highest ever Crude Steel production of 5,32,778 Ton, surpassing previous best of 4,85,035 Ton achieved in the November 2022.

The Plant also recorded highest ever total Finished

Steel production of 4,13,100 Ton in January 2023 surpassing previous best of 4,08,276 Ton achieved in the March 2022, and highest ever Saleable Steel production at 5,03,400 Ton surpassing previous best of 4,55,798 Ton achieved in the March 2022. Highest ever Saleable Steel despatches of 4,88,362 T was recorded, surpassing the previous best of 4,60,012 Ton achieved in the March 2021.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) visited the concerned departments and conveyed their best wishes to them. They also expressed their wishes towards Indian Railways and RITES for the support extended by them.

Annual Day celebrated at MBVB

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: Mar Basileios Vidhya Bhavan celebrated its 39th Annual Day, amidst great splendour, mirth and zest. Bhupendra Kuldeep, Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Yakoob Memon town inspector Jamul was the Guest of Honour. Among the other dignitaries present were Fr Kurian John Vice President of the school, Fr PS Varghese executive vice chairman CCET, Fr Dr Joshi Varghese Diocesan education officer, Fr Aju K Varghese, treasurer, Saint Thomas Mission, Fr Shinu Cherian Vicar MGO members of the PTA, parents and students.

As per the MBVB traditions, the blessings of almighty were invoked through an enchanting



prayer at the beginning of the event, followed by the lighting of the Ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest Bhupendra Kuldeep, Kamala Kuldeep accompanied by the Principal and other Rev Fathers. This was followed by a speech by the Principal, BVK Reddy in

which he focused upon the exceptional achievements of the students and the school throughout the session.

He congratulated everyone for their achievements and appreciated the efforts of the students as well as staff members for organising the annual day

successfully. The Principal, shared the School's achievements through the Annual Report of the past session through an impressive audio video presentation.

Meritorious students were given prizes for excellence in Academics and sports. The Best House for the session 2022-2023 was won by the Blue House headed by Deepa Justin runners up green house led by K Suma Das. Inderjeet Singh of class XII A was declared best Boy Student of the year and M Anjali Kukreja of class XII D was declared the best Girl student of the school.

The chief guest in his motivational speech said that teachers play a crucial role in society as they prepare the younger generation to face the future with courage and knowledge. A teacher can be a

best friend, a third parent, an inspiration, a role model, a well-wisher, etc, for the students and guide them on the right path to succeed in life. He appreciated the school for facilitating and achieving excellence in academics and sports and thus providing exposure of the world to students.

The Cultural Programme was based on the theme 'Colours of Life'. The theme highlighted how students must go through all Colours of Life. Their costumes, performances and narration complemented each other. The Academic Awards ceremony was conducted by in charge Shiny R George. Cultural programme was compered by our students Tripti Solanki class VIII D and Tulsi Sadhwani class XIX. The Choir group and orchestra was directed by Preeti Biiwas.

Yash Yogi wins state level senior badminton competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: The 21st State Level Senior Badminton Competition was organised from January 24, 2023 to January 27, 2023 at Bijapur. Yash Yogi of Bhilai has brought laurels to the town by winning the title in this competition. Yash Yogi is the son of Shiv Kumar Yogi working in the Town Electrical Engineering Department of BSP's Town Services Department. His father Shiv Kumar Yogi is also an international badminton player and coach. By winning the State Level Senior Badminton Competition, Yash Yogi will represent



Chhattisgarh in the Senior National Badminton Competition to be held in Pune from February 21-28, 2023. It may be noted that even before this, Yash Yogi has won the State Level Senior Badminton Championship 4 times. Yash Yogi has won Gold in School National, Bronze in

West Zone and Winner in East Zone University. He has also represented BSP in Inter Steel Competition 2 times. Yash Yogi, has participated in International Competition 8 times and is ranked 16th in India Senior Rank. The sports fraternity of Bhilai has congratulated him on this achievement.

'Aavishkar 2023' a scientific model competition cum exhibition organised

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: 'Aavishkar 2023' a scientific model competition cum exhibition was organised by Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions on January 27, 2023. Chief Guest Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor, Hemchand Yadav University Durg, Guest of Honour Dr Sanjay Agrawal Pro Vice Chancellor Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University (CSVTU), Bhupendra Kuldeep Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University, Sanjay Rungta, Chairman, Sanjay Rungta group of Institutions, Dr Saket Rungta, Director, Sanjay Rungta group of Institutions, Dr T Rama Rao Director Academics, Mohd Shajid Ansari

Assistant Director, Chief coordinator Dr Tripti Agarwal Jain, Principals, Deans of other Institutions, Theme coordinators, HOD, faculties and students were present.

A total 60 number of projects and models were registered and exhibited in Aavishkar 2023 against the themes of Concept Validation, Engineering Solution & IoT, Entrepreneurship Based Model, Health and Life Sciences and Software Base Model. The competition was judged by the experts from the respective fields including Dr Avdhesh Kumar Srivastava, State President, Microbiologist society of India, Dr Archana Gupta, Dr Vikas Dubey, Dr Khawaja Moinudeen, Dr Rajkumar

Singh, Dr Amber Vyas, CA Ankesh Sinha, Neha Tiwari, Sweekar Pawar, CHIPS Raipur, Karuna Sahu and Arish Naqawi AUGTECH.

Chief Guest Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor, Hemchand Yadav University Durg was very happy to see the efforts put in by the students. Some of the models were very impressive that can be brought to the state and national level and can be considered for the further improvement, she added. She also said that such kind of competition must be conducted at every institute and she will also organise the



same at Hemchand Yadav University Durg. Guest of Honour Dr Sanjay Agrawal Pro Vice Chancellor Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University (CSVTU) Bhilai enlightened the gathering about various

schemes of CSVTU under entrepreneurship and said that such models shall be presented and submitted to CSVTU under these schemes.

The results of the competition and prize distribution were declared in the

presence of Bhupendra Kuldeep, Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University who appreciated the efforts of the group.

Under Concept Validation theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Geetanjali Sinha & Team from RSR RCET, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Pratyush Shrivastava & Team from RCDSP and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Sidharth Soni & Team from RCST.

Under Engineering Solution & IoT theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Ajay Pandit & Team from RSR RCET, Second prize of Rs 3100/-

was bagged by Khemchand Pathare & Team from RSR RCET and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Dr Soubarna Hazra & Team from RCDSP.

Under Entrepreneurship Based Model theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Bhumeswar Prasad & Team from RIPS, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Dipanshu Bansod & Team from RCST and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Prakash Choudhary & Team from RSR RCET.

Under Health and Life Sciences theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Dr Kritika Kejriwal & Team from RCDSP, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Rupal Kaushal & Team

from RIPS and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Rishu Kumar & Team from RIPS.

Under Software Base Model theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Nitesh & Team from RSR RCET, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Takeshwar & Team from RSR RCET and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Anas Raza & Team from RCST. RSR Rungta College of Engineering and Technology won the best college award of Rs 25000/-

Sanjay Rungta, Chairman and Dr Saket Rungta, Director, Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions blessed the gathering and congratulated the organising committee for such a successful event.

Peshawar mosque suicide bomber entered high-security zone

■ Dressed in police uniform

Peshawar, Feb 02 (PTI):

A suicide bomber who killed 101 people at a mosque inside a major police facility in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar city had disguised himself in a police uniform to sneak into the high security zone and was riding a motorcycle with a helmet and mask on, a top police official said on Thursday.

The guards at the security checkpoint at the main entrance of the Police Lines area did not check the bomber dressed in police uniform and let him go inside, Inspector General of Police of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah Ansari told the media here.

The CCTV footage shows that the bomber entered the Police Lines area via Khyber Road, he said.



He added that the attacker had also asked about the way to the mosque from a police officer. The bomber asked a 'havaladar' where the mosque was in Pashto language, he said, adding that the motorcycle registration number has been traced.

He said that the attacker was not an individual, but rather had a whole network supporting him. He said that the police were close to the terrorist network responsible for the bombing. Sources earlier

said the security agencies have arrested 17 suspects involved in the devastating blast - the deadliest attack on the security personnel in decades in Pakistan.

The arrests have been made from close vicinity of the Police Lines area where the mosque is located and the suspects were shifted to interrogation cell for investigation, sources told PTI on condition of anonymity.

The suicide bomber blew himself up during the afternoon prayers on

Monday in the mosque in the Police Lines area, killing 101 people, including 97 policemen, and injuring more than 200 others. The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Ansari said that TNT explosives were used in the blast, while explosive materials used to demolish buildings were also used.

No improvised explosive device (IED) was used in the blast as no crater was found on the ground, Ansari said, adding that 5 to 10 people were killed due to the explosion, but the majority of people died as the roof caved in because it was not supported by any pillars in the hall.

The headquarters of the Peshawar Police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Frontier Reserve Police (FRP), Elite Force and telecommunications department are also located near the blast site.

Congo, Feb 02:

Pope Francis on Wednesday urged Congo's people to forgive those who committed "inhuman violence" against them, celebrating a Mass for 1 million people and then hearing first hand of the atrocities some of them have endured: a teen-age girl "raped like an animal" for months; a young man who watched as his father was decapitated; a former sex slave who was forced into cannibalism.

Congolese from the country's violence-ravaged east traveled to the capital of Kinshasa to tell the pope of the horrific violence they suffered for years as rebel groups sought to gain territory in the mineral-rich region through attacks that have forced more than 5 million people to flee their homes.

Francis sat in silence as victim after victim came forward to tell their stories. He watched as they offered up at the foot of a



crucifix a symbol of their pain: the machete used to maim and kill, or the straw bed mat on which they had been raped. When they knelt in front of him for a blessing, Francis placed his hand on their heads, or on the stumps of the arms that remained.

"Your tears are my tears; your pain is my pain," Francis told them. "To every family that grieves or is displaced by the burning of villages and other war crimes, to

the survivors of sexual violence and to every injured child and adult, I say: I am with you; I want to bring you God's caress."

The intimate encounter at the Vatican Embassy in Kinshasa was an extraordinary moment of a pastor seeking to console his flock, and of a pope seeking to shine a spotlight on what Francis has called a "forgotten genocide" that barely makes the news. Despite being home to one of the largest U.N. peace-keeping operation in the

world, eastern Congo has been mired in violence since the early 1990s as rebels and militias vie for control of mineral-rich territory. "What a scandal and what hypocrisy, as people are being raped and killed, while the commerce that causes this violence and death continues to flourish!" Francis said of the foreign powers and extraction industries that are exploiting Congo's east. "Enough!"

Francis had originally planned to visit the eastern province of North Kivu, where rebel groups have intensified attacks in the past year, when his trip was initially scheduled for July. But after the trip was rescheduled, the Vatican had to cancel the visit to Goma due to the fighting that has forced some 5.7 million people to flee their homes, exacerbating a humanitarian crisis in Congo, where already some 26.4 million people face hunger, according to the World Food Program.

NASA, IBM team up to spur new discoveries about Earth

Washington, Feb 02 (PTI):

NASA and IBM have collaborated to develop artificial intelligence (AI) based models that will make it easier to mine vast datasets to advance scientific knowledge about Earth, and help the world to adapt to a changing environment. The joint work will apply AI foundation model technology to NASA's Earth-observing satellite data for the first time, NASA said in a statement. Foundation models are types of AI models that are trained on a broad set of unlabelled data, can be used for different tasks, and can apply information about one situation to another. "The beauty of foundation models is

they can potentially be used for many downstream applications," said Rahul Ramachandran, a senior research scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. "Building these foundation models cannot be tackled by small teams; you need teams across different organisations to bring their different perspectives, resources, and skill sets," Ramachandran said in a statement. One project will train an IBM geospatial intelligence foundation model on NASA's Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2 (HLS) dataset, a record of land cover and land use changes captured by Earth-orbiting satellites, the statement said.

EU Commission head urges 'immediate action' on migration



Brussels, Feb 02:

The president of the European Commission urged the EU to take "immediate action" on migration, including the reinforcement of infrastructure at land border between Türkiye and Bulgaria.

Speaking at the European Parliament plenary session, Ursula von der Leyen said, "there are without any doubt increasing pressures" at the EU's external borders.

She said the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) registered 330,000 irregular border crossings in 2022 which was up 64% from the previous year and the highest since 2016.

Von der Leyen stressed that "the majority of those who apply for asylum are not in need of protection" while return rates remain as low as 22%.

To make a "real difference on the ground," the European Commission will propose "immediate action" in four areas to EU leaders at a special summit on migration on Feb. 9 - 10, she said.

"The most pressing issues right now are at the land border between Bulgaria and Türkiye" and the border management capabilities need to be strengthened, according to von der Leyen.

US secures deal on Philippines bases to complete arc around China

Manila, Feb 02:

The US has secured access to four additional military bases in the Philippines - a key bit of real estate which would offer a front seat to monitor the Chinese in the South China Sea and around Taiwan.

With the deal, Washington has stitched the gap in the arc of US alliances stretching from South Korea and Japan in the north to Australia in the south.

The missing link had been the Philippines, which borders two of the biggest potential flash-points - Taiwan and the South China Sea.



The deal, which in part reverses the US' departure from their former colony more than 30 years ago, is no small matter.

"There is no contingency in the South China Sea that does not require access to the Philippines,"

says Gregory B Poling, director of the Southeast Asia programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"The US is not looking for permanent bases. It's about places, not bases."

Russia strikes civilian target

Kyiv (Ukraine), Feb 02 (AP):



Top European Union officials arrived in Kyiv on Thursday for talks with Ukrainian officials as rescue crews dug through the rubble of an apartment building in eastern Ukraine struck by a Russian missile, killing at least three people and wounding about 20 others.

The scene of devastation in the eastern Donetsk provincial city of Kramatorsk, where emergency workers spent the night searching for survivors after the missile hit late Wednesday, served as a grim reminder of the war's toll almost a year after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia has frequently struck apartment buildings during the war, causing civilian casualties,

ties, although the Kremlin has denied targeting residential structures.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was due to meet with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell before what officials described as a summit on

Friday. Borrell tweeted that the visit aimed "to convey the EU's strongest message of support to all Ukrainians defending their country."

London, Feb 02 (PTI):

The UK government has defended the BBC as a media outlet "independent in its output" in the wake of widespread Indian diaspora protests against the controversial documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing reporters at Downing Street on Wednesday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson echoed a statement issued by Foreign Secretary James

Cleverly in Parliament earlier this week to add that the government

continues to invest in its relationship with India. "The BBC is independent in its output and we would stress that we continue to regard India as an incredibly important international partner," the spokesperson said in response to a question about India's condemnation of the documentary India: The Modi Question' questioning the then chief minister's role in the 2002 Godhra riots.

"We will be investing heavily in our relationship with India over the coming decades and we're confident it will

only go from strength to strength," the spokesperson said. It followed a similar response by Cleverly in the House of Commons on Tuesday, when he responded to a question

from a Conservative Party colleague on the assurances the UK government had given to India in the wake of co-ordinated diaspora protests against the BBC over the weekend.

UK defends BBC independence

प्रायोगिक सूक्ष्मतरंग इलेक्ट्रॉनिक अभियांत्रिकी
तथा अनुसंधान संस्था (समीर)
SOCIETY FOR APPLIED MICROWAVE ELECTRONICS
ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH (SAMEER)
(KOLKATA CENTER)
 (R & D Laboratory of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India)
 Plot - L2, Block - GP, Sector - V, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Kolkata - 700091
 Ph: 033 2357 4875 / 2357 4894, email: hrd@mnmw.sameer.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
 EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF RECRUITMENT APPLICATION : 18.02.2023
 The Society has decided to extend the closing date of receipt of application of this recruitment (Advt. No.: SMR(K)Rec-04/2022) till 18.02.2023 (Saturday). For more details about this recruitment process applicants are advised to visit (https://kolkata.sameer.gov.in/recruitment).

CBC 06163/12/0002/2223

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)
System Tender No. : 121742/NIT No. : 14/SAC/2022-23,
Gariaband, Dated : 31.01.2023
Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to
21.02.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-
Name of Work : Necessary Arrangement for Rajim Mela & Construction
Mahanadi Arti, Sahi Snan and Public Snan Platform and
stair work of Block Fingeshwar of Gariaband District.
Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 248.86 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.
NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Gariaband
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

G-98111/1

WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY
 (An Autonomous Institution of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India)
33, General Mahadeo Singh Road
DEHRA DUN — 248 001

No.. Recruitment/Director/WIHG/2023-Estt. Dated: 25.01.2023

ADDENDUM

In continuation to the Advertisement published in various newspapers and Employment News on dated 21.01.2023 for the post of Director, WIHG the following addendum in age limit and last date & time for receipt of application is hereby issued:-

Age limit; For Direct recruitment: Not exceeding 56 years as on 01st January, 2023.

For Deputation including short-term contract: Not exceeding 58 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

Last date and time for receipt of application;

By Post: In case of direct applications, the information in the attached formats I and II should be sent by post to the Registrar, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, 33, General Mahadeo Singh Road, Dehradun-248001 (Uttarakhand), along with self-attested photocopies of certificates in support of Age. Qualifications and experience so as to reach the above mentioned address latest by 24.02.2023. The last date of receipt of applications from candidates (including nominations) from Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh Division of Jammu and Kashmir State, Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangi Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep will be 03.03.2023.

Nominations: In case of nominations, the eminent persons nominating a candidate may forward the candidate's application along with recommendations by post so as to reach the above address by 24.02.2023.

The other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. The detailed advertisement for the post, format of application and other details are Available on the website: www.wihg.res.in

CBC 36122/12/0006/2223

(REGISTRAR)



CENTRAL
Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 121

Budget 2023-24: Is not fair to the vulnerable sections

“The fundamentals of the Indian Economy are sound as it enters its Amrit Kaal, the 25-year journey towards its centenary as a modern, independent nation. Policies pursued carefully and consciously to ensure ...” was of course noisy and highly opinionated statement of the Economic Survey 2022-23, but the Union Budget 2023-24, tabled in the Parliament of Indian on February 1, is even noisier, sounding much on the pre-general-election mantelpiece that is being meticulously and beautifully being constructed before the General Election 2024, which does remind the proverb “empty vessels sound much.” Obviously, Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has emphasized about “Achievements since 2014: Leaving no one behind” in her budget speech. She said that per capita income has more than doubled to Rs1.97 lakh. In these nine years, the Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world. It is true but deceptive since accumulation of wealth in the hands of the rich has increased the average income as well as growth but impoverished the people sharply increasing the inequality during Modi regime. This is also the first Union Budget as India enters the first year of the Amrit Kaal during which PM Narendra Modi, after successfully selling dreams during the last two general elections albeit failed in almost every promise, is trying to sell even bigger dream to be realized during the next 25 years culminating in emergence of India as the biggest power by 2047. Union Budget 2022-23, thus presents the “Vision for Amrit Kaal” with the three priorities – Opportunities for Citizens with focus on the Youth; Growth and Job Creation; and Strong and Stable Macro-Economic Environment”. In cannot be taken on its face value since about 23 crore youngsters between the age of 15 and 30 are on the roads now while only a little over 4 crore are in education and a little over 10 crore are in jobs including the majority in informal and unsalaried ones without any social security. Since the Union Budget is also the last full budget before the general election of 2024, Union Ministry of Finance had no choice except to cover up failures of the Modi government in the last nine years of his rule, especially on social sector, by blowing conch to sound spectacular achievements and the new proposals in the budget, reminding another assertion of the Mahabharata “Auvvathama Hato” which led to a gross falsehood. It talks about the “Saptarishi” ie the 7 priorities it has purportedly set for the government during the Amrit Kaal – they are Inclusive development; Reaching the Last Mile, Youth Power; Financial Sector; Green Growth; Unleashing the Potential; and Infrastructure and investment. Rising inequality in the last nine years of Modi rule might have encouraged the government to bring the sacred name of the seven sages (Sapta Rishis) for the rescue of the government from the guilt of failure in almost all front of the economy, particularly in the social sector. What the Union Budget 2023-24 was to do was even clearly indicated by the Economic Survey 2022-23, which “in a departure from the past”, “introduced the chapter on India’s social sector” and “not without reason”, the document has asserted. However, in so many words the Survey tried to conceal the real “reason” which the Union Budget has clearly revealed to be only political consideration in a way that could be a vote catching tool. In the backdrop of failing in “doubling the farmers income by 2022” the Union Budget talks about providing Rs 20 lakh crore targeted funding for agriculture credit. Under health it announces establishment of 157 new nursing colleges, new programme to promote research in pharmaceuticals. It boasts of increasing health expenditure from 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY19 to 2.1 per cent in FY23, and for education these figures are 2.8 and 2.9 per cent respectively. Union Budget showcases the “The Big Tent that accommodates all” which was already indicated in the very chapter “Social Infrastructure and Employment: Big Tent” of the Economic Survey 2022-23. Budget showcases 9 crore drinking water connections, Rs 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM-Kisan, 11.7 crore household toilets, 9.6 crore LPG connections, 220 crore vaccines et al. However, given the dire situation in the grassroots level, the government’s claim that “the social sector expenditure outlay of the Centre and State Governments has increased steadily to stand at Rs21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (BE) with its share in total Government expenditure standing at 26.6 per cent” sounds audacious. Even cursory glance of the highlight of the budget is enough to give an idea as to how it tried rouging the paling face of the economy that is ailing at its core. Hollowness of the claims and the proposals is more pronounced in the health and employment sector. The last three years under the shadow of pandemic had already exposed the dire situation of the health infrastructure when people were reported dying in thousands due to lack of oxygen. Entire health infrastructure was overwhelmed which also exposed the lack of health professionals and workers, included doctor and nurses. Public health expenditure, both of the central and state government” budgeted expenditure, could reach only 2.1 per cent of GDP for 2022-23, even less than revised estimate of 2.2 per cent in 2021-22. India was to increase this to 2.5 per cent by 2025 as per National Health Policy of 2017. In the employment sector India has entered the era of joblessness only after three years of Modi rule in 1017-18. Unemployment rate reached 45 years high at 6.1 per cent and was 8.3 per cent in December 2022. Independent India has never suffered such a joblessness as is suffering now under present regime. As for poverty alleviation, the gains of the decades have already been washed out fist due to joblessness during the first six years of Modi rule and then by the pandemic that have pushed lakhs of people into extreme poverty according to several latest data of the UN agencies and the World Bank. The Budget has little to arrest this decline. Union Budget 2022-23 has much talked bout social protection schemes, customized for different sections of the population such as elderly, unorganized workers etc. It talks about special focus on aspirational districts, health, education, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure. Under the bouquet of social sector; government had 318 central schemes and over 720 State DBT schemes. Clearly there is no dearth of schemes to entice voters, but what is clear from the Union Budget 2023-24 is that they are not funded enough to provide real succour to the common people. Union Budget 2023-24 will therefore not bring the much-needed relief to the common people at a time when there is a likelihood of considerable downturn in the Indian economy as per all authoritative estimates.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

Printed and Published by Sameer Maheshwari on behalf of Ramgopal Investments Pvt. Ltd. at Navbharat Press, Navbharat Bhawan, Press Complex, Raipur. Editor in Chief - Sameer Maheshwari. Editor: Sameer Shukla (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.), Phone: (0771) 4257700 Fax : (0771) 4257703, Postal Regn. No. C.G./RYPDN./62/2019-21, Regd. No. 26172/74/RNI

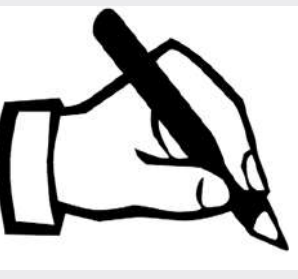
SIDDHAPEETH TEMPLE



Pauri Garhwal: Siddhapeeth temple of Dhari Devi Mata, situated between Srinagar and Rudraprayag, in Pauri Garhwal district.

Budget 2023: Has potential to help BJP in its 2024 campaign

SUSHIL KUTTY



What does the 2023-24 budget mean for the BJP in fighting the coming polls, including the nine in 2023, and the one in 2024? A simple question, with a simple answer: Budget 2023-24 has been drafted as a saviour! The BJP wants to win as many of the nine assembly elections as possible and a third consecutive Modi term. The problem is, the BJP-led Modi government’s record on certain key economic parameters haven’t been up to mark and requires some convincing. Jobs, for instance. Unemployment has been at its highest in 45 years for nine straight Modi years. And no amount of criticism made a difference to the Modi-mindset on this issue. The promise to deliver crores of jobs at general elections 2019 wasn’t kept. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s poll promises are mostly kept in the breach. Budget 2023, therefore, had to change the perception, check all the right boxes. The Modi-friendly media was all Lady Gaga, so to speak. One panelist gave Budget 2023-24 10/10. Another plateaued at 8/10. Yet another named it a “Workhorse Budget”. Flip, and the Congress called Budget 2023-24 a “poll manifesto”, an “election budget”, which perhaps hit the nail

on the head. The Aam Aadmi Party mentioned the promise made of 50 new airports, and asked “who will build those airports?” Was Gautam Adani glued to the TV set? The Samajwadi Party said Budget 2023-24 was a “pack of lies”. The BJP-led Modi Government cannot complain, and must have expected the disparaging notes to the Opposition’s song sung blue. The thing to note was that nine years of Modi has ensured there were very few media left to make an impartial review. That being said, the BJP and the Modi government knew they had one last chance to make sure yet another term. So, the budget focuses on farmers. It puts the needle on the MSMEs in a post-Covid scenario. It puts the lens on the Middle Class. Budget 2023 makes an appeal to the Middle Class to keep voting the BJP with a slew of personal income tax sops. The Middle Class has of late been a little displeased with the Modi government. The income tax concessions, the BJP hopes will correct the incorrect impression. It has long been held that the Middle Class helps snatch victory from the jaws of electoral defeats. More money in Middle Class pockets keep a big section of the electorate friendly. Farmers are another crucial constituency which the BJP could not ignore if it wanted to win 2024. The devil is in the details. The farmer hasn’t been happy with the Modi regime. The 3-farm laws are history, but the scars remain and Modi’s MSP promise hasn’t been kept. Budget 2023-24 was yet another chance to bring the farmers around. However, Budget 2023-23 actu-

ally saw farmers ignored all over again. Experts say farmers haven’t got their due with this budget, too. There is no sight of the MSP. And farmers’ schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Fazal Bhima Yojana are on the verge of falling off the cliff. Perhaps, the Modi government continues to believe that 80 percent of India’s farmers were for the 3-farm laws and would vote for the BJP. Another poll issue which Budget 2023-24 could not overlook was jobs and unemployment. Both have throughout the nine Modi years been in the red. And BJP spokespersons steered clear of coming clean on both jobs, and unemployment. Budget 2023 was another chance for the BJP and the Modi government to change the perception that the Modi government was a slacker when it came to jobs. The slew of BJP election manifestoes expected in 2023, and the one in 2024, will likely clear the fog. Modi recently said that an additional 10 lakh jobs would be created. Budget 2023-24 is yet another chance for the BJP to turn the perception around. Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra has placed the issue of jobs and unemployment square and centre of the assembly elections 2023, and general elections 2024. The BJP would not be able to evade the implications if Budget 2023-24 failed to garner jobs. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, despite five budgets in five years, has had little so far to celebrate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of 400-plus seats in the 18th Lok Sabha. Therefore, it was incumbent upon Sitharaman to salvage the chances of a third term for Modi from the Covid

mess which still dogs BJP. Budget 2023-24 is decidedly political with Sitharaman doing everything at her command to ensure that the sun continued to shine on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A big part of Sitharaman’s last full budget and Amrit Kaal’s first was to use government outlays to fund sectors which usually, in an ideal world, help win elections. From the infrastructure push to the “green projects”. The BJP knows its many Achilles Heel. On many fronts. Farmers still carry a grudge against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 3-farm laws are dead in water; but the promise of MSP hasn’t been kept. Budget 23-24 has sought to correct this lacuna. Budget 2023 has also set aside money for a ‘Tribal fund’, and a ‘Mahila fund’. The income tax rebates will deliver votes for the BJP. But direct taxes are falling and indirect taxes are rising. The Finance Minister was aware that she could not take chances with this last full budget of the 17th Lok Sabha. The changes in income tax slabs and subsidy for electricity were expected. And expectations were high. A 7 percent GDP growth rate for 2023-24 will help the BJP in 2024 if another global downturn does not intervene. The simple truth is, it’s a budget for Modi, a budget for a third term for Modi. It wasn’t a “Budget for India”. From now on to the first and the last of the nine assembly elections of 2023, things would move at an electric pace faced with manifestoes galore from all parties concerned, the Modi government could not have missed the opportunity to use the budget to win 2023, and 2024.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Budget 2023: Real or unreal

This was the last full budget of the Modi government before the general elections to be held in the year 2024. Even though the outbreak of Corona has ended in the country, despite that, this time the finance minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman has also presented a digital i.e. paperless budget. In her budget, FM Sitharaman gave a major boost to the consumption economy by increasing the income tax rebate for individuals from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh (considering the inflation and price rise, it’s like a drop in the ocean for the middle class) in the Budget. Immediately after the Budget announcements, Sensex rallied over 1,200 points, but lost all the gains later on in the day. Actually, this is the budget presented keeping the elections in mind, while some relaxation is given to the middle class. Though Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi like every year said, “This budget will build a strong foundation to fulfill the grand vision of a developed India. This budget gives priority to the underprivileged”. But where is the priority for the underprivileged when Modi’s government is unable to fulfill its promise of 2014, that we will double the income of the farmers. It will give housing to everyone in 2022. It will give employment to 18 crore people by 2022? Farmers, young men and women, job professionals, the business class do not have hope but despair because it is made to benefit only a few.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Air is nothing but life

The Tree is a big creature of nature, it is very beneficial thing for entire world, it purifies the earth from pollution and gives fresh air, most important thing is it gives shade, fruits and food for Animals, its wood have many benefits, people make different furniture. In India the government forbids people to cut down the tree, apart from many people cut down and take their wood for burning and making food, as a result the air has been polluted. If the air is polluted how can we survive? That is why many of the people give slogans. Your planet needs you, Unite to combat, climate change, Pure air is nothing but life. Save forest Save wildlife.

Sufyan Nazeer AlQasbi, Bijnor, UP

Budget 2023: A vision document of the ‘AmritKaal’ of futuristic India



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her fifth straight budget, the last full budget of Modi 2.0 govt before the next parliamentary elections in 2024. She has rightly said that the Indian economy is on the right path and heading towards a bright future. We all are aware that the last three years were challenging for the Indian economy. FM has elaborated on the key areas that the government has identified to focus on during the financial year 2023-24. Covid dealt a heavy blow to India’s large in-

formal economy resulting in massive job and income losses. India is currently the fastest-growing large economy in the world. The Budget mainly focusses on four major points: empowering women, tourism, helping “vishwakarma” (artisans) and green growth. The government with its 7-priorities and a greater focus on Financial Sector and infrastructure and Investment has stepped in the right direction. It is not just a budget, but also a vision document of the ‘AmritKaal’ of futuristic India. The Budget is an outstanding as it is disciplined, growth-oriented, inclusive and sustainable. It is nice that the Finance Minister has made a big announcement for the taxpayers. Now in the new tax regime, no tax will have to be paid on annual income up to Rs 7 lakh. This will provide relief to new entrants in the job market, many of whose salaries would be well within

this limit. The new taxation regime has now got greater incentives, and attractions so that people can unhesitatingly move from the old to the new. There is no doubt that the budget is an inclusive and futuristic, keeping in mind the empowerment of job professionals, youth, women and farmers as distinctive focus has been laid on infrastructure development, health, employment generation, housing, social welfare, farmers welfare, higher education, innovation and research. Focus on overall infrastructure development and on Tier 2 and 3 cities will be key to overall economic development. The emphasis on core infrastructure, including increased funding for railways and clean energy, as well as the government’s ambitious plans for the agricultural sector, will help to improve rural incomes. States are also being incentivised to spend more on infrastructure. Rs 2.40 lakh crore has been allocated for

Indian Railways, which is the highest it has ever been. As the budget has a vision for growth and development it will give benefit to the people in villages, women, rich or poor. The budget has strongly focused on education to make up for the learning losses incurred during COVID-19. The focus on job creation and skilling in this budget is a step in the right direction to completely rebrand India. The government’s decision to remove tax-free status in insurance policies can potentially have a second-order impact on salaried individuals. India has made rapid strides in infrastructure development in recent years. Projects like Bharatmala, ‘Sagarmala’ and ‘PM Gati Sakti’ are transforming the economy’s infrastructure. The 66% increase in the allocation to Prime Minister Awaas Yojana to Rs 79,000 crores is a sure boost for affordable housing. It is an another step towards the gov-

ernment’s Housing for All mission. One would have observed that since taking office in 2014, PM Modi has ramped up capital spending including on roads and energy, while pursuing investors through lower tax rates and labour reforms, and offering subsidies to poor households to clinch their political support. It is also encouraging that the budget signals the government’s desire to engage with the tourism sector on a “mission mode” – tourism is a significant economic multiplier on job creation, foreign exchange receipts as well as infrastructure. It is also to be appreciated that there has been an 11% increase in the Sports budget which has now become a total of Rs 3,397 cores and around Rs 1,000 crores will be spent only on ‘Khelo India Games’. The move on electric vehicles will help in controlling pollution. Overall Budget has enhanced capital spending, provided tax relief to salaried middle class.

BRIEF

Budget presentation



Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will present the state's Budget for 2023-24 on February 10, according to the Business Advisory Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly report. This will be the fifth and final Budget of Gehlot's current tenure. The House will not meet on February 11 and 12. It will reconvene for a debate on the Budget on February 13-15. The government will reply to the debate on February 16, according to the report.

Food processing



Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has said that the state government is giving a major push to the food processing sector, which will create job opportunities for youth on one hand and immensely benefit farmers as well. "The state government is giving a major push to the food processing sector in Punjab ..," Mann said. The Chief Minister also said that the state government will soon set up 20 dedicated Rural Industrial Hubs across the state.

Ease of living

Shimla: The Union Budget has paved the way for ease of living with opportunities, development and economic stability as focal points, Leader of Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly Jai Ram Thakur said on Thursday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2023-24 on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters here, the BJP leader said a global hub for millets would be a big step in increasing farmers' income.

Exemption

New Delhi: The exemption on ferrous scrap and stainless steel scrap is the "saving grace" for the industry, which is facing issues of raw material unavailability, JSL MD Abhyuday Jindal said on Thursday. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament on Wednesday. In her budget speech, the finance minister proposed to continue the exemption from basic customs duty (BCD) on raw materials for manufacturing cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) steel, ferrous scrap and nickel cathode to facilitate the availability of raw materials to the steel sector. "We are grateful that the Finance Minister has continued the exemption on ferrous scrap and stainless steel scrap.

Govt wants to eventually move to exemption-free I-T regime: Malhotra

New Delhi, Feb 02:

A day after the Budget announcement of a revamped personal income tax regime, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday said the government would eventually like to move to a simple and exemption-free tax structure with lower rates. According to an analysis by the Revenue Department, an individual earning Rs 15 lakh in a year will have to claim deductions of at least Rs 3.75 lakh under the old tax regime, otherwise the new revamped tax regime with lower rates proposed in 2023-24 will be more beneficial. In an interview to PTI, Malhotra said the government does not have any specific timeline to make the new regime mandatory for taxpayers. "We would like to move towards a lower tax rate, which is



Ministry of Finance's Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra speaks during an interactive session on Union Budget 2023-24, at FICCI in New Delhi, Thursday, Feb. 2.

simple and without tax exemptions," Malhotra said. The Budget has proposed changes to the new optional tax regime which provides that no tax would be levied on people with annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh. It also allowed taxpayers to claim standard deduction of Rs 50,000 under the new regime – a move seen as a push for the

salaried class to switch to the new tax regime where no exemptions on investments are provided. Malhotra said under the new regime, salary earners with income of up to Rs 7.5 lakh will not have to pay any income tax, after taking into account the standard deduction. This deduction was earlier available only to taxpayers

in the old regime.

The Budget has not given any relief to taxpayers under the old regime and said that the new tax regime will now be the "default option", meaning that taxpayers will now have to opt for the old regime while filing their tax returns.

In addition to extending the standard deduction, the Budget has also raised the exemption limit and tweaked the tax rates to make the new regime, which was originally introduced in 2020-21, attractive to taxpayers. Under the revamped new tax regime, no tax would be levied for income up to Rs 3 lakh. Income between Rs 3-6 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent; Rs 6-9 lakh at 10 per cent, Rs 9-12 lakh at 15 per cent, Rs 12-15 lakh at 20 per cent and income of Rs 15 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent.

I-T Dept spends 57 paise for every Rs 100 of tax collection: Official

Hyderabad, Feb 02:

Income-tax collection cost that the I-T Department incurs in the country is one of the lowest in the world at Rs 0.57 for every Rs 100 collected as tax, Shishir Agarwal, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Hyderabad, said on Thursday. He was speaking at a seminar on 'Post-Union Budget 2023-24-Implication for Trade and Industries' organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI). "We spend just 57 paise to collect every Rs 100 income-tax. We are one of the lowest in the world. The UK spends 73 paise, Japan 174 paise, Germany 135 paise, Canada

150 paise, France 111 paise. The USA is the only country that spends less than us," a press release quoted him as saying. According to him 65 per cent of I-T returns filed were processed and refunds made within 24 hours of filing. Speaking about the Union Budget which was presented in Parliament on Wednesday, the official said it is 'progressive' and was presented in line with government of India policies and vision 2047. The Budget was an effort in moving to a new tax regime which is simple and more open. Anil Agarwal, president of FTCCI, said the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman came out with a people-centric budget taking into consideration the global recession and slowing growth rate.

Markets end on mixed note; Sensex climbs over 224 points, Nifty dips 6 pts

Mumbai, Feb 02:

Equity markets witnessed mixed trends on Thursday, with the Sensex climbing over 224 points, while the NSE Nifty dipped almost 6 points in highly volatile trade. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex advanced 224.16 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 59,932.24. During the day, it hit a high of 60,007.67 and a low of 59,215.62. However, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 5.90 points or 0.03 per cent to end at 17,610.40, weighed down by continuous selling in Adani group stocks. From the Sensex pack, ITC jumped 4.74 per cent. The other major gainers were IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tata



Consultancy Services and ICICI Bank. HDFC, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Power Grid and HDFC Bank were the major laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai ended in the green, while Hong Kong settled lower. Equities in Europe were trading higher during mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended in the positive territory on

Air India resumes direct flight services between Milan and New Delhi

Mumbai, Feb 02:

Tata group-operated carrier Air India on Thursday said it has resumed its non-stop flight services to Milan from New Delhi from February 1 onwards. These services were discontinued in March 2020 in the view of coronavirus pandemic. The commencement of Milan flight along with Air India's already announced flights to Vienna and Copenhagen from New Delhi will strengthen the airline's footprint significantly in Europe, the airline said in a statement. Air India had late last November said it will operate three flights per week to Vienna and Copenhagen from New Delhi from February 18 and March 1, 2023, respectively.

Usage of PAN as single business ID for all digital systems to promote ease of doing biz: DPIIT Secy

New Delhi, Feb 02:

Usage of PAN (permanent account number) by companies as a common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies will help in expediting clearances and promote ease of doing business, a top official said on Thursday.

The announcement regarding PAN was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on Wednesday. PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the income tax department to a person, firm or entity. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain termed the decision as reformative and transformative. The announcement would take about one year for implementation as it



needs changes in rules and integration of systems across different departments. He said an inter-ministerial committee had recommended this. "With this single business ID, all the databases across the board will get integrated. So this will further promote ease of applying to the national single window system," Jain told reporters here.

"Just put your common number, every data which is already there get populated automatically... This will also help us in creating common returns," he said. The secretary added that all the 13 departments dealing with business approvals and clearances like commerce, industry and environment, as well as all the 36 states and UTs have agreed for this.

Sitharaman had said for those business establishments required to have a PAN, it will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies. This will be facilitated through a legal mandate. She also stated that for obviating the need for separate submission of same information to different government agencies, a system of 'Unified Filing Process' will be set up.

Budget growth-oriented, underscores role of digital, tech in development: Nasscom

New Delhi, Feb 02:

Amid the growing fears of slowdown and global recession, the Union Budget is growth-oriented, boosting allocations across sectors, according to IT industry body Nasscom. The budget offers a playing ground for the startup community as well, and has highlighted that India is the third largest ecosystem for startups, Nasscom said in a statement. "Amidst the growing fear of slowdown and global recession, the Union Budget 2023 is growth-oriented and committed budget, that has boosted allocations across sectors," the IT industry association said. India is walking the talk on becoming a global digital economy, enhancing competitive advantage with focus and investments across key intervention areas. "Calling out the Indian economy as tech-

driven, knowledge-based economy, the budget focuses on three key transformational trends that will help build India its competitive advantage - digital transformation, energy transformation, and supply chain resilience," said Nasscom, the apex body for the USD 227 billion dollar IT-BPM industry in India. It added that budget underscored India's plan to become an engine for global growth and deploy digital as leading India's development. "It touched upon all the critical aspects required to position India as a leader in terms of digital offerings, along with a focus on talent and sustainability," Nasscom said. According to Nasscom, the creation of 5G labs will further help in opening newer avenues and opportunities, scaling up new business models and employment prospects.

Vedanta Aluminium raises USD 250 mn in Sustainability Linked Loans

New Delhi, Feb 02:

Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has raised USD 250 million through Sustainability Linked Loans (SLL) from reputed international banks, for financing its capex initiatives and reducing carbon footprint.

The loans were granted on the basis of specific performance parameters for decarbonization and safety, which the company aims to meet by deploying these funds towards capital expenditure. This will fuel the company's growth journey as well, including achieving a higher degree of backward integration and production of value-added aluminium products. This is Vedanta Group's first such



sustainability linked loan and sets the ball rolling on the company's aspirations to invest in green growth. This serves as a positive reinforcement of the company's endeavours to decarbonize its operations.

Speaking about the funding, Mr Rahul Sharma, CEO – Aluminium Business, Vedanta Ltd. said, "Aluminium will be indis-

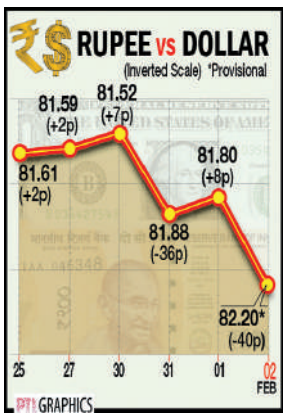
pensable to a low-carbon future, with critical applications across a vast spectrum of industries ranging from electric vehicles to renewable energy and more. We intend to conceive our growth plans on the bedrock of sustainability, with a sharp focus on people safety, decarbonization of our value-chain and water positive operations."

Rupee falls 40 paise to close at 82.20 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 02:

The rupee fell 40 paise to close below the 82 per US dollar mark on Thursday, weighed down by foreign fund outflows and corporate dollar demand. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 81.81 against the greenback, and touched an intra-day high of 81.71 and a low of 82.20.

It finally settled at 82.20 (provisional), down 40 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee had appreciated 8 paise to close at 81.80 against the dollar after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2023-24. The dollar index, which



gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.12 per cent lower at 101.10, after the US Fed hiked the interest rate along expected lines by 25 basis points to 4.50-4.75 per

cent.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.14 per cent to USD 82.72 per barrel. "The Indian rupee became the worst performer among Asian currencies amid foreign fund outflows and corporate dollar demand from hedgers. The weakness in the regional currencies and higher precious metal prices also weighed on the rupee," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. Parmar further said "spot USD-INR has crossed 82.10, the 50-day simple moving average, paving the way for 82.50 and 82.96 while on the downside 81.80 becomes the strong support."

Continued focus on infra in Budget to ensure long-term growth in steel demand: Experts

New Delhi, Feb 02:

The government's continued focus on infrastructure in the Union Budget 2023-24 will ensure sustained long-term growth in steel demand, according to experts. On Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman increased capex for infrastructure development in the country to Rs 10 lakh crore in the Budget.

She also announced a capital outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for the modernisation and expansion of the Indian Railways. "Infrastructure, building and construction sectors together account for around 60 per cent of the end-use steel consump-

tion share in the domestic market. Continued focus on infra projects will ensure sustained long-term growth in steel demand," CareEdge Ratings said. The rating agency further said that the increased outlay for railways and PM Awas Yojana is positive for alloy as well as non-alloy steel producers. SteelMint said the exemption on ferrous scrap from basic customs duty (BCD) and on raw materials for manufacturing cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) steel will facilitate the availability of raw materials to the steel sector besides saving their cost of production.

The expansion in the railway network in the country will translate

into increased usage of steel and help enhance higher domestic crude and finished steel production, the research firm said. Jayanta Roy, Senior Vice President & Group Head said, the Budget has made a strong push for infrastructure-led growth in the country, with the capital outlay for infrastructure projects being raised by 33 per cent in FY 2023-24.

Cumulative allocations to flagship schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the Jal Jeevan Mission have been increased by 65.8 per cent and 16.7 per cent year-on-year, respectively, which is a positive for the long steel and pipe manufacturers.

National Conclave celebrates India's successful Covid-19 journey

New Delhi, Feb 02:

"The Government of India's efforts toward 'Antyodaya' – empowering the last-mile person – as envisioned by PM Narendra Modi, is aligned with the efforts of many individuals and organizations when it comes to public health. This conclave celebrating India's successful COVID-19 journey is aptly titled, Power of the Collective. We are indeed a country that believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas. It has always been our objective to reach every citizen – the most vulnerable from the remotest corners of the country – and secure their health and well-being.



Being a part of this Conclave reaffirms my faith in those who have tirelessly worked to mitigate COVID-19 and assure will continue to support us even beyond the pandemic," said Dr Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare. Dr. Ashok Babu made this observation at a National Conclave on January 31, 2023, which showcased innovative interventions of the MoHFW and state health departments which were deployed with support from partner organi-

zations including USAID to increase the COVID-19 vaccination coverage in India. The Conclave also saw the attendance of Dr. Manohar Agnani, Former Additional Secretary, MoHFW; Ms. Patricia A. Lacina, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy; Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Dr. Veena Dhawan, Additional Commissioner (Immunity), MoHFW; Ms. Sangita Patel, Director, Health Office, USAID; Dr. Sanjay Kapur, Managing Director, John Snow India, among other dignitaries. It was held at the Imperial Hotel, Delhi, and saw participation from 33 state health departments.

Ananya Panday to headline Vikramaditya Motwane's cyber-thriller film

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday is set to headline a cyber-thriller film. The yet-to-be-titled film is being directed by filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane, who is known for films like 'Lootera', 'Udaan', 'Bhaves Josh Superhero', and 'AK vs. AK'. Talking about the film, Ananya said, "When Vikramaditya Motwane approached me with this story, I just knew I had to be part of it. As a filmmaker, he has been on my wish list for as long as I can remember and I feel really lucky to be working with him this early in my career." Vikramaditya Motwane, who is at the helm of affairs for the film, said, "This is a thriller with modern-day appeal and very relevant to our times. It's going to be really interesting to see Ananya Panday in this role since it's something she hasn't attempted before." The film, which recently went on the floors, is being produced by Nikhil Dwivedi of 'Veere Di Wedding' fame, who was also seen in the web series 'Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story'. Nikhil said, "When Vikram shared the script with me to produce, it was one of the most interesting materials I had laid my hands on in recent times and I decided within a few hours to participate in this. Ananya is a commendable artist and someone to watch out for in times to come. I am excited that she is in the film." The film will be shot in a start to finish schedule.

Hrithik Roshan pens note for 'kind hearted rock star' Jackson Wang

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan wrote an appreciation post for K-pop star Jackson Wang, whom he called a "kind-hearted rock star" and thanked him for his music.

The 'War' star took to Instagram to post a slew of photographs with Wang, who was hosted by Hrithik along with his parents Rakesh and Pinkie Roshan at their home in Mumbai.

In the series of pictures, Hrithik, Rakesh and Pinkie posed with Jackson. In one picture, Rakesh was seen giving a thumbs up to Jackson and he greeted the filmmaker with folded hands.

Captioning the post,



Hrithik wrote: "What a delightful experience meeting you Jackson. Such a kind-hearted rock star. Loved hearing about your journey, I hope you continue to grow both as the star and human. Thanks for the music and for the love you gave my family and home staff."

"My love to your entire team - Daryl, Isaac, Tiffany n the entire crew, and kamal. What an inspiring bunch you are! India let's give Jackson some more of that love so he returns back to us - in concert!"

On the work front, Hrithik will next be seen in 'Fighter' alongside Deepika Padukone.

'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan' ropes in Gazal Sood to play Katori Singh

&TV's gharelu comedy "Happu Ki Ultan Paltan" has been making viewers laugh for the last four years. Each character in the show has created a special place in viewers' hearts with their comical timing and quirky antics. And the latest one to join them is Gazal Sood, who will play Katori Singh, aka "Kat."

The actress will step into the shoes of Aashna Kishore to play the role of Daroga Happu Singh's (Yogesh Tripathi) and Rajesh's (Kamna Pathak) eldest daughter. Hailing from Ludhiana, Punjab, Gazal has been part of some popular television

shows and web series before and is excited to portray a ditsy yet sweet and happy-go-lucky girl who struggles to speak fluent English and earns the ire of people around her who do not understand what she is saying. Excited to be a part of the show, Gazal shares, "I am thrilled to be a part of the show, which is also my family's favourite. I have enjoyed watching Kat's character, and I could not be happier to play the character myself. The way she struggles to speak English always leaves me in splits. Comedy is one of my favourite genres, as it offers true entertainment

that puts smiles on viewers' faces. Having watched the show before, I have always admired the way the characters and the show portray comedy so effortlessly. I have started shooting and feel lucky to be surrounded by talented actors like Himani Shivpuri, Yogesh Tripathi, Kamna Pathak, and others. I hope people love my portrayal of the character, which has already gained so much popularity among viewers."

Catch Gazal Sood as Kat in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan every Monday to Friday at 10 PM only on &TV!



Dulquer goes gaga over Rocky bhai's gesture; calls him kindest, best host

Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan has appreciated the gesture of superstar Yash and thanked him for his hospitality during his shoot in Karnataka's Mysuru. Mysuru is the hometown of Rocking star Yash. Dulquer stated, "He is the kindest and best host. He sent me and my team more food than we could eat when we were both filming in Mysuru."

Addressing Dulquer, Yash had posted that "the next time you are back in my hometown, a native cuisine spread will await you."

The fans of both superstars are celebrating the friendship, mutual respect for each other. Yash's fans have appreciated his simplicity and friendly nature.

Late Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar was also appreciated by south superstars for his gestures towards hosting them in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka. Many had remembered Puneeth's gesture of sharing great food with them.



Why does Mumtaz get emotional post Rishi Singh's performance?

This Sunday, nostalgia will take over Sony Entertainment Television's prestigious singing reality show, 'Indian Idol - Season 13' as the show will welcome



Bollywood's legendary 'He-Man,' Dharmendra Ji for the second time along with Mumtaz Ji who will mark her presence on the show for the first time after 50 years! As a tribute, the show will be celebrating the 'Dharmendra and Mumtaz Classics' where the Top 8 contestants will not only sing classics from their era but will also make both Dharmendra ji and Mumtaz ji feel special by wearing some of their iconic film attires.

Contestant Rishi Singh from Ayodhya sings a spectacular rendition of the classic song 'Hum Bewafa,' from the film 'Shalimar.' While his performance received heaps of praises, Mumtaz Ji was visibly emotional. When asked, Mumtaz Ji who compliments Rishi and getting emotional says, "You sang beautifully! It touched my heart and reminded me of my old times."

Be sure to tune into Indian Idol 13, this Sunday at 8:00 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Patralekhaa learns riding a bike on the streets of Mumbai!



After kickstarting the year on a high note with the massive success of #AarYaPaar, Patralekhaa is all set to prepare for her next! She was seen riding a bike on the streets of Mumbai in order to prepare for her next film. The film is based on a road trip and explores the intricacies of female friendships. Patralekhaa added, "It was thrilling! Riding a bike has been on my to-do list for a long time, and it was liberating to finally be able to do it! I feel every woman should know how to ride a bike or a car, it elevates your independence besides giving an empowering feel. Am also grateful for all the adulation that the audiences and critics have showered for 'Aar Ya Paar.'"

My silence has grown 'louder': Suresh Gopi

Popularly known as the "angry young man" of Malayalam film industry, actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi's gradual transformation has left many wondering whether he has mellowed down in real life.

"It's my silence that has grown louder," shot back the actor while speaking to media at his house in the state capital.

He confesses that be it politics or his first love - acting, he is enjoying his time.

Recalling his six-year tenure in the Upper House of Parliament which ended in April last year, he says he is extremely happy to have put his 'signature' in the Citizenship Amendment



Act 2019 besides a few other important ones like the Abrogation of Article 370.

On his future in the po-

litical arena, Gopi said irrespective of whether he is politically active or not, he will continue to be an ardent fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

"I am always in touch with politics and those who matter in politics and will continue to do so, but the thing is, I am doing it the way I like," said Gopi who is presently very busy in his acting field, with a few hits that has come after a hiatus.

To a question on his role in state BJP politics, the politician said he has already made it clear to people that just being a crowd puller will not help turn the tables.

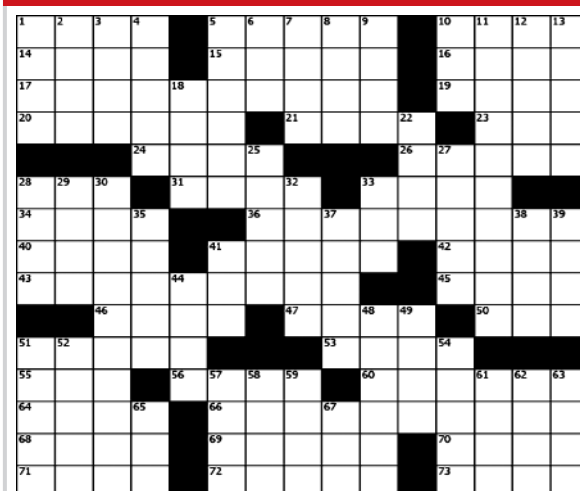
On his return to his first love-acting which

has seen him star in over 260 films and entered the 38th year, Gopi said here too he is happy the way things are panning out for him, since his return after becoming a Rajya Sabha member.

"I am happy with my acting career also but the only difference is, I have decided to be quiet on what's happening as I feel that's best," added Gopi, who at 64 years too, continues to be a fitness freak. His day begins with a 30-minute walk in his private compound followed by some physiotherapy. The only concern he says is the fat that is accumulating around his stomach. "Will soon get rid of that too," a confident Gopi added with a smile.

CROSSWORD

550



ACROSS

- Performs onstage
- Deck's kin
- Snaky swimmers
- Example
- Perfumes
- Understand
- Not relating to individuals
- Rim
- Dictator
- Skier's surface

- Help
- Pierce
- Pound part
- Branch
- Insult
- Yearn
- Rajendra's home
- Recovering readily
- Leer
- Incensed
- Threesome
- Astronomer's tool

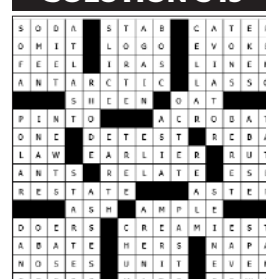
- Posted
- Got it! (2 wds.)
- Placard
- Moines, Iowa
- Humped animal
- Ark skipper
- Live
- Chaps
- NASA program
- Brief letter
- Perceived character
- Grace closing
- Desist
- Discharge
- Hog fat
- Buying frenzy
- Comedian Jay

DOWN

- Vinegary
- Showed up
- Chief's measures (abbr.)
- Leaks slowly
- Of the mail
- Ruckus
- Coal measures
- Modern Persia
- Norwegian port
- Get by
- Species
- Spock's specialty
- Stockholm resident
- Decomposes
- Warm fabric
- Small donkey
- Army subdivisions
- Many (2 wds.)

- Anger
- Small metric measure
- Gathers crops
- False statement
- Witherspoon of "Pleasantville"
- Pub mug
- IX
- Toddler
- Decorate a cake
- Broker's advice
- Pointed beard
- Wine-producing valley
- Panama
- Fragrance
- Inn
- Circle segments
- Profound
- Practice boxing
- Shade of green
- Pork cut
- Aware of
- Cease
- Employ

SOLUTION 549



Pandya aims to emulate Dhoni

Ahmedabad, Feb 02 (PTI):

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya feels he has developed the ability to absorb pressure and doesn't mind playing the anchor role that the great Mahendra Singh Dhoni played for the team.

The 29-year-old has always been known for his batting pyrotechnics but says he has now learnt to take the back seat and anchor the innings, something which master chaser Dhoni did in the fag end of his international career.

"See, to be honest, I've always enjoyed hitting sixes, but I have to evolve and that is life," the stand-in T20 skipper said during the press conference after India sealed the T20 series against New Zealand 2-1.

"I have to take the other part where I've always believed in partnerships. I want to give my team and the other person more calmness and the assurance that at least I'm there."

"I've played more games than any of those guys out there. So, I've known the experience and more than the experience part, it's where I've batted, and I've learnt how to accept pressure and I've learnt how to kind of swallow the pressure and kind of make sure the team and everything is calm," Hardik added.

Dhoni is known for his calm demeanour and Hardik feels now it is his responsibility to step into the legendary wicketkeeper's shoes as a batter and



he is ready to sacrifice his strike-rate to play that role.

"In that way, maybe I have to get my strike rate down or... Taking new opportunities or taking new roles is (something) I've always looked forward to. I don't mind coming in and playing the role which somewhere down the line Maahi (Dhoni) used to play," he said. Hardik has

scored 1271 runs at a strike-rate of 142.17 in 87 T20Is.

"I think at that time, I was young, and I was hitting all around the park, but now since he has gone, all of a sudden that responsibility... It has just naturally come to me, and I don't mind (doing it). We're getting the result we want and it's okay."

During the third T20I

against New Zealand, Hardik did just that, allowing the in-form Shubman Gill (126) to take the attack to the opposition as India posted a massive 234 for 4 and then bowled out NZ for 66 for a 168-run win.

Hardik -- The new ball bowler

With pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah nursing an injury, Hardik has backed himself to bowl more with the new ball, having bowled 12 overs in the powerplay, conceding 86 runs for two wickets this home season.

"I had to bowl with the new ball (in T20Is) because Arshdeep (Singh)... I don't want any new guy to come and have that difficult role of (bowling first up with the new ball) because if they're put under pressure, then we're chasing the game," Hardik said. "So, I've always been (like) leading from the front and I've been working on my new-ball skills, which is helping me." He has taken 69 wickets at 26.43 average in 87 T20Is.

Gill has game to play all formats

Impressed with Gill's rise as an all format player, Hardik said: "I always felt that he has the style and technique to play all the formats and it was not surprising for me. "The effortless batting that he can do, not many can. It means a lot for him, as a youngster to play all formats adds a new dimension to the game."

Aman wins bronze at Zagreb Open wrestling



Zagreb (Croatia), Feb 02 (PTI):

India's Aman Sehrawat clinched a bronze medal at the Zagreb Open wrestling championships here.

The 17-year-old Aman defeated Zane Raye Rhodes Richards of USA 10-4 on points in the bronze medal contest to finish on the podium of the ranking tournament. Aliabbas Rzazade of Azerbaijan bagged the gold, beating Yuto Nishiuchi of Japan 2-0 in the final.

The other bronze was won by Beka Bujiasvili of Georgia, who beat Islam Bazarganov of Azerbaijan. Aman had earlier defeated Roberti Dingashvili of Georgia in the quarterfinals, before losing to Nishiuchi in the semifinals, to qualify for the repechage round as his Japanese opponent went on to reach the final.

Bairstow's recovery from freak injury on 'right track'

London, Feb 02 (PTI):

England's multi-format middle-order batter Jonny Bairstow's chances of being part of the national team for the home Ashes series have brightened as he says his recovery from a freak injury is on "right track".

Bairstow had broken his leg and dislocated his ankle when he slipped on a golf course in September last year and missed the T20 World Cup in Australia and the subsequent away Test tour of Pakistan.

The grievous injury saw the 33-year-old break his fibula in three places, which required complicated surgical intervention. With the Ashes scheduled at home in June-July this year, a fully-fit Bairstow should be an automatic choice in the squad as the firepower he lends to England's batting is unmatched.

Bairstow was in the form of his life last year, averaging 75.66 with four Test centuries before he was struck down by the injury.

"It (the leg) is improving, we're on the right track, we're about four-and-a-half months post it (the injury) happening now," Bairstow said at the Marylebone Cricket Club 'spirit of cricket' panel on Wednesday, according to 'Yorkshire Post'.

The cricketer, who was a part of England's Test resurgence under coach



Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes, however, has not set a return date, though he remains optimistic about the Ashes.

"I haven't actually got a return date just yet but I'm seeing a surgeon later on in the month so we'll wait and see how that goes, but things are tracking in the right direction."

"It's (injury) a bit more complicated than just breaking your leg, but that's just one of the things that you deal with. Everyone has been dealt a card, everyone has challenges put in front of them, but it's just another thing you can overcome."

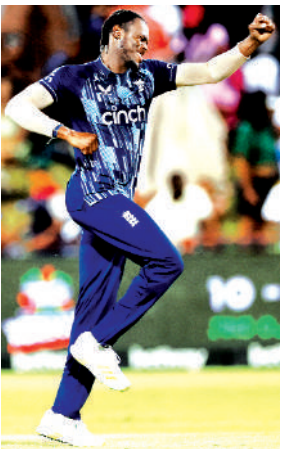
He added that while the long layoff has not quite affected his morale, staying at home, at times, became boring. "It's been a lot different (post the injury), taking the injury away from it, not being ... on planes and flying every-

where and being around a group of lads, being at home has been a lot different. "It's been quite good at times, it's been quite boring at times."

Bairstow said that a day before he slipped on the golf course, white-ball coach Matthew Mott and skipper Jos Buttler were discussing with him the prospects of opening the innings in T20Is.

"It has been tricky, obviously the night before I did my ankle, I spoke to Matthew Mott and Jos (Buttler) and they spoke about me opening the batting in T20 side and that's what I've been wanting to do for a little period of time, so I was absolutely delighted. "And then it's amazing how quickly things can turn on its head, within 12 hours I was laying on a hospital bed, my leg in a cast and my ankle being put back in place."

Archer takes 6 in England win



Kimberley (S A), Feb 02 (AP):

Captain Jos Buttler and Dawid Malan made centuries and dragged England back from 143 to post a big total and win the third one-day international against South Africa for a consolation victory.

Fast bowler Jofra Archer, playing in his first international series for two years, took 6-40 and blew through South

Africa's top and middle order to carry England to its 59-run win in Kimberley. Archer fittingly finished it off by bowling Tabraiz Shamsi. South Africa was all out for 287 chasing England's 346-7.

South Africa had already won the series after taking a 2-0 lead and while the victory in the final game of the series was a consolation for England, it had repercussions for South Africa.

South Africa is still outside of the automatic qualifying places for the 50-over World Cup in India this year and needs every win it can get. The Proteas have two ODIs left against the Netherlands to clinch automatic qualification. England is already assured of a place at the World Cup.

England built its daunting total in Kimberley through a magnificent partnership of 232 for the fourth wicket between Buttler and Malan.

Ahmedabad, Feb 02 (PTI):

Young opener Shubman Gill said his unbeaten 63-ball 126 was "tactically and technically" a near-perfect game as it set up India's massive series-clinching 168-run win in the third T20I against New Zealand.

Gill smashed 12 boundaries and seven maximums in his scintillating maiden century in the shortest format to power India to a mammoth 234 for 4 in the final T20I.

The hosts then bundled out New Zealand for 66 in 12.1 overs to not only win the match but also secure a 2-1 series win.

"To be able to play how I play, I have to be mentally clear," Gill said during an interaction with skipper Hardik Pandya, a video of which was posted on BCCI.tv.

"This is what you (Hardik) told me. Every time I hit a six, he came



and told me -- hold your shape in the next ball, you don't have to do anything extra, just do what you are doing and don't try to go too hard. Every ball he kept reminding me and that helped.

A near-perfect game: Gill

well in the entire T20 series. So, tactically and technically it was a near-perfect game for me."

'Player of the series' Pandya snapped four wickets as he bowled with the new ball to dismiss Finn Allen and Glenn Phillips. He later returned to take two more wickets to demolish the Kiwis.

"Four wickets, to be honest, are just part and parcel of the sport but I think I bowled at 145 (kmph) if I am not wrong and that kind of gave me the happiness and the smile you can see. So, I told him (Gill) today that it is my last game and I am going on a break," said Hardik, who will play his next game in about two months' time.

"So, today (Wednesday) gonna be full all guns blazing and I am going to bowl as fast as possible and, to be honest, the kind of start we got, it made our life very easy."

Messi scores as PSG moves 5 points clear at top

■ **Mbappe injured**

Paris, Feb 02 (AP):

World Cup winner Lionel Messi scored and Kylian Mbappé missed a twice-taken penalty before getting injured as Paris Saint-Germain won 3-1 at Montpellier to move five points clear at the top of the French league.

Mbappé went down clutching his leg just under the right knee and limped off in the 21st minute having earlier missed a twice-taken penalty and blazed the rebound over an open goal on his second effort.

It was unclear exactly what his injury was. Television cameras also caught him rubbing the back of his left thigh as he walked to the dressing room. PSG coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster Canal Plus "he took a blow behind the knee," and then said at his news conference the injury does not appear serious. "Is it a bruise? We don't know yet. It doesn't look very serious," Galtier said.



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi (L) fights for the ball with Montpellier's Malian defender Boubakar Kouyate during the French L1 football match between Montpellier Hérault SC and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at Stade de la Mosson in Montpellier, southern France.

"We're not too worried." The Argentina star Messi tucked home PSG's second goal with a typically neat finish in the 72nd after being set up by Fabien Ruiz, who put PSG ahead in the 55th. Striker Arnaud Nordin pulled one back in

the 89th and, with the home team pushing forward, 16-year-old substitute Warren Za re-Emery drove the ball home for 3-1 in stoppage time with his first goal for the club.

"It's my first goal in the first division, so I'm very



play a single tour game in India during the month-long Test series, primarily due to the hosts serving up green tops for practice matches and spinning tracks for the actual games.

Healy advised the less-experienced Australian players to soak in the pressure and not commit any fielding lapses. "I want the players to be very aware if they are escaping that pressure (from the locals) if you're escaping that pressure and hiding in your room using the golf simulator I think you've got to do something else," he said.

Man United beats Forest 2-0

Manchester, Feb 02 (AP):

Erik ten Hag was hired to bring the good times back to Manchester United. Now, just nine months after his appointment, he is one game away from ending the club's six-year trophy wait.

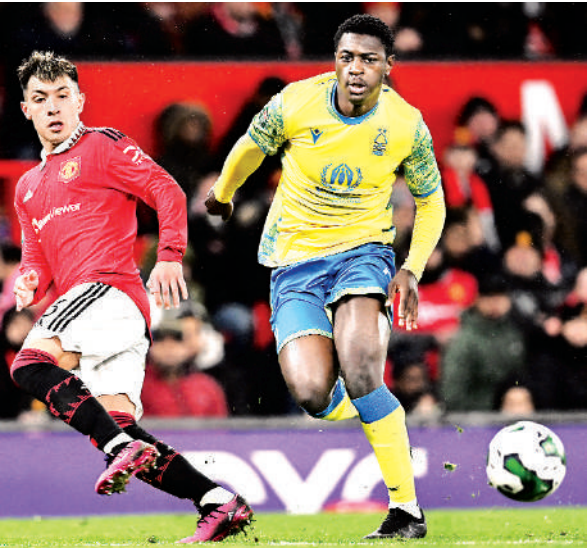
A 2-0 win against Nottingham Forest on Wednesday sealed a 5-0 aggregate victory in the League Cup semifinals.

United will face Newcastle in the final at Wembley Stadium on Feb. 26 for the English season's first piece of major silverware.

"It is good to reach the final of course, but it is not about reaching the final, it is about winning it," Ten Hag said.

"It has to give huge motivation to us and we want to bring that cup (back)."

Substitute Anthony Martial opened the scoring in the 73rd minute and Fred added a second in the 76th, with both goals set up by Marcus Rashford. United won the first leg 3-0 at the City Ground last week. "When you get this far you want to go one fur-



Manchester United's Argentinian defender Lisandro Martinez (L) vies with Nottingham Forest's English striker Detlef Esapa Osong during the English League Cup semi-final second-leg football match between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England.

ther. The damage was really done last week," Forest manager Steve Cooper said. Ten Hag has not made United fans wait long for a first cup final under him. The Dutchman took charge last April and was given the task of turning the club's

fortunes around after too long in the shadows of fierce rivals Manchester City and Liverpool.

The League Cup was the earliest possible final he could reach and victory in the showpiece occasion later this month would fur-

ther fuel belief that he is building a team capable of competing for the biggest prizes in club soccer again.

United has not won a trophy since 2017 when former manager Jose Mourinho triumphed in the League Cup and Europa League in his first season in charge.

While Ten Hag can emulate the Portuguese coach by also winning a trophy in his debut campaign with United, his ultimate challenge is to deliver Premier League and Champions League titles.

Those were standards set by managerial great Alex Ferguson and ones United has not come close to meeting since his retirement in 2013. Ten Hag is the fifth permanent managerial appointment since then and took over a team that finished sixth last season, 35 points below champion City. A title bid was always unlikely this year, but United is in a strong position to qualify for the Champions League, currently fourth in the table and still competing in the FA Cup and Europa League.



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BRIEF



Artists perform at a cultural programme for delegates participating in the G20 Education working Group Meeting 2023, in Mamallapuram, Thursday.

Adjourned

■ **New Delhi:** The Opposition on Thursday forced adjournment of proceedings of the Rajya Sabha for the day soon after it reconvened for the afternoon session as the parties sought a debate on allegations of fraud against the Adani Group. Soon after the afternoon session resumed, opposition members continued their demand and Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced adjournment of the proceedings of the Upper House for the day.

Bail

■ **New Delhi:** A Delhi court Thursday granted bail to a man, arrested for allegedly fleeing from a five-star hotel here without paying a bill of over Rs 23 lakh, noting that he has already settled the outstanding dues. Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala said accused Mahamed Sharif, who had stayed in The Leela Palace for about four months by posing as a functionary of the UAE government, noting that he was not required for further custody.

Solo

■ **Agartala:** The opposition Tipra Motha on Thursday said it will contest the assembly elections in Tripura without any alliance. Tipra Motha president Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawli told PTI that the party is confident of winning the February 16 election on its own. "We are going to fight the elections without any alliance, and on the demand of Greater Tipraland for the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of the people. We are confident of winning the elections," he said.

No decision

■ **New Delhi:** There has been no decision "as of now" on the implementation of a uniform civil code in the country, the government informed Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In a written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government had requested the 21st Law Commission to undertake examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendations. "The term of the 21st Law Commission ended on August 31, 2018.

Weather	
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MARKET	
NIFTY	17,610.40 ▼
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GOLD	58,400
SILVER	71,721

ADJOURNMENTS IN LS, RS

Oppn parties seek Parl debate, JPC on Adani stock rout

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI)

Opposition parties Thursday sought a debate in Parliament and a probe by a joint committee into the fraud-allegation-triggered rout in Adani group company stocks, forcing adjournment of proceedings in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the pre-lunch session.

The Congress, Shiv Sena, the Left, Aam Aadmi Party and other opposition parties tried to raise in both Houses of Parliament the issue of allegations levelled by a US short seller against the Adani group and the subsequent mayhem on company stocks but were disallowed by the chair. Unhappy with the ruling, they raised slogans, forcing the adjournment of proceedings till 2 pm without

transacting any official business. The rout in Adani group stocks has threatened the value of investments made by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and public sector banks. Adani group stocks, where LIC is heavily invested, have lost over USD 100 billion in value since a tiny New York short seller came out with a damning report alleging financial and accounting fraud by the ports-to-energy conglomerate. The Adani group has denied all charges and called the report malicious and full of lies. In the Lok Sabha, MPs from almost all opposition parties rushed to the Well of the House raising slogans and sought a probe into the business practices of the corporate giant. Speaker Om Birla asked members not to

make unsubstantiated claims and said Question Hour was an important part of Parliamentary proceedings which should not be disrupted. As the slogan shouting continued, the Speaker adjourned the Lower House proceedings till 2 pm.

Nine MPs, including Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi and Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh, gave notices in the Rajya Sabha under rule 267. They sought the suspension of regular business to discuss the Adani group stock rout and its impact on millions of small investors as well as the hard-earned savings of crores of Indians being endangered in loss of value of

investments of LIC.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected all the notices, saying they were not in order. This infuriated the opposition MPs who rose in their places to protest.

Dhankhar called for order in the House but the MPs continued to raise their demands, which also included the constitution of a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the entire fiasco.

With the MPs not relenting, he adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. No business was transacted.

Outside the House, Kharge said the opposition parties want day-to-day reporting of the Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) or the SC-monitored probe into the issue which concerns public money.

MAJOR MISHAP AVERTED

Five bogies of Satyagrah Express detach from engine

Muzaffarpur, Feb 02:

Five bogies of the Satyagraha Express train detached from the engine near Majhulia station in Bihar's Bettiah. The incident took place at the Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj railway section and triggered panic among passengers. East Central Railway officials immediately rushed to the spot and reattached the bogies to the train running from Bihar's Raxaul district to New Delhi. No passenger reported any injuries. East Central Railway officials have launched a probe into this matter. Reportedly, due to the malfunction of the coupling, which is used to connect two bogies together, the bogies separated from the engine.



Goods train derails, rail traffic hit

Koraput: A goods train derailed near Sivalingapuram Yard in Odisha-Andhra border area on Thursday, disrupting rail traffic and cancellation of a train on the route. There was no report of anyone getting hurt after eight loaded trains of the goods train from Bacheli towards Visakhapatnam derailed near Sivalingapuram Yard before Tunnel-7 in Sivalingapuram-Boddavara section, sources said.

Nagpur, Feb 02:

In a major electoral setback for the BJP in one of its most significant bastions, the candidate for the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition on Thursday defeated the party's contender in polls to a Maharashtra Legislative Council seat in Nagpur. Contestant Sudhakar Adbale, supported by the MVA, won the Nagpur teachers constituency defeating his closest rival Nagorao Ganar, a BJP-backed independent and the sitting MLC from the seat.

What makes the results a huge blow for the BJP is that the constituency houses the headquarters

BJP wins Konkan seat

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Dnyaneshwar Mhatre won polls to the Konkan division teachers constituency of the Maharashtra Legislative Council on Thursday. Returning officer and divisional commissioner Mahendra Kalyankar, who announced the results of the Konkan teachers constituency after counting of votes in Navi Mumbai, said Mhatre polled 20,683 votes, while Patil bagged 10,997. Although there were eight candidates in the fray, the main contest was between Mhatre and Patil.

of its ideological parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and is the home turf of prominent leaders like Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

Rare rocks for Lord Ram idol reach Ayodhya

■ From Nepal

Ayodhya (UP), Feb 02 (PTI):

Special rocks from which the idol of Lord Ram will be carved out and placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Temple has arrived from Nepal, a senior functionary of the temple trust here said.

The rocks or 'shilas' arrived here late on Wednesday night.

Special prayers were held on Thursday afternoon following which the rocks were presented to the Shri Ram Janambhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Fifty-one vedic teachers also worshipped the rocks, officials said. Mahant Tapeshwar Das of the Janaki Mandir in Nepal presented these rocks to Champat Rai, general secretary of Ram Temple



Priests perform rituals near Shaligram (non-anthropomorphic representations of Lord Vishnu in Hindu religion) stones dispatched from Nepal, upon their arrival in Ayodhya, Thursday.

Trust, they said. The idol of Lord Ram's 'baalroop' (child form) carved out of these stones will be placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple which is expected to be ready by January next year. Vishwa Hindu Parishad's national secretary Rajendra Singh Pankaj had started from Mustang district of Nepal

on January 25 with the consignment of the two sacred rocks.

These rocks, that are 60 million-years-old, reached Ayodhya from Nepal on two different trucks. One rock weighs 26 tonnes and the other weighs 14 tonnes, Prakash Gupta, office in-charge of temple trust had earlier said.

HUMANITY AFTER DEATH

Man donates organs, saves four lives

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI):

The family of a 50-year-old man who was declared brain dead at AIIMS here, donated his organs, offering fresh lease of life to four patients.

According to an official statement, Bijender Sharma's organs were donated to recipients through the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

Sharma's heart was transplanted in a patient at Fortis Escorts while his liver was transplanted at the ILBS Hospital. His kidneys were transplanted in two patients in AIIMS, Delhi, and the Army Hospital (Research And

Referral), the statement said.

His corneas have been banked at the National Eye Bank in AIIMS, it said.

Sharma, a furniture designer was on his way back home from work on January 30 when he met with a road traffic accident in Faridabad, the statement from AIIMS said, adding that he was rushed to a nearby hospital.

Sharma's son tried reaching him over phone when he was being unusually late to reach home. He was shocked when, instead of his father, a stranger picked his call and informed him about the accident, it said.

MARCH TOWARDS SELF-RELIANT

Grant for IIMs reduced by half

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI):

The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), which are counted among the noted business schools in the country, have faced a budget cut this year with the Centre reducing their grant by half.

The top institutes, however, believe that the move might hurt new IIMs but not the second or first generation IIMs.

There are 20 IIMs across the country.

In the budget for 2023-24 announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, the funding for IIMs has been brought down to Rs

What top B schools say...

The top institutes, however, believe that the move might hurt new IIMs but not the second or first generation IIMs. However, through this cut, the government perhaps is sending signals to the leadership of individual IIMs to be more innovative in funding their growth plans like promoting use of PPP model and also to the industry to support academic institutions of national importance through CSR initiatives and other donations," IIM Udaipur Director Ashok Banerjee said.

300 crore from the previous fiscal year's Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs 608.23

BAGHEL QUESTIONS NPS INVESTMENT

Is money deposited in NPS scheme invested in Adani group ?

Raipur, Feb 02:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday claimed that state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India and State Bank of India continued to invest in the Adani group despite the shares of its companies crashed after short seller Hindenburg alleged financial irregularities by the conglomerate.

Talking to reporters here he wondered if money deposited by government employees in the National Pension Scheme (NPS) was also invested in the Gautam Adani group.



Asked about a report by Hindenburg Research, Baghel said, "When we used to speak against the BJP, we were dubbed as anti-Hindu and when against the Prime Minister and home minister, we were described as anti-national. Now the comments have come (from

Adani group) that they (Hindenburg) are Bharat Virodhi (anti-India). They (Adani group) are saying it is an attack on Bharat and not on Adani. Who is Bharat? Is Adani ji Bharat?"

Adani group stocks, where LIC is invested, have lost over \$100 billion in value since the New York-based Hindenburg came out with a damning report alleging financial and accounting fraud by the ports-to-energy conglomerate. The Adani group has denied all charges and called the report malicious, full of lies and a "calculated attack" on India.

RELIEF TO CANDIDATES

SC rejects plea seeking one candidate, one seat

New Delhi, Feb 02 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea seeking to bar persons from contesting elections from more than one seat, saying it is ultimately the Parliament's will as to whether the political democracy in the country is furthered by granting a choice. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud observed that candidates may contest polls from more than one constituency due to a variety of reasons. The bench, also comprising justices PS Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, was dealing with a petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who had sought to declare as invalid and ultra vires to the Constitution section 33(7) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which allows a person to contest a general election or a group of bypolls or biennial elections from two constituencies.

■ On bail

Lucknow, Feb 02 (PTI)

Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan walked out of jail on Thursday, a day after the sureties required for his bail were submitted in court.

Two sureties of Rs 1 lakh each were submitted on Wednesday in the special PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court here.

Kappan was released from jail around 9.15 am, Jailor of Lucknow District Jail Rajendra Singh told PTI.

"I struggled," Kappan said minutes after he walked out to camera



Journalist Siddique Kappan poses for photos following his release from the Lucknow District Jail, in Lucknow, Thursday.

crews, a small curious crowd -- and to his wife and teen son, waiting patiently, just as they had for the more than two years since he was imprisoned on his way to Hathras. "It has been 28 months. I am out after a lot of fight. I am happy,"

he said. Speaking to PTI, the journalist added, "I am coming to Delhi. I have to stay there for six weeks."

Asked about the purpose of his visit to Hathras, Kappan told the assembled reporters that he had gone there for "reporting". About those who had accompanied him, he said they were students. Kappan and three others were arrested in October 2020 while they were going to the Uttar Pradesh town where a Dalit woman died allegedly after being raped. They were accused of trying to instigate violence over the death of the Hathras woman.

शान्ति मिलन



जन्म 03.06.1982

निर्वाण 28.01.2023

स्व. मनीष शर्मा

(डायरेक्टर - सन् एंड सन् ज्वेलर्स)

नियति कई बार परीक्षा लेती है, तब कई बार कठिन प्रश्न पैदा होते हैं, मन निराशा से भी भर जाता है, तब परिवार और स्नेहीजनों के साथ से जीवन को फिर से रफ्तार पकड़नी ही पड़ती है। मनीष का यूँ 40 वर्ष की उम्र में चला जाना हम सबको निःशब्द और स्तब्ध छोड़ गया है, पर हम सबको उसकी चिर-परिचित मुस्कान, संयमित जीवन शैली, आकर्षक व्यक्तित्व, पारिवारिक प्रतिबद्धता और विदुषी और जिवांशी में उसकी प्रतिमूर्ति को अपना साथ बना कर उसकी स्मृति को चिरस्थायी बनाना है। ईश्वर अपने श्री चरणों में उसे शाश्वत स्थान दें!

कार्यक्रम- शान्ति मिलन

दिनांक : 03.02.2023 (शुक्रवार), समय : शाम 4 बजे से 5 बजे तक

स्थान : पुजारी पार्क “मानस भवन” पचपेढ़ी नाका रोड, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

शोकाकुल

कैलाश चंद्र शर्मा (दादाजी), राजेन्द्र शर्मा (पिताजी)

मनोज शर्मा, संजय शर्मा, दिनेश शर्मा, महेश शर्मा, सुनील शर्मा, श्याम शर्मा (चाचाजी)

एवं समस्त शर्मा परिवार (सन् एंड सन् ग्रुप, रायपुर)

विशेष अनुरोध : आज का यह कार्यक्रम अंतिम सामाजिक शोक मिलन कार्यक्रम है। इसके उपरांत शोक सम्बन्धी कोई बैठक नहीं होगी।

: संबंधित प्रतिष्ठान :

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- संदीप कोल्ड स्टोरेज • सन् एंड सन् इन्फ्रामेट्रिक प्रा.लि. • सन् एंड सन् कोल्ड एंड ट्रेड प्रा. लि.

Central and state govts will make joint efforts to save the cultural heritage of state

MoU signed between the CGDA & IGNC in presence of Minister Amarjeet Bhagat

Raipur, Feb 02:

The Central and State Governments will collaborate to save, maintain, and promote Chhattisgarh's cultural and historical heritage. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today in the presence of Minister Amarjeet Bhagat between the Directorate of Archaeology, Abhilekhaghar (Archive) and Museums, Raipur and the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

According to the terms of the agreement, in Mahant Ghasidas Memorial Museum on the rock art of Chhattisgarh, as well as the rock art of the world and India, has been set up separately in



Raipur by the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts in order to familiarize local students, tourists, researchers, and the general public with the real aspects of their ancient culture.

In addition, both institutions will be helpful in various academic programs-projects such as research training, a compilation of

digital resources, surveys, archiving, and conservation-preservation of state-protected rock shelters.

Meanwhile, Expressing satisfaction over this arrangement, Culture Minister Bhagat stated that 'this MoU is significant in the direction of conservation and promotion of Chhattisgarh's heritage and culture. The culture department is dedicated to maintaining Chhattisgarh's cultural and archaeological significance. The central representatives were greeted with 'Rajkiya gamchha' by the Culture Department.

On this occasion, Director of Culture and Archeology Department Vivek Acharya, Deputy Director Dr. P.C. Parakh, Excavation Assistant Mr. Praveen Tirkey, Dr. Rajeev Minj and Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (I.G.N.C.A.) From New Delhi, Head of the Department of Rock Art Dr. Ramakar Pant, Assistant Professor Dr. Dilip Sant, Project Assistant Mr. Zakir Khan, and Project Associate Mr. Praveen C.K. were present.

DUSTY ROADS



Two-wheeler riders are facing problems in almost all the main roads of capital city left without tarring after the digging work for laying of cables.

RMC evicts carts, kiosks from Telibandha Marine Drive



Raipur, Feb 02:

Taking a major action against hawkers, the Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) removed carts and kiosks from Telibandha Marine Drive - the most crowded part of Raipur on Thursday morning. Bulldozers were pressed in action to remove the carts.

RMC officers arrived with the entire team in the morning and did the work of evicting the carts and kiosks. Hawkers were also seen arguing with the RMC staff who reached the area in the morning, but kiosks were removed within a few hours. The said area remains abuzz with activities with visit of about five thousand people

Action taken due to traffic jam

in evening. Considering traffic jam caused due to crowd, the RMC decided to remove Chowpatty from the area. RMC staff had tried to remove carts and kiosks two months back but they had to stop action after facing wrath of the hawkers. The action caused resentment among the hawkers. They said that they were evicted in a one sided action without proper rehabilitation. More than 40 carts were seized. Meanwhile the corporator of Telibandha area Ajit Kukreja said that the next project of RMC includes proposal of allotment of space to hawkers for 'chowpatty' on the portion of road under expressway just before Telibandha Police Station.

One nabbed with 10 bottles of banned cough syrup



Raipur, Feb 02:

The Police has nabbed one Chandan Kumar Mandal with banned cough syrups and psychotropic drugs. Amanaka Thana got tip from an informer that a person standing near Gate No. 4 of AIIMS is waiting to sell banned cough

syrups. On this Addl. SP (W) Dev Charan Patel and City (SP) Mayak Gurjar directed TI Amanaka Thana to nab the accused red handed.

On this the Amanaka Thana police went to the site and nabbed the accused with banned cough syrup. On conducted search, they found Codistar cough syrup (with combination of Codin Phosphate and Chlorofeniramin Millet syrup) in a bag. Failing to produce any valid documents related to syrup, the accused Chandan Kumar was nabbed and 10 bottles of this banned syrup were seized. A case under section 21 (B) of Narcotics Act was filed against him. The accused is resident of H.No.213 of RDA Colony, Heerapur, Kabir Nagar Thana.

BJP Minorities hold Cong responsible for the miserable condition of minorities



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 02: National President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minorities Morcha Jamal Siddaqui on Thursday held the Congress responsible for the reported miserable condition of the Minorities in the country.

Addressing a press conference at party office situated at Ekatma Parishar after attending the National Executive Body meeting of the frontal organisation, the National

head Siddaqui said that the Minorities Morcha is trying to associate the exploited and deprived minorities by informing them about the reality of political parties and added that the Narendra Modi led BJP is focusing on development of the nation.

He said that Global leaders would be aware with the Indian Culture during the G-20 meeting and extended gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi for organising it in 56 cities across India. He

also claimed the Osaduddin Owashi to be second variant of Jinna and alleged that he is using sentiments of the people for his political gains which in the process is breaking the Unity and Integrity of the Nation.

Replying to a question, he said that the previous governments have been treating the Minorities as political vote bank whereas the Modi government is proving new opportunities to them for growth and progress.

Drugs department conducts raids in shops



On complaint of mixing Allopathic chemicals in Ayurvedic medicines

Raipur, Feb 02: The Drugs Department of state capital conducted raid in Gitanjali Nagar, Birgaon, Shankar Nagar and other areas of city here on Thursday. In Gitanjali Nagar, the raid was conducted at Bajrang

Aushadhi Bhandar and here hundreds of cartons were seized. Its samples were taken and sent to lab for checking. It is worthwhile to mention here that it was based upon complaint of mixing of Allopathy chemicals in the Ayurvedic medicines that this raid was conducted. During this a total of four teams of the Drug department conducted raids at many places in city and conducted search.

Three-day Vikram Sarabhai Space exhibition inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 02: School Education Minister Dr Prem Sai Singh Tekam on Thursday inaugurated the three-day Vikram Sarabhai Space Exhibition being organized at NH Goel World School, under the aegis of ISRO, Ahmadabad.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Dr Tekam requested the ISRO scientists to start a center in Chhattisgarh also so that the students can get guidance in this field.

He also launched an e-book published by ISRO on the occasion.

In his speech, the Guest of Honour, Rajesh Singh



Rana, IAS (Director SCERT), urged the students to benefit from such exhibitions and develop love for the subject so that our nation is never bereft of scientists. The Director, IISRO, Nilesh M Desai in his online address briefed the audience about ISRO. He told the audience that the organization which was established in the year 1972 has been tirelessly working towards

making India a super power. It has many satellites and rocket launch to its credit.

The eminent luminaries decorating the exhibition include NJ Bhatt along with his team members Ms Rachna Patnaik, Paresh Sarvaiya, Dr SP Vyas, Jagdev Thakor, Bhavesh Solanki, NirajKuhar, JitendraBhai Nadav. During the inaugural ceremony, the students

sang peans in praise of science which helps in maintaining world peace and order. The Vice Principal of the school, Dr Awinash Pandey expressed his gratitude to the ISRO and the scientists to have consented to organize the science fair in the school premises.

NJ Bhatt, senior scientist, VSSE SAC, Ahmadabad appreciated the efforts of the students, staff and management for organizing the exhibition. After the ceremonial formalities the exhibition was declared open. The major attractions of the fair are different kinds of science activities, conversation with the scientists and mobile exhibition.

The students will be explaining the process of rocket launch which works on the Newton's Third law of Motion.

State service preliminary exam on Feb 12

Raipur, Feb 02: The State Service Preliminary Examination-2022 organized by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission will be conducted in two shifts on February 12 from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3 pm to 5 pm in the (57) examination centers determined by the commission. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure has appointed transport officer and flying squad in-charge for the examination centers for the smooth conduct of the examination. Observers will conduct continuous inspection to prevent unethical activities in the allotted examination centers during the examination. During the examination, it will be mandatory for all the examinees and officers-employees to follow social distancing, sanitization, wearing masks and all other guidelines as per the guidelines of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I-talk on Intellectual Property Rights held



Raipur, Feb 02: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Innovation Cell organized an I-talk about "Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Its Relevance for Faculties & Students of Institutes/Startups" on Thursday. The I-talk was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Saurabh Gupta, Faculty In-charge, Innovation Cell. Meghdut Bhattacharya, IPR Attorney, and Startup Advocate was the event's guest speaker. Bhattacharya opened the event by encouraging the students to propose business ideas and explained how innovations can be protected through I.P.R. He compared IPR to moats and talked about its importance in start-ups. He discussed different types of IPR such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, their applications, and the duration till which they last. He stated that business concepts cannot be protected but the busi-

ness processes can be secured through IPR.

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OBITUARY

Rama Vasudeva



Raipur: Rama Vasudeva R/o Vivekanand Nagar, breathed her last here on Thursday. She was W/o Late Shri Dharamvir Vasudeva and mother of Gaurav Vasudeva. The final journey will leave from her residence on Jan 3 to Marwari crematorium at 12:00 noon.

Fifty one medical students become first time blood donors

'Tum Mujhe Khoon Do Abhiyan'

Raipur, Feb 02:

The Department of Pathology of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur has launched a drive "Tum Mujhe Khoon Do Abhiyan" with the aim of providing scientific information related to blood donation to college students, removing related doubts and misconceptions and motivating them to donate blood. To this end

on January 09, the college's M, Dr Arvind Neral organised a lecture session for MBBS First Year students of the college on January 9. As many as 51 students including 17 girls donated blood for the first time in their life at special blood donation camp or-



ganised on the occasion. The special blood donation camp was organised at blood donation mobile vehicle in the college campus only for the MBBS First Year students.

Fifty one students aged 19 to 22 years had a pleasant experience of donating blood for the first time.

The feelings of happiness, and satisfaction of giving their valuable contribution in a noble social cause were clearly visible on the faces of these young blood donors. Dr Arvind Neral congratulated them on becoming the first blood donors and advised them to become a "regular blood

donors".

Dean of Medical College Dr Tripti Nagariya distributed blood donation certificates to these students and appreciated "Tum Mujhe Khoon Do Abhiyan". In the next phase of this campaign conducted by the Department of Pathology, students of Dental, Nursing and Physiotherapy colleges will be included. Youth will be motivated and encouraged for their contribution in blood donation campaign in other 1 or 2 colleges of the city and NCC/NSS every month. Dr Vijay Kapse, Dr Aviral Mishra, Dr Pushkar Choudhary and technical staff of model blood bank of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital extended their co-operation in running the special blood donation camp.



Sitaraman's budget a boon for middle class with IT slab reduction

The union budget 2022-23 presented by Union Finance Minister Sitaraman has been well received from all sectors except for few sparks. Though the agriculture, health and education sector has been given a boost but all other issues related to it has not been addressed. The Union Budget 2023 has evoked mixed reactions among the middle class with IT slab reduction. Meanwhile, the business community has termed in as the budget which will be favourable for the growth of trade and industries. The reduction in income tax slab will be a boon for middle class.

Welfare and Growth oriented holistic budget



The Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is far-sighted, balanced development and growth oriented holistic budget. The budget will ensure that India continues to be a shining star of the world economy. The Budget laid down concrete policies to address the issues of unemployment, inflation and slowdown in economic growth. As far as unemployment is concerned, this Budget will encourage the creation of jobs. We are making huge investments from Rs 7.5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore. It is encouraging the cooperative sector as well as MSMEs. The Budget has taken care of every section of the society. The Budget indicates that the "economic structure" of the country remains "strong and stable", while giving relaxation to those who need it. The Finance minister has remained very liberal for allotting the funds probability next Lok Sabha election was in her mind. The finance minister is to be appreciated for preparation of this growth oriented holistic budget.

Dr. Hanumant Yadav,
Economist

Good budget with emphasis on agriculture, youth and health



The budget 2023 takes an integrated approach to modernise education through technology and upskill youth and make them ready for jobs through futuristic skills like coding, AI, IOT and Mechatronics as well as development of soft skills. The budget also makes clear the aim of National Education Policy for skilling and job creation, setting up of 30 skill India centres across. The setting up of 740 Eklavya Model Schools for 3.5 lakh students. The National Apprenticeship Scheme and the provision of stipend to 47 lakh youth in the next three years. All these are steps that are welcome and if implemented properly will equip India and it's youth to take the country forward. Exemptions to startups are also welcome.

Dr Jawahar Suriseti,
Educationist

A populist budget by Modi Govt



The Modi Government's last full budget has been populist in all aspects as it will help boost Auto Sales all around. While the capital outlay of Rs 10 Lakh Cr in infra spending will definitely aid CV sales, the aim to scrap all old government vehicles by aiding State Governments will boost all segment sales. Apart from this, the reduction in individual tax slabs will benefit the ailing entry level 2W and PV segment. Reduction in highest tax surcharge from 37% to 25% will also benefit luxury vehicle sales. With focus on Electrification, relaxation on import duties of Lithium ion batteries will help in price reduction of EVs, thus make it affordable for the masses. On business front, being part of the MSME universe, cost of credit guarantee will reduce by 1% thus helping Auto Dealers in raising funds. The budget has also focussed on ease of doing business by reducing more than 39K compliances and enabling entity level digilocker for storing and sharing documents.

Manish Raj Singhania, President
Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA)

Balanced budget



It focuses on various types of capital investment, infrastructure, whether it is PM Awas Yojana, new railway schemes, transport infrastructure, 50 new airports, assistance to replace old vehicles, employment, trade, industry with these there will be development in all including transport and the country's GDP will touch a new height. For those who have failed in MSMEs, the new scheme is to return 95% capital, which is a good thing for MSMEs, the income tax slab has been increased, which will result in less tax on income. The slab of audit has been increased from two crores to three crores, this is a good start. Free food scheme has been extended for the next 1 year; this is a good thing for the rice mill business.

Parmanand Jain,
Working President,
CAIT

The Saptarishi Budget



As a Career Psychologist, I am very happy at various proposals made by the Finance Minister Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman. The first on recall is the announcement of 157 new nursing colleges attached with the previously existing medical institutions. This shall not only generate a lot of employment but also bridge the gap of ever growing health-care professionals. The announcement to develop the National Book Trust, in order to recover the learning loss induced in the school going youth during pandemic is a very innovative programme. It would be interesting to see the mechanism in which this plan unfolds into execution. The Saptarishi guideline of seven key areas viz. 1) Inclusive Development 2) Reaching the Last Mile 3) Infrastructure and Investment 4) Unleashing the Potential 5) Green Growth 6) Youth Power 7) Financial Sector covers the overall aspects of all key dimensions in the interest of the growth of Bharat. I must say this budget shifts the focus from employment to self-employment, from urban to rural ecosystem, from physical to online and digital economy and from standard education to skill-based knowledge gathering.

Dr Varsha Varwandkar
Career Counsellor & Educational Psychologist

Budget that will shape a new India: Malu



Reacting to the general budget presented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, Harakh Malu, former president of Raipur Sarafa Association, said that due to the indigenous production of LGD (Laboratory Created Diamonds) sheads and machines, one more step will be taken towards this and this entire budget is going to build a new India. The announcement made by the Union Minister will greatly benefit the local businessmen as well as the traders. Now the bullion traders will not be dependent on foreign countries because due to the production of lab-made diamonds, the bullion traders will get relief from the import duty. Union Minister Sitharaman expressed gratitude to Harakh Malu, former President of Raipur Sarafa Association, for fulfilling the demand of increasing the exemption limit of income tax which was earlier Rs. The number will increase as well as the income of the central government will also increase. He said that by increasing the limit of income tax exemption, the common businessman will be benefited, just as earlier he used to get 187500 tax when he earned 1000000, now he will have to pay only 10 percent income tax after increasing the limit of income tax.

Harakh Malu,
Former President, Raipur Sarafa Association

A budget transitioning into Digital Sunrise



I listened to the budget speech carefully and found that the Hon Finance Minister used the word "Transition" six to seven times. Overall focus on most of the announcements are in the direction of digital infrastructure development. As such, it can be seen as a unique and a landmark budget which helps Bharat transition into the digital ecosystem seamlessly. When it comes to education, this budget emphasises the importance of digital skill based setup. Be it the establishment of the National Digital Library at Panchayat level or the creation of National Book Trust, allocation for research and innovation in the pharmaceutical or the announcement of the three Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence, the overall budget provisions are indicating the governments focus on the new age technology. I wish to make a specific mention of the introduction of PMKVY 4.0 which apparently promises focus on a revised teaching learning pedagogy which involves, on the job training, 3D Programming, Drones, Coding, AI, IOT enabled technology etc. Overall a very satisfactory and a promising nature of the budget provisions.

Dr Ajit Varwandkar, Director
Myglakadam.com

'Sarvajana Hitaya Sarvajana Sukhaye': A very good budget



The world is accepting India's model, India is moving fast on the path of economic development, this is because of many big achievements of India. India's per capita income has doubled, no one has been allowed to sleep hungry during the Covid pandemic, working on the vision of prosperity through cooperation. 6.5 crore ITRs have been processed this year. For the first time in the history of the country, minimum/medium/excess income tax i.e. all classes got the benefit of exemption together, according to this last full budget of the government, now those earning less than 7 lakh in income tax will not have to pay any income tax. This benefit will be given only in the new tax regime, although the option of the old tax regime will also be available. In the new tax regime also, now the benefit of standard deduction will be available, this will greatly benefit the taxpayers. At present, senior citizens could deposit a maximum of Rs 15 lakh, this limit has been increased to Rs 30 lakh.

Kishore Bardia, CA

Union Budget evokes mixed reaction



The Union Budget 2023 has evoked mixed reactions among the middle class. The middle class got some benefit under the tax regime but no benefit under saving scheme. As India is agriculture based country, the startup business in the agro-based sector has been encouraged in the Budget. Education sector were given priority with opening of nursing colleges.

Nitin Patel, CA,
Director, Shri Balaji
Group of Hospitals and
Colleges

One of the best budget in Indian history



BJP media in-charge and CA Amit Chimnani reviewed the budget presented today. He termed as the one of the best budgets in Indian history. He said that the budget is for the poor farmer and it will help a lot in building the dream of modern India. The budget presented today will encourage many countries of the world to invest in India, which will provide employment opportunities to the people of India and also strengthen the economy of India. With the capital expenditure of 10 lakh crores, India will be very strong in infrastructure, due to which

many countries of the world will be attracted to invest in India and employment will be created, as well as will increase the purchasing power of the people of India. Amit Chimnani, a CA by profession and a member of the Advisory Board of Accountant General of Chhattisgarh, said that

the biggest feature of the Modi government's budget is to increase the fund allocation by four to five times, compared to 2013. Today education, agriculture, health, Defense all these have been increased by 4 to five times, due to which people of every sector will be able to get the benefit of new schemes. Railways getting the biggest ever budget of Rs 24 lakh crore and allocation of about Rs 6 lakh crore to the defense budget is enough to give sleepless nights to the enemies.

Amit Chimnani,
CA and BJP media in-charge

A growth-oriented budget



Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs, will have a positive multiplier effect on economic growth and help realize the PM's vision for 'Housing for All'. Continuing its focus on urban planning reforms to develop sustainable cities for tomorrow, the allocation

of INR 10,000 crores to the NHB for infrastructure development, the highest ever railway outlay at Rs 2.4 lakh crore, and increased regional connectivity through 50 more additional airports, along with other connectivity projects will also boost regional connectivity and will add impetus for infrastructure development, especially in tier-2 and 3 cities which will help the Indian economy to remain less impacted by a global slowdown."

Mrinal Golcha,
Chairman, CREDAI,
Chhattisgarh

Union Budget a big relief to common men



Merchant Association President Satish Jain has welcomed the union budget as it provided relief to the common people with IT slab reduction. Every sector has been taken care in the budget. This budget will motivate infrastructure development, investment in railway, PM Housing and Horticulture. National Digital Library and Millet Institute is a welcome step which will make economic strong and provide new opportunity to the common men.

Satish Jain, President,
Merchant Association.

A balanced budget for micro, small and medium traders and industrialists: CAIT



National Senior Vice President of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangal Malu, Amar Gidwani, State President, Jitendra Doshi, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhiya, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, Treasurer Ajay Agarwal and media in-charge Sanjay Choubey said that CAIT CG regard-

ing the budget presented in the Parliament today. A live reaction was given by the CAIT CG Chapter, in which heads of various business organisations from across the state were present. The budget presented was a balanced budget for traders ranging from micro, small and medium class to upper class businessmen and industrialists. According to Nirmala Sitharaman, this budget is the blueprint for the coming year for inclusive development. But it remains to be seen how the

big announcements made will be implemented on the ground. CAIT's National Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani and State In-charge President Mr. Parmanand Jain said that in the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister is a balanced budget. Income tax exemption has now been given by the government to traders and citizens up to 7 lakh, which was welcome by CAIT CG Chapter but relief was expected in diesel, petrol and gas. Nothing concrete has been announced with regard to simplification and rationalization of the GST tax structure which is against the principle of "One Market - One Tax" and also on arbitrary behavior by foreign companies in e-commerce, there is a lot of disappointment among the traders due to not saying anything.

'Chh'garh to benefit from budget push for infra, millet cultivation, natural farming'

Though no specific measures were announced in the Union Budget on Wednesday for Chhattisgarh, where polls are due by end-2023, experts hailed several provisions in the annual document, including hike in capital expenditure for infrastructure, focus on millet cultivation and push for natural farming, saying these will benefit the state.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel termed the budget for 2023-24, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha, as disappointing for the Congress-ruled state.

small scale industries which are also a welcome step, he added. Vice-Chancellor of Atal Bihari Vajpayee University, Bilaspur, and renowned economist ADN Bajpai said the change in I-T slabs will benefit tax payers and enhance purchasing power of middle class families.

Bajpai said the central government has accepted the millet power of Chhattisgarh and has started making India a millet hub.

Dr Santosh Rai, an educationist from Durg district, said provision of huge investment in basic infrastructure and agriculture will benefit common people, including those from Chhattisgarh.

Balance Budget by Finance Minister: Chamber

State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golchha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal said on the general budget that live reaction was organised at Chamber Bhavan regarding the budget presented in Parliament in which heads of various business organizations from across the state were present. The budget presented was a balanced budget for traders ranging from micro, small and medium class to upper class businessmen and industrialists. According to Nirmala Sitharaman, this budget is the blueprint for the coming year for inclusive development. But it re-



mains to be seen how the big announcements made will be implemented on the ground. State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Amar Parwani said that in the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, farmers, youth, job professionals, women and senior citizens, along with traders-industrialists, have been specially kept in view of long-term goals. Balanced budget has been

prepared. The income tax has now been exempted by the government to traders and citizens up to 7 lakhs, which the Chamber welcomes, but relief was expected in diesel, petrol and gas. Nothing concrete has been announced with regard to simplification and rationalization of the GST tax structure which is against the principle of "One Market-One Tax" and also on the arbitrary behavior of foreign companies in e-commerce.

Training imparted to BJYM workers in R'gaon

● Held for three days

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahiwara, Feb 02: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Chhattisgarh State Training Class was held on January 29, 30, 31 at a private hotel in Rajnandgaon and it concluded on Wednesday.

In the said training class, training was given by the national and state seniors of BJP. State Working Committee member Dau Anand Tamarkar, who resides in Ahiwara mandal of Durg district, was present



in the training class. For this training class, Tamarkar said that the state training class organized by BJYM was very

commendable. The selection of all subjects, adjustments, all kinds of arrangements were commendable. The entire team including

State President Ravi Bhagat, Training Head Surendra Sahu, General Secretary Dual System Chief Upkar Chandrakar, Ankit Jaiswal were present.

BJYM extended greetings for the arrangements made from beginning till the end for this unique event and expressed gratitude on behalf of all the trainees. Leaders said that by implementing the training received on the ground, the party would be able to uproot the corrupt Congress government in the state and make 'Lotus' bloom once again in the state.

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Feb 02: The annual function at Govt Pre-Secondary School Telga was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The programme began with prayers to photo of Goddess Saraswati by Gram Panchayat Telga Sarpanch, Dy. Sarpanch, Panchs, President of School management samiti and on behalf of the villagers.

The school students organised cultural programme, painting, poster competition, and other events, along with



'Anand Mela'. The students taking part in the programme were presented prizes on behalf of the School's family.

In this programme Gram Panchayat Sarpanch's rep- Santosh Verma, Dy. Sarpanch

Narhar Nirmalkar, President School Prabandhan Samiti Ramanand Nishad, Panch- Rajendra Yadu, Tularam Sahu, Anandgaon, Sankul co-ordinator, head master KK Sinha, from School's

staff- Yogendra Sahu, Mamta Tandon, Diwakar, Ramesh Thakur, Rakesh Sahu, Lalit Dewangan, Mannu Sahu, Namrata Nishad and party leaders from BJYM Bhimbhouri were present in large number.

Collector inspects Lomash Rishi Ashram



Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 02: Collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi here visited the Astha Kendra Rajim Triveni Sangam Sthal of the zone and made a thorough site inspection to take stock of the preparations for the Maghi Punni fair to be held from February 5 and also inspected the dyeing-painting work going on at Lomash Rishi Ashram.

Along with this, instructions were given to Additional Collector Chandrakant Kaushik to complete the work of construction of temporary ap-

proach road from the lower part of Laxman Jhula to Dome before February 5.

Apart from this, along with adequate lighting in the Kuleshwar Mahadev temple, making separate arrangements for entry and exit doors for the convenience of the devotees, making necessary arrangements in the royal bath area, arranging separate toilets for saints and seers was discussed. On this occasion, officers of concerned departments including Gariaband Superintendent of Police Amit Kamble were present.

Bastar MLA Baghel takes charge of 'Haath se Haath Jodo Yatra'



Central Chronicle News

Bastar, Feb 02: Bastar MLA Lakshwar Baghel reached Block Gram Panchayat Madhota's dependent village Hidmapara and met the people by telling them about the basic facilities and public welfare schemes of the government, as part of Join hands campaign. This initiative was started by Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel by flagging off all the workers of Bastar Vidhansabha from Maa Danteshwari temple premises.

On the instructions of the Congress Committee, the Join Hands Yatra was started all over the country, and after the success of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress has started 'Haath se Haath Jodo Yatra', along with this the preparations for

the elections to be held in 2023 have also started in full swing. In Chhattisgarh, Congress has covered a distance of 175 kilometers in the Bastar Assembly in the 'Haath Se Hath Jodo' campaign.

In this journey, a letter of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be delivered door to door and in the letter 'Golden India' has been promised and various schemes of Chhattisgarh Naruva, Garuva, Ghurva Bari, Chhattisgarh Mahtari, Chief Minister Haat Bazar Yojana, Rajiv Yuva Mitn Club, has been highlighted.

During this State Secretary Jail Visitor members Dinesh Yadu, Harish Parakh, Jitendra Tiwari, Rajesh Kumar, Tulsiram Thakur, Mahadev, Sanuram, Chandra Ram, Karu Ram, and workers were present.

Collectors chair meeting for Rajim Mela That of Gariaband and Dhamtari

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 02: Gariaband and Dhamtari District Collector Prabhat Malik and Rituraj Raghuvanshi and Superintendent of Police, Gariaband Amit Kamble here held a meeting of Punni Mela preparations at Rajim Rest House for organizing Maghi Punni Mela to be held from February 5 -18 at Rajim Triveni Sangam.

Necessary directions were given to the officers the officer duo did a thorough inspection of the Maghi Punni Mela site organized every year at Triveni



Sangam site of Mahanadi, Pairi and Sondur rivers. Along with this, instructions were also

35th annual festival of SSMV concludes

Central Chronicle News

Surajpur, Feb 02: The 35th annual festival of Saraswati Shishu Mandir Vidyalaya (SSMV) located at Bhaiyathan Road of the district headquarters was completed with much fanfare.

It is noteworthy that this school was started in the year 1984 from Rajkumar Lakdi Mill Campus located on Ketka Road in the city and then in 1998 Saraswati Shishu Mandir

Higher Secondary School was established on two and a half acres of land near Dulhi Talab located on Bhaiyathan Road in the city.



Started in 1984 with 75 children, this school has taken a grand shape today with 967 students and there are 40 teachers working in the school. After the principal of the school, Kailash Yadav

welcomed all the guests on the stage and introduced the school, Nigar Bano and Riya Choubey gave presentations.

44 programs with different presentation of 31 dances with Garba

Rajasthani and Kathak were also presented, along with a drama based on superstition was the center of attraction. A large number of students and villagers were present.

Lord Venkateswara Swamy's procession taken out

● In Balaji temple annual festival

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Feb 02: On January 31, the first day of the Balaji temple anniversary, Lord Venkateswara Swamy was taken out in a procession from the temple premises accompanied by musical instruments.

Women carrying Urns participated in large numbers in the procession. The anniversary program at Balaji temple will continue till February 4 and during



which various puja rituals will be performed. In the procession taken out on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of Venkateswara Swamy Balaji Temple, the chariot was decorated with flowers

brought from Andhra Pradesh and 164 silver Urns were kept. The same women were carrying 108 bronze and more than 2000 earthen Urns. The procession reached back to the temple premises via

Agrasen Chowk, Sanjay Bazar, Danteshwari Temple, Gol Bazar Chowk, Main Road and Chandni Chowk. The dance troupe of 'Madded' as well as the 'Gedi dance troupe' were also included in the procession.

Sadbhavna Ekta Divas celebrated in Shaheed Venkatrao College

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 02: Sadbhavna Ekta Divas was organized in Government Shaheed Venkatrao College premises, where attractive cultural programs were presented by the students.

Chief Guest in the program, Vikram Shah Mandavi, Regional MLA and Vice President of Bastar Development Authority congratulated the students for organizing the program and cultural presentation and inspired them to move forward continuously.

MLA Vikram Mandavi said that starting from Dharampura hostel of Bastar, the tradition of celebrating



Sadbhavna Ekta Divas is being celebrated with great pomp in the entire Bastar division region and in his address he said that with the efforts of State Chief Bhupesh Baghel, many schemes are being

implemented to advance for the youth in remote areas like Bastar.

Today children from remote areas of Bijapur are able to speak and read English as part of Swami Atmanand School,

Atmanand School which is operating in remote areas like Kutru, Madded and colleges are also opening in all the blocks, and a college is going to be opened in Kutru as well, he said. On this occasion,

Address Gauthan and livelihood activities with priority: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Feb 02: An in-depth review of the government's ambitious Godhan Nyay Yojana (GNY) was done in the weekly deadline meeting held under the chairmanship of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh. The Collector gave strict instructions to the designated nodal officers for all the Gauthans of the district to continuously monitor and submit reports on every Friday.

He said that during the inspection of Gauthans, the nodal officers should submit the report after tak-

ing information about the progress of all the activities conducted and instructed the groups involved in Vermi production and sale in Gauthans to pay the pending dividend amount by the departments. He directed the Deputy Director Agriculture to send samples of fertilizers regularly from Gauthans. The Collector also honoured Vijay Kumar, Assistant Grade-2 Water Resources Department, who retired on January 31, 2023, while discharging the new initiative started on New Year in the ceremony. The Collector also instructed all the Chief Municipal Officers

to strictly remove encroachments in the form of handcars in front of main roads, buildings, hospitals etc. lamps. Information about the progress of pucca houses under construction under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was also taken in the meeting. Mr. Langeh also directed the Tribal Development Department to ensure all arrangements for Ramayana Manas Mandali competition starting in the coming month of February. Similarly, he also reviewed the progress of Dhanvantari Medical Store Scheme and issuance of caste certificates in the district.

Coach indication board installed

At Bargarh Road Railway Station

Central Chronicle News

Sambalpur, Feb 02: With an aim to provide information to passengers about Placement of Coaches and trains at Platforms, East Coast Railway Sambalpur Division has commissioned Coach Indication Board (CIB) at Platform No. 1, 2 & 3 of Bargarh Road Railway Station.

The coach indicators would help passengers to identify coaches, indicating unreserved compartments, sleeper coaches and AC coaches.

Twenty-five coach indicators have been installed on each platform. Moreover, a train information display board has already been installed at the platform entrance.

Various associations and consumer forums had been appealing to the Railways to install coach indicators at Bargarh Road station for a long time.

Almost all express and superfast trains stop at this station only for a few minutes, and passengers had to hurry through the trains that mostly have 24 coaches to locate the reserved coaches.

Elderly people and parents with children will be greatly benefited by the introduction of this facility.



ity.

Recently Sambalpur Division in an effort to beautify the station facade has provided LED based RGB (Red, Green & Blue) light with Digital Multiplex Controller (DMX) at Bargarh Road station.

Sambalpur Division is also taking up upgradation of the Bargarh Road station under Amrit Bharat scheme of Indian Railways.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the general public that I Sanjay Kumar Gupta S/o Rameshwar Prasad Gupta Resident of Siddh Sikhra Apartment Flat No 304 Shanti Nagar Bilaspur Chhattisgarh - 495001 Have changed my old name Sanjay Kumar Gupta S/o Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, So in future I should be Recognise by my new name Sanjay Gupta S/o Rameshwar Prasad Gupta in all government and other documents.

Sanjay Gupta
Siddh Sikhra Apartment
Flat No 304 Shanti
Nagar Bilaspur
Chhattisgarh- 495001

Indian Overseas Bank

मेन रोड छुरीकल, तहसील कटघोरा, कोरबा, जिला - कोरबा (छ.ग.) पिन - 495450

वाहन विक्रय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक, के छुरीकल शाखा द्वारा अधिग्रहित चर संपत्ति (वाहन) को जो है जहाँ है, जैसा भी है के आधार पर नीलामी खली बोली प्रक्रिया द्वारा को जावेगी। इच्छुक व्यक्ति घरोर राशि को मांग ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक को छुरीकल शाखा के पक्ष में देय हो, प्रस्तुत कर नीलामी में भाग ले सकते हैं।

धरोर राशि जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय : 09.02.2023, दोपहर 3.30 बजे तक।

नीलामी की तिथि एवं स्थान : 10.02.2023, दोपहर 12.00 बजे शाखा परिसर।

क्र.	श्रेणी का नाम व पता	वाहन का विवरण	बकाया राशि आरक्षित मूल्य	विक्रय जनकारी हेतु संपर्क करें
1	श्री भूपेश कुमार श्रीवास्तव पिता स्व. रंकर लाल श्रीवास्तव पता - वार्ड क्र. 7, इंदिरा चौक, छुरीकल, तहसील - कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) 495450 मो. 8770072733	मॉडल: मारुति सुजुकी रिक्टर VXi /2019 पंजीयन क्र.: CG 12AZ 2482, सेरिस क्र.: MBHCZC63SKF436641 इंजन क्र.: K12MP1051424	रु. 6,31,262.31 + ब्याज रु. 4,10,000/- लायू जीएसटी	शाखा प्रबंधक छुरीकल कोरबा, मो. 9123424150

नीलामी में भाग ले रहे व्यक्ति को जमानत के तौर पर वाहन के मूल्य का 10%, नगद या डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में (इंडियन ओवरसीज बैंक, निविदा अकाउंट के पक्ष में) एक बंद लिफाफे के अंदर नीलामी के दिन के 12.00 बजे से पहले छुरीकल शाखा, मेन रोड छुरीकल, तहसील-कटघोरा, जिला-कोरबा (छ.ग.) में जमा करना पड़ेगा। नीलामी में विजित व्यक्ति को नीलामी के मूल्य के 25% तुरंत जमा करना पड़ेगा। बकाया राशि को नीलामी के दिन से 7 दिन के अंदर जमा करना पड़ेगा। अगर वे 7 दिन के अंदर बकाया राशि जमा नहीं कर पाये, पहले से जमा राशि उन्हें वापिस नहीं किया जायेगा और वाहन के ऊपर भी उनका कोई अधिकार नहीं रहेगा। जो व्यक्ति नीलामी में जीते, उनको आरटी.ओ. में नामांतरण और अन्य संबंधी खर्च स्वयं करना पड़ेगा। जिन्हें वाहन के बारे में जांच-पड़ताल करनी है वे कार्यालयीन अवधि में ऊपर उल्लिखित दूपाप नंबर पर संपर्क करें।

स्थान : छुरीकल, दिनांक : 02.02.2023

शाखा प्रबंधक

CM dedicates new building of SAGES in Jamgaon (M)



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: On Thursday, the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Jamgaon (M) to inaugurate the new building of Swami Atmanand School Jamgaon (M). He visited the Astro Bab established here. The children explained to the Chief Minister how the effect of gravity varies on different planets.

In the discussion with the children, the Chief Minister said that the students will get information about astronomy in a very beautiful manner. The Chief Minister also saw the telescope. There is also a display of the work of Indian astronauts including Rakesh Sharma and Kalpana Chawla. The Chief Minister also visited the Physics Lab, Chemistry Lab and Bio



Central Chronicle News

Lab of the school. He oversaw the children doing the practical experiments and asked them questions. The Chief Minister asked the children how they felt about studying in this school. The children said that they are feeling very good. The students added that they are getting all the facilities. The students said that the teachers are very good and teach in an in-

teresting manner. The students also learn at smart class where they get all the information through audio visual content. The Chief Minister also saw the audio-visual class. Pradeep Chandrakar, a child, explained photosynthesis at the Smart Class. The Chief Minister praised the teachers and said that the process of reading and learning must be enjoyable for the

Shiromani awards given in URM department



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: Karm Shiromani awards were given away in Universal Rail Mill of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant for exemplary work by employees. P Kalashankar Rao, Manager (URM) was awarded the Pali Shiromani award while Majesh Kumar, OCT was given the Karm Shiromani award. Anish Sengupta, CGM

(URM), Rahul Shrivastav, GM (URM), Shishir Shukla, GM (URM), Elias Ahmad, GM (URM) and other Senior officials were present on the occasion. Employees are short-listed for this award for innovations, better resource utilisation, following Safety standards etc at the workplace. The awardees shared that such awards act as a morale booster and inspire them to con-

tribute more to the department. A certificate, memento, letter of appreciation and a sweet packet was given to Karm awardees by Anish Sengupta, CGM (URM). He appreciated the contribution of the awardees to their department. Narendra Ingle, SM (Personnel) compered the programme while Jasbeer Singh supported in organising the programme.

Annual Flower Show 2023 on February 05

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: Horticulture section of Town Services department of SAIL-BSP will be organising Flower show 2023 at Maitri Baag on February 05, 2023.

Entries from residential and school gardens, potted Cactus, Bonsai, Croton, Foliage and seasonal plants like Sevanti, Dahlia, Roses, cut flowers of plants, floral decoration, special vegetables and fruits grown in kitchen garden of BSP employees will be on display in the Flower show. Rangoli competition for students and women will be held. Bouquet and Salad making competi-

tion for BSP and private schools will be organised during the programme. Applications for participation can be deposited in Horticulture section, Maitri Baag, 3rd floor, Horticulture section, Town Services department in the Township. There is no entry fee for participation in the competition. Those interested in Rangoli competition, Sand art or other exhibits can contact 0788285331 or 07882857171. Work is in full swing in organising the Flower show on a large scale at Maitri Baag. General public is invited to attend the Flower show in large numbers.

BSP collective clocks best ever January performance

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: January 23 has been a watershed month in the history of BSP, as it achieved Best Monthly Performance in all major Physical Parameters, right from Oven Pushing, Hot Metal Production and Crude Steel Production to Finished Steel Prod, Saleable Steel Production and Saleable Steel Dispatch, surpassing previous Best figures by good margins. Also for the first time, Plant crossed 5 lac Ton mark in all 3 items: Hot Metal Production, Crude Steel Production and Saleable Steel Production. Several departments of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant including Universal Rail Mill, Coke oven, Blast

Furnace-8, Steel Melting Shop 3, Sinter Plant-3 etc have recorded best ever January month performances, breaking their previous records in production and technical parameters. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) congratulated the concerned departments and at the same time congratulated the whole collective from mines to dispatch and all other allied agencies. Coke oven made Best ever Daily Eq. Oven Pushing of 806 in January 2023, surpassing the previous best of 792 in December 2009. SAIL-BSP's

Universal Rail Mill (URM) has made monthly records in different production parameters. URM achieved best ever monthly production in January 2023 by rolling 77,513 T finished rails, 72,506 T Prime rails, surpassing the previous record of rolling of 76,496 T finished rails and 72,026 Prime rails in November 2022. This feat has been made possible due to the continuous support of

RITES and support extended by Indian Railways. Congratulations to team BF-8 for record of Monthly CDI Rate. BF-8 achieved Highest Monthly CDI Rate of 159 kg/THM in Jan'23, which is Best achieved figure for any Blast furnace in SAIL, surpassing Previous Record of 158 kg/THM (Apr'18) held by RSP BF-5. SMS 3 made Best ever crude steel production of 3,04,758 Ton was achieved

in January 2023, surpassing the previous best of 286,195 Ton in November 2022. SP-3 made Best ever Sinter production of 5,17,703 Ton was achieved in January 2023, surpassing the previous best of 5,17,266 Ton in March 2022. The Plant recorded highest ever total Hot Metal production of 5,54,034 Ton in January 2023, surpassing previous best of 5,19,819 Ton achieved in the March 2021, and highest ever Crude Steel production of 5,32,778 Ton, surpassing previous best of 4,85,035 Ton achieved in the November 2022. The Plant also recorded highest ever total Finished

Steel production of 4,13,100 Ton in January 2023 surpassing previous best of 4,08,276 Ton achieved in the March 2022, and highest ever Saleable Steel production at 5,03,400 Ton surpassing previous best of 4,55,798 Ton achieved in the March 2022. Highest ever Saleable Steel despatches of 4,88,362 T was recorded, surpassing the previous best of 4,60,012 Ton achieved in the March 2021. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) visited the concerned departments and conveyed their best wishes to them. They also expressed their wishes towards Indian Railways and RITES for the support extended by them.



Central Chronicle News

Annual Day celebrated at MBVB

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: Mar Baselios Vidhya Bhavan celebrated its 39th Annual Day, amidst great splendour, mirth and zest. Bhupendra Kuldeep, Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Yakoob Memon town inspector Jamul was the Guest of Honour. Among the other dignitaries present were Fr Kurian John Vice President of the school, Fr PS Varghese executive vice chairman CCET, Fr Dr Joshi Varghese Diocesan education officer, Fr Aju K Varghese, treasurer, Saint Thomas Mission, Fr Shinu Cherian Vicar MGO members of the PTA, parents and students. As per the MBVB traditions, the blessings of almighty were invoked through an enchanting



prayer at the beginning of the event, followed by the lighting of the Ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest Bhupendra Kuldeep, Kamala Kuldeep accompanied by the Principal and other Rev Fathers. This was followed by a speech by the Principal, BVK Reddy in

which he focused upon the exceptional achievements of the students and the school throughout the session. He congratulated everyone for their achievements and appreciated the efforts of the students as well as staff members for organising the annual day

successfully. The Principal, shared the School's achievements through the Annual Report of the past session through an impressive audio video presentation. Meritorious students were given prizes for excellence in Academics and sports. The Best House for the session 2022-2023 was won by the Blue House headed by Deepa Justin runners up green house led by K Suma Das. Inderjeet Singh of class XII A was declared best Boy Student of the year and M Anjali Kukreja of class XII D was declared the best Girl student of the school. The chief guest in his motivational speech said that teachers play a crucial role in society as they prepare the younger generation to face the future with courage and knowledge. A teacher can be a

best friend, a third parent, an inspiration, a role model, a well-wisher, etc, for the students and guide them on the right path to succeed in life. He appreciated the school for facilitating and achieving excellence in academics and sports and thus providing exposure of the world to students. The Cultural Programme was based on the theme 'Colours of Life'. The theme highlighted how students must go through all Colours of Life. Their costumes, performances and narration complemented each other. The Academic Awards ceremony was conducted by in charge Shiny R George. Cultural programme was compered by our students Tripti Solanki class VIII D and Tulsi Sadhwani class XIX. The Choir group and orchestra was directed by Preeti Biiwas.

Yash Yogi wins state level senior badminton competition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: The 21st State Level Senior Badminton Competition was organised from January 24, 2023 to January 27, 2023 at Bijapur. Yash Yogi of Bhilai has brought laurels to the town by winning the title in this competition. Yash Yogi is the son of Shiv Kumar Yogi working in the Town Electrical Engineering Department of BSP's Town Services Department. His father Shiv Kumar Yogi is also an international badminton player and coach. By winning the State Level Senior Badminton Competition, Yash Yogi will represent



Chhattisgarh in the Senior National Badminton Competition to be held in Pune from February 21-28, 2023. It may be noted that even before this, Yash Yogi has won the State Level Senior Badminton Championship 4 times. Yash Yogi has won Gold in School National, Bronze in

West Zone and Winner in East Zone University. He has also represented BSP in Inter Steel Competition 2 times. Yash Yogi, has participated in International Competition 8 times and is ranked 16th in India Senior Rank. The sports fraternity of Bhilai has congratulated him on this achievement.

'Aavishkar 2023' a scientific model competition cum exhibition organised

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 02: 'Aavishkar 2023' a scientific model competition cum exhibition was organised by Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions on January 27, 2023. Chief Guest Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor, Hemchand Yadav University Durg, Guest of Honour Dr Sanjay Agrawal Pro Vice Chancellor Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University (CSVTU), Bhupendra Kuldeep Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University, Sanjay Rungta, Chairman, Sanjay Rungta group of Institutions, Dr Saket Rungta, Director, Sanjay Rungta group of Institutions, Dr T Rama Rao Director Academics, Mohd Shajid Ansari

Assistant Director, Chief coordinator Dr Tripti Agarwal Jain, Principals, Deans of other Institutions, Theme coordinators, HOD, faculties and students were present. A total 60 number of projects and models were registered and exhibited in Aavishkar 2023 against the themes of Concept Validation, Engineering Solution & IoT, Entrepreneurship Based Model, Health and Life Sciences and Software Base Model. The competition was judged by the experts from the respective fields including Dr Avdhesh Kumar Srivastava, State President, Microbiologist society of India, Dr Archana Gupta, Dr Vikas Dubey, Dr Khawaja Moinudeen, Dr Rajkumar

Singh, Dr Amber Vyas, CA Ankesh Sinha, Neha Tiwari, Sweekar Pawar, CHIPS Raipur, Karuna Sahu and Arish Naqawi AUGTECH. Chief Guest Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor, Hemchand Yadav University Durg was very happy to see the efforts put in by the students. Some of the models were very impressive that can be brought to the state and national level and can be considered for the further improvement, she added. She also said that such kind of competition must be conducted at every institute and she will also organise the



same at Hemchand Yadav University Durg. Guest of Honour Dr Sanjay Agrawal Pro Vice Chancellor Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University (CSVTU) Bhilai enlightened the gathering about various

schemes of CSVTU under entrepreneurship and said that such models shall be presented and submitted to CSVTU under these schemes. The results of the competition and prize distribution were declared in the

presence of Bhupendra Kuldeep, Registrar, Hemchand Yadav University who appreciated the efforts of the group. Under Concept Validation theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Geetanjali Sinha & Team from RSR RCET, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Pratyush Shrivastava & Team from RCDSCR and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Sidharth Soni & Team from RCST. Under Engineering Solution & IoT theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Ajay Pandit & Team from RSR RCET, Second prize of Rs 3100/-

was bagged by Khemchand Pathare & Team from RSR RCET and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Dr Soubarna Hazra & Team from RCDSCR. Under Entrepreneurship Based Model theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Bhumeswar Prasad & Team from RIPS, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Dipanshu Bansod & Team from RCST and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Prakash Choudhary & Team from RSR RCET. Under Health and Life Sciences theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Dr Kritika Kejriwal & Team from RCDSCR, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Rupal Kaushal & Team

from RIPS and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Rishu Kumar & Team from RIPS. Under Software Base Model theme the first prize of Rs 5100/- was bagged by Nitesh & Team from RSR RCET, Second prize of Rs 3100/- was bagged by Takeshwar & Team from RSR RCET and the Third prize of Rs 2100/- was bagged by Anas Raza & Team from RCST. RSR Rungta College of Engineering and Technology won the best college award of Rs 25000/- Sanjay Rungta, Chairman and Dr Saket Rungta, Director, Sanjay Rungta Group of Institutions blessed the gathering and congratulated the organising committee for such a successful event.

Peshawar mosque suicide bomber entered high-security zone

■ Dressed in police uniform

Peshawar, Feb 02 (PTI):

A suicide bomber who killed 101 people at a mosque inside a major police facility in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar city had disguised himself in a police uniform to sneak into the high security zone and was riding a motorcycle with a helmet and mask on, a top police official said on Thursday.

The guards at the security checkpoint at the main entrance of the Police Lines area did not check the bomber dressed in police uniform and let him go inside, Inspector General of Police of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah Ansari told the media here.

The CCTV footage shows that the bomber entered the Police Lines area via Khyber Road, he said.



He added that the attacker had also asked about the way to the mosque from a police officer. The bomber asked a 'havaladar' where the mosque was in Pashto language, he said, adding that the motorcycle registration number has been traced.

He said that the attacker was not an individual, but rather had a whole network supporting him. He said that the police were close to the terrorist network responsible for the bombing. Sources earlier

said the security agencies have arrested 17 suspects involved in the devastating blast - the deadliest attack on the security personnel in decades in Pakistan.

The arrests have been made from close vicinity of the Police Lines area where the mosque is located and the suspects were shifted to interrogation cell for investigation, sources told PTI on condition of anonymity.

The suicide bomber blew himself up during the afternoon prayers on

Monday in the mosque in the Police Lines area, killing 101 people, including 97 policemen, and injuring more than 200 others. The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Ansari said that TNT explosives were used in the blast, while explosive materials used to demolish buildings were also used.

No improvised explosive device (IED) was used in the blast as no crater was found on the ground, Ansari said, adding that 5 to 10 people were killed due to the explosion, but the majority of people died as the roof caved in because it was not supported by any pillars in the hall.

The headquarters of the Peshawar Police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Frontier Reserve Police (FRP), Elite Force and telecommunications department are also located near the blast site.

Congo, Feb 02:

Pope Francis on Wednesday urged Congo's people to forgive those who committed "inhuman violence" against them, celebrating a Mass for 1 million people and then hearing first hand of the atrocities some of them have endured: a teen-age girl "raped like an animal" for months; a young man who watched as his father was decapitated; a former sex slave who was forced into cannibalism.

Congolese from the country's violence-ravaged east traveled to the capital of Kinshasa to tell the pope of the horrific violence they suffered for years as rebel groups sought to gain territory in the mineral-rich region through attacks that have forced more than 5 million people to flee their homes.

Francis sat in silence as victim after victim came forward to tell their stories. He watched as they offered up at the foot of a



crucifix a symbol of their pain: the machete used to maim and kill, or the straw bed mat on which they had been raped. When they knelt in front of him for a blessing, Francis placed his hand on their heads, or on the stumps of the arms that remained.

"Your tears are my tears; your pain is my pain," Francis told them. "To every family that grieves or is displaced by the burning of villages and other war crimes, to

the survivors of sexual violence and to every injured child and adult, I say: I am with you; I want to bring you God's caress."

The intimate encounter at the Vatican Embassy in Kinshasa was an extraordinary moment of a pastor seeking to console his flock, and of a pope seeking to shine a spotlight on what Francis has called a "forgotten genocide" that barely makes the news. Despite being home to one of the largest U.N. peace-keeping operation in the

world, eastern Congo has been mired in violence since the early 1990s as rebels and militias vie for control of mineral-rich territory. "What a scandal and what hypocrisy, as people are being raped and killed, while the commerce that causes this violence and death continues to flourish!" Francis said of the foreign powers and extraction industries that are exploiting Congo's east. "Enough!"

Francis had originally planned to visit the eastern province of North Kivu, where rebel groups have intensified attacks in the past year, when his trip was initially scheduled for July. But after the trip was rescheduled, the Vatican had to cancel the visit to Goma due to the fighting that has forced some 5.7 million people to flee their homes, exacerbating a humanitarian crisis in Congo, where already some 26.4 million people face hunger, according to the World Food Program.

NASA, IBM team up to spur new discoveries about Earth

Washington, Feb 02 (PTI):

NASA and IBM have collaborated to develop artificial intelligence (AI) based models that will make it easier to mine vast datasets to advance scientific knowledge about Earth, and help the world to adapt to a changing environment. The joint work will apply AI foundation model technology to NASA's Earth-observing satellite data for the first time, NASA said in a statement. Foundation models are types of AI models that are trained on a broad set of unlabelled data, can be used for different tasks, and can apply information about one situation to another. "The beauty of foundation models is

they can potentially be used for many downstream applications," said Rahul Ramachandran, a senior research scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. "Building these foundation models cannot be tackled by small teams; you need teams across different organisations to bring their different perspectives, resources, and skill sets," Ramachandran said in a statement. One project will train an IBM geospatial intelligence foundation model on NASA's Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2 (HLS) dataset, a record of land cover and land use changes captured by Earth-orbiting satellites, the statement said.

EU Commission head urges 'immediate action' on migration



Brussels, Feb 02:

The president of the European Commission urged the EU to take "immediate action" on migration, including the reinforcement of infrastructure at land border between Türkiye and Bulgaria.

Speaking at the European Parliament plenary session, Ursula von der Leyen said, "there are without any doubt increasing pressures" at the EU's external borders.

She said the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) registered 330,000 irregular border crossings in 2022 which was up 64% from the previous year and the highest since 2016.

Von der Leyen stressed that "the majority of those who apply for asylum are not in need of protection" while return rates remain as low as 22%.

To make a "real difference on the ground," the European Commission will propose "immediate action" in four areas to EU leaders at a special summit on migration on Feb. 9 - 10, she said.

"The most pressing issues right now are at the land border between Bulgaria and Türkiye" and the border management capabilities need to be strengthened, according to von der Leyen.

US secures deal on Philippines bases to complete arc around China

Manila, Feb 02:

The US has secured access to four additional military bases in the Philippines - a key bit of real estate which would offer a front seat to monitor the Chinese in the South China Sea and around Taiwan.

With the deal, Washington has stitched the gap in the arc of US alliances stretching from South Korea and Japan in the north to Australia in the south.

The missing link had been the Philippines, which borders two of the biggest potential flashpoints - Taiwan and the South China Sea.



The deal, which in part reverses the US' departure from their former colony more than 30 years ago, is no small matter.

"There is no contingency in the South China Sea that does not require access to the Philippines,"

says Gregory B Poling, director of the Southeast Asia programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"The US is not looking for permanent bases. It's about places, not bases."

Russia strikes civilian target

Kyiv (Ukraine), Feb 02 (AP):



Top European Union officials arrived in Kyiv on Thursday for talks with Ukrainian officials as rescue crews dug through the rubble of an apartment building in eastern Ukraine struck by a Russian missile, killing at least three people and wounding about 20 others.

The scene of devastation in the eastern Donetsk provincial city of Kramatorsk, where emergency workers spent the night searching for survivors after the missile hit late Wednesday, served as a grim reminder of the war's toll almost a year after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia has frequently struck apartment buildings during the war, causing civilian casualties.

ties, although the Kremlin has denied targeting residential structures.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was due to meet with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell before what officials described as a summit on

Friday. Borrell tweeted that the visit aimed "to convey the EU's strongest message of support to all Ukrainians defending their country."

London, Feb 02 (PTI):

The UK government has defended the BBC as a media outlet "independent in its output" in the wake of widespread Indian diaspora protests against the controversial documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing reporters at Downing Street on Wednesday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesperson echoed a statement issued by Foreign Secretary James

Cleverly in Parliament earlier this week to add that the government

continues to invest in its relationship with India. "The BBC is independent in its output and we would stress that we continue to regard India as an incredibly important international partner," the spokesperson said in response to a question about India's condemnation of the documentary India: The Modi Question' questioning the then chief minister's role in the 2002 Godhra riots.

"We will be investing heavily in our relationship with India over the coming decades and we're confident it will

only go from strength to strength," the spokesperson said. It followed a similar response by Cleverly in the House of Commons on Tuesday, when he responded to a question

from a Conservative Party colleague on the assurances the UK government had given to India in the wake of co-ordinated diaspora protests against the BBC over the weekend.

UK defends BBC independence

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
मनियारी जल संसाधन सभाग मुंगेली,
जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

//निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश//

पत्र क्रमांक...../व.ले.स./2022-23 मुंगेली, दिनांक

प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19 नार्थ ब्लॉक, अटल नगर नवा रायपुर के पत्र क्र. 4262441/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2022/6650(Tc) दिनांक 19.01.2023 एवं पत्र क्र. 4262400/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2022/6714(Tc) दिनांक 20.01.2023 द्वारा दिये गये निर्देशानुसार इस कार्यालय के क्रमशः निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्र. 19/व.ले.स./2022-23 दिनांक 29.12.2022, (समूह क्र. 01) सिस्टम नं. 118321 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) एवं 19/व.ले.स./2022-23 दिनांक 29.12.2022, (समूह क्र. 03) सिस्टम नं. 118342 (तृतीय आमंत्रण) को निविदाओं में प्रतिभागी निविदाकारों की संख्या निरंक होने के फलस्वरूप उक्त निविदाओं को "निरस्त" किया जाता है।

जी.नं. - 97174, दिनांक 31.12.2022

जी.नं. - 97666, दिनांक 17.01.2023

कार्यपालन अभियंता
मनियारी जल संसाधन सभाग,
मुंगेली, जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

G-98104/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)

System Tender No. : 121742/NIT No. : 14/SAC/2022-23,
Gariaband, Dated : 31.01.2023
Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to
21.02.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : Necessary Arrangement for Rajim Mela & Construction
Mahanadi Arti, Sahi Snan and Public Snan Platform and
stair work of Block Fingeshwar of Gariaband District.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 248.86 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 07.02.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Gariaband
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

G-98111/1



WADIA INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY
(An Autonomous Institution of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India)
33, General Mahadeo Singh Road
DEHRA DUN — 248 001

No.. Recruitment/Director/WIHG/2023-Estt.

Dated: 25.01.2023

ADDENDUM

In continuation to the Advertisement published in various newspapers and Employment News on dated 21.01.2023 for the post of Director, WIHG the following addendum in age limit and last date & time for receipt of application is hereby issued:-

Age limit; For Direct recruitment: Not exceeding 56 years as on 01st January, 2023.

For Deputation including short-term contract: Not exceeding 58 years as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

Last date and time for receipt of application;

By Post: In case of direct applications, the information in the attached formats I and II should be sent by post to the Registrar, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, 33, General Mahadeo Singh Road, Dehradun-248001 (Uttarakhand), along with self-attested photocopies of certificates in support of Age. Qualifications and experience so as to reach the above mentioned address latest by 24.02.2023. The last date of receipt of applications from candidates (including nominations) from Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh Division of Jammu and Kashmir State, Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangri Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep will be 03.03.2023.

Nominations: In case of nominations, the eminent persons nominating a candidate may forward the candidate's application along with recommendations by post so as to reach the above address by 24.02.2023.

The other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. The detailed advertisement for the post, format of application and other details are Available on the website: www.wihg.res.in

CBC 36122/12/0006/2223

(REGISTRAR)



CENTRAL

Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 304

Budget 2023-24: Is not fair to the vulnerable sections

The fundamentals of the Indian Economy are sound as it enters its Amrit Kaal, the 25-year journey towards its centenary as a modern, independent nation. Policies pursued carefully and consciously to ensure ...” was of course noisy and highly opinionated statement of the Economic Survey 2022-23, but the Union Budget 2023-24, tabled in the Parliament of Indian on February 1, is even noisier, sounding much on the pre-general-election mantelpiece that is being meticulously and beautifully being constructed before the General Election 2024, which does remind the proverb “empty vessels sound much.” Obviously, Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has emphasized about “Achievements since 2014: Leaving no one behind” in her budget speech. She said that per capita income has more than doubled to Rs1.97 lakh. In these nine years, the Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world. It is true but deceptive since accumulation of wealth in the hands of the rich has increased the average income as well as growth but impoverished the people sharply increasing the inequality during Modi regime. This is also the first Union Budget as India enters the first year of the Amrit Kaal during which PM Narendra Modi, after successfully selling dreams during the last two general elections albeit failed in almost every promise, is trying to sell even bigger dream to be realized during the next 25 years culminating in emergence of India as the biggest power by 2047. Union Budget 2022-23, thus presents the “Vision for Amrit Kaal” with the three priorities – Opportunities for Citizens with focus on the Youth; Growth and Job Creation; and Strong and Stable Macro-Economic Environment”. In cannot be taken on its face value since about 23 crore youngsters between the age of 15 and 30 are on the roads now while only a little over 4 crore are in education and a little over 10 crore are in jobs including the majority in informal and unsalaried ones without any social security. Since the Union Budget is also the last full budget before the general election of 2024, Union Ministry of Finance had no choice except to cover up failures of the Modi government in the last nine years of his rule, especially on social sector, by blowing conch to sound spectacular achievements and the new proposals in the budget, reminding another assertion of the Mahabharata “Aavvathama Hato” which led to a gross falsehood. It talks about the “Saptarishi” ie the 7 priorities it has purportedly set for the government during the Amrit Kaal – they are Inclusive development; Reaching the Last Mile, Youth Power; Financial Sector; Green Growth; Unleashing the Potential; and Infrastructure and investment. Rising inequality in the last nine years of Modi rule might have encouraged the government to bring the sacred name of the seven sages (Sapta Rishis) for the rescue of the government from the guilt of failure in almost all front of the economy, particularly in the social sector. What the Union Budget 2023-24 was to do was even clearly indicated by the Economic Survey 2022-23, which “in a departure from the past”, “introduced the chapter on India’s social sector” and “not without reason”, the document has asserted. However, in so many words the Survey tried to conceal the real “reason” which the Union Budget has clearly revealed to be only political consideration in a way that could be a vote catching tool. In the backdrop of failing in “doubling the farmers income by 2022” the Union Budget talks about providing Rs 20 lakh crore targeted funding for agriculture credit. Under health it announces establishment of 157 new nursing colleges, new programme to promote research in pharmaceuticals. It boasts of increasing health expenditure from 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY19 to 2.1 per cent in FY23, and for education these figures are 2.8 and 2.9 per cent respectively. Union Budget showcases the “The Big Tent that accommodates all” which was already indicated in the very chapter “Social Infrastructure and Employment: Big Tent” of the Economic Survey 2022-23. Budget showcases 9 crore drinking water connections, Rs 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM-Kisan, 11.7 crore household toilets, 9.6 crore LPG connections, 220 crore vaccines et al. However, given the dire situation in the grassroots level, the government’s claim that “the social sector expenditure outlay of the Centre and State Governments has increased steadily to stand at Rs21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (BE) with its share in total Government expenditure standing at 26.6 per cent” sounds audacious. Even cursory glance of the highlight of the budget is enough to give an idea as to how it tried rouging the paling face of the economy that is ailing at its core. Hollowness of the claims and the proposals is more pronounced in the health and employment sector. The last three years under the shadow of pandemic had already exposed the dire situation of the health infrastructure when people were reported dying in thousands due to lack of oxygen. Entire health infrastructure was overwhelmed which also exposed the lack of health professionals and workers, included doctor and nurses. Public health expenditure, both of the central and state government” budgeted expenditure, could reach only 2.1 per cent of GDP for 2022-23, even less than revised estimate of 2.2 per cent in 2021-22. India was to increase this to 2.5 per cent by 2025 as per National Health Policy of 2017. In the employment sector India has entered the era of joblessness only after three years of Modi rule in 1017-18. Unemployment rate reached 45 years high at 6.1 per cent and was 8.3 per cent in December 2022. Independent India has never suffered such a joblessness as is suffering now under present regime. As for poverty alleviation, the gains of the decades have already been washed out fist due to joblessness during the first six years of Modi rule and then by the pandemic that have pushed lakhs of people into extreme poverty according to several latest data of the UN agencies and the World Bank. The Budget has little to arrest this decline. Union Budget 2022-23 has much talked bout social protection schemes, customized for different sections of the population such as elderly, unorganized workers etc. It talks about special focus on aspirational districts, health, education, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure. Under the bouquet of social sector; government had 318 central schemes and over 720 State DBT schemes. Clearly there is no dearth of schemes to entice voters, but what is clear from the Union Budget 2023-24 is that they are not funded enough to provide real succour to the common people. Union Budget 2023-24 will therefore not bring the much-needed relief to the common people at a time when there is a likelihood of considerable downturn in the Indian economy as per all authoritative estimates.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

Printed by Sameer Maheshwari on behalf of Ramgopal Investments Pvt. Ltd. at Navbharat Press, G.E. Road, Press Complex, Raipur and Published at Navbharat Bhawan, Near Bus Stand, Bilaspur, Editor in Chief- Sameer Maheshwari, Editor: Sameer Shukla (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.) Phone: (07752) 224563, 230591 Fax : (07752) 405338, Raipur : (0771) 4257700 Fax : (0771) 4257703, Regd. No. CHHENG/2012/44065

SIDDHAPEETH TEMPLE



Pauri Garhwal: Siddhapeeth temple of Dhari Devi Mata, situated between Srinagar and Rudraprayag, in Pauri Garhwal district.

Budget 2023: Has potential to help BJP in its 2024 campaign

SUSHIL KUTTY



What does the 2023-24 budget mean for the BJP in fighting the coming polls, including the nine in 2023, and the one in 2024? A simple question, with a simple answer: Budget 2023-24 has been drafted as a saviour! The BJP wants to win as many of the nine assembly elections as possible and a third consecutive Modi term. The problem is, the BJP-led Modi government’s record on certain key economic parameters haven’t been up to mark and requires some convincing. Jobs, for instance. Unemployment has been at its highest in 45 years for nine straight Modi years. And no amount of criticism made a difference to the Modi-mindset on this issue. The promise to deliver crores of jobs at general elections 2019 wasn’t kept. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s poll promises are mostly kept in the breach. Budget 2023, therefore, had to change the perception, check all the right boxes. The Modi-friendly media was all Lady Gaga, so to speak. One panelist gave Budget 2023-24 10/10. Another plateaued at 8/10. Yet another named it a “Workhorse Budget”. Flip, and the Congress called Budget 2023-24 a “poll manifesto”, an “election budget”, which perhaps hit the nail

on the head. The Aam Aadmi Party mentioned the promise made of 50 new airports, and asked “who will build those airports?” Was Gautam Adani glued to the TV set? The Samajwadi Party said Budget 2023-24 was a “pack of lies”. The BJP-led Modi Government cannot complain, and must have expected the disparaging notes to the Opposition’s song sung blue. The thing to note was that nine years of Modi has ensured there were very few media left to make an impartial review. That being said, the BJP and the Modi government knew they had one last chance to make sure yet another term. So, the budget focuses on farmers. It puts the needle on the MSMEs in a post-Covid scenario. It puts the lens on the Middle Class. Budget 2023 makes an appeal to the Middle Class to keep voting the BJP with a slew of personal income tax sops. The Middle Class has of late been a little displeased with the Modi government. The income tax concessions, the BJP hopes will correct the incorrect impression. It has long been held that the Middle Class helps snatch victory from the jaws of electoral defeats. More money in Middle Class pockets keep a big section of the electorate friendly. Farmers are another crucial constituency which the BJP could not ignore if it wanted to win 2024. The devil is in the details. The farmer hasn’t been happy with the Modi regime. The 3-farm laws are history, but the scars remain and Modi’s MSP promise hasn’t been kept. Budget 2023-24 was yet another chance to bring the farmers around.

However, Budget 2023-23 actu-

ally saw farmers ignored all over again. Experts say farmers haven’t got their due with this budget, too. There is no sight of the MSP. And farmers’ schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Fazal Bhima Yojana are on the verge of falling off the cliff. Perhaps, the Modi government continues to believe that 80 percent of India’s farmers were for the 3-farm laws and would vote for the BJP. Another poll issue which Budget 2023-24 could not overlook was jobs and unemployment. Both have throughout the nine Modi years been in the red. And BJP spokespersons steered clear of coming clean on both jobs, and unemployment. Budget 2023 was another chance for the BJP and the Modi government to change the perception that the Modi government was a slacker when it came to jobs.

The slew of BJP election manifestoes expected in 2023, and the one in 2024, will likely clear the fog. Modi recently said that an additional 10 lakh jobs would be created. Budget 2023-24 is yet another chance for the BJP to turn the perception around. Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra has placed the issue of jobs and unemployment square and centre of the assembly elections 2023, and general elections 2024. The BJP would not be able to evade the implications if Budget 2023-24 failed to garner jobs. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, despite five budgets in five years, has had little so far to celebrate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of 400-plus seats in the 18th Lok Sabha. Therefore, it was incumbent upon Sitharaman to salvage the chances of a third term for Modi from the Covid

mess which still dogs BJP.

Budget 2023-24 is decidedly political with Sitharaman doing everything at her command to ensure that the sun continued to shine on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A big part of Sitharaman’s last full budget and Amrit Kaal’s first was to use government outlays to fund sectors which usually, in an ideal world, help win elections. From the infrastructure push to the “green projects”. The BJP knows its many Achilles Heel. On many fronts. Farmers still carry a grudge against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 3-farm laws are dead in water; but the promise of MSP hasn’t been kept. Budget 23-24 has sought to correct this lacuna.

Budget 2023 has also set aside money for a ‘Tribal fund’, and a ‘Mahila fund’. The income tax rebates will deliver votes for the BJP. But direct taxes are falling and indirect taxes are rising. The Finance Minister was aware that she could not take chances with this last full budget of the 17th Lok Sabha. The changes in income tax slabs and subsidy for electricity were expected. And expectations were high. A 7 percent GDP growth rate for 2023-24 will help the BJP in 2024 if another global downturn does not intervene. The simple truth is, it’s a budget for Modi, a budget for a third term for Modi. It wasn’t a “Budget for India”. From now on to the first and the last of the nine assembly elections of 2023, things would move at an electric pace faced with manifestoes galore from all parties concerned, the Modi government could not have missed the opportunity to use the budget to win 2023, and 2024.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Budget 2023: Real or unreal

This was the last full budget of the Modi government before the general elections to be held in the year 2024. Even though the outbreak of Corona has ended in the country, despite that, this time the finance minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman has also presented a digital i.e. paperless budget. In her budget, FM Sitharaman gave a major boost to the consumption economy by increasing the income tax rebate for individuals from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh (considering the inflation and price rise, it’s like a drop in the ocean for the middle class) in the Budget. Immediately after the Budget announcements, Sensex rallied over 1,200 points, but lost all the gains later on in the day. Actually, this is the budget presented keeping the elections in mind, while some relaxation is given to the middle class. Though Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi like every year said, “This budget will build a strong foundation to fulfill the grand vision of a developed India. This budget gives priority to the underprivileged”. But where is the priority for the underprivileged when Modi’s government is unable to fulfill its promise of 2014, that we will double the income of the farmers. It will give housing to everyone in 2022. It will give employment to 18 crore people by 2022? Farmers, young men and women, job professionals, the business class do not have hope but despair because it is made to benefit only a few.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Air is nothing but life

The Tree is a big creature of nature, it is very beneficial thing for entire world, it purifies the earth from pollution and gives fresh air, most important thing is it gives shade, fruits and food for Animals, its wood have many benefits, people make different furniture. In India the government forbids people to cut down the tree, apart from many people cut down and take their wood for burning and making food, as a result the air has been polluted. If the air is polluted how can we survive? That is why many of the people give slogans. Your planet needs you, Unite to combat, climate change, Pure air is nothing but life. Save forest Save wildlife.

Sufyan Nazeer AlQasbi, Bijnor, UP

Budget 2023: A vision document of the ‘AmritKaal’ of futuristic India



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her fifth straight budget, the last full budget of Modi 2.0 govt before the next parliamentary elections in 2024. She has rightly said that the Indian economy is on the right path and heading towards a bright future. We all are aware that the last three years were challenging for the Indian economy. FM has elaborated on the key areas that the government has identified to focus on during the financial year 2023-24. Covid dealt a heavy blow to India’s large in-

formal economy resulting in massive job and income losses. India is currently the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

The Budget mainly focusses on four major points: empowering women, tourism, helping “vishwakarma” (artisans) and green growth. The government with its 7-priorities and a greater focus on Financial Sector and infrastructure and Investment have stepped in the right direction. It is not just a budget, but also a vision document of the ‘AmritKaal’ of futuristic India. The Budget is an outstanding as it is disciplined, growth-oriented, inclusive and sustainable.

It is nice that the Finance Minister has made a big announcement for the taxpayers. Now in the new tax regime, no tax will have to be paid on annual income up to Rs 7 lakh. This will provide relief to new entrants in the job market, many of whose salaries would be well within

this limit. The new taxation regime has now got greater incentives, and attractions so that people can unhesitatingly move from the old to the new. There is no doubt that the budget is an inclusive and futuristic, keeping in mind the empowerment of job professionals, youth, women and farmers as distinctive focus has been laid on infrastructure development, health, employment generation, housing, social welfare, farmers welfare, higher education, innovation and research. Focus on overall infrastructure development and on Tier 2 and 3 cities will be key to overall economic development. The emphasis on core infrastructure, including increased funding for railways and clean energy, as well as the government’s ambitious plans for the agricultural sector, will help to improve rural incomes. States are also being incentivised to spend more on infrastructure. Rs 2.40 lakh crore has been allocated for

Indian Railways, which is the highest it has ever been.

As the budget has a vision for growth and development it will give benefit to the people in villages, women, rich or poor. The budget has strongly focused on education to make up for the learning losses incurred during COVID-19. The focus on job creation and skilling in this budget is a step in the right direction to completely rebrand India. The government’s decision to remove tax-free status in insurance policies can potentially have a second-order impact on salaried individuals.

India has made rapid strides in infrastructure development in recent years. Projects like Bharatmala, ‘Sagarmala’ and ‘PM Gati Sakti’ are transforming the economy’s infrastructure. The 66% increase in the allocation to Prime Minister Awaas Yojana to Rs 79,000 crores is a sure boost for affordable housing. It is an another step towards the gov-

ernment’s Housing for All mission. One would have observed that since taking office in 2014, PM Modi has ramped up capital spending including on roads and energy, while pursuing investors through lower tax rates and labour reforms, and offering subsidies to poor households to clinch their political support.

It is also encouraging that the budget signals the government’s desire to engage with the tourism sector on a “mission mode” – tourism is a significant economic multiplier on job creation, foreign exchange receipts as well as infrastructure. It is also to be appreciated that there has been an 11% increase in the Sports budget which has now become a total of Rs 3,397 cores and around Rs 1,000 crores will be spent only on ‘Khelo India Games’. The move on electric vehicles will help in controlling pollution. Overall Budget has enhanced capital spending, provided tax relief to salaried middle class.

BRIEF

Budget presentation



■ Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will present the state's Budget for 2023-24 on February 10, according to the Business Advisory Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly report. This will be the fifth and final Budget of Gehlot's current tenure. The House will not meet on February 11 and 12. It will reconvene for a debate on the Budget on February 13-15. The government will reply to the debate on February 16, according to the report.

Food processing



■ Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has said that the state government is giving a major push to the food processing sector, which will create job opportunities for youth on one hand and immensely benefit farmers as well. "The state government is giving a major push to the food processing sector in Punjab ..," Mann said. The Chief Minister also said that the state government will soon set up 20 dedicated Rural Industrial Hubs across the state.

Ease of living

■ Shimla: The Union Budget has paved the way for ease of living with opportunities, development and economic stability as focal points, Leader of Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly Jai Ram Thakur said on Thursday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2023-24 on Wednesday. Speaking to reporters here, the BJP leader said a global hub for millets would be a big step in increasing farmers' income.

Exemption

■ New Delhi: The exemption on ferrous scrap and stainless steel scrap is the "saving grace" for the industry, which is facing issues of raw material unavailability, JSL MD Abhyuday Jindal said on Thursday. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament on Wednesday. In her budget speech, the finance minister proposed to continue the exemption from basic customs duty (BCD) on raw materials for manufacturing cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) steel, ferrous scrap and nickel cathode to facilitate the availability of raw materials to the steel sector. "We are grateful that the Finance Minister has continued the exemption on ferrous scrap and stainless steel scrap.

Govt wants to eventually move to exemption-free I-T regime: Malhotra

New Delhi, Feb 02:

A day after the Budget announcement of a revamped personal income tax regime, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday said the government would eventually like to move to a simple and exemption-free tax structure with lower rates. According to an analysis by the Revenue Department, an individual earning Rs 15 lakh in a year will have to claim deductions of at least Rs 3.75 lakh under the old tax regime, otherwise the new revamped tax regime with lower rates proposed in 2023-24 will be more beneficial. In an interview to PTI, Malhotra said the government does not have any specific timeline to make the new regime mandatory for taxpayers. "We would like to move towards a lower tax rate, which is



Ministry of Finance's Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra speaks during an interactive session on Union Budget 2023-24, at FICCI in New Delhi, Thursday, Feb. 2.

simple and without tax exemptions," Malhotra said. The Budget has proposed changes to the new optional tax regime which provides that no tax would be levied on people with annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh. It also allowed taxpayers to claim standard deduction of Rs 50,000 under the new regime – a move seen as a push for the

salaried class to switch to the new tax regime where no exemptions on investments are provided. Malhotra said under the new regime, salary earners with income of up to Rs 7.5 lakh will not have to pay any income tax, after taking into account the standard deduction. This deduction was earlier available only to taxpayers

in the old regime.

The Budget has not given any relief to taxpayers under the old regime and said that the new tax regime will now be the "default option", meaning that taxpayers will now have to opt for the old regime while filing their tax returns.

In addition to extending the standard deduction, the Budget has also raised the exemption limit and tweaked the tax rates to make the new regime, which was originally introduced in 2020-21, attractive to taxpayers. Under the revamped new tax regime, no tax would be levied for income up to Rs 3 lakh. Income between Rs 3-6 lakh would be taxed at 5 per cent; Rs 6-9 lakh at 10 per cent, Rs 9-12 lakh at 15 per cent, Rs 12-15 lakh at 20 per cent and income of Rs 15 lakh and above will be taxed at 30 per cent.

I-T Dept spends 57 paise for every Rs 100 of tax collection: Official

Hyderabad, Feb 02:

Income-tax collection cost that the I-T Department incurs in the country is one of the lowest in the world at Rs 0.57 for every Rs 100 collected as tax, Shishir Agarwal, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Hyderabad, said on Thursday. He was speaking at a seminar on 'Post-Union Budget 2023-24-Implication for Trade and Industries' organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI). "We spend just 57 paise to collect every Rs 100 income-tax. We are one of the lowest in the world. The UK spends 73 paise, Japan 174 paise, Germany 135 paise, Canada

150 paise, France 111 paise. The USA is the only country that spends less than us," a press release quoted him as saying. According to him 65 per cent of I-T returns filed were processed and refunds made within 24 hours of filing. Speaking about the Union Budget which was presented in Parliament on Wednesday, the official said it is 'progressive' and was presented in line with government of India policies and vision 2047. The Budget was an effort in moving to a new tax regime which is simple and more open. Anil Agarwal, president of FTCCI, said the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman came out with a people-centric budget taking into consideration the global recession and slowing growth rate.

Markets end on mixed note; Sensex climbs over 224 points, Nifty dips 6 pts

Mumbai, Feb 02:

Equity markets witnessed mixed trends on Thursday, with the Sensex climbing over 224 points, while the NSE Nifty dipped almost 6 points in highly volatile trade. The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex advanced 224.16 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 59,932.24. During the day, it hit a high of 60,007.67 and a low of 59,215.62. However, the broader NSE Nifty dipped 5.90 points or 0.03 per cent to end at 17,610.40, weighed down by continuous selling in Adani group stocks. From the Sensex pack, ITC jumped 4.74 per cent. The other major gainers were IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tata



Consultancy Services and ICICI Bank. HDFC, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Power Grid and HDFC Bank were the major laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai ended in the green, while Hong Kong settled lower. Equities in Europe were trading higher during mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended in the positive territory on

Air India resumes direct flight services between Milan and New Delhi

Mumbai, Feb 02:

Tata group-operated carrier Air India on Thursday said it has resumed its non-stop flight services to Milan from New Delhi from February 1 onwards. These services were discontinued in March 2020 in the view of coronavirus pandemic. The commencement of Milan flight along with Air India's already announced flights to Vienna and Copenhagen from New Delhi will strengthen the airline's footprint significantly in Europe, the airline said in a statement. Air India had late last November said it will operate three flights per week to Vienna and Copenhagen from New Delhi from February 18 and March 1, 2023, respectively.

Usage of PAN as single business ID for all digital systems to promote ease of doing biz: DPIIT Secy

New Delhi, Feb 02:

Usage of PAN (permanent account number) by companies as a common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies will help in expediting clearances and promote ease of doing business, a top official said on Thursday.

The announcement regarding PAN was made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech on Wednesday. PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the income tax department to a person, firm or entity. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain termed the decision as reformative and transformative. The announcement would take about one year for implementation as it



needs changes in rules and integration of systems across different departments. He said an inter-ministerial committee had recommended this. "With this single business ID, all the databases across the board will get integrated. So this will further promote ease of applying to the national single window system," Jain told reporters here.

"Just put your common number, every data which is already there get populated automatically... This will also help us in creating common returns," he said. The secretary added that all the 13 departments dealing with business approvals and clearances like commerce, industry and environment, as well as all the 36 states and UTs have agreed for this.

Sitharaman had said for those business establishments required to have a PAN, it will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies. This will be facilitated through a legal mandate. She also stated that for obviating the need for separate submission of same information to different government agencies, a system of 'Unified Filing Process' will be set up.

Budget growth-oriented, underscores role of digital, tech in development: Nasscom

New Delhi, Feb 02:

Amid the growing fears of slowdown and global recession, the Union Budget is growth-oriented, boosting allocations across sectors, according to IT industry body Nasscom. The budget offers a playing ground for the startup community as well, and has highlighted that India is the third largest ecosystem for startups, Nasscom said in a statement. "Amidst the growing fear of slowdown and global recession, the Union Budget 2023 is growth-oriented and committed budget, that has boosted allocations across sectors," the IT industry association said. India is walking the talk on becoming a global digital economy, enhancing competitive advantage with focus and investments across key intervention areas. "Calling out the Indian economy as tech-

driven, knowledge-based economy, the budget focuses on three key transformational trends that will help build India its competitive advantage - digital transformation, energy transformation, and supply chain resilience," said Nasscom, the apex body for the USD 227 billion dollar IT-BPM industry in India. It added that budget underscored India's plan to become an engine for global growth and deploy digital as leading India's development. "It touched upon all the critical aspects required to position India as a leader in terms of digital offerings, along with a focus on talent and sustainability," Nasscom said. According to Nasscom, the creation of 5G labs will further help in opening newer avenues and opportunities, scaling up new business models and employment prospects.

Vedanta Aluminium raises USD 250 mn in Sustainability Linked Loans

New Delhi, Feb 02:

Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has raised USD 250 million through Sustainability Linked Loans (SLL) from reputed international banks, for financing its capex initiatives and reducing carbon footprint.

The loans were granted on the basis of specific performance parameters for decarbonization and safety, which the company aims to meet by deploying these funds towards capital expenditure. This will fuel the company's growth journey as well, including achieving a higher degree of backward integration and production of value-added aluminium products. This is Vedanta Group's first such



sustainability linked loan and sets the ball rolling on the company's aspirations to invest in green growth. This serves as a positive reinforcement of the company's endeavours to decarbonize its operations.

Speaking about the funding, Mr Rahul Sharma, CEO – Aluminium Business, Vedanta Ltd. said, "Aluminium will be indis-

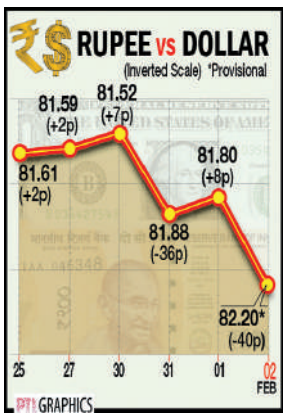
pensable to a low-carbon future, with critical applications across a vast spectrum of industries ranging from electric vehicles to renewable energy and more. We intend to conceive our growth plans on the bedrock of sustainability, with a sharp focus on people safety, decarbonization of our value-chain and water positive operations."

Rupee falls 40 paise to close at 82.20 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 02:

The rupee fell 40 paise to close below the 82 per US dollar mark on Thursday, weighed down by foreign fund outflows and corporate dollar demand. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 81.81 against the greenback, and touched an intra-day high of 81.71 and a low of 82.20.

It finally settled at 82.20 (provisional), down 40 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee had appreciated 8 paise to close at 81.80 against the dollar after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for 2023-24. The dollar index, which



gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.12 per cent lower at 101.10, after the US Fed hiked the interest rate along expected lines by 25 basis points to 4.50-4.75 per

cent.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.14 per cent to USD 82.72 per barrel. "The Indian rupee became the worst performer among Asian currencies amid foreign fund outflows and corporate dollar demand from hedgers. The weakness in the regional currencies and higher precious metal prices also weighed on the rupee," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. Parmar further said "spot USD-INR has crossed 82.10, the 50-day simple moving average, paving the way for 82.50 and 82.96 while on the downside 81.80 becomes the strong support."

Continued focus on infra in Budget to ensure long-term growth in steel demand: Experts

New Delhi, Feb 02:

The government's continued focus on infrastructure in the Union Budget 2023-24 will ensure sustained long-term growth in steel demand, according to experts. On Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman increased capex for infrastructure development in the country to Rs 10 lakh crore in the Budget.

She also announced a capital outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for the modernisation and expansion of the Indian Railways. "Infrastructure, building and construction sectors together account for around 60 per cent of the end-use steel consump-

tion share in the domestic market. Continued focus on infra projects will ensure sustained long-term growth in steel demand," CareEdge Ratings said. The rating agency further said that the increased outlay for railways and PM Awas Yojana is positive for alloy as well as non-alloy steel producers. SteelMint said the exemption on ferrous scrap from basic customs duty (BCD) and on raw materials for manufacturing cold rolled grain oriented (CRGO) steel will facilitate the availability of raw materials to the steel sector besides saving their cost of production.

The expansion in the railway network in the country will translate

into increased usage of steel and help enhance higher domestic crude and finished steel production, the research firm said. Jayanta Roy, Senior Vice President & Group Head said, the Budget has made a strong push for infrastructure-led growth in the country, with the capital outlay for infrastructure projects being raised by 33 per cent in FY 2023-24.

Cumulative allocations to flagship schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the Jal Jeevan Mission have been increased by 65.8 per cent and 16.7 per cent year-on-year, respectively, which is a positive for the long steel and pipe manufacturers.

National Conclave celebrates India's successful Covid-19 journey

New Delhi, Feb 02:

"The Government of India's efforts toward 'Antyodaya' – empowering the last-mile person – as envisioned by PM Narendra Modi, is aligned with the efforts of many individuals and organizations when it comes to public health. This conclave celebrating India's successful COVID-19 journey is aptly titled, Power of the Collective. We are indeed a country that believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas. It has always been our objective to reach every citizen – the most vulnerable from the remotest corners of the country – and secure their health and well-being.



Being a part of this Conclave reaffirms my faith in those who have tirelessly worked to mitigate COVID-19 and assure will continue to support us even beyond the pandemic," said Dr Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare. Dr. Ashok Babu made this observation at a National Conclave on January 31, 2023, which showcased innovative interventions of the MoHFW and state health departments which were deployed with support from partner organi-

zations including USAID to increase the COVID-19 vaccination coverage in India. The Conclave also saw the attendance of Dr. Manohar Agnani, Former Additional Secretary, MoHFW; Ms. Patricia A. Lacina, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy; Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Dr. Veena Dhawan, Additional Commissioner (Immunity), MoHFW; Ms. Sangita Patel, Director, Health Office, USAID; Dr. Sanjay Kapur, Managing Director, John Snow India, among other dignitaries. It was held at the Imperial Hotel, Delhi, and saw participation from 33 state health departments.

Ananya Panday to headline Vikramaditya Motwane's cyber-thriller film

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday is set to headline a cyber-thriller film. The yet-to-be-titled film is being directed by filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane, who is known for films like 'Lootera', 'Udaan', 'Bhavesh Joshi Superhero', and 'AK vs. AK'. Talking about the film, Ananya said, "When Vikramaditya Motwane approached me with this story, I just knew I had to be part of it. As a filmmaker, he has been on my wish list for as long as I can remember and I feel really lucky to be working with him this early in my career." Vikramaditya Motwane, who is at the helm of affairs for the film, said, "This is a thriller with modern-day appeal and very relevant to our times. It's going to be really interesting to see Ananya Panday in this role since it's something she hasn't attempted before." The film, which recently went on the floors, is being produced by Nikhil Dwivedi of 'Veere Di Wedding' fame, who was also seen in the web series 'Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story'. Nikhil said, "When Vikram shared the script with me to produce, it was one of the most interesting materials I had laid my hands on in recent times and I decided within a few hours to participate in this. Ananya is a commendable artist and someone to watch out for in times to come. I am excited that she is in the film." The film will be shot in a start to finish schedule.

Hrithik Roshan pens note for 'kind hearted rock star' Jackson Wang

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan wrote an appreciation post for K-pop star Jackson Wang, whom he called a "kind-hearted rock star" and thanked him for his music.

The 'War' star took to Instagram to post a slew of photographs with Wang, who was hosted by Hrithik along with his parents Rakesh and Pinkie Roshan at their home in Mumbai.

In the series of pictures, Hrithik, Rakesh and Pinkie posed with Jackson. In one picture, Rakesh was seen giving a thumbs up to Jackson and he greeted the filmmaker with folded hands.

Captioning the post,



Hrithik wrote: "What a delightful experience meeting you Jackson. Such a kind-hearted rock star. Loved hearing about your journey, I hope you continue to grow both as the star and human. Thanks for the music and for the love you gave my family and home staff."

"My love to your entire team - Daryl, Isaac, Tiffany n the entire crew, and kamal. What an inspiring bunch you are! India let's give Jackson some more of that love so he returns back to us - in concert!"

On the work front, Hrithik will next be seen in 'Fighter' alongside Deepika Padukone.

'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan' ropes in Gazal Sood to play Katori Singh

&TV's gharelu comedy "Happu Ki Ultan Paltan" has been making viewers laugh for the last four years. Each character in the show has created a special place in viewers' hearts with their comical timing and quirky antics. And the latest one to join them is Gazal Sood, who will play Katori Singh, aka "Kat."

The actress will step into the shoes of Aashna Kishore to play the role of Daroga Happu Singh's (Yogesh Tripathi) and Rajesh's (Kamna Pathak) eldest daughter. Hailing from Ludhiana, Punjab, Gazal has been part of some popular television

shows and web series before and is excited to portray a ditsy yet sweet and happy-go-lucky girl who struggles to speak fluent English and earns the ire of people around her who do not understand what she is saying. Excited to be a part of the show, Gazal shares, "I am thrilled to be a part of the show, which is also my family's favourite. I have enjoyed watching Kat's character, and I could not be happier to play the character myself. The way she struggles to speak English always leaves me in splits. Comedy is one of my favourite genres, as it offers true entertainment

that puts smiles on viewers' faces. Having watched the show before, I have always admired the way the characters and the show portray comedy so effortlessly. I have started shooting and feel lucky to be surrounded by talented actors like Himani Shivpuri, Yogesh Tripathi, Kamna Pathak, and others. I hope people love my portrayal of the character, which has already gained so much popularity among viewers."

Catch Gazal Sood as Kat in Happu Ki Ultan Paltan every Monday to Friday at 10 PM only on &TV!



Dulquer goes gaga over Rocky bhai's gesture; calls him kindest, best host

Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan has appreciated the gesture of superstar Yash and thanked him for his hospitality during his shoot in Karnataka's Mysuru. Mysuru is the hometown of Rocking star Yash. Dulquer stated, "He is the kindest and best host. He sent me and my team more food than we could eat when we were both filming in Mysuru."

Addressing Dulquer, Yash had posted that "the next time you are back in my hometown, a native cuisine spread will await you."

The fans of both superstars are celebrating the friendship, mutual respect for each other. Yash's fans have appreciated his simplicity and friendly nature.

Late Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar was also appreciated by south superstars for his gestures towards hosting them in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka. Many had remembered Puneeth's gesture of sharing great food with them.



Why does Mumtaz get emotional post Rishi Singh's performance?

This Sunday, nostalgia will take over Sony Entertainment Television's prestigious singing reality show, 'Indian Idol - Season 13' as the show will welcome



Bollywood's legendary 'He-Man,' Dharmendra Ji for the second time along with Mumtaz Ji who will mark her presence on the show for the first time after 50 years! As a tribute, the show will be celebrating the 'Dharmendra and Mumtaz Classics' where the Top 8 contestants will not only sing classics from their era but will also make both Dharmendra ji and Mumtaz ji feel special by wearing some of their iconic film attires.

Contestant Rishi Singh from Ayodhya sings a spectacular rendition of the classic song 'Hum Bewafa,' from the film 'Shalimar.' While his performance received heaps of praises, Mumtaz Ji was visibly emotional. When asked, Mumtaz Ji who compliments Rishi and getting emotional says, "You sang beautifully! It touched my heart and reminded me of my old times."

Be sure to tune into Indian Idol 13, this Sunday at 8:00 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

Patralekhaa learns riding a bike on the streets of Mumbai!



After kickstarting the year on a high note with the massive success of #AarYaPaar, Patralekhaa is all set to prepare for her next! She was seen riding a bike on the streets of Mumbai in order to prepare for her next film. The film is based on a road trip and explores the intricacies of female friendships. Patralekhaa added, "It was thrilling! Riding a bike has been on my to-do list for a long time, and it was liberating to finally be able to do it! I feel every woman should know how to ride a bike or a car, it elevates your independence besides giving an empowering feel. Am also grateful for all the adulation that the audiences and critics have showered for 'Aar Ya Paar.'"

My silence has grown 'louder': Suresh Gopi

Popularly known as the "angry young man" of Malayalam film industry, actor-turned-politician Suresh Gopi's gradual transformation has left many wondering whether he has mellowed down in real life.

"It's my silence that has grown louder," shot back the actor while speaking to media at his house in the state capital.

He confesses that be it politics or his first love - acting, he is enjoying his time.

Recalling his six-year tenure in the Upper House of Parliament which ended in April last year, he says he is extremely happy to have put his 'signature' in the Citizenship Amendment



Act 2019 besides a few other important ones like the Abrogation of Article 370.

On his future in the po-

litical arena, Gopi said irrespective of whether he is politically active or not, he will continue to be an ardent fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

"I am always in touch with politics and those who matter in politics and will continue to do so, but the thing is, I am doing it the way I like," said Gopi who is presently very busy in his acting field, with a few hits that has come after a hiatus.

To a question on his role in state BJP politics, the politician said he has already made it clear to people that just being a crowd puller will not help turn the tables.

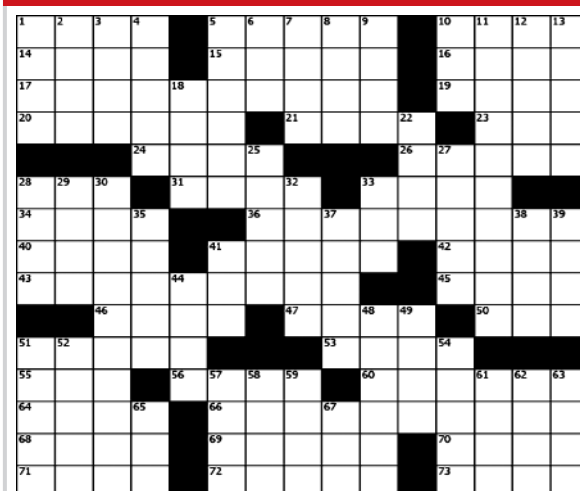
On his return to his first love-acting which

has seen him star in over 260 films and entered the 38th year, Gopi said here too he is happy the way things are panning out for him, since his return after becoming a Rajya Sabha member.

"I am happy with my acting career also but the only difference is, I have decided to be quiet on what's happening as I feel that's best," added Gopi, who at 64 years too, continues to be a fitness freak. His day begins with a 30-minute walk in his private compound followed by some physiotherapy. The only concern he says is the fat that is accumulating around his stomach. "Will soon get rid of that too," a confident Gopi added with a smile.

CROSSWORD

550



ACROSS

- Performs onstage
- Deck's kin
- Snaky swimmers
- Example
- Perfumes
- Understand
- Not relating to individuals
- Rim
- Dictator
- Skier's surface

- Help
- Pierce
- Pound part
- Branch
- Insult
- Yearn
- Rajendra's home
- Recovering readily
- Leer
- Incensed
- Threesome
- Astronomer's tool

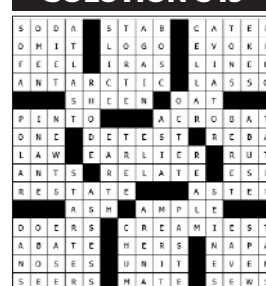
- Posted
- Got it! (2 wds.)
- Placard
- Moines, Iowa
- Humped animal
- Ark skipper
- Live
- Chaps
- NASA program
- Brief letter
- Perceived character
- Grace closing
- Desist
- Discharge
- Hog fat
- Buying frenzy
- Comedian Jay

DOWN

- Vinegary
- Showed up
- Chief's measures (abbr.)
- Leaks slowly
- Of the mail
- Ruckus
- Coal measures
- Modern Persia
- Norwegian port
- Get by
- Species
- Spock's specialty
- Stockholm resident
- Decomposes
- Warm fabric
- Small donkey
- Army subdivisions
- Many (2 wds.)

- Anger
- Small metric measure
- Gathers crops
- False statement
- Witherspoon of "Pleasantville"
- Pub mug
- IX
- Toddler
- Decorate a cake
- Broker's advice
- Pointed beard
- Wine-producing valley
- Panama
- Fragrance
- Inn
- Circle segments
- Profound
- Practice boxing
- Shade of green
- Pork cut
- Aware of
- Cease
- Employ

SOLUTION 549



Pandya aims to emulate Dhoni

Ahmedabad, Feb 02 (PTI):

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya feels he has developed the ability to absorb pressure and doesn't mind playing the anchor role that the great Mahendra Singh Dhoni played for the team.

The 29-year-old has always been known for his batting pyrotechnics but says he has now learnt to take the back seat and anchor the innings, something which master chaser Dhoni did in the fag end of his international career.

"See, to be honest, I've always enjoyed hitting sixes, but I have to evolve and that is life," the stand-in T20 skipper said during the press conference after India sealed the T20 series against New Zealand 2-1.

"I have to take the other part where I've always believed in partnerships. I want to give my team and the other person more calmness and the assurance that at least I'm there."

"I've played more games than any of those guys out there. So, I've known the experience and more than the experience part, it's where I've batted, and I've learnt how to accept pressure and I've learnt how to kind of swallow the pressure and kind of make sure the team and everything is calm," Hardik added.

Dhoni is known for his calm demeanour and Hardik feels now it is his responsibility to step into the legendary wicketkeeper's shoes as a batter and



he is ready to sacrifice his strike-rate to play that role.

"In that way, maybe I have to get my strike rate down or... Taking new opportunities or taking new roles is (something) I've always looked forward to. I don't mind coming in and playing the role which somewhere down the line Maahi (Dhoni) used to play," he said. Hardik has

scored 1271 runs at a strike-rate of 142.17 in 87 T20Is.

"I think at that time, I was young, and I was hitting all around the park, but now since he has gone, all of a sudden that responsibility... It has just naturally come to me, and I don't mind (doing it). We're getting the result we want and it's okay."

During the third T20I

against New Zealand, Hardik did just that, allowing the in-form Shubman Gill (126) to take the attack to the opposition as India posted a massive 234 for 4 and then bowled out NZ for 66 for a 168-run win.

Hardik – The new ball bowler

With pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah nursing an injury, Hardik has backed himself to bowl more with the new ball, having bowled 12 overs in the powerplay, conceding 86 runs for two wickets this home season.

"I had to bowl with the new ball (in T20Is) because Arshdeep (Singh)... I don't want any new guy to come and have that difficult role of (bowling first up with the new ball) because if they're put under pressure, then we're chasing the game," Hardik said. "So, I've always been (like) leading from the front and I've been working on my new-ball skills, which is helping me." He has taken 69 wickets at 26.43 average in 87 T20Is.

Gill has game to play all formats

Impressed with Gill's rise as an all format player, Hardik said: "I always felt that he has the style and technique to play all the formats and it was not surprising for me. "The effortless batting that he can do, not many can. It means a lot for him, as a youngster to play all formats adds a new dimension to the game."

Aman wins bronze at Zagreb Open wrestling



Zagreb (Croatia), Feb 02 (PTI):

India's Aman Sehrawat clinched a bronze medal at the Zagreb Open wrestling championships here.

The 17-year-old Aman defeated Zane Raye Rhodes Richards of USA 10-4 on points in the bronze medal contest to finish on the podium of the ranking tournament. Aliabbas Rzazade of Azerbaijan bagged the gold, beating Yuto Nishiuchi of Japan 2-0 in the final.

The other bronze was won by Beka Bujiasvili of Georgia, who beat Islam Bazarganov of Azerbaijan. Aman had earlier defeated Roberti Dingashvili of Georgia in the quarterfinals, before losing to Nishiuchi in the semifinals, to qualify for the repechage round as his Japanese opponent went on to reach the final.

Bairstow's recovery from freak injury on 'right track'

London, Feb 02 (PTI):

England's multi-format middle-order batter Jonny Bairstow's chances of being part of the national team for the home Ashes series have brightened as he says his recovery from a freak injury is on "right track".

Bairstow had broken his leg and dislocated his ankle when he slipped on a golf course in September last year and missed the T20 World Cup in Australia and the subsequent away Test tour of Pakistan.

The grievous injury saw the 33-year-old break his fibula in three places, which required complicated surgical intervention. With the Ashes scheduled at home in June-July this year, a fully-fit Bairstow should be an automatic choice in the squad as the firepower he lends to England's batting is unmatched.

Bairstow was in the form of his life last year, averaging 75.66 with four Test centuries before he was struck down by the injury.

"It (the leg) is improving, we're on the right track, we're about four-and-a-half months post it (the injury) happening now," Bairstow said at the Marylebone Cricket Club 'spirit of cricket' panel on Wednesday, according to 'Yorkshire Post'.

The cricketer, who was a part of England's Test resurgence under coach



Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes, however, has not set a return date, though he remains optimistic about the Ashes.

"I haven't actually got a return date just yet but I'm seeing a surgeon later on in the month so we'll wait and see how that goes, but things are tracking in the right direction."

"It's (injury) a bit more complicated than just breaking your leg, but that's just one of the things that you deal with. Everyone has been dealt a card, everyone has challenges put in front of them, but it's just another thing you can overcome."

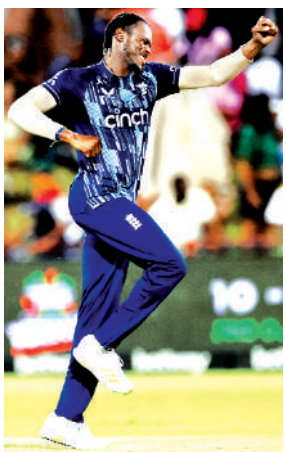
He added that while the long layoff has not quite affected his morale, staying at home, at times, became boring. "It's been a lot different (post the injury), taking the injury away from it, not being ... on planes and flying every-

where and being around a group of lads, being at home has been a lot different. "It's been quite good at times, it's been quite boring at times."

Bairstow said that a day before he slipped on the golf course, white-ball coach Matthew Mott and skipper Jos Buttler were discussing with him the prospects of opening the innings in T20Is.

"It has been tricky, obviously the night before I did my ankle, I spoke to Matthew Mott and Jos (Buttler) and they spoke about me opening the batting in T20 side and that's what I've been wanting to do for a little period of time, so I was absolutely delighted. "And then it's amazing how quickly things can turn on its head, within 12 hours I was laying on a hospital bed, my leg in a cast and my ankle being put back in place."

Archer takes 6 in England win



Kimberley (S A), Feb 02 (AP):

Captain Jos Buttler and Dawid Malan made centuries and dragged England back from 143 to post a big total and win the third one-day international against South Africa for a consolation victory.

Fast bowler Jofra Archer, playing in his first international series for two years, took 6-40 and blew through South

Africa's top and middle order to carry England to its 59-run win in Kimberley. Archer fittingly finished it off by bowling Tabraiz Shamsi. South Africa was all out for 287 chasing England's 346-7.

South Africa had already won the series after taking a 2-0 lead and while the victory in the final game of the series was a consolation for England, it had repercussions for South Africa.

South Africa is still outside of the automatic qualifying places for the 50-over World Cup in India this year and needs every win it can get. The Proteas have two ODIs left against the Netherlands to clinch automatic qualification. England is already assured of a place at the World Cup.

England built its daunting total in Kimberley through a magnificent partnership of 232 for the fourth wicket between Buttler and Malan.

Ahmedabad, Feb 02 (PTI):

Young opener Shubman Gill said his unbeaten 63-ball 126 was "tactically and technically" a near-perfect game as it set up India's massive series-clinching 168-run win in the third T20I against New Zealand.

Gill smashed 12 boundaries and seven maximums in his scintillating maiden century in the shortest format to power India to a mammoth 234 for 4 in the final T20I.

The hosts then bundled out New Zealand for 66 in 12.1 overs to not only win the match but also secure a 2-1 series win.

"To be able to play how I play, I have to be mentally clear," Gill said during an interaction with skipper Hardik Pandya, a video of which was posted on BCCI.tv.

"This is what you (Hardik) told me. Every time I hit a six, he came



and told me -- hold your shape in the next ball, you don't have to do anything extra, just do what you are doing and don't try to go too hard. Every ball he kept reminding me and that helped.

A near-perfect game: Gill

well in the entire T20 series. So, tactically and technically it was a near-perfect game for me."

'Player of the series' Pandya snapped four wickets as he bowled with the new ball to dismiss Finn Allen and Glenn Phillips. He later returned to take two more wickets to demolish the Kiwis.

"Four wickets, to be honest, are just part and parcel of the sport but I think I bowled at 145 (kmph) if I am not wrong and that kind of gave me the happiness and the smile you can see. So, I told him (Gill) today that it is my last game and I am going on a break," said Hardik, who will play his next game in about two months' time.

"So, today (Wednesday) gonna be full all guns blazing and I am going to bowl as fast as possible and, to be honest, the kind of start we got, it made our life very easy."

"In the last over of (Mitchell) Santner, I was in the zone and I was hitting. So, I thought I will go after him but you asked me to hold myself back and target other bowlers because he (Santner) is bowling

Australia will win on fair Indian wickets, says Healy

Melbourne, Feb 02 (PTI):

Hosts India will have the upper hand if the tracks are rank turners in the upcoming Test series but Australia will win on "fair" pitches, feels former wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

The two sides will clash for the four-match Border Gavaskar Trophy, starting in Nagpur on February 9.

"I think if they produce fair Indian wickets, that are good batting wickets, to start with, (that) probably spin and spin pretty consistently but spin a long way, late in the match we (Australia) win," Healy said on 'SENQ Breakfast'.

"I'm worried about (Mitchell) Starc and (Nathan) Lyon in the first Test if they're unfair wickets which I've seen in the last series, where balls were jumping ridiculously and sliding down low from day one, I think India play those conditions better than us," he added.

Australia have decided not to



play a single tour game in India during the month-long Test series, primarily due to the hosts serving up green tops for practice matches and spinning tracks for the actual games.

Healy advised the less-experienced Australian players to soak in the pressure and not commit any fielding lapses. "I want the players to be very aware if they are escaping that pressure (from the locals) if you're escaping that pressure and hiding in your room using the golf simulator I think you've got to do something else," he said.

Man United beats Forest 2-0

Manchester, Feb 02 (AP):

Erik ten Hag was hired to bring the good times back to Manchester United. Now, just nine months after his appointment, he is one game away from ending the club's six-year trophy wait.

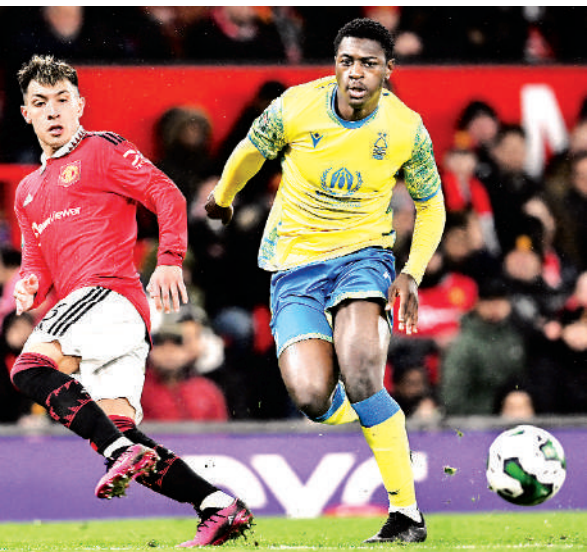
A 2-0 win against Nottingham Forest on Wednesday sealed a 5-0 aggregate victory in the League Cup semifinals.

United will face Newcastle in the final at Wembley Stadium on Feb. 26 for the English season's first piece of major silverware.

"It is good to reach the final of course, but it is not about reaching the final, it is about winning it," Ten Hag said.

"It has to give huge motivation to us and we want to bring that cup (back)."

Substitute Anthony Martial opened the scoring in the 73rd minute and Fred added a second in the 76th, with both goals set up by Marcus Rashford. United won the first leg 3-0 at the City Ground last week. "When you get this far you want to go one fur-



Manchester United's Argentinian defender Lisandro Martinez (L) vies with Nottingham Forest's English striker Detlef Esapa Osong during the English League Cup semi-final second-leg football match between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England.

ther. The damage was really done last week," Forest manager Steve Cooper said. Ten Hag has not made United fans wait long for a first cup final under him. The Dutchman took charge last April and was given the task of turning the club's

fortunes around after too long in the shadows of fierce rivals Manchester City and Liverpool.

The League Cup was the earliest possible final he could reach and victory in the showpiece occasion later this month would fur-

ther fuel belief that he is building a team capable of competing for the biggest prizes in club soccer again.

United has not won a trophy since 2017 when former manager Jose Mourinho triumphed in the League Cup and Europa League in his first season in charge.

While Ten Hag can emulate the Portuguese coach by also winning a trophy in his debut campaign with United, his ultimate challenge is to deliver Premier League and Champions League titles.

Those were standards set by managerial great Alex Ferguson and ones United has not come close to meeting since his retirement in 2013. Ten Hag is the fifth permanent managerial appointment since then and took over a team that finished sixth last season, 35 points below champion City. A title bid was always unlikely this year, but United is in a strong position to qualify for the Champions League, currently fourth in the table and still competing in the FA Cup and Europa League.

Mbappe injured

Paris, Feb 02 (AP):

World Cup winner Lionel Messi scored and Kylian Mbappé missed a twice-taken penalty before getting injured as Paris Saint-Germain won 3-1 at Montpellier to move five points clear at the top of the French league.

Mbappé went down clutching his leg just under the right knee and limped off in the 21st minute having earlier missed a twice-taken penalty and blazed the rebound over an open goal on his second effort.

It was unclear exactly what his injury was. Television cameras also caught him rubbing the back of his left thigh as he walked to the dressing room. PSG coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster Canal Plus "he took a blow behind the knee," and then said at his news conference the injury does not appear serious.

"Is it a bruise? We don't know yet. It doesn't look very serious," Galtier said.



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentine forward Lionel Messi (L) fights for the ball with Montpellier's Malian defender Boubakar Kouyate during the French L1 football match between Montpellier Herault SC and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at Stade de la Mosson in Montpellier, southern France.

"We're not too worried." The Argentina star Messi tucked home PSG's second goal with a typically neat finish in the 72nd after being set up by Fabi n Ruiz, who put PSG ahead in the 55th. Striker Arnaud Nordin pulled one back in

the 89th and, with the home team pushing forward, 16-year-old substitute Warren Za re-Emery drove the ball home for 3-1 in stoppage time with his first goal for the club.

"It's my first goal in the first division, so I'm very

happy," Za re-Emery said after becoming PSG's youngest scorer. The midfielder turns 17 in March.

Defending champion PSG is five points ahead of Marseille, which won 2-0 at Nantes to move one point ahead of Lens into second spot for the automatic Champions League place.

Lens lost 1-0 against Nice for its first home league defeat and second overall.

PSG visits both Monaco and Marseille this month and is at Marseille in the French Cup, as well as takes on Bayern Munich in the first leg of their round-of-16 encounter in the Champions League on Feb. 14. Earlier, Marseille extended its unbeaten run to 10 games overall. Marseille scored in the 58th when Nantes central defender Joao Victor put the ball into his own net when tackling on-rushing winger Cengiz nder inside the penalty area. New signing Azzedine Ounahi, a midfielder with World Cup semifinalist Morocco, added the second goal in stoppage time on his Marseille debut.



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