

GUEST COLUMN

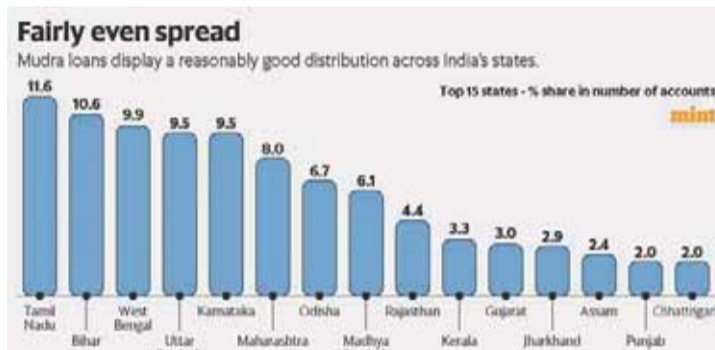
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: credit saturation for livelihoods

By SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH

As India's Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) completed eight years on April 8, we can glance back at the changes wrought by this mass credit saturation programme that was envisaged during the bleak days of 2014-15 when our formal financial sector was reeling under bad loans, especially its impact on the socioeconomic fabric of the country.

Total disbursement under the scheme showed an average 33 per cent growth in its first three years, indicating that its unique selling proposition was well received. The outbreak of the Covid pandemic and subsequent slowdown in economic activity impacted the demand for these loans.

The country's formal or institutional architecture was unable to reach out to them and meet their financial re-



quirements. These units were largely self-financed or reliant on either personal networks or moneylenders. With this gap kept in mind, the PMMY was floated with the objective to create an easily accessible bridge between a large unbanked sector and formal lenders.

Under the aegis of the PMMY, the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) created three sub-schemes that differ by the loan amount: Shishu (for loans up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,001 - Rs five lakh) and Tarun (Rs 50,001 - Rs 10 lakh).

Since its launch, the scheme has undergone numerous changes. Its target area, for example, has been widened to

Doctors remove betel nut from woman's lung

Conducting a successful surgery on a 53-year-old woman Kyami Devi from Uttarkashi district the doctors of Himalayan Hospital in Dehradun removed a betel nut piece from her lung through bronchoscopy, thus giving her a new lease of life.

It revealed that a foreign body was found in her right bronchus intermedius which was causing complete obstruction of the right lower lobe of lung. The doctors decided to remove the foreign body. The foreign

loans in recent times is an indication of the scheme's outreach.

One of the scheme's most commendable achievements is its impetus to women's entrepreneurship. In its cumulative data since inception, the share of accounts held by women is as high as 69 per cent, while the share of women in the sanction list is 45 per cent.

The PMMY also fares well on other measures of inclusivity. The scheme has been able to cater to the requirements of minorities. Loans to members of minority groups touched an all-time high in 2022, with their overall share at 10 per cent, with Shishu and Kishore loans accounting for 85 per cent of total cumulative disbursement.

Since the PMMY is a national scheme, its spatial dispersion is an important consideration from the point of view of balanced economic growth. One of the objectives of India's growth policy has been to bridge the divide between the thriving western and lagging eastern parts of the country.

After the economy's re-opening, loan demand under the PMMY has gathered pace. In most categories, disbursements have surpassed pre-Covid levels.

The share of Shishu loans is the highest, at 40 per cent, suggesting that the PMMY has largely supported first-time entrepreneurs. The PMMY's economic impact is now well established.

The social impact of the PMMY is a much deeper story and can be understood at three levels. These three levels include the scheme's impact on broad social groups, women and members of minority communities.

Overall, the PMMY has achieved its objectives of equitable and fair spatial distribution of benefits during its ninth year of operation by fostering self employment across social groups, doubling the participation rate of women over that observed in commercial-bank lending and boosting the participa-

tion of minority groups.

In the coming years, it is imperative that the PMMY reaps the benefits of 5G technology and e-commerce, even as Mudra cards are popularised further.

The celebrated anthropologist Oscar Lewis had once argued in his seminal work, The Children of Sanchez, that a "culture of poverty" tends to perpetuate itself over time, often transcending boundaries.

(The author is group chief economic advisor, State Bank of India. Views expressed are personal)

HC grants one month to probe allegations against Roorkee mayor

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court has agreed to the request made by Housing and Urban Development secretary Deependra Chaudhary who sought one month to act per the orders of the court regarding allegations leveled at the Roorkee mayor Gaurav Goel.

In the past the court had directed the government to probe allegations leveled at the mayor and take action under the relevant act within two months. Later, the court had issued a contempt notice to the Housing and Urban Development secretary for not observing the earlier

orders of the court and had ordered him to appear in the court on April 13.

Roorkee resident Amit Agrawal had filed the PIL alleging that the Roorkee mayor had misused his position. The petitioner has alleged that Goel made a phone call and demanded Rs 25 lakh for renewing the lease on a land plot. The phone call was recorded and the voice sample



was sent to the forensic laboratory where it was found to be matching the voice of the mayor. The petitioner has further alleged that Goel framed

the husband of a woman employee in a false case and purportedly exerted pressure on her to grant him favours to make him withdraw the case. The police had lodged a case and filed the final report. However, the lower court had rejected the police report and had directed that the matter be investigated again, the petitioner has stated.

UTTARAKHAND GRAMIN BANK POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Includes details of the bank, regional office, and specific notice information regarding a property in Dehradun.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE For Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE No. Dy. CE/GSU/MB/Publication-07/23-24 DATED: 13/04/2023

No. A-42011/3/2023 Government of India Ministry of Commerce and Industry Department of Commerce Directorate General of Trade Remedies

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Dated : - 12.04.2023 Table with columns for S. No., Name of work with its location, App. Cost, Bid Security, Completion period, etc.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Table with columns for SN, Name of work with its location, App. Cost, Bid Security, Completion period, etc.

नगर पालिका परिषद, मुनिकीरेती-दालवाला टिहरी गढ़वाल निविदा सूचना Table with columns for क्र.सं, कार्य का नाम/विवरण, घरोहर, निविदा शुल्क, निविदा की वैधता

Temperatures likely to rise, light rain forecast in three districts

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The maximum temperature increased by three degrees Celsius to 35.1 degrees Celsius in Dehradun on Thursday. Other parts of the State also registered an increase in the maximum temperature by one to three degrees Celsius on Thursday. The State meteorological centre has forecast that the maximum temperatures are likely to increase by two to three degrees Celsius at many places in Uttarakhand during the next four to five days. While Dehradun is likely to get hotter today, some parts of three mountainous districts may experience light rain. The meteorological centre has forecast that very light to light rain/thunderstorm/snow are likely to occur at isolated places in the higher reaches of Uttarkashi, Chamoli and



Pithoragarh districts on Friday. Dry weather is likely to prevail in remaining districts. The provisional State capital Dehradun is likely to witness mainly clear skies with the maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be about 36 degrees Celsius and 17 degrees Celsius respectively on Friday. The maximum and minimum temperatures

recorded in various parts of the State on Thursday were 35.1 degrees Celsius and 17.6 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 36.2 degrees Celsius and 14.4 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 25.3 degrees Celsius and 10.5 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 25.3 degrees Celsius and 13.1 degrees Celsius in New

Dhami releases video song on corruption

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released a video song on corruption at his camp office on Thursday. The song mentions the steps

government for good governance. He said that the song is a good medium to spread awareness on the action being taken on the corrupt by

Artists Om Torani and Urvarshi Shah have played lead roles in the song drama and the music composer is Vicky Juyal. MLA Mohan Singh,



taken by the Dhami government to prevent corruption in the State. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that a brilliant effort is done in the song to showcase the works being done by the State gov-

ernment. The singer and composer Bhumendra Basera has used local languages to spread the message of zero tolerance on corruption of the State government in the video.

secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram, director general of Information Banshidhar Tiwari, managing director of PTCUL PC Dhyani and others were present on the occasion.

Ex-President Kovind to arrive in Doon today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind will arrive here on a three-day tour of Uttarakhand on Friday. He will stay in the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun during his tour. On April 15 and 16, the former President will participate in various programmes at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie. The governor lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh will be present with him during these events. Earlier, on Friday, Kovind will garland a statue of BR Ambedkar in Garhi cantonment. It will be recalled that during his visit to Dehradun as the President

in December 2021, Kovind had garlanded this statue and had mentioned to his staff about the statue being small in size. Taking serious cognisance of this observation, governor Singh requested the cantonment



board CEO to renovate the statue. The dimensions of the statue were increased and it was renovated to improve its appearance.

Leadership workshop concludes at Sherwood College

PNS ■ NAINITAL

A three-day leadership workshop concluded at Sherwood College here on Thursday. The students along with their parents attended the workshop. Speaking at the conclusion, the school principal Amandeep Sandhu said that leadership entails directing a person or

enhance their capabilities and mental level for this. After doing so, they can make important contributions to the achievements and success of the nation, organisation or institution, said Sandhu.

The parents of the stu-



a group and playing a vital role in getting any task completed. Able leadership makes it possible to achieve the most difficult of tasks, he added. The students need to

dents also asked questions in the workshop. The role of the leadership of parents in a family was also discussed during the interaction.

Kainchi Dham to be developed as per master plan: DM

PNS ■ NAINITAL

A new bailey bridge will be constructed considering the increasing number of people visiting Kainchi Dham. The Nainital district magistrate Dhiraaj Garbaly said this while

enable movement to the shrine from the bailey bridge. The DM said that the old post office which is lying vacant will be used to set up a temporary police post especially to manage



visiting the popular

pilgrimage site in the district on Thursday. The DM said that Kainchi Dham will be developed according to a master plan. Observing the crowd of devotees, the DM pointed out that the crowding is exacerbated as there is only one route for entering the exiting the shrine. The condition of the existing bridge is not good. A bailey bridge will be constructed on a temporary basis soon. The survey work for this purpose has been completed and work on laying the bridge will be started in the near future to

traffic movement during the tourist season.

Garbaly said that people dirty the locations where they bathe in the Shipra river, adding that bathing in the river here is prohibited. He said that homework has been done on the master plan for Kainchi Dham and soon work will be started on it. He directed the sub divisional magistrate Paritosh Verma to ensure that all home stay operators and shopkeepers display rate lists in their establishments. Strict action will be taken in case irregularities are found, he said.



The Nation pays tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on his birth anniversary (Rashtriya Samrasta Diwas)

A Tribute paid to Babasaheb by developing places related to his life as Panchteerth

Janma Bhoomi, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh | Dr. Ambedkar Memorial, London | Chaitya Bhoomi, Dadar, Mumbai | Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial, 26 Alipur Road, Delhi | Diksha Bhoomi, Nagpur

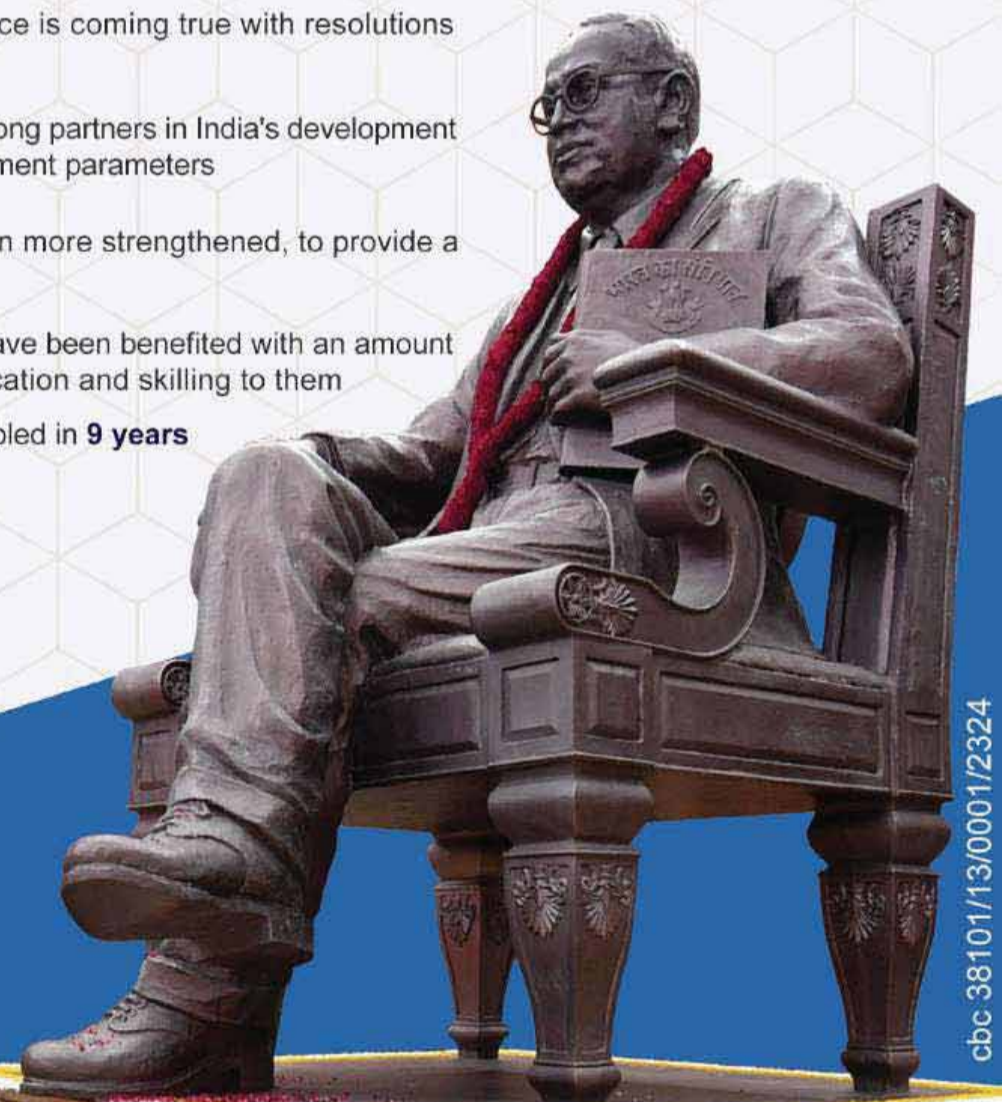
Establishment of world-class Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi to promote research in socio-economic field

Government of India is committed to make the inclusive India as per the Babasaheb's dream

- Mudra loans worth ₹ 23 lakh crore disbursed to 40 crore accounts under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, out of which 51% of the beneficiaries are SC, ST and OBC
- 3.11 crore SC and ST beneficiaries got free gas connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- The dream of Pucca Ghar to more than 1 crore 10 lakh SC and ST beneficiaries has come true under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- Babasaheb's vision of industrialization and self-reliance is coming true with resolutions like 'Make in India' and 'Self-reliant India'
- 112 aspirational districts of the country have become strong partners in India's development journey by surpassing their state's average on development parameters
- The SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been more strengthened, to provide a dignified living to the communities
- More than 11 crore students from Backward Classes have been benefited with an amount of more than ₹ 36 thousand crore by providing Education and skilling to them
- Scholarship to the SC and ST students more than doubled in 9 years

Babasaheb's thoughts for the welfare of Dalits, victims, deprived and exploited are the inspiration for our government. This is the reason that all our schemes have been implemented keeping in mind the poorest of the poor and we have set many norms towards social justice.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Systemic failure

A 12-year-old was tried for murder, convicted, and spent his best years on death row

Niranaram Chetanram Chaudhary is a living testament to the pathetic state of our police and justice systems. In 1994, he was 12 years old — and tried for murder on the presumption that he was 22. This happened because somehow he got dragged into a murder case in Pune, in which five women and two children were knifed to death. After class three he ran away from his school at Bikaner in Rajasthan, went to Pune, and began working in a tailoring shop. He doesn't remember why he ran away from his home or with whom, nor could any of his brothers. Some cop misspelled his name as Narayan instead of Niranaram, leading to his trial, conviction, and death sentence. What is startling and heartrending is the fact no one in the system — from cops of various ranks and lawyers to judges at different levels in the judicial hierarchy — could even notice that a child was being on trial. A junior police officer may have misspelled the name, but could he tell a 12-year-old kid from a 22-year-old youngster? And what about the senior officers? And the prosecuting lawyers and defence counsels? And judges in the trial and appeal courts? A 42-year-old man, if he abuses his own body, may look 52; and a 52-year-old man, who takes good care of his body, may pass off as 42. But how on earth can a 12-year-old boy be mistaken as 22 years of age? Even if he did commit the crime, he could not have been imprisoned for more than three years, as per the juvenile law in effect at that time.

Justice is said to be blind, but those responsible for dispensing it are not supposed to be blind; their cognitive and cogitative faculties ought to be sound. In Chaudhary's case, all these were found wanting — and he paid a terrible price. He had to spend 28 long years in prison, and on death row to boot. The best years of his life — adolescence and most of his youth — were spent behind bars. "When you are on death row, every hope is broken. You just try to get through the day," he recently told a newspaper after his release, adding that he now feels blessed to look at the stars on a dark night after spending years confined to four walls under the glare of lights. In prison, he studied a lot, getting a master's degree in sociology. It was at this time that he realised that he was much younger than the prison records showed. The Supreme Court ended his ordeal in March when it concluded that Niranaram was 12 years and six months old at the time of the murders. School documents and medical examination proved that. The exercise was carried out as part of the National Law University's Project 39A which works on death penalty reform. This episode proves, if any proof is needed, that India's justice and police systems urgently need reforms. Our political masters, however, have not shown great zeal for reforms in the justice system. People like Niranaram Chetanram Chaudhary continue to suffer.

PICTALK



Students perform 'Bhangra' during Baisakhi celebrations, at a wheat field on the outskirts of Amritsar

PTI

Tailored corporate courses in demand

A growing number of companies are now opting for flexible training courses that allow executives to attend sessions as per their comfort

Continuous learning is essential in the business world to keep up with the constantly changing landscape. Executive education programs provide tailored courses to meet the specific needs of professionals and organisations. The demand for such courses is global and not limited to specific industries or regions.

Upskilling employees to adapt to new technologies and building leadership and management skills to tackle organisational changes are some examples of the specific challenges that executives face. A skills-based approach can make an organisation achieve greater diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) advantages. Providing the right opportunities and enabling employees to learn skills that the company finds necessary for its future growth can help employees grow individually and the organisation collectively.

Flexible training courses that allow learners to attend sessions as per their comfort, and choose offline, on-campus, or online learning options are being preferred by



corporates. As an executive, every individual and their organisation needs to focus on upskilling and reskilling. Deeper analytical insights can also be provided by executive learning programs apart from the skills that are in demand. With digital automation making existing technologies go obsolete rapidly, upskilling or reskilling can also be instrumental in ensuring that a person remains relevant and effective in the current role, even in the future. As per a global study by Deloitte, about 86% of organisations are aware of this need, but just 10% find themselves ready to address them.

The need for executive education programs is growing as businesses face rapid changes in technology and the global market. Executives need to continually upgrade

their skills and knowledge to keep up with the demands of their industry. Organisations are looking for courses that are not only relevant to their industry but also address the specific challenges they are facing, such as upskilling employees to adapt to new technologies or building leadership and management skills to tackle organisational changes. With digital automation making existing technologies obsolete rapidly, upskilling or reskilling can also be instrumental in ensuring that a person remains relevant and effective in their current and future roles.

To stay ahead of the curve, businesses need to identify the right skill sets that will keep their workforce proficient and in sync with evolving technologies such as AI automation and SaaS-driven activities. Flexible training courses that allow learners to attend sessions as per their comfort, and choose offline, on-campus, or online learning options are being preferred by corporates.

Executives themselves feel the need to retain their competitive edge and acquire skills that will help them take

up new and more complex leadership roles in the times ahead. By joining learning and development programs aimed at specific areas, employees can acquire skills that make them leaders in their areas of expertise and achieve better growth in terms of corporate hierarchy and remuneration. To achieve greater diversity, equity and inclusivity advantages, organisations should focus on providing opportunities for employees to learn skills that the company finds necessary for its future growth. Executive learning programs can provide deeper analytical insights apart from the skills that are in demand.

In conclusion, executive education is necessary to keep up with the ever-changing business landscape. Organisations must identify the right skill sets and provide flexible training courses to keep their workforce proficient and in sync with evolving technologies. Executives themselves need to focus on upskilling and reskilling to retain their competitive edge.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University)



YAJULU MEDURY

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Adapting to climate change is imperative

For a country like ours, which experiences almost extreme weather conditions every year, resilience building must be given top priority

The agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to climate change and is a big challenge for the agrarian economy. Food-bowl Punjab and Haryana farmers' fetish for unsustainable big cereal wheat this time has begun to hurt, as returns diminish due to climate challenges. The climate challenge farmers faced this time was erratic rainfall at the end of March, while crops were ready to harvest, likely to affect the yield significantly. In the case of Punjab, the initial deliberation by the agriculture department has indicated that at least 40 per cent of 35 lakh hectares of wheat sown is impacted by rain, winds, and hailstorms.

The serious challenges from climate change-induced impacts of erratic rainfall and the heat waves are not just a threat to our food security and nutrition as well as to the livelihood of 45 per cent of the country's population that depends on farming. It has an impact on their crop loan cycle to return on time to get fresh lending and to invest back into their farms.

Policy-makers, agri-scientists and farmers must come together to confront the challenge of climate change. Various climate change policies are established at international, national and state levels to address the impacts of climate change. Traditionally, the focus of such policies remained on mitigation instead of adaptation measures. Adaptation actions are needed to respond to climate change as these actions help reduce vulnerabilities.

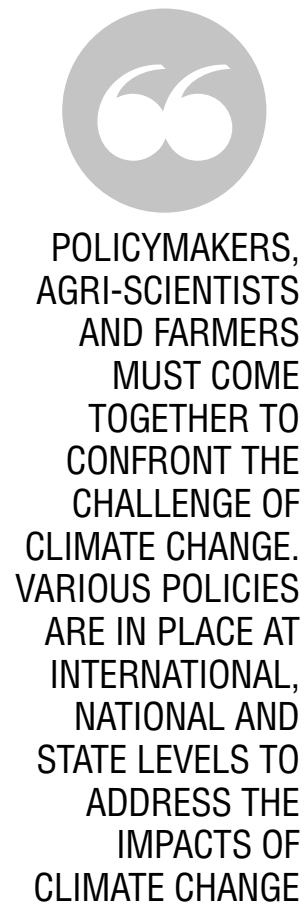
Overuse of resources like water, soil, fertilisers and pesticides to boost yield resulted in Green-House Gases Emissions (GHGs). Take the example of Punjab, after the implementation of the Food Security Act; the nation is again looking toward Punjab, but Punjab farmers need to conserve its soil and water management along with adopting diversification in agriculture.

Why are the funds dwindling? However, the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC) seeks to build a dynamic knowledge system that would inform

and support action for responding effectively to the objective of ecologically sustainable development making agriculture climate resilient.

The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established in 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation for the States but why are the funds dwindling to address this serious challenge? The grants released under NAFCC fell from ₹350 crore in 2015-16 to ₹27.76 crore in 2022-23, while the sub-committee of the Ministry of Finance estimates the cumulative expenditure for adapting to climate change at ₹ 85.60 lakh crore by 2030.

Research and development is the bedrock of climate resistance agriculture but the minuscule investments in R&D impede the ability of science and technology research to tackle multiple challenges. As per the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, around 85 per cent of their budget goes towards salaries and other administrative/establishment expenditures, with little left for research. The same is with state agriculture universities facing a financial crunch for R&D work. The total R&D expenditure in India as a percentage of agricultural GDP has been



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ambedkar's views on religion



Dr BR Ambedkar had asserted "I tell you, religion is for man and not man for religion". Perhaps his words have turned "antique" and so immediately require to be junked! Currently, man is for religious shrines, epic and mythological figures, mythical unseen rivers

urgently in need of "rejuvenation", "holy" animals and "sacred" books! Today, religion is not for married couples even, rather matrimonial bonds are for religion; with divine love getting interpreted as "jihad" of sorts!

So by ignoring all "stories" revolving around poverty-malnutrition-hunger-illiteracy-child labour-human trafficking-unemployment, let's invest all our energy, time and resource to commemorate epic figures monopolised by the "religious" brigade and revolve our precious lives around myths, rituals and "sanctity" of animals! Grand temples and glittering corridors should be our "national pride"; never mind if billions of fellow citizens remain deprived of minimum dignity and rights entitled to human beings!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

ly that he has laid his hands on the same route map taken earlier by Jyotiraditya Scindia. And his landing destination may well be the same. In which case, it befits Pilot to be left to handle Civil Aviation and for Scindia to take over the Shipping portfolio. After all, he is from the lineage of the Maharaja of Gwalior who set up the Scindia Shipping way back in 1914. The BJP is decidedly generous in disbursing landing rights to carriers flying colours other than their own.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

CROREPATI, TAINTED LEADERS AS CM

Sir — The citizen is not at all surprised to read that 29 of the current 30 Chief Ministers are crorepatas, or 13 (43 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against them. Based upon the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report, it was revealed that money power and muscle power have a large bearing on the outcome of the election results. If not, then how Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the richest CM in the country with ₹510 crore assets, whereas he with 38 cases, including 35 serious offences (non-bailable offences with over five years of

imprisonment), stood third among the CMs with the highest number of cases booked against him? Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao faces the highest number of criminal cases (64), including 37 serious offences and financial liability.

Actually, being a crorepati is not a huge thing as any property even in a village will command close to ₹1 crore. Moreover, it may be true in case of white money, but as soon as you talk about total money, I'm sure West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee is the only CM (who is not a crorepati) would move close to other crorepati CMs. Interestingly, we are talking about the current 30 CMs, but what about all the Ministers who are not in power or who have already made the loot and are now sitting silently? Unfortunately, our law is so blind that in the defamation case a lawmaker, if found guilty, not only lost his seat but also won't contest an election for the next eight years. But politicians with huge money and muscle power rule the country freely. Truly, 'Mera Naya Bharat Mahan'!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Japan to counter China with like-minded countries

Japan has unveiled a new plan to provide "like-minded" countries especially in Asia with military aid as it looks to expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's aggressive push over Taiwan and the South China Sea issues.

China rolls out new wartime military recruitment rules

Beijing (PTI): China has released a new set of revised rules for military recruitment in wartime, including giving priority to the veterans, drafting high-calibre soldiers and optimising conscription procedures.

Washington. This was the first visit by the Japanese Foreign Minister to China since 2019. China and Japan have a long-festering dispute over uninhabited East China Sea islands controlled by Japan but claimed by China.

China's exports see unexpected growth in March

Beijing (AP): China's exports rebounded unexpectedly in March despite a decline in US and European demand following interest rate hikes to cool inflation.

NY fraud lawsuit: Trump set to give 2nd deposition

New York (AP): Former President Donald Trump was expected to visit the offices of New York's attorney general Thursday for his second deposition in a legal battle over his company's business practices.

North Korea fires missile that may have been new type of weapon

Seoul (South Korea): North Korea on Thursday conducted its first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in a month, possibly testing a new more mobile, harder-to-detect missile for the first time.

ICBMs all use liquid propellants that must be fuelled before launches. But the fuel in a solid-propellant weapon is already loaded, allowing it to be moved easier and fired faster.



A TV screen is seen reporting North Korea's missile launch with file footage during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Thursday.

Syria, Saudi move toward restoring embassies, flights

Syria and Saudi Arabia are moving toward reopening embassies and resuming flights between the two countries for the first time in more than a decade.

Biden to stress shared ties in address to Irish Parl

After spending most of a day on a whirlwind countryside tour of his ancestry, President Joe Biden is turning back to diplomacy on Thursday.

Ireland's prime minister, before a speech to parliament in which "he'll be reflecting on the long, close and shared history between the United States and Ireland," said Amanda Sloat.

GOVERNMENT OF GOA Medical Store Depot (MSD), Directorate of Health Services, Campal, Panaji, Goa 403 001

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

US Prez to expand migrant access to health plans of Health and Human Services will aim to change by the end of the month. Oxford Univ, SII tie-up delivers 'high efficacy' malaria vaccine

Norway expels 15 Russian diplomats for 'spying'

Norway's government said Thursday that it was expelling 15 Russian diplomats from the country, saying they were suspected of spying while working at the Russian Embassy in Oslo.

Ukraine stands firm on Crimea

Ukraine's foreign minister said Thursday his country wouldn't budge from its demand that Russia withdraw its forces from Crimea, as well as from other parts of Ukraine that Moscow illegally annexed more recently.

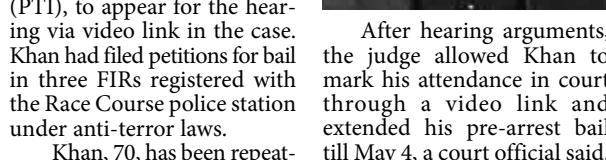


Ukrainian soldiers chat in war-hit Bakhmut Ukraine on Wednesday.

any other part of our territory, you have to know one thing: Ukraine categorically disagrees with these statements," he said at the Black Sea Security Conference.

Imran Khan gets interim bail till May 4 in 3 cases

Lahore (PTI): An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday extended interim bail to Imran Khan till May 4 in three cases related to the clashes between his supporters and the police during an operation to arrest the former premier in the Toshakhana corruption case last month.



After hearing arguments, the judge allowed Khan to mark his attendance in court through a video link and extended his pre-arrest bail till May 4, a court official said. The Lahore police had booked Khan and hundreds of his party workers in three terrorism cases during clashes with police last month in an operation to arrest him in the Toshakhana case.

US lawmakers write to USCIS on immigrants impacted by job layoffs

American Expressing concern over the large-scale layoffs in the tech industry, a group of lawmakers from Silicon Valley has written to the US immigration agency to ensure that the highly-skilled immigrants on H-1B visas, the most sought-after by Indian IT professionals, can remain in the country even after losing their jobs.

SC notices to Pakistan government, political parties on Chief Justice bill

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday heard petitions against the bill curtailing the country's chief justice's power and issued notices to the federal government and political parties, amidst a raging row between the ruling coalition and the judiciary.

Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed. During the hearing on Thursday, the court issued notices to the political parties, the federal government, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan, Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and other respondents in the case.

Russia identifies suspect in war blogger's killing

Russia's top security agency on Thursday accused a Ukrainian man of involvement in a bombing that killed a well-known Russian military blogger at a St. Petersburg cafe.

Sweden shuts down Pak embassy

Islamabad (PTI): Sweden has announced closing its embassy in Pakistan "indefinitely" due to the prevailing "security situation" in the crisis-hit country's capital.

Public Notice: My clients Mr. Pramod Kumar Jain...

Public Notice: My clients Mrs. Manoj Kumar Jain...

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE. No. CE/R&B/ACCTS-77/22/107. Name of the Work: Widening of Existing Bitumen Road from Cabin Market Square to Central School Square...

Public Notice: My clients Mrs. Manoj Kumar Jain...

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, खटीमा. ई-निविदा संशोधन सूचना.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems). 1. N.I.T. No. GSU-DLI-NIT-02-2023-24...

Public Notice: Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Madhu & Mrs. Geeta who are purchasing the Built Up Third Floor with roof rights (Floor) of Property bearing No. 8452, Khasra No. 715, Plot No. 92, area measuring 60 Sq. Yards...

Table with 4 columns: No., Location/Station, Date & Time for e-auction, Start. Includes entries for DL1ADVT, APR23-01, RDN-51* LED TV, etc.

Public Notice: It is informed that the applicant Nikhat Khatoon wife Mohammad Ali, resident of Address B-6, Sector-108, Noidia, District Gautam Budh Nagar UP...

Public Notice: This is to inform general public that Smt. Satwant Kaur has acquired the Ground floor rights, under UP Property bearing no. WZ-7-A-1, Plot no. 46, area measuring 62 sq. yards...

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR) MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA) (RAILWAY BOARD)

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE OF HOSUR O.S. No: 435/2022. Prakash S/o Beerappa @ Veerappa, Hindu aged about 57 years residing at Upparapalli Village, Madhagonidappalli Post, Denkanikotta Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist. TN.

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen https://ireps.gov.in/ (E-Auction-Leasing). All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids...

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Folio No., Name of the Holder/Claimant, Share Certificate No. Includes entries for SRF0147720, SRF0147720, etc.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system. Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items...



Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

SANKALP NAYE UTTARAKHAND KA

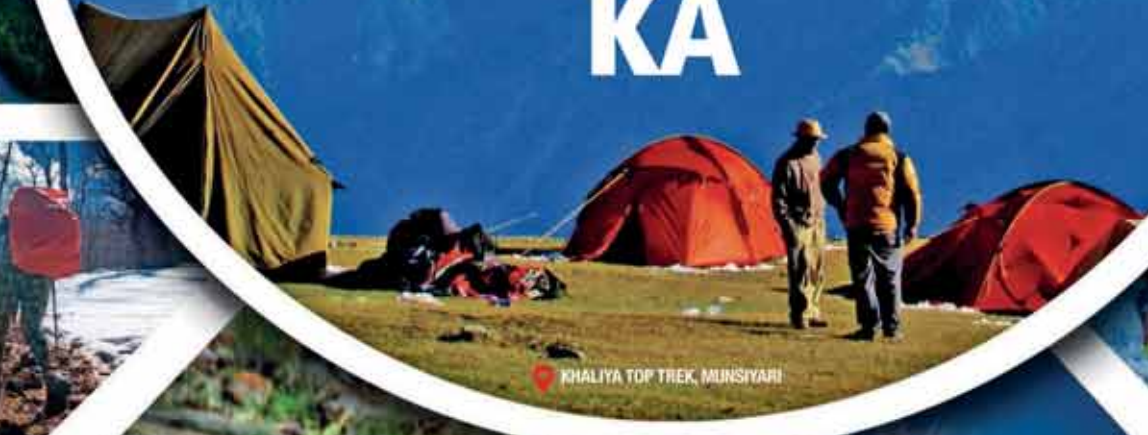
ROPE CLIMBING, SAAT TAAL



TREKKING, KANA TAAL



KHALIYA TOP TREK, MUNSIYARI



JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, RAMNAGAR



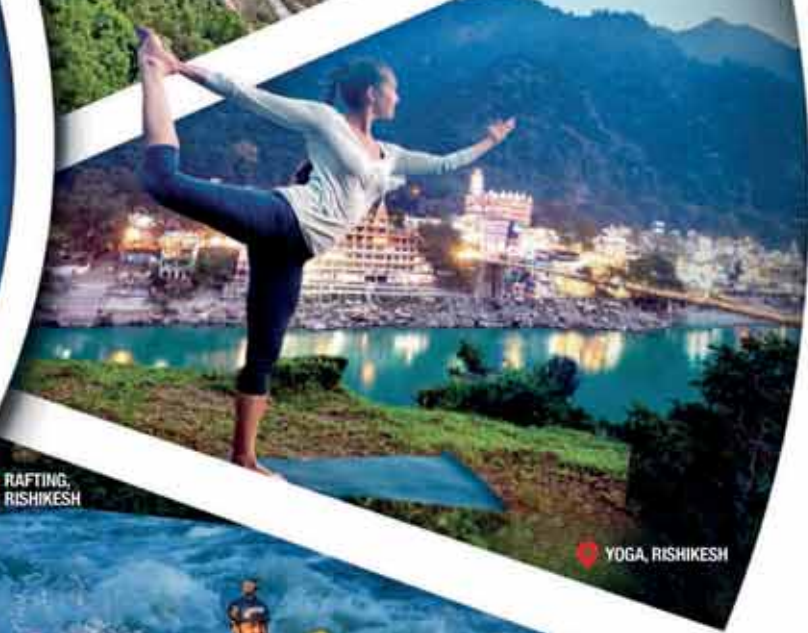
SKIING, AULI



RAFTING, RISHIKESH



YOGA, RISHIKESH



ROPEWAY, SURKANDA DEVI MANDIR



Destination — Uttarakhand —

INCREDIBLE & AMAZING UTTARAKHAND

Besides being 'Devbhoomi', the 'Abode of Gods', Uttarakhand, is a land blessed with nature's bounties — those of fast flowing rivers, lakes, and majestic mountains, where the aspirations of tourists from world over for adventure activities are taken care of. With the advent of double engine governments at the state as well as at the centre, there have been tremendous improvements in the facilities and infrastructure of tourism in Uttarakhand. This is the reason that the number of tourists visiting the state has increased manifold

PARAGLIDING, PITHORAGARH



NEW UTTARAKHAND IS FULL OF ADVENTURE

EMPOWERED UTTARAKHAND @ 25
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has predicted that the third decade of the 21st century would be of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has been leading the state and working on the road map to make an empowered Uttarakhand @25 Multi-faceted development of tourism facilities is part of the proposed roadmap.

ADVENTURE TOURISM
Uttarakhand which has a unique place on the tourism map of the world has become a focal point of adventure tourism activities. The state government besides promoting religious tourism has taken several initiatives in adventure tourism also. The tourists visiting Rishikesh in the state can enjoy bungee jumping, flying fox, river crossing and paragliding and other adventure tourism activities. The Tehri Lake nestled in the mountains has become a favourite tourist destination, being liked by tourists. The tourists can

VANASUR FORT, CHAMPAWAT



enjoy floating house, Shikara boat and cruise ride, boating, jet speed boating, water skiing, banana boat ride, bandwagon boat ride, hot air balloon ride and paragliding at Tehri Lake.

ENJOYING HIMALAYAN CULTURE WHILE STAYING AT A HOMESTAY
There are many tourist places situated in the remote rural areas which are known for their natural beauty and cultural heritage. These places are now being enjoyed by local and foreign tourists through homestay facilities at these places. The state Tourism department through its Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Homestay Development Scheme has granted 50 per cent subsidy (maximum Rs 15 lakh) in the hills and 25% subsidy in the plain areas (maximum of Rs 7.50 lakh) for development of homestay facilities. A total of 530 persons

have been provided subsidy under the scheme. More than 4680 units have also been registered under Guest House registration Scheme and more than 14,000 people have been provided employment directly or indirectly.

HOMESTAYS ON TREKKING ROUTE
To give a new experience, Uttarakhand government has started Trekking Traction centre Homestay Scheme. This

HOMESTAY, CHAMOLI



unique initiative has given home-like facilities and sense of security to the tourists on the trekking routes besides giving self-employment and a gift of development to the local people. Under the Trekking Traction centres Homestay Scheme, 15 such Trekking Traction centres have been notified in Uttarkashi, Tehri, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Rudrapur districts of the state. Till date 215 beneficiaries have been chosen. The Pushkar Singh Dhami led state government is giving financial help for building homestay facilities in the villages within two kilometres of the Trekking Traction centres.

JIM CORBETT TRAIL
The world-famous Jim Corbett National Park of Uttarakhand gives a special kind of experience to lovers of jungle safari. To make jungle safari more adventurous and secure, the Uttarakhand government has started developing Jim Corbett Trail in Champawat Forest division. This trail is being developed in Champawat, Bagh Barudi, Talla Desh, Khet Baman Goan, Thulakot, Boom-Kaldunga -Chuka-Tak, Devidhura-Pati-Dhunaghat, Panar Valley, Durga Pipal-Ladhia and Durga Pipal-Chalthi. The presence of variety of animals, flora and fauna makes it an ideal eco-tourism destination.

ROPEWAY AS A FACILITY & ADVENTURE ALSO
The 'Parvatmala' project describes aptly the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To develop ropeway facilities in the mountains, Parvatmala Project has been initiated. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Gaurikund-Kedarnath and Govindghat-Hemkund sahib ropeway project while Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Siddhpeth Surkanda Devi temple ropeway. The length of Gaurikund-Kedarnath ropeway is 9.7 kms to be built at a cost of Rs 1267 crore through which the difficult climb of six to seven hours could be finished within half an hour's time. The length of Govindghat-Hemkund sahib ropeway project is 12.40 kilometres estimated to cost Rs 1163 crore through which the treacherous trek of a whole day could be completed within 45 minutes. The process to start Ranibagh-Nainital ropeway, Panchkoti-New Tehri ropeway, Khaliya Top-Munsiyari ropeway, Rishikesh-Neelkanth ropeway projects are underway.

THE FIRST CARTOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF THE COUNTRY

The first cartographic museum of the country is ready to attract tourists at hill resort of Mussoorie. Built at a cost of Rs 4.55 crore at Sir George Everest House, this modern cartographic museum, houses the papers of Sir George Everest used to decipher the height of Mount Everest and other equipment. The documents of great cartographer



Nain Singh Rawat, surveyor Kishan Singh Negi and mathematician Radhanath would be on display. The tourists would also be able to know about working of modern GPS systems and other geographical information through globe installed at the museum.

BEST FILM-FRIENDLY STATE

Uttarakhand provides best destination for film shooting besides being a tourist destination. The state government in a bid to attract film makers to shoot their films in exotic location of the state has come up with Film policy 2022. The policy provides special incentives/ awards/recognition to the film makers and actors. The film makers have been provided with single window facilities with financial incentives. The Pushkar Singh Dhami Government has decided to build a film city in Dehradun. During the 53rd International Film Festival knowledge series held at Goa, a discussion on "Shooting in Uttarakhand" was also held. Prasoos Joshi, Chairman of the Central Film censor Board said that Uttarakhand has a positive climate for film making and the state is being prepared as a film destination under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. The music, art, and culture of 'Devbhoomi' Uttarakhand is different from others and the number of films being shot in Uttarakhand are on the rise.