



OPINION 6 INDIA BACKS PHILIPPINES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA STANDOFF

BUDGET 2024-25

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LESS TAX, MORE JOBS

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

Reaching out to the middle class, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced major income tax relief from which four crore salaried individuals and pensioners stand to benefit. She also made it known that the Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act. Presenting Modi 3.0 Government's first Budget after the recently held general elections, the Finance Minister also abolished "angel tax" for all classes of investors in startups, cut customs duty on mobile phones and gold and simplified capital gains tax. Unveiling the Budget proposals in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said, "India's economic growth continues to be the shining exception (in a world that is gripped by policy uncertainties) and will remain so in the years ahead."

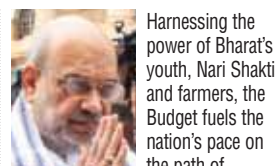


"In this Budget, our primary focus is on employment generation, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class," stated Sitharaman, the first FM to have presented seventh consecutive Budget.

Elaborating upon the relief for the middle class, Sitharaman pointed to the hike in standard deduction — a flat deduction from total salary earned by an employee in a year before calculating applicable



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



Harnessing the power of Bharat's youth, Nari Shakti and farmers, the Budget fuels the nation's pace on the path of emerging as a developed nation by ushering in a new era of employment and opportunities

income tax rate — by 50 per cent to ₹75,000 and tweaked tax slabs for taxpayers opting for the new income tax regime. This will lead to taxpayers under the new tax regime, which offers lower rates of taxes but permits limited deductions and exemptions, saving up to ₹17,500 in tax annually, she said. Sitharaman said the Government would release standard operating procedures for TDS defaults and simplify and rationalise the compounding of such offences.

"The Budget proposes a comprehensive review of the customs duty structure over the next six months; reduction of TDS rate on e-commerce to 0.1 per cent besides, merger of two tax exemption regimes for charities into one. I propose to decriminalise TDS delay up to the filing of tax return," she said. "More than two-thirds of individuals have opted for the new income-tax regime," she revealed. The Finance Minister announced the Government has increased the income tax standard deduction for those who have opted for the new tax regime.

Big push to job creation

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Silencing the critics, the Narendra Modi government on Tuesday allocated a whopping ₹2.10 lakh crore for job creation and also likewise amount of ₹1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors to address the employment issue for which the BJP Government have faced flak during the last two tenure. Both the schemes, as announced by Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget, for employment will be based on enrollment in the EPFO [Employees' Provident Fund Organisation] and focus on first time employees and employers." The scheme is expected to benefit 210 lakh youths. The second scheme for job creation in manufacturing will incentivise additional employment in the manufacturing sector, linked to the employment of first-time employees.

The scheme will provide incentives for companies, including paying for one-month salary for first-time employees, incentive at specified sale to both employee and empower with respect to their retirement fund contribution in the first four years of employment and reimbursing employers up to ₹3,000 per month for two years towards EPFO contribution of each additional employee.

Modi terms Budget visionary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the Union Budget for its measures for every section of society, asserting that it has heralded better growth and a bright future. "The Budget will act as a catalyst in making India the third-largest economy in the world and will lay a solid foundation for a developed India," he said in his televised remarks after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget in Parliament.

Modi lauded the Budget's sharp focus on the youth, backward sections, women and middle class as also on manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, and asserted that the proposed employment-linked incentive schemes will create crores of new jobs. "This visionary Budget will uplift and empower every stratum of our society, paving the way for a brighter future for all," he said, stressing his government's commitment to generating employment and self-employment opportunities.



SC rejects plea for NEET retest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

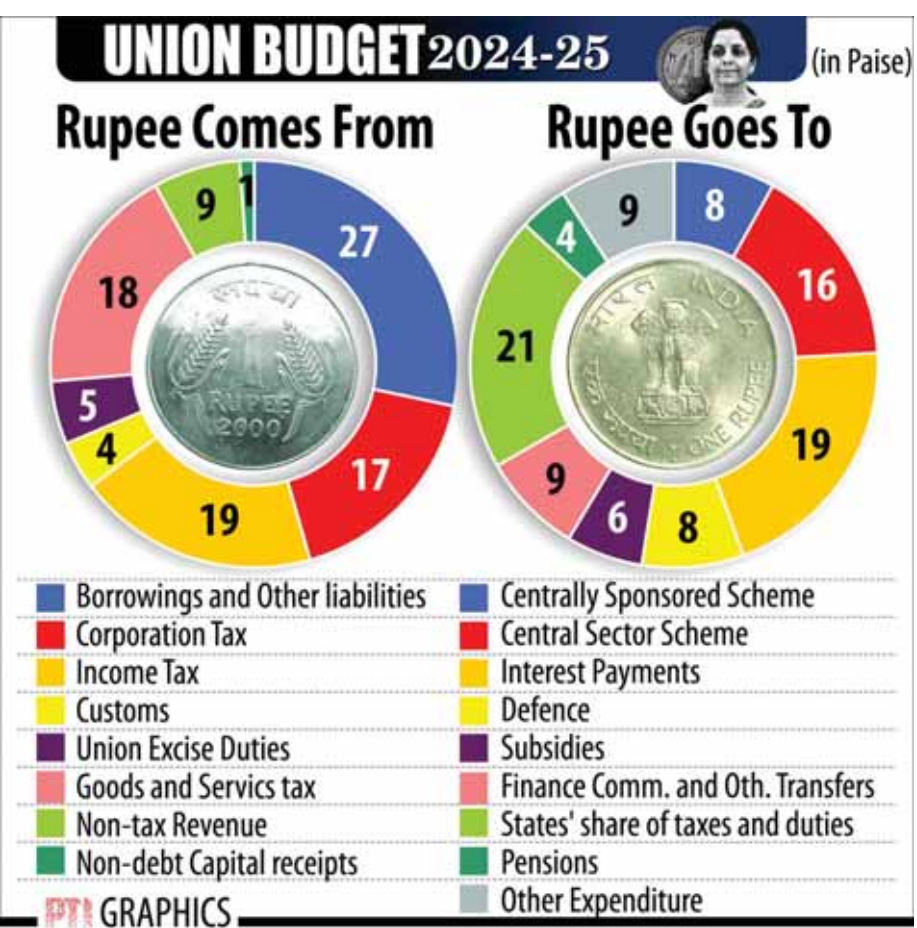
The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to order a reexamination for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test undergraduate exam for the year 2024 (NEET UG 2024), saying the evidence before it was not sufficient to show a widespread leak of question paper and other malpractices as alleged by the petitioners who moved the court.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra heard submissions from a battery of lawyers, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA), and senior advocates Narendar Hooda, Sanjay Hegde and Mathews Nedomapra for around four days.

"At the present stage there is absence of material on record to lead to a conclusion that result of the exam is vitiated or that there is a systemic breach of the sanctity of the exam," the court said while rejecting the plea for retest.

The interim verdict, to be followed by a detailed and reasoned order, came as a shot in the arm for the embattled NDA Government and the National Testing Agency (NTA), which were facing strong criticism and protests, on streets and in Parliament, over alleged large-scale malpractices like question paper leak, fraud and impersonation in the prestigious test held on May 5.

Instead of reserving the verdict, the bench re-assembled around 4:50 pm and started dictating the order. It said "In a matter like this final conclusions of the court be recorded at the present stage since there is an urgent need to provide certainty and finality to the dispute which has occurred and affects the career of over 2 million students."



Bihar, Andhra get special package

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Although a "Special Package" for Narendra Modi's major allies — the JD(U) and TDP-ruled State Governments of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a cryptic response by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on the Centre's refusal of "Special Category Status" set tongues wagging throughout the day, given the senior JD(U) leader's political maneuvering over the years. "You will get to know all things slowly, and slowly," Nitish said when asked by media in Patna a day after his demand for Special Status was completely denied by the BJP-led NDA regime at the Centre. Nitish led a resolution by his party recently which reiterated firm demand Special Status Category and the conditional support to BJP on the issue. By evening, however, Nitish claimed the Budget "meets our demand for special assistance, if grant of special status was



Bihar Chief Minister NITISH KUMAR



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister CHANDRABABU NAIDU

not possible because of practical difficulties?" JD(U) lashed out at the Opposition RJD-Congress-Left combine for creating a ruckus over the demand for Special Status "forgetting that the UPA, of which they were a part, had rejected demand while it was ruling the Centre?" "We were speaking of Special Status, and a lot of people said the provision for Special Status has been done away with much earlier. So, instead of that, aid should be given to help development in Bihar. Now, they have begun doing,"

Nitish said. Keeping in mind the coalition politics and the key demands of the BJP-led NDA partners —TDP and JD(U), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced special package for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. The FM announced Rs 15,000 crore for Andhra Pradesh's new Capital, in her Budget speech. While TDP with 16 MPs is the biggest BJP ally in the NDA, the JD(U) has 12 members in Lok Sabha, making it the third largest constituent of the ruling alliance.

Advertisement for LIC's Amritbaal insurance plan for children, featuring children and LIC logo.

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# Budget allocation for Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation surges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the 2024-25 Union Budget, the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation has received a substantial increase in allocation, reaching Rs 77,390.68 crores for the fiscal year 2024-2025, a mere 0.5 per cent rise from the previous year. This surge primarily targets major irrigation projects and the Namami Gange Mission-II. Key highlights include a comprehensive Rs 11,500 crore plan for flood control and irrigation projects across states, including the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and initiatives for river pollution abatement. Also, significant funds have been earmarked for projects like the Farakka Barrage and Dam Rehabilitation, alongside boosting efforts under the

National Ganga Plan and water resource management schemes such as the Atal Bhujal Yojana and National Hydrology Project. However, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has received a dismal budgetary allocation of Rs 77,390.68 crores for the fiscal year 2024-2025, a mere 0.5 per cent rise from the revised estimate of Rs 77,032.65 crore announced in the budget 2023-2024. A substantial portion of this financial year's allotment for the Drinking Water and Sanitation department is directed towards the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which received Rs 69,926.65 crore, a marginal rise from the revised estimate of Rs 69,846.31 crore in 2023-2024. This flagship programme aims to provide functional



household tap connections to every rural household by 2024, focusing on ensuring regular and adequate water supply. Additionally, the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) has been allocated Rs 95 crore, a huge rise from the Rs 3 crore it got in the last revised estimate. The Swachh Bharat Mission

(Gramin), which focuses on maintaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing waste management in rural areas, has been allocated Rs 7,192 crore. This allocation remains consistent with the budget for the previous fiscal year and continues to support sanitation efforts nationwide. The budget also includes significant funding for water supply and sanitation at Rs 64,302.85 crore, an increase from the previous year's Rs 64,138.41 crore. Additional allocations include Rs 7,632.19 crore for Northeast India, aimed at improving water and sanitation facilities in these regions. Grants-in-aid to state governments have been set at Rs 5,169.86 crore, while grants to Union Territories are allocated at Rs 250 crore.

# Maldives financial aid slashed in Budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In line with India's 'neighbourhood first' policy, Bhutan was on Tuesday allocated the largest share of Rs 2,068 crore as development aid in the Union Budget for 2024-25 while the outlay for the Maldives saw a sharp decline to Rs 400 crore from last year's Rs 770 crore. The cut in allocation to the Maldives came amid strain in ties between the two countries since Mohamed Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, became president of the island nation in November last year. In the budget, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was allocated a total of Rs 22,154 crore for the fiscal 2024-25 as against last year's revised outlay of 29,121 crore. The

same allocation was made to the MEA in the interim budget that was presented to the Parliament in February. In the interim budget, the development assistance to the Maldives was pegged at Rs 600 crore. According to the budget papers, the allocation now stands at Rs 400 crore. The outlay for Bhutan has been pegged at Rs 2,068 crore for 2024-25 as against Rs 2,398 crore in the revised estimate of 2023-24. After Bhutan, Nepal was allocated the second largest outlay of Rs 700 crore. An amount of Rs 245 crore has been set aside for Sri Lanka in 2024-25 as against last year's Rs 60 crore. The allocation for Chabahar Port has also been maintained at Rs 100 crore, underlining India's focus on connectivity projects with Iran.

# Infiltration bid foiled in J&K, jawan martyred

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Alert troops of the Indian Army foiled a major infiltration bid while one soldier succumbed to his received during a heavy exchange of fire along the line of control in the Battal sector of Krishna Ghati in the frontier district of Poonch in the wee hours of Tuesday. Meanwhile, massive search and combing operations were going on at several locations in the neighboring district of Rajouri. The terrorists had targeted a house of the Shaurya Chakra awardee and a nearby army post in the Gunda village of Khawas tehsil in the wee hours of Monday. According to a spokesman of the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps, "Alert troops foiled an infiltration bid by effectively engaging



infiltrating terrorists with effective fire in the Battal Sector at 3.00 a.m. During the exchange of heavy fire, one braveheart was injured. Later the injured jawan succumbed to his injuries. Operations are continuing". The martyred jawan has been identified as Lance Naik Subash Chander.

# Modi terms Budget visionary

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The employment-linked incentive scheme will create crores of jobs, he said, noting that the first salary of the first job of a youngster will now be borne by the government. He also mentioned provisions for higher education and the scheme for internships for 1 crore youths. "Working in top companies under the scheme, the young interns will find new avenues of possibilities," Modi said. The rise in the limit of collateral-free loans under the Mudra scheme from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh will greatly benefit small businessmen, women, Dalits, backwards and the deprived, he added. Modi said the development of the country's eastern region will get new momentum and energy through the budget's "Purvodaya" vision. New impetus will be given to the development of important infrastructure such as highways, water projects and power projects, he added. "A big focus of this budget is the nation's farmers," the prime minister said, noting that the government, after unveiling the world's biggest grain storage scheme, has now introduced "Vegetable Production Clusters" which will help both farmers and the middle class. "It is the need of the hour for India to become self-reliant in the agricultural sector. Therefore, measures have been announced to help farmers increase the production of pulses and oilseeds," he said. Modi said the budget was aimed at making the middle class stronger and would provide a new scale to education and skills development. "The budget has come up with strong plans to empower the

tribal society, Dalits and backward classes. This budget will help in ensuring the economic participation of women," the prime minister said. He said the budget will provide a new path of progress for small traders and MSMEs. "There is a lot of focus on manufacturing and infrastructure in the budget. This will give new impetus to economic development," Modi added. The prime minister said that over the last 10 years, around 25 crore people have come out of poverty. "Building on this momentum, this budget will further energise the aspirations of our neo-middle class. Unprecedented opportunities will be unleashed for our younger generation," he said. "Also, this budget will empower the middle class like never before," the prime minister said. Touching upon the schemes for poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor, he highlighted the measures for three crore houses for the poor and the "Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan", which will link five crore tribal families to basic facilities with a saturation approach. The budget brings numerous opportunities for India's startups and innovation ecosystem, Modi said, referring to the Rs 1,000 crore corpus fund to vitalise the space economy and the decision to abolish the angel tax. "Record high capex will become a driving force of the economy," the prime minister said. He said the development plans of 12 new industrial nodes, new satellite towns and transit plans for 14 big cities would enable the development of new economic hubs in the country and create numerous jobs.

# FM's silence over Kaveri dampens spirit of farmers

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Finance Minister's silence over the inter-linking of Kaveri, Krishna and Godavari rivers which would have addressed the scarcity of irrigation waters in Tamil Nadu's Kaveri Delta districts have dampened the spirit of the farmers in the region. This means that there is no end in site for the ongoing legal battle between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over Kaveri River water. Both the States are getting ready to approach the Supreme Court against each other, Tamil Nadu demanding Karnataka to release Kaveri water while Karnataka expressing its helplessness in obeying the apex court order asking it to release 192 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMCF) water during every water year (1 June to 31 May) to facilitate paddy cultivation in the districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore and Puthukkottai. Every year see flood waters of Kaveri River getting discharged into the Arabian Sea. If the west flowing tributaries of Kaveri are directed to Tamil Nadu, the lower riparian State would not face any issues and the short term Kuruvai and long term Samba crops could be cultivated without any water scarcity, said Dr S Kalyanaraman, director, Sarawathi Research Foundation,



Chennai. "The fine option available for Tamil Nadu is the linking of Kaveri, Krishna and Godavari Rivers. This will help the farmers to make use of the flood waters of Godavari discharged into the Bay of Bengal for crop cultivation in the Delta districts of Tamil Nadu. NaMo Government which had promised water for everyone and control of floods and droughts by river inter linking should go on a mission mode for the execution of the project," Kalyanaraman, a former chief executive of Asian Development Bank told The Pioneer.

Thiruvarur based A Sathyanarayana, president, Consortium of Kaveri Delta Farmers, said though no formal announcement has been made in the budget speech, there is enough provision in the statutes to take up the interlinking of rivers project by separate notification. "We are hoping against hope that the Centre would do something to help Tamil Nadu come out of this perpetual drought situation. K S Radhakrishnan, former DMK leader who took up the inter linking case to the apex court and got a favorable verdict said he was disappointed that the project remains on drawing board. "The detailed project report is ready and all that the government has to do is to launch the work. Nitin Gadkari, who was the minister in charge of water resources had assured the Tamil Nadu farmers that he would initiate measures to inter link Kaaveri, Krishna and Godavari. But he has been shunted out of the ministry and we don't know what the present minister is up to," said Radhakrishnan. He said that the ruling DMK's priority was an elevating Udhayanidhi Stalin as deputy chief minister.

# Bihar, Andhra get special package

From Page 1

She added that the government is committed to financing and completing the Pollavaram irrigation project, which is considered the lifeline for Andhra Pradesh and its farmers. Additional allocations will be provided this year to support capital investment for economic growth. The Union Budget unveiled big-ticket measures for Bihar, proposing a total outlay of over Rs 60,000 crore for various projects, including funding for three expressways, a power plant, heritage corridors and new airports and sports infrastructure. Sitharaman announced the Centre's support for development of three road connectivity projects -- Patna-Purnea Expressway, Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway, and Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali and Darbhanga spurs, and an additional two-lane bridge over river Ganga at Buxar. Reacting to the budgetary announcements, Andhra

Pradesh TDP supremo and CM N Chandrababu Naidu thanked PM Modi and Sitharaman, for recognising the needs of State and focusing on a Capital, Polavaram, industrial nodes and development of backward areas in AP in the union budget. In his reaction, Union minister and JD(U) leader Lalan Singh slammed the opposition's claim that the budget's measures for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh are aimed at saving the government due to its dependence on regional parties from the states for survival. Singh noted that his party has sought either the status or special financial package. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav linked S i t h a r a m a n ' s announcements of several development measures for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh to the BJP's political compulsion to "save" its government and asked if there was anything for Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

# LESS TAX, MORE JOBS

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"For the salaried employees who have opted for the new tax regime, the standard deduction is being increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs75,000," she said. The 2024-25 Budget has revised the tax slabs for those who have opted for the new regime. "Under the new tax regime, tax rate structure to be revised is as follows: Rs 0- Rs 3 lakh -Nil; Rs 3-7 lakh -5 per cent; Rs 7-10 lakh-10 per cent; Rs10-12 lakh-15 per cent; Rs12-15 lakh- 20 per cent and above Rs 15 lakh-30 per cent," she announced. Sitharaman said salaried

employees under the new tax regime will save up to Rs17,500 annually in taxes due to changes proposed in the Budget. She said the deduction on family pension for pensioners will be enhanced from Rs15,000 to Rs 25,000. In total, 4 crore salaried individuals and pensioners stand to benefit from the changes. She said the government has raised the deduction limit for the employer's contribution to NPS from 10 per cent to 14 per cent. It has also withdrawn the equalisation levy of 2 per cent. Sitharaman said the monetary limit for filing tax

appeals will be increased to Rs 60 lakhs for ITAT, Rs 2 crore for high courts and Rs 5 crore for the Supreme Court. She also announced the Government's decision to abolish the Angel tax. "Corporate tax rate to be reduced on foreign companies from 40 to 35 per cent," Sitharaman added. To spur employment generation, the Budget provides for incentives for companies, including paying one-month salary for first-time employees, incentive at specified sale to both employees and empowers with respect to their retirement fund contribution in the first four years of

employment and reimbursing employers up to Rs 3,000 per month for two years towards EPFO contribution of each additional employee. Also, a programme to improve skills as well as internship for students and subsidised loans for higher education are proposed in the Budget. Encouraged by robust tax collections and a higher-than-expected dividend receipt from the Reserve Bank, Sitharaman said the Government's fiscal deficit — the difference between the total revenue earned and total expenditure — will be trimmed to 4.9 per cent of the GDP in 2024-25, below the

5.1 per cent figure estimated in the interim budget she had presented in February this year. She reduced gross market borrowing marginally to Rs 14.01 lakh crore. The Budget for 2024-25 fiscal (April 2024 to March 2025) has allocated Rs 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors, proposes aid for building 3 crore affordable housing units in urban and rural areas, credit support to small and medium businesses, raising of loan for small business to Rs 20 lakh, setting up 12 industrial parks, and includes proposal for setting up a Rs 1,000-crore venture capital fund for space sector.

# Big push to job creation

From Page 1

There is also a sense of urgency since the BJP is gearing up to face elections in key states such as Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jharkhand where the party had suffered setbacks in the Lok Sabha elections. The Modi 3.0 budget is also an indication that the government will look at job creation more intensely, a politically significant cue since unemployment and jobless growth had been the key themes of the Opposition narrative in the run-up to and during the campaign which they believe struck a chord. Sitharaman introduced three schemes for employment-linked incentives, targeting the recognition of first-time employees and providing support to employers by internship opportunities in 500 top companies to one crore youth in five years, there is a clear stress on job creation. The finance minister said the Centre would allocate Rs 2 trillion to create jobs over the next five years. To spur employment, it will roll out incentives for companies, including those in manufacturing, along with programmes to improve skills

and provide subsidised loans for higher education, Sitharaman added. India's official unemployment rate in urban areas is 6.7 per cent, but the private agency, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, pegs it higher at 8.4 per cent. The First Timers scheme will provide one-month wage to all persons newly entering the workforce in all formal sectors. "The direct benefit transfer of one-month salary in three instalments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO, will be up to Rs 15,000. The eligibility limit will be a salary of Rs 1 lakh per month. An incentive will be provided at specified scale directly both to the employee and the employer with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first four years of employment. The scheme is expected to benefit 30 lakh youth entering employment, and their employers. The third scheme will be employers focused that cover additional employment in all sectors. "All additional employment within a salary of Rs one lakh per month will be counted. The government will reimburse to employers up to Rs 3,000 per month for 2 years towards their EPFO contribution for each additional employee. The scheme is expected to incentivize additional employment of 50 lakh persons," she said. As the BJP was facing farmers' backlash over the MSP issue over the past few years and

seeing its Lok Sabha tally dip in a state such as Haryana and Maharashtra, the finance minister said Rs1.52 lakh crore will be allotted for agriculture sector. Moreover, the minister added that the government will release new 109 high yielding, climate resilient seeds for 32 field and horticulture crops. The finance minister said in the next two years, one crore farmers across the country will be initiated into natural farming supported by certification and branding. "Implementation will be through scientific institutions and willing gram panchayats. 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres will be established. For achieving self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds, we will strengthen their production, storage and marketing. As announced in the interim budget, a strategy is being put in place to achieve 'atmanirbharta' for oil seeds such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower. "Large scale clusters for vegetable production will be developed closer to major consumption centres. We will promote Farmer-Producer Organizations, cooperatives and start-ups for vegetable supply chains including for collection, storage, and marketing. The details of 6 crore farmers and their lands will be brought into the farmer and land registries. Further, the issuance of Jan Samarth based Kisan Credit Cards will be enabled in 5 states," the finance minister said.



# Budget gets mixed response from Delhiites

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

An array of announcements in the Annual Budget has solicited diverse reactions from students, working professionals, industry experts, entrepreneurs and salaried employees among others. While some hail the Budget as historic, others are left disappointed. Talking to The Pioneer, a 35-year-old Puneet Mishra, an Associate Vice President at a private bank, said that just like every year, this year too the Budget has been nothing short of a disappointment to the middle class people. Claiming that the salaried class has already been a victim of resource exploitation in India with low compensations and non regulated working hours, he said,

"Proportion of direct and indirect taxes paid by an average middle class salaried individual is humongous and keeping inflation and rising inclination towards persuasive buying trends in society, the middle class will continue to be poor." Krishna Yadav, who works as political consultant, stated that the Union Government is under pressure from their allies such as TDP and JDU, who are crucial in supporting the BJP-led government at the centre. "Consequently, the central government has allocated substantial funds to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, seemingly at the expense of addressing the legitimate demands of other states," he said. However, others who come from

Bihar to get education and job hailed the decision as the most awaited one after a long time. 23-year-old student Aryan Adarsh said, "After independence, for the first time in history, I see that the government is doing something for the development of Bihar. Building the Airport in Purnia is good step." However he also expressed concerns about bridges falling in Bihar while appreciating the internship opportunities provided by the Modi government for young people. Talking to industry experts, Senior Programme Lead in Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) Rishabh Jain said, "Critical minerals are building blocks for energy transition and for other strategic sectors such as



electronics, defence, and telecommunications. The announcement of a Critical Mineral Mission for India will encourage private and government companies to develop capabilities in the critical minerals supply chain

and build competitiveness in the medium to long term. CEEW's 2023 report highlighted the opportunities in the global critical minerals supply chain. As many countries globally look to diversify their imports, India is emerging as an attractive destination." 23-year-old Jagdish Yadav, a media professional, also shared that the reduction in customs duty on gold and silver to 6 per cent from 15 per cent earlier is a bold step towards a more affordable and easy trade which was needed for a long time. For promoting women-led development, Sitharaman allocated a budget of more than 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls. "Schemes benefitting women and girls have been increased which was a positive

point. A budget allocation of Rs. 3 trillion has been made, that will surely help in the upliftment of women in our country," 31 year old Anshika said. 23-year-old Arpita Chowdhury, a journalist and an author, said that the announcement of schemes in a bid to enhance participation of women in the workforce was long awaited. "I am eyeing for the effective grassroots implementation and quick disbursements," she stated, adding that the focus on infrastructural growth and the skill development push is a welcome move. Startups have also found a place in the Budget with a fund worth rupees 1,000 crore allocated to it which promises to bring new opportunities for the industry and

innovation ecosystem. CEO of SanchiConnect Sunil Shekhawat said that the Budget brings hope for DeepTech start-ups through increased funding for research and development and innovation. "This is crucial for those with disruptive ideas and longer fundraising cycles. The budget's strategy of combining financing, regulation, and skilling into one comprehensive approach is a masterstroke. Central to this approach is the Rs 1,000 crore Venture Capital fund for the space economy, which will significantly boost India's space tech sector. Additionally, the abolition of the angel tax for all investors is set to attract more funding, thereby easing financial burdens on investors," he said.

## Atishi slams BJP for denying Central taxes share to Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The allocation for the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) in the Union Budget 2024-25, presented in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, remained stagnant at Rs 1,168 crore, the same amount allotted in 2023-24. The AAP Government's Finance Minister Atishi lashed at the BJP saying no money was given to Delhi neither as share in central taxes, nor as financial assistance to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) despite the city paying Rs 2.32 lakh crore to the central pool.



She claimed that it has dashed the hopes and aspirations of the people of Delhi. Addressing the media, Delhi Finance Minister Atishi said, "Today's budget, which was presented by the BJP's central government in Parliament, proved to be betrayal for the people of Delhi. This is a budget that dashes the hopes and aspirations of the people of Delhi. Like every time, the BJP-ruled central government did not give the people of Delhi their due." The transfer to Delhi from the Union home ministry included Rs 1,168 crore under the revenue head and Rs 0.01 crore under the capital head, showed the budget document tabled in the Lok Sabha. In the 2022-23 budget, Delhi was allocated Rs 960 crore. The amount was increased to Rs 1,168.01 crore in 2023-24 and it remains the same for 2024-25. There were no grants in lieu of

its share in central taxes and duties for Delhi. It was Rs 325 crore in the 2022-23 budget. The amount of grants in return of Delhi's share in the pool of central taxes and duties were clubbed under the "central assistance to Union Territories" in the budget estimates of 2023-24. This practice was followed in the budget 2024-25 as well. The allocation under central assistance to Delhi in the 2024-25 budget estimates was Rs 951 crore, same as the budget for 2023-24. It is provided for financing the schemes of the Delhi government. Other components of allocation to Delhi included Rs two crore for enhanced compensation to the victims of 1984 anti Sikh riots, Rs 15 crore as grants towards contribution to the Union Territory Disaster Response Fund, Rs 200.01 crore as additional central assistance for externally aided projects to the Chandrawal water treatment plant. Atishi slammed the BJP saying that the Delhi government had demanded Rs 20,000 crore for

infrastructure development and for the MCD, which is 10 per cent of the Rs 2.32 lakh crore paid by them as taxes, but not a single rupee was given in the budget. "On the other hand, the Kejriwal government has provided excellent schools, free electricity, free bus ride to women, Mohalla Clinics to the Delhi people with the Rs 40,000 crore paid by them as taxes every year," she said. Atishi challenged the BJP to show at least one thing its government at the Centre has done for Delhi in the last 11 budgets. "I challenge the BJP that you presented your 11th budget from 2014 to 2024 but show me if you have done even one work for Delhi in 11 years. The BJP-ruled Central Government has everything, they have more money than the Delhi Government, they have a budget of Rs 48 lakh crore, their LG is in Delhi, they have complete control over the officers. Despite having power, money, LG, officers, they have not done even one work for the people of Delhi in 11 years," Atishi asserted.

## Comprehensive Budget, says BJP; Congress calls it copy paste work

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Tuesday hailed the Union Budget 2024-25 presented by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and termed it a comprehensive budget, a road map for a development India while the Delhi Congress termed it a copy paste work. South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the first budget of Modi 3.0 takes care of every section and sector. "This budget is a roadmap for a developed India. It will fulfill the vision and dream of a developed India by 2047," he said. Bidhuri stated that the highest allocation for defense clearly reflects India's intention for sovereignty and



modernisation. Taking a dig at the AAP government's demand, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said Delhi Government was demanding 10 per cent of Direct Taxes collected from Delhi which is around 21,000 crores but the budget gives back almost 30 per cent of the tax collected from Delhi under various service heads. He further added that the direct budgetary allocation for

Delhi is 1168 crores apart from Rs. 11,180 crores for operational costs of Delhi Police along with 220 crores for infrastructure development of Delhi. "Other allocations for Delhi come under heads of Delhi Metro, N.H.A.I., R.R.T.S., NDMC operational costs, Budgets of various central hospitals of Delhi like AIIMS & R.M.L. etc, cost of pensions to Delhi Government employees, Budgets of Central

Government Universities etc. all add upto over Rs. 50,000 crores which is around 30% of Direct Taxes collected from Delhi," he claimed. He accused the Delhi Government of trying to mislead Delhiites and said that they are well aware of the contribution of the Centre Government in making Delhi a true national capital. Additionally, the Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav also hit out at the BJP for treating the national Capital in a step-motherly manner. "The Union Budget presented in Parliament has treated the Delhi in a step-motherly manner, as had been happening for the past 10 years, by reducing the

budgetary allocation for pollution control, health, education, Delhi police, women, street vendors, and more shockingly, for the resettlement of the poor living in the JJ Clusters and unauthorized colonies, as 22,487 crore had been surrendered from the previous budgetary allocation for the PM Awaz Yojna for creating housing for the poor." Calling it a "copy paste of the Congress manifesto and previous budgets", he said that instead of strengthening the hospital infrastructure, the Union Budget has reduced the allocation for Safdarjung and Lardy Hardinge hospitals, two premier hospitals in the Capital.

## Min Atishi gets bail in defamation case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A court on Tuesday granted bail to Delhi Minister Atishi in a defamation case filed by a BJP leader over her claim that several AAP MLAs were approached by the saffron party with offers of cash to bring down the Arvind Kejriwal government. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Tanya Bamniyal granted bail to Atishi in the case filed by BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor after she appeared before the court pursuant to summons. The judge granted the relief to the senior AAP leader on a bail bond of Rs 20,000 and one surety of the like amount. Atishi was reported to have claimed 21 AAP MLAs were contacted by the BJP, which offered Rs 25 lakh to each of them, to switch over to the saffron camp. Reacting on the development, Kapoor said, "Delhi Government Minister Atishi physically appearing and taking bail from the Rouse Avenue Court in the matter of the Criminal Defamation case filed by myself we have won the first round of legal battle by bringing the case to trial stage." The judge will further take up the matter on August 8 for scrutiny of documents and arguments on framing of notice (charges).T

## Court seeks action taken report on unauthorised religious structures

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court directed the land-owning agencies in the city on Tuesday to state what action they have taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Religious Committee to remove certain unauthorised religious structures. A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan asked the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Cantonment

Board, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), railways as well as the forest and public works departments to file their action-taken reports within 10 weeks. The Delhi government's counsel informed the court that the Religious Committee has so far held 51 meetings and recommended 249 instances for removal of unauthorised religious structures. The counsel said the committee's recommendations are shared with the respective land-

owning agencies that are then expected to take action. "The land-owning agencies, which have to take action pursuant to recommendations of the Religious Committee, are directed to file an action-taken report in 10 weeks," the bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, said and listed the matter for further hearing in October. The court was hearing a matter, received from the Supreme Court, pertaining to the removal of illegal religious structures on public land.

In 2009, the top court had directed that no unauthorised construction shall be carried out or allowed in the name of religious structures on public streets, public parks and other public places, while directing the state governments to review such existing structures and take appropriate steps. In 2018, it had remitted the matter to the high courts for ensuring effective implementation of the orders in their respective jurisdictions.

## Haryana approves two GMDA projects

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In the High-Powered Works Purchase Committee (HPWPC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Haryana, Nayab Singh Saini, two projects of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) worth approximately Rs 83.85 crores were approved for allotment on Tuesday. The works include the Construction of RCC a type master stormwater drain in sectors 68-75 and the construction of an RCC box-type master stormwater drain along with a pumping station in sectors 112-115. "GMDA is working towards strengthening infrastructure and civic amenities in the city



and the works of laying of balance master drainage network in sectors 68-75 and 112-115 will now soon be taken up by GMDA for the benefit of the residents of these sectors," said A. Sreenivas, Chief Executive Officer, GMDA. To enhance the drainage network in Sectors 68 to 75, work for laying a master stormwater drain of

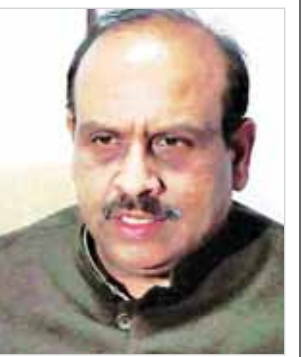
approximately 17.63 KM length will be taken up wherein construction of RCC Box Type Storm water drains of various sizes will be carried out. The stormwater discharge of these RCC box-type drains will be disposed of in the master stormwater drain which is under construction along SPR from Vatika Chowk to NH 48

& then ultimately into Leg-III Badshahpur drain. The areas covered include Sectors 68, 69, 70, 70A, 71, 72, 75, 75A, 71, 73, and 74. The project for providing the stormwater drainage in sectors 68-75 will be executed for Rs 51 crores and the completion time of the project is 22 months. To strengthen the drainage system of sectors 112-115, work for laying a master storm water drain in approximately 7.59 Km length wherein construction of RCC Box Type storm water drains of various sizes will be taken up by GMDA. The total drainage system is proposed to be connected with the master Leg-1 drain which exists along these areas.

## Budget reflects public centric policies of Modi Govt: Vijender

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi BJP President and current MLA from Rohini, Vijender Gupta, today responded to the Modi Government's 2024 Budget, describing it as a public welfare budget. Gupta stated that the budget reflects the public-centric policies of the honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's government. This is an all-inclusive and all-reaching budget that considers every section of society. Gupta mentioned that exempting income up to three lakh rupees from tax will provide significant relief to the general public. Gupta noted that by focusing on education and skills, the Modi government has not only attempted to address the pressing issue of employment but has also called upon the youth to contribute to a developed India. Gupta remarked that providing three crore additional houses under the PM Awaz Yojana will help millions of poor families realize their dream of owning a home. Gupta said that this budget will lay a strong foundation for a developed India. By concentrating on education and skills, special attention has been given to youth empowerment. Gupta welcomed the focus on significant economic investments, tax relief, and



innovative employment schemes, which aim to economically strengthen every section of society. Gupta described the 2024 budget as aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of promoting inclusive development and laying a strong foundation for a prosperous future. Gupta emphasized that by prioritizing the welfare of the poor, youth, farmers, and women, this budget demonstrates the government's commitment to creating opportunities for the four pillars of progress. Gupta also highlighted that opportunities for new startups in various sectors, including space, will benefit the youth. Gupta concluded that this budget will facilitate the honorable Prime Minister's vision of making India the world's third-largest economy. Welcoming the public welfare budget, Gupta expressed his gratitude to PM Narendra Modi.

## Bus route trial from Dwarka Mor, Vasant Vihar Metro Station starts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government on Tuesday started the trial of new circulator bus route from Dwarka Mor and Vasant Vihar Metro Station aimed to make daily commuters more convenient and efficient. Commenting on this, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "The trial of new circulator bus routes in Dwarka and Vasant Vihar is a significant step in our ongoing efforts to improve public transportation in Delhi. By addressing the specific needs of residents and ensuring coverage of important areas, we aim to make daily commutes more convenient and efficient. This initiative reflects our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Delhi's commuters." The 23 km Dwarka Mor circular route is serviced by two 12-meter CNG buses operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). These buses cover key locations, including Dwarka Sector-14 Metro station, Dwarka Sector-21 Metro station, Apeejay College, NSIT, Guru Govind Singh University, Vardhman Mall and residential areas, with an estimated journey time of approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes. On the 13.35 km Vasant Vihar circular route, a total of eight electric buses have been deployed by DTC, covering the distance in about 45 minutes. "This service aims to provide a convenient and efficient mode of transportation, connecting two major metro stations: Vasant Vihar Metro Station and Chhatrapur Metro Station. The operation of e-buses on this route was commenced on June 7," Gahlot said, adding that the standard bus fare is applicable to these routes. These circulator bus routes are crafted to ensure easy and efficient movement within a specific area, typically looping through key points of interest and transit hubs. "Unlike traditional bus routes that span long distances with fewer stops, circulator buses are designed for shorter, more frequent trips within a defined locality," the AAP leader said.



# Home Ministry gets ₹2.19 lakh cr

## Major chunk for central police forces like CRPF, BSF, CISF

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated Rs 2,19,643.31 crore for 2024-25 to the Ministry of Home Affairs with the majority of it — Rs 1,43,275.90 crore — being given to central police forces like the CRPF, BSF, and CISF which are responsible for internal security, border guarding, and security of vital installations. The interim budget 2024-25 had allocated Rs 2,02,868.70 crore to the home ministry, helmed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Finance Minister Sitharaman has allocated Rs 42,277.74 crore to Jammu and Kashmir which is currently under the direct control of the central government after the abrogation of Article 370. In the budget, Rs 5,985.82 crore



has been given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Rs 5,862.62 crore to Chandigarh, Rs 5,958 crore to Ladakh, Rs 2,648.97 crore to Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu and Rs 1,490.10 crore to Lakshadweep. The budget also allocated Rs 1,309.46 crore (Rs 578.29 crore in 2023-24) towards work related to census and Rs 1,606.95 crore to the National Disaster Response Force (Rs 1,666.38 crore in 2023-24). Among the paramilitary forces, the CRPF got Rs 31,543.20 crore, up from a revised estimate of Rs 31,389.04 in 2023-24, the BSF got Rs 25,472.44 crore (Rs 25,038.68 crore in 2023-24), the CISF was allotted Rs 14,331.89 crore (Rs 12,929.85 crore in 2023-24), the ITBP got Rs 8,634.21 crore (Rs 8,203.68 crore in 2023-24), the SSB was given Rs 8,881.81 crore (Rs 8,435.68 crore in 2023-24) and the Assam

relations like nuclear plants, airports, and metro networks. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) guards the Sino-Indian border, the Shashastra Seema Bal (SSB) guards the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders, while the Assam Rifles protects India's border with Myanmar. The Intelligence Bureau (IB) has been allocated Rs 3,823.83 crore (Rs 3,268.94 crore in 2023-24), the Delhi Police got Rs 11,180.33 crore (Rs 11,940.33 crore in 2023-24), the Special Protection Group got Rs 506.32 crore (Rs 446.82 crore in 2023-24). The IB is India's internal intelligence agency, the Delhi Police guards the national capital and the SPG provides security to the prime minister. Meanwhile, Rs 3,756.51 crore has been allocated to the Border Infrastructure and Management, Rs 3,152.36 crore has been given for developing police infra-

# Attempt to enhance woman participation in work force

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

For promoting women-led development, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the budget carries an allocation of more than Rs 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls. Presenting the Union Budget for 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said this signals the government's commitment in enhancing women's role in economic development. The SAMARTHYA sub-scheme, supporting projects such as Women Hostels, Swadhar Greh and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, has been allocated Rs 2,516 crore, a slight increase from the previous Revised Budget when Rs 2,325 crore was allocated. A significant portion of this budget of the WCD ministry is directed towards the centrally sponsored schemes, which received Rs 25,848 crore. The flagship schemes under the ministry, such as Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, Mission VATSALYA, and Mission Shakti, have been given substantial funds to continue their efforts in improving nutrition, child protection, and women's empowerment. Specifically, Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 have been allocated Rs 21,200 crore, aiming to combat malnutrition and support early childhood care. Other key allocations include Rs 5,600 crore as India's contribution to UNICEF and continued funding of Rs 500 crore for the Nirbhaya Fund, which supports initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women.



# Cancer drugs exempted from customs duty

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Exemption of customs duties on three additional cancer medications essential for treating prevalent types like lung, liver, and endometrial cancers

announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the Health sector. Overall, the Union health ministry has been allocated Rs 90,958.63 crore in the 2024-2025 budget, an increase of 12.96 per cent over the Rs

80,517.62 crore 2023-24 revised estimates. Addressing the Budget speech here, Sitharaman said, "To provide relief to cancer patients, I propose to fully exempt three more medicines from customs duties. I also propose changes

in the BCD on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines..." Given the high expense of cancer treatment, which often makes them inaccessible to many, this exemption of custom duty on the additional cancer

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Anniversary  
**Notice for E-TENDER**

- Name of the work with location:** Rate contract of vendors (firms/distributors)/chemist shops in Local Purchase to supply of Medicines, Surgical items & Consumables, etc. at Northern Railway Divisional Hospital, Delhi as well over all Health units of Delhi division (situated in Delhi NCR area, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh).
- Approximate estimate cost:** Rs. 29,00,000.00 (Twenty Nine lakhs only) per month
- EMD to be deposited:** Rs. 7,05,500/- (Rs. Seven lakh five thousand five hundred only)
- Completion period of the work:** Two (02) years from the date of award of work which is extendable maximum up to 06 months.
- Date & Time for submission & opening of online bid & Place:** 13.08.2024 (Tuesday) up to 11:00 AM and opening 11:30 hrs. same day at office of Northern Railway Divisional Hospital, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg, Delhi - 110006
- Online tender is to be submitted:** www.ireps.gov.in
- Validity of offer:** 90 days from the date of opening of tender

Non-deposition of earnest money will result in the tender being cancelled without notice. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids only till the last date and time. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not permitted against this tender, and any manual offer received will be ignored. To participate in the e-tender system, tenderers are required to register with Indian Railways e-Procurement System site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Necessary changes, corrigendum/addendum, if necessary, will be posted on this website only.

**NRD-43-Med/RRD/HLP/Retail/Adv/2024 Dated: 22.07.2024 2235/2024**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**FORM NO. 3**  
SEE REGULATION-15(1)(a)/16(2)  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
CHANDIGARH (DT 2)  
1st Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17  
A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)  
Case No.: OA/20/20/2024  
Exh. No.: 22513  
(Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993)

**ICICI BANK LIMITED**  
VS  
**KALPNA JAIN**

To,  
(1) KALPNA JAIN  
D/W/S/O - VIVEK JAIN  
KALPNA JAIN WIFE OF SHRI VIVEK JAIN, R/O, 701, 7TH FLOOR, TOWER P, SUPERTECH HOUSE, VILLAGE BADSHAHPUR, SECTOR 68, GURUGRAM, HARYANA - 122 001.  
2ND ADDRESS:- H. NO. 10, SHOPPING COMPLEX, SISPAL VIHAR, SECTOR 49, GURUGRAM, HARYANA - 122 001, GURGAON, HARYANA - 122 001  
Also At:-  
H.NO. 10, ROSEWOOD CITY, SECTOR 49 50, GURUGRAM, HARYANA GURGAON, HARYANA - 122 001  
Also At:-  
PLANET NEEDS, SHOP NO. 6, SHOPPING COMPLEX, SISPAL VIHAR, SECTOR 49, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, GURGAON, HARYANA - 122 001  
(2) UTKARSH JAIN  
H.NO. 10, ROSEWOOD CITY, SECTOR 49 50, GURUGRAM, HARYANA GURGAON, HARYANA - 122 001  
(3) VIVEK JAIN  
D 10, 3RD FLOOR, ROSEWOOD CITY, SECTOR 49, 50, SOUTH CITY II, GURUGRAM, HARYANA - 122001

**SUMMONS**

WHEREAS, OA/20/20/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 20/04/2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 5829635.50/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-  
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief/prayed for should not be granted;  
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;  
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;  
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;  
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 24/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 22/04/2024.

Signature of the Officer  
Authorised to issue summons.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Indraprastha Gas Limited ("IGL") has issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) for setting up of CNG Station at site located at following location and to be operated by the following Operator after having received such application from the operator, and upon due diligence and following due processes. Name of Applicant - Rohit Kumar, Address of proposed station - Mustil No. 34, Killa No. 4 & 7, Village Dhansa, Tehsil Najafgarh, Distt.-South West, New Delhi - 110073 Measurement (In sq. mtrs.) - 1485 Sq. mtrs. However, if any person has any objection or claim regarding the setting up of CNG station at the said site, they may kindly contact within 15 days from the publication of this notice, with the relevant and appropriate proof to substantiate the objection/claim, failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection/claim for the setting up of CNG station at the said site.

Contact Address :-  
IGL Bhawan, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot No. 4 Community Centre, R.K. Puram, Sector-9, New Delhi - 110022. Email: iglcnpp@gmail.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that my client SHRI SUMIT JINDAL has revoked his power of attorney executed on 10.07.2024 pertaining to ROOM PVT. No. 300, ON THIRD FLOOR, PART OF PROPERTY No. 2605 to 2611, SITUATED AT WARD No. III, GALI NAI BASTI, ZARA FASSEL, NAYA BAZAR, DELHI, in favor of S. JASJOT SINGH as it was a fraudulent act done by some fraud persons with the active connivance of JASJOT SINGH. My client never intended to execute any power of attorney in favor of JASJOT SINGH as he is completely a stranger for my client. If anybody deals with JASJOT SINGH regarding the said shop the same shall be treated as the cheating and fraud with my client and he would be liable provisions.

**RAVI BHARGAVA (Advocate)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that my client SHRI SUMIT JINDAL has revoked his power of attorney executed on 10.07.2024 pertaining to SHOP PVT. No. 212, ON SECOND FLOOR, PART OF PROPERTY No. 2605 to 2611, SITUATED AT WARD No. III, GALI NAI BASTI, ZARA FASSEL, NAYA BAZAR, DELHI, in favor of S. JASJOT SINGH as it was a fraudulent act done by some fraud persons with the active connivance of JASJOT SINGH. My client never intended to execute any power of attorney in favor of JASJOT SINGH as he is completely a stranger for my client. If anybody deals with JASJOT SINGH regarding the said shop the same shall be treated as the cheating and fraud with my client and he would be liable provisions.

**RAVI BHARGAVA (Advocate)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice regarding mortgage/cancellation of property as per terms of the Tripartite Agreement.

This Public notice is from JKG Construction Private Limited for Aakash Gupta bearing unit no B2-1106 JKG Palm Court Plot No GH-1D Sec 16C Greater Noida West Uttar Pardesh-201009 With reference to the cancellation notice received from HDFC Bank dated 02.03.2024 for cancellation of aforesaid unit in lieu of default in payment of Emi/Pre-Emi towards Home Loan Account no 616016957. The bank is invoked the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement entered between you as Borrower, JKG Construction Private Limited and HDFC BANK LTD and has asked us to refund as per terms of the Tripartite Agreement.

This is further to inform you that we are refunding the amount to HDFC BANK LTD towards cancellation of the given unit after forfeiting the amount as per terms of the Builder Buyer Agreement on cancellation of the given unit. Further to the cancellation and refund to the Banker you as allottee/ owner of the given unit will have no claim on the given unit.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**  
"g" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No. - Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 05 for 2024-25

Letter No. 2647 W/E. Date. 22.07.2024

- Name of the work :- Road under MMSY-TRIP
- Total No. of work :- 1 Nos. of Roads.
- Estimated Cost :- Rs. 696.28 lakhs (Approximately)
- Eligible Class of Contractor :- As per Annexure
- Period of Completion :- As per Annexure.
- Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of opening of bids	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No-05 of 2024-25	29.07.2024 at 11:00 A.M	13.08.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M.	12.08.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M.
				14.08.2024 at 11.00 P.M.

Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-25105/11/0007/2425

Sd/- N.V. Hanhar Rao  
Chief Engineer, R.W. Circle, Balasore.

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //**

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स चुनकड़ा लाईम स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री कमल कुमार अंबवाल), ग्राम-चुनकड़ा, तहसील- पाटन, जिला- दुर्ग स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 94/1, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 1.58 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पत्थर (शीण खनिज) उत्खनन क्षमता- 30,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सूझाव/विचार/टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिये लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 30/08/2024 को समय-दोपहर 12:00 बजे, स्थान- आदिवासी सामुदायिक भवन, ग्राम पंचायत चुनकड़ा, ग्राम-चुनकड़ा, तहसील- पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मारक का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालय सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग, जिला-दुर्ग, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत दुर्ग, जिला-दुर्ग, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, दुर्ग, जिला-दुर्ग, सारपंच / सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत- चुनकड़ा, तहसील-पाटन, जिला-दुर्ग, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव  
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Anniversary  
**TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr.DME/Diesel, Northern Railway, Diesel Loco Shed, Tughlakabad for and on behalf of President of India invites e-Tenders for the following work. The tender will be accepted online only in the prescribed tender document.

Subject	Description
Name of work	Provision for Modification required in existing Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad
Place of work	Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044.
Completion Period	04 Month
Approximate cost of work	Rs. 29,97,200/- Inclusive of GST (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred only)
Amount of Bid Security	Rs. 60,000/- (Rs. Sixty Thousand Only)
Description of Similar Service Contract	The approved definition of similar nature of work is:- Successful completion of work of Installation & Commissioning OR Operation & Maintenance OR AMC of Water Treatment plant/Effluent Treatment plant or sewage treatment plant of min. 30 KLD capacity in any central Govt./Railway unit/Metro/state Govt./PSUs"
Technical Eligibility Criteria	As per clause 10.1 of tender form (second sheet) of Tender Document.
Financial Eligibility Criteria	As per clause 10.2 of tender form (second sheet) of Tender Document.
Website to download and upload e-tender document	www.ireps.gov.in
Date & time of uploading of tender by tenderer	12.08.2024 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Tender opening	12.08.2024 after 12:00 Hrs.
Validity of offer	60 days from opening of tender
Allocation	05-0313-32

Tender Document can be downloaded from Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. For details of work experience, scope of work and terms & conditions please see Tender document. TENDER NOTICE NO. DSL/TKD/OT/ETP/ MOD/2024 dated : 20.07.2024 2237/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Poonam, W/o, Ashok Kumar, R/o, K-217-18, IInd Floor, Jahangirpuri Delhi-33, that my name wrongly written in Bank Passbook. I, have changed my name from Poonam to Poonam Wadhwa. PD(617)C

I, Khushboo Agrawal, D/o Binod Agrawal, aged about 38 years, currently residing at Flat No I-A-111, G C Grand, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm declare that my name mentioned in my passport as Khushaboo Agrawal instead of Khushboo Agrawal. Hence Khushaboo Agrawal and Khushboo Agrawal both are same and one person. PD(620)C

I, Sukhdei Malik, W/o Shri Jagjit Singh Malik, R/o M.No. 11/31 Malik Colony, Gohana Road, near Chhotu Ram Chowk, Sonipat. My name is Sukhdei and Sukhdei Malik, both these names belong to the same person, in future I shall be known as Sukhdei Malik only. PD(622)C

**LOST & FOUND**

I, Sanjay Gupta have lost original sale deed of my company name Manesar Developers Private Limited. The sale deed was executed as on 03.07.2007, with reg. No. 7434 of land falling Under kharsa no. 42/ 12/2, 42 13/2, 42/ 14/2, 42/ 17/1, 42/ 18/1 and 42/ 19/1 measuring a total of 20 kanal-17 marla in village-nakhraula, Dist.-Gurgaon, Haryana. If someone finds the documents please contact 981016733 PD(621)A

# Defence outlay hiked 4.79 per cent

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

With the objective of sustaining the ongoing modernisation and ensure operational readiness, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated Rs 6,21,940 crore to the defence sector for 2024-25. The grant for 2023-24 was Rs 5,94 lakh crore and the hike is 4.79 per cent. In an effort to keep up the momentum of acquisition of modern weapon systems for the armed forces, the capital outlay is pegged at Rs 1,72,000 crore. The total allocation to the defence sector is 12.9 per cent of the total budget of the government of India for the financial year 2024-25. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the allocation of Rs 1,05,518 crore for domestic capital procurement will provide further impetus to atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the defence sector. "As far as the allocation to the Ministry of Defence is concerned, I thank Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for giving the highest allocation to the tune of Rs 6,21,940.85 crore, which is 12.9 per cent of the total budget of the government for 2024-25," he said in a social media post. "The capital outlay of Rs 1,72,000 crore will further strengthen the capabilities of Armed Forces. Earmarking of Rs 1,05,518.43 crore for domestic capital procurement will provide further impetus to Atmanirbharta," he said. "I am pleased that Border Roads have been given 30 per cent increase in allocation over the last budget under the capital head. This allocation of Rs 6,500 crore to BRO will further accelerate our border infrastructure," he said. To boost the startup ecosystem in defence industries, Rs 518 crore has been allocated to the iDEX scheme to fund technological solutions given by startups, MSMEs and innovators, Rajnath said. In the interim budget presented on February 1, the defence allocation was Rs 6.21 lakh crore. While maintaining the allocation made to defence ministry during interim budget, the government has made an additional allocation to the tune of Rs 400 crore on innovation in defence through the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme. Through this scheme, MoD is engaging with startups/MSMEs and innovators to develop Def-Tech solutions and supply the Indian military with innovative and indigenous technological solutions. A grant of upto 50% of Product Development Budget with enhanced limit (Max) of Rs 25 crore per applicant will be awarded as per extant iDEX guidelines. The allocation for 2024-25 is higher by approximately Rs one lakh crore (18.43%) over the allocation for FY 2022-23 and 4.79% more than allocation of FY 2023-24.



# Substantial allocation for Maharashtra: Fadnavis

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday accused the Opposition of trying to build a "negative narrative" even though "substantial allocations" are earmarked in the Union Budget for the western state.

Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, Fadnavis claimed the Opposition parties had prepared their reaction against the Budget in advance to build a negative narrative against the Central government.

"The Budget includes substantial allocations for Maharashtra. It is advisable for the opposition to thoroughly examine the Budget before reacting," he said.

Fadnavis' response came soon after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray alleged anti-Maharashtra bias in the Budget despite the state being the largest taxpayer.

The senior BJP leader took a dig at Congress leaders P



Chidambaram and Maharashtra opposition leader Vijay Wadetiwar who alleged the apprenticeship programme in the Budget is copied from the Congress manifesto.

"If this is the case, then both leaders should welcome the Budget instead of criticising," Fadnavis added.

He also took potshots at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "khatakhat" (being swift) remark which went viral during the Lok Sabha poll campaign. Gandhi had purportedly promised a transfer of Rs 1 lakh in the bank account of one woman from every poor household in the country if the Congress won the elections.

"Where is their (Congress) Khatakhat scheme? They are in power in some states, but we do not see it being implemented in any

of those states," Fadnavis added.

He also addressed allegations on Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, led by BJP allies and part of the Modi-led NDA government, receiving more funds than Maharashtra.

"Maharashtra will receive Rs 908 crore under MUTP-3 which will strengthen the local railway network in

Mumbai. Mumbai Metro will get Rs 1,087 crore, the Mumbai-Lohri corridor Rs 499 crore, MMR green urban transport Rs 150 crore, and Nagpur Metro Rs 683 crore. The budget includes the provisions of Rs 814 crore for Pune Metro and Rs 690 crore for schemes related to the Mula Mutha river," Fadnavis claimed.

He argued that though the BJP is not in power in Himachal Pradesh, the Himalayan state will receive more funds through the Budget.

"Why should anyone be unhappy about other states receiving funds when there is already sufficient allocation for Maharashtra?" Fadnavis asked.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all public that my clients MR. RATAN LAL, S/o Late Sh. Shobha Ram, & MR. VINOD KUMAR, S/o Sh. Ratan Lal, both residents of 25B-12/6, Ward No. 02, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030, have discovered that their maternal grandson/son namely Kuldip Singh and his future children from all movable and immovable properties/assets acquired/owned by him/their and severed all relations with them and also my clients shall also not be responsible/liable for any of their civil and criminal liabilities.

**Pooja Bhasin (Advocate) Ch. No. 455, Lawyers Block, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi-110017.**

Folio No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of Shares	Distinctive No. From	Certificate No. From
022230	Kamini Bhalala J.L. Inherit Singh	1000	24641-24740	222

**KANWAL BHALLA**  
Name and Registered office address of Company: Loyds Metals & Energy Ltd.  
Plot No. A-12, MIDC Area, Ghugus, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra-422950

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Vikas Chaudhary is intending to sell to Plot No. 301 on Second Floor, without roof rights, covered area 56.45 Sq. Meters, out of Khazra No. 6, Situated at Village: Darga, Pargana: Jaisankar, Tehsil: & Distt: Ghazabad, U.P. to Ajay Devi to be financed & managed by Hero Housing Finance Ltd. U.P. 201003. The original registration page of sale deed which is dated 14.08.2024, Vol. No. 15223, Pages No. 55, 54, 53, Book No. 1 on date 10.10.2024 pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint L.R. No. 202409080/901 was registered with U.P. Police on 22.07.2024.

(Any persons) found in possession of aforesaid original property documents, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as aforesaid documents shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**Raghav Tiwari, Advocate**  
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: 991-807618823

Folio No.	Name of Shareholder	No. of Shares	Distinctive No. From	Certificate No. From
022232	Hajji Singh Bhalala J.L. Inherit Singh	2000	24641-24640	221

**JASJIT BHALLA**  
Name and Registered office address of Company: Loyds Metals & Energy Ltd.  
Plot No. A-12, MIDC Area, Ghugus, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra-422950

**BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi**  
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Date: 24.07.2024

E-tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as per the following details:

NIT No.	Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/Sk/SMD/24	Supply of Single phase 11 kv insulated type drop out fuse unit.	2.50 Crore	5.00 Lakhs	13.08.2024 14:00 Hrs	13.08.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/Sk/SMD/25	Supply of 33KV & 66KV Outdoor CT & PT of various ratings.	1.10 Crore	2.20 Lakhs	13.08.2024 14:00 Hrs	13.08.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/Sk/SMD/26	Supply of 33KV & 66KV Outdoor CVT	0.60 Crore	1.20 Lakhs	13.08.2024 14:00 Hrs	13.08.2024 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/24-25/RS/Sk/SAS/27	Award of work for Servicing / Repairing of Distribution Transformers of various ratings at BYPL's Workshop for 2 Years	3.60 Crore	7.20 Lakhs	14.08.2024 11:00 Hrs	14.08.2024 11:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹1,180/-  
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website [www.bsesseltd.com](http://www.bsesseltd.com) -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD-> Tenders->Open Tenders.  
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 Website: [www.bsesseltd.com](http://www.bsesseltd.com)

## Slight rise in fund for disability sector

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Union Budget 2024-25 for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWd) has seen a slight rise to Rs 1,225.27 crore, a mere 0.02 per cent increase from the previous year's revised estimate. The budget allocation for the National Program for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities stood at Rs 615.33 crore, up from Rs 502 crore in the previous year's revised budget.

Assistance to Disabled Persons for Aids and Appliances also saw marginal increase to Rs 315 crore from Rs 305 crore while Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme saw an increase to Rs 165.00 crore from Rs 130 crore. Scholarships for students with disabilities decreased to Rs 142.68 crore from Rs 155 crore while funding was reduced from Rs 76 crore to Rs 25 crore for disability sports. Funds for National Institutes also reduced to Rs 370 crore from Rs 408.75 crore while for National Trust, the allocation is Rs 25 crore.

Rs 194 crore allocated for bodies like National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation of India is low, said disability activists Muralidharan from NPRD, said that budgetary support remains disproportionately low, just 0.025 per cent of the total budget, far below the 5 per cent allocation that has been advocated across ministries.

**FORM NO. 5**  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL**  
600/1 UNIVERSITY ROAD  
(Area of Jurisdiction- part of Uttar Pradesh)  
Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication  
Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of Recovery of Debts due to Bank and financial

**Dated: 25-04-2024**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 92 OF 2024**

Indian bank a body corporate constituted under banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of undertaking Act) of 1970 Having its its Corporate office at 254 260 avvai shammugam salai Royapettah Chennai 600014 and among others a branch office at Sainik Nagar Branch: Rai Bareilly Road, Lucknow Indian Bank (Erstwhing Allahabad Bank) through its letter of authorization issued by Zonal office in favour of Sri Rajeev K. Singh working as Senior Manager at Lucknow of the applicant bank. ....Applicant

**Versus**

1. M/S Sagar Solar Pvt. Ltd. Unit Address: H.No. 3/195, Viram Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 226010, Regd. Office 1006-7-8 F Block, Mangolpuri Delhi, 110083

2. Sri Prahlad Singh S/O Shri Jagann Singh Regd. Office 1006-7-8 F Block, Mangolpuri Delhi 110083

3. Sukh Sagar Singh Chauhan S/O Sri Prahlad Singh, R/O. E-10 E-Block, Sector 1 Rohini Delhi 110085

In the above noted application you are required to file reply in paper book form in to sets along with document and affidavit (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal after serving copy of the same of the applicant in his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons and thereafter to appear before the tribunal on 05.11.2024 at 10:30AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

**Registrar**  
**Debts Recovery Tribunal**  
**Lucknow**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Kanika Salhotra purchased entire Property No. 139, area measuring 70 Sq. Mtrs. situated in Block A Prashanti Vihar Delhi 110085 vide Sale Deed dated 01.07.2008 as per SMC shared with us, she left behind Mrs. Anshu Salhotra and Mrs. Shiroa Sudhan as her legal heirs who acquired Property No. 139 in Block A Prashanti Vihar vide succession. Mrs. Anshu Salhotra and Mrs. Shiroa Sudhan intend to transfer the Upper Ground Floor without roof rights of aforementioned property by way of Sale Deed to Ankit Bansal. Subsequently, Ankit Bansal is in the process of mortgaging the said RBL BANK. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting: **Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-4/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +911020-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Shri Surender Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh. Churni Lal Gupta Property address: Property No.109/A, Situated in Patparganj Village, Out of Khazra No.109/A, Situated in Patparganj Village, Out of Khazra No.490/106, of Village Chharonda Neem Ka Bangar Alias Patparganj, Delhi-110091 Owned by Registered Relinquishment Deed dated 09.10.2017 executed by (1) Mr. Girraj Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta, (2) Mr. Manoj Kumar Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta, (3) Mr. Krishan Kumar Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta (4) Mrs. Shashi Prabhata Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta, (5) Mr. Sumit Kumar Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta, (6) Mr. Churni Lal Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta in favour of Mr. Surender Kumar Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta in respect of property area 66 sqyds in the office of SR-VII-New Delhi at vide Book No. 01, Vol. no. 3185, on pages 1221/24 on dated 17.11.2017. Mr. Surender Kumar Gupta S/o Late Mr. Churni Lal Gupta mortgaging this property with Satin Housing Finance Limited if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, with his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Adv: Deepanshu Sharma 124 14 S3 Tower Rishabh cloud-9, Vaisali Ghazabad, U.P.-201010

**CORRIGENDUM**

**CORRIGENDUM TO PUBLICATION OF APPENDIX IV-A DATED 12.07.2024 ISSUED UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (The Act).**

This Corrigendum is issued in relation to the publication of Appendix IV-A dated 12.07.2024, IN THE PIONEER - DELHI COVERS GHAZIABAD - ENGLISH and RASHTRIYA SAHARA - DELHI COVERS GHAZIABAD - HINDI, both dated 19th July, 2024, issued by the Authorised Officer of Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for the following correction(s):

• For: "..... will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 20.08.2024. ...."

• To be read as: "..... will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 22.08.2024. ...."

The rest of the contents of Appendix IV-A dated 12.07.2024 published in the aforesaid Newspapers shall remain the same, and the above corrections shall be read as part and parcel of the publication of Appendix IV-A dated 12.07.2024.

**Sd/-**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**Sammaan Capital Limited**  
Place : GHAZIABAD (Formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited)

**APPENDIX IV-A**  
**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

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) and Rule 9(1) 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 Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on "12.08.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 15,28,681/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLHDCP00391858, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 12.07.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 13.07.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANNI KUMAR and REKHA DEVI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 99,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 99,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

FLAT NO. SF - 403 (LIG) HAVING COVERED AREA 29.72 SQUARE METERS EQUIVALENT TO 320 SQUARE FEET ON 2ND FLOOR REAR LHs (WITH ROOF RIGHTS), IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS DLF ANKUR VIHAR, CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. A - 72, SITUATED IN PARGANA LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No. : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : [auctionhelp@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelp@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

**Sd/-**  
**AUTHORIZED OFFICER**  
**SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 19.07.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

## ELECTION PROGRAMME

Election programme for the election of the Managing Committee of The Pataudi Primary Agriculture Co-operative Society Ltd., Pataudi to be held on 01.09.2024.

SR.NO.	PARTICULAR	DATE	TIMES	PLACE
01.	Exhibition of List of voters as required under Sub Para(2) of rule 35 and objection on the list of Voters will be submitted on the last day to Exhibition of Voter list in the office of Assistant Registrar, Co-op Societies Gurugram	19-07-2024 to 29-07-2024	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	(1). In the Regd. Office of the Society & Village falling in the area operation of the Society, (2). Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Gurugram Near John Hall Civil Line, Gurugram (3). Central Co-operative Bank, Gurugram
02.	Hearing of objection of the list of voters as required under sub para(4) of rule 35	30-07-2024	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	ARCS Office, Gurugram
03.	Filing of Nomination Papers.	09-08-2024	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	In the office of Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Gurugram, Near John Hall, Civil Line, Gurugram
04.	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers.	13-08-2024	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Do
05.	Display of List of Validity nominated Candidates.	13-08-2024	4:00 p.m.	Do
06.	Withdrawal of Nomination Paper display of list of candidates.	16-08-2024	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Do
07.	Allocation of Symbols	16-08-2024	03:00 p.m.	Do
08.	Display of List of contesting candidates.	16-08-2024	04:00 p.m.	Do
09.	Taking of poll, if necessary.	01-09-2024	08:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	In the premises as per list of booth attached.

Note:- (1) Election of the Managing Committee of the said society will be held as per section 28 ibid of the Haryana Cooperative Societies Act 1984 (2) Election will be held as per orders of Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana in Beju/Somaia Vs. State of Haryana in CWP no. 3648 of 2007 (Devender Beniwal) Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Gurugram, (Retiring Officer)

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**  
(See proviso to rule 8(6))  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) 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.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Vandana Sinha (Applicant), Kamlesh Kaur Sinha (Co Applicant) LAn No. LBDEL00003217779	Property Bearing No. RZ-F-1/49, on Plot No. 49, Gali No. 1-A, Entire 1st Floor Without Roof Rights and Along With One Small Car Parking Space, Out of Khazra No. 88/7 Situated in Revenue Station of Village Palam, Mehaur Enclave, Delhi- 110045, Area- 900sq Ft	Rs. 36,49,710/- as on July 20, 2024	Rs. 57,00,000/- Rs. 5,70,000/-	August 05, 2024 From 02:00 Noon To 04:00 PM	September 04, 2024. From 11:00 AM To 12:00 Noon

The online auction will be conducted on the website URL <https://www.bankauctions.com> of our auction agency C1 India Pvt. Ltd. The Mortgagors/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by September 03, 2024 before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before September 03, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before September 03, 2024 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case of the prospective bidder(s) is/are unable to submit his/ her offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before September 03, 2024 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 8928935040/8584874809. Please note that the Marketing agencies 1. Ms. NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt. Ltd., 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date : July 24, 2024  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

**Authorized Officer**  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

**ICICI Bank** Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vafodara, Gujarat, Pin- 390 007.  
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400 051

**PUBLIC NOTICE-E-AUCTION OF ASSIGNMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSET(S)**

In terms of the policy of ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank") on Sale of Financial Assets and in line with the regulatory guidelines, ICICI Bank here by invites Expression of Interest ("EOI") from interested ARCs/ NBFCs/ Bank/ FIs for purchase of below Non-Performing Asset(s) ("Financial Asset(s)") on the terms and conditions indicated herein under "Swiss Challenge Method". It is hereby clarified that confirmation of the name of successful bidder will be subject to final approval by the competent authority of ICICI Bank:

Lot No.	Base / Reserve Price / Anchor Bid	Term of sale	Minimum Mark up
1	₹ 90.0 million	100% in Cash	5% of last bid

Schedule for E-Auction:

Sr.No	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Submission of Expression of Interest ("EOI") and execution of Non-Disclosure Agreement ("NDA") (if not already executed with the Bank)	Till July 31, 2024 by 05:00 PM
2.	Release of Offer Document along with Preliminary Information Memorandum ("PIM")	July 31, 2024 (after submission of NDA with Bank)
3.	Access to data room for due diligence	July 31, 2024 till August 16, 2024
4.	Submission of Bid Form	August 19, 2024, latest by 05:00 PM
5.	Process of e-bidding	August 20, 2024 from 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM with auto extension of 5 minute Still sale is completed
6.	Declaration of the winning bidder	August 20, 2024 post closure of bidding process.
7.	Receipt of consideration amount and execution of Assignment Agreement and closure of transaction	Within 07 days from the date of acceptance of bid.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

1. The auction for the financial Asset(s) is under "Swiss Challenge Method", based on an existing offer in hand (Anchor Bid), who will have the right to participate in the auction process/ match the highest bid/ improve the offer. In case no bid is received which crosses the minimum mark up, Base/ Anchor Bid will be designated as the winning bid if it qualifies as per terms and conditions stipulated.

2. The sale of aforesaid Financial Asset(s) is on "As is Where is Basis", "As is What is Basis", and "Without Recourse Basis".

3. The e-bidding process, if required, will be conducted through Ms e-Procurement Technologies Ltd (Auction tiger) on the website of auction agency i.e. <https://icicibank.auctiontiger.net> as detailed above. The e-bidding process shall be subject to terms & conditions contained in our document which will be made available to Parties post execution of NDA.

For any further clarifications with regard to data room, terms and conditions of the auction, kindly contact Mr. Jignesh Shelani (7574821846) or for submission of EOI/Bids, email at [jignesh.shelani@icicibank.com](mailto:jignesh.shelani@icicibank.com) and [viyaay.kumar@icicibank.com](mailto:viyaay.kumar@icicibank.com) or send by post to Mr. Jignesh Shelani at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400 051.

ICICI Bank will not be responsible/liable in case of non-receipt of EOI by ICICI Bank for the reasons beyond the control of the Bank. Interested Parties are expected to take efforts to find out the status of communication sent by them to ICICI Bank to ensure their participation in the auction process.

This notice and contents hereof are subject to any prevailing laws, rules and regulations of India.

**Sd/-**  
**Authorized Signatory**  
**For ICICI Bank Limited**

Date : July 24, 2024  
Place : Delhi

## APPENDIX IV-A

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

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.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on "27.08.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 37,84,729/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HLHDCP00324027, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.07.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.07.2024 along with legal expenses and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 19.07.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from ABHIJIT MUKHERJI, KOELI MUKHERJI, ATMA PRAKASH and KUSUM.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 30,40,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Forty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,04,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Four Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**PROPERTY BEARING 10TH FLOOR, APARTMENT NO. 1004, TOWER C - 3, BHARAT PURI, PRAGANA LONI, INDRAPRASTHA YOJNA, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201001.**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No. : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : [auctionhelp@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelp@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

**Sd/-**  
**AUTHORIZED OFFICER**  
**SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 18.07.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**JASCH INDUSTRIES LTD**  
CIN: L24302DL1985PLC383771  
Regd. Office: 502, Block-C, NDM-2, N.S.P., Pitampura, NEW DELHI 110034  
Website : [www.jaschindustries.com](http://www.jaschindustries.com)  
Email : [skverma@jasch.biz](mailto:skverma@jasch.biz), Phone : 0130-2216666

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public that 26-07-2024 has been fixed as the Record Date to determine the name of members who are entitled to receive notice of 38th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company scheduled to be held on Friday, 30th August 2024 at 10.00 hours IST through video conferencing/other audio visual means.

The process of sending emails to the registered email id of members is expected to be completed by 31-07-2024. The said email will contain web-link(s) where the soft copy of notice of the AGM, Annual Report, detailed instructions for participating in the AGM and for e-voting will be available. Any member who does not receive the aforesaid email may download a soft copy of these documents from the Company's website [www.jaschindustries.com/](http://www.jaschindustries.com/) investors or from website of BSE [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com). Members who have not provided/ updated their email ids to/with their DP are requested to do so without any further delay. Members requiring hard copy of the Annual Report must write to the Company at least 5 days before the expected date of completion of the aforesaid process.

All physical share certificates held by the members have been cancelled pursuant to a Scheme of Arrangement (Demerger) approved by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal vide its order dated 12-09-2023. The relevant shares have been transferred to an escrow account from which the shareholders may claim credit to their demat account by following the procedure given at the website of the Company [www.jaschindustries.com](http://www.jaschindustries.com).

For any queries, kindly visit Investors Section of our aforesaid website, before writing to the Company or its Registrars & Share Transfer Agents as this Section contains answers to all general queries.

**for Jasch Industries Ltd**  
**Sd/- (S.K. VERMA)**  
**Company Secretary**

**Sonipat,**  
**22-07-2024**

**JASCH GAUGING TECHNOLOGIES LTD.**  
Regd. Office: 502, Block-C, NDM-2, N.S.P. Pitampura, New Delhi 110034  
CIN: L33111DL2021PL



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Optimistic outlook

The Economic Survey for 2023-24 emphasises the urgency of addressing inequality and unemployment

The Economic Survey for 2023-24 released on the eve of the Union Budget is optimistic about the Indian story of growth and development; however, it also indicates the areas of concern on which it suggests the Central Government to act on priority. It is customary to have the Economic Survey just before the budget as it sets the tone of the budget and puts things in perspective. This year round it is buoyant on growth and pegs India's GDP growth at 6.5-7.0% in this fiscal year. The Economic Survey, a comprehensive report that reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the past year, forecasts robust growth in various sectors. This optimism is grounded in several factors, including strong domestic consumption, increased investments, and favourable government policies. Interestingly this is despite the fact that most economies around the world are struggling to attain much lower levels of GDP. The survey underscores the Government's focus on infrastructure as a critical driver of growth. Ongoing projects in road, rail, and port development are expected to boost connectivity and efficiency, facilitating smoother trade and commerce. Besides, the rapid expansion of the digital economy is another significant area of growth. Though open to criticism, the Survey maintains that the 'Make in India' initiative continues to show promising results.



The survey notes that boosting exports, particularly in high-growth industries such as pharmaceutical, electronics, and textiles, could significantly enhance India's global economic standing. The Survey also talks about the problem area of the Indian economy. Agriculture, the backbone of the Indian economy, remains a priority.

The survey recommends further reforms to increase productivity and ensure sustainable growth in this sector. Innovations in technology and better access to markets are crucial to achieving these goals. The Economic Survey rightly numerates various factors which could pull down the economy and be an impediment in the national growth. The biggest stumbling block is of course inflation. The survey suggests a balanced approach to monetary policy to manage inflation without stifling growth. Unemployment yet another constraint needs to be addressed on priority. The survey calls for policies that support skill development and entrepreneurship to harness the potential of the burgeoning young population. PM Modi reaffirmed the government's commitment to fostering an environment conducive to growth. Indeed, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget for 2024-25 incorporates several suggestions made by the Economic Survey. Setting a roadmap for the third term of Modi Government, Union Finance Minister has defined nine priorities. These are agriculture, employment, human development, energy security, manufacturing, innovation, infrastructure and next generation reforms. These would indeed go a long way in reducing unemployment, curbing inflation and giving economy a push that would be inclusive and sustainable.

## PICTALK



Hindu devotees offer prayers during the holy month of Shrawan at the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu

# India backs Philippines in South China Sea standoff



ASHOK K MEHTA

As China continues its aggressive tactics, the Philippines, bolstered by international alliances, stands resilient against Beijing's coercion

My enemy's enemy is my friend is a fitting adage for India; 's support to the Philippines which is fighting a battle royale in the South China Sea with China. Chinese Coast Guards have been regularly intruding into the Philippines Exclusive Economic Zone (PEEZ) which they regard as part of the South China Sea under its default claim of 10 dash line that was rejected by an arbitration court at Hague under UNCLOS in 2016. Bash on regardless is PLA's dictum in coercing the Filipinos as they to us along LAC. Foreign Minister S Jaishankar visited Manila in May and expressed full support for the Philippines in its claims in PEEZ.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson after the 17 June clash said "We oppose destabilizing unilateral action to change status quo by force or coercion". Earlier in 2022 India made its first international sale of the Brahmos anti-ship missile system to the Philippines. I was in Manila last month, days after the 17 June incident comparable to our own Galwan clash on 15 June 2020. It was evident that the Chinese were bullying Filipinos in their waters. The 17 June incident has been flogged with Chinese but mainly Filipino accounts. In brief, Chinese Coast Guards are trying to force out Filipino Coast Guards from their outpost on Thomas Shoal 2 which they preemptively occupied in 1999 denying a free run to China in seizing unoccupied islands in PEEZ.

Like pirates, the Chinese Coast Guard are even poaching in EEZ of Asian countries. Chinese have unilaterally promulgated law in the South China Sea laws that allow them to seize for 60 days without trial, foreign vessels and even fire at them -if necessary. Chinese Coast Guard is employing lethal weapons short of firearms like picks, axes, spears and rods to inflict casualties with medieval warfare equipment that the PLA used to surprise Indian troops in Galwan. Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Indonesia have quietly accepted Chinese bullying while the Philippines



backed by the US is pushing back. All these countries are hugely reliant on China for trade and BRI benefits. The Philippines like Taiwan is resisting Chinese coercion while balancing its economic relations with Beijing. Between 2000 and 2020 China committed a total of USD9.1 bn in financial support to the Philippines.

In Manila, after the violent incident near Thomas Shoal Chinese Coast Guard intercepted the Philippines Coast Guard that was trying to resupply its small island garrison. Seven Filipino sailors were wounded in the clash and one lost a thumb. Seven rifles were also impounded and have not been returned. President Bong Bong Ferdinand Marcos Jr who had recently warned China at Shangri-la Dialogue of 'consequences' and vowed not to yield 'even an inch or a millimeter' has been blowing hot and cold as have his ministers also.

The Philippines has a Mutual Defence Treaty of 1951 with the US whose conditions are more specific and binding than the US-Taiwan Act. Still, no one wants to invoke the Treaty over the 'territorial integrity of a Shoal'. American Ambassador to the Philippines Mary Carlsson said in Manila on 24 June that China should settle disputes by international law and "not bully our partners in their backyard". The US is wary of opening another



IN MANILA, AFTER THE VIOLENT INCIDENT NEAR THOMAS SHOAL CHINESE COAST GUARD INTERCEPTED THE PHILIPPINES COAST GUARD THAT WAS TRYING TO RESUPPLY ITS SMALL ISLAND GARRISON

front after Ukraine, Gaza and the Red Sea, even as the risk of accidental escalation or misunderstanding is high in the Taiwan Straits. The US plans to revive and modernize Subic Bay and adjoining Clarks Airbase and is deploying the deadly Typhon missile system at some of their ten bases in the Philippines.

The Indian Brahmos missiles are located in Luzon facing the South China Sea and can reach out to Chinese-occupied Mischief Reef, Thomas Shoal 2 and Scarborough Shoal. It is believed that some 3 to 400,000 Americans reside in the Philippines and US-Philippines relations under Marcos Jr are back to its heyday. The Philippines is actively collaborating with QUAD-US, India and Australia.

Japan and the Philippines signed a defence agreement this month that will allow the deployment of troops on each other's territory with Tokyo pledging to provide additional defence aid. Similarly, Manila and Seoul are coordinating maritime coordination and joint exercises.

South Korean shipyards are likely to receive orders to build Coast Guard vessels for the Philippines. Canada and even the European Union are coordinating maritime activities in PEEZ. None of the Philippines' brave calls for standing its ground in the South China Sea and pledges of support from its friends and allies has deterred China in its show of force.

It fielded its aircraft carrier Shandong and the world's largest Coast Guard vessel 5901 in PEEZ while at the same time, it held talks with Filipino officials on de-escalation measures this month. The code of conduct in the South China Sea under preparation for over two decades is expected to be finalized in 2026.

However, the most recent agreement is about establishing hotlines at various levels for stopping maritime incidents. From the US and Indian perspective, the Chinese claimed preeminence in the South China Sea has to be contested by QUAD, AUKUS, the new trilateral between Japan, the Philippines and South Korea. Further resistance to the reunification of Taiwan must continue and Taiwan Straits remain free for navigation and overflights.

As China's economy declines, and Asian economies grow through new supply chains and the realization of India's Act East policy, Western collective deterrence will dampen Chinese bravado in the South China Sea. The Philippines will be the immediate natural southern pillar of the Indo-Pacific strategy.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THAT GOOD MORNING THUD

Madam — Day after day, month after month and year after year, I have waited, and have been rewarded with, the familiar thud of a bundle of newspapers at my doorstep. Two newspapers rolled into a cylindrical bundle, a Hindi one for my significant other, and an English one for myself, have made their presence felt at a fixed time, and at a designated landing spot — a coir doormat placed just outside of our front door. Kudos to our "paperwallah bhaiya" whose throw never misses the mat. And what's more, the bundle always aligns itself in the North-South direction, even after a seemingly careless throw. The soft thud is much like the firing of a starter pistol before a sprint, albeit much less noisy. The familiar thud signals that yet another day has begun, and we have no time to fritter away. What remains now is to pour the hot coffee into our waiting tumblers, put on our specs and try to take the world in our stride.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

### MAMATA'S GOODWILL GESTURE

Madam — This is in response to the news report titled "Opposition curses NDA Sarkar" (July 22). A state government might not have any locus standi to offer shelter to foreign citizens within its border, but West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee must be appreciated for displaying such warmth for the innocent Bangladeshis running away from internal unrest. After all humanity must reign supreme over petty artificial international borders. So instead of maligning Banerjee with all sorts of ridiculous accusations possible, BJP leaders must ask it's own government in New Delhi to act as gallant-hearted as Indira Gandhi (during the 1971 turmoil prior to formation of Bangladesh) and allow refuge to the escaping Bangladeshis in the neighboring Indian states including West Bengal.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

## Joe Bide backs Kamala Harris



US President Joe Biden has endorsed Vice-President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, marking the end of his re-election bid. Kamala Harris pledged to do everything in her power to unite the nation. If nominated, Kamala Harris would be the second woman, following Hillary Clinton, to run for the U.S. presidency. If successful, she would make history as the first female president of the United States. Despite being the world's oldest modern

democracy, America has not yet elected a woman as president in its 236 years of electoral history. In contrast, India, a much younger democracy, elected Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister in 1966. Women face numerous hurdles in politics, including time poverty, lack of campaign funding, and fewer opportunities for political training and mentorship. Social media also facilitates personal attacks that disproportionately target women, potentially driving them out of politics, according to Silveria E. Jacobs, former Prime Minister of Sint Maarten.

If Kamala Harris breaks the American glass ceiling, it could inspire women worldwide to pursue politics and promote female leadership. Her achievement would symbolize progress and motivate more women to seek political office, enhancing gender diversity and representation in global political leadership.

Srinivas Madhav | Hyderabad

### BANGLADESH BLUES

Madam — Apropos, "Trouble in Bangladesh," Jul 22. The tragic death of about 100 people in violence triggered by the students' protest demanding a roll-back of 30 percent job reservation for relatives of veterans who fought in the 1971 war in Bangladesh, has shown the Sheikh Hasina government in poor light. The quota provision has been under fire as it apparently benefits the supporters of PM Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement. She had defended it on the grounds that veterans deserved the highest respect for their contribution to the liberation, regardless of their political affiliation. However, the PM cannot afford to ignore the present realities. A merit-based system for jobs will help Bangladesh sustain its impressive economic march. Hopefully, the government will implement the apex court's order in letter and spirit. And there is also a lesson here for India, where unemployment is a major issue and sev-

eral states have witnessed an uproar over quotas. Prioritising political considerations over ensuring a level playing field for recruitments is fraught with grave consequences.

The tragic deaths resulting from the students' protest against job reservations have cast a shadow over the Sheikh Hasina government. While the PM defends the quota for veterans, a merit-based system is essential for Bangladesh's economic progress.

The government must heed the apex court's order to ensure fairness. This situation also serves as a cautionary tale for India, where prioritising political considerations in job quotas could have serious repercussions. Now the apex court of Bangladesh has toned down the quotas it is likely that Bangladesh will once again have peace and chart on its path to progress. It will also be good for India-Bangladesh relations.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## To mitigate heatwave effects we must prioritise innovations in RE

This climatic extremity underscores the urgent need for innovative solutions in the renewable energy sector

India is no stranger to scorching summers. Recently, the country has endured its longest and most intense heatwave in recorded history, with temperatures in some areas soaring to a blistering 50 degrees Celsius.

Heatwaves in India typically occur between March and June, with May being the peak month. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) defines a heatwave as a period where temperatures exceed 40°C in plains, 37°C in coastal areas, and 30°C in hills, with significant deviations from average temperatures. When this deviation reaches 6.5°C or more, it is classified as a "severe heatwave." The public health implications of such extreme temperatures are severe. Heatstroke, dehydration, and heat exhaustion become common, exacerbating pre-existing conditions like heart disease and respiratory issues. Vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and outdoor workers, are particularly at risk. The heatwaves also impact wildlife, causing water scarcity, disrupted food chains, and habitat loss. Livestock suffers from



heat stress, affecting milk production and overall health. Global warming has raised average temperatures, creating conditions ripe for extreme weather events. Heatwaves, in turn, drive up electricity demand, straining power grids to their limits. A 2022 report from the World Meteorological Organization underscored the vicious cycle: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel-based electricity production contribute to heatwaves, which increase power demand, further straining fossil fuel resources and exacerbating the climate crisis. This highlights the urgent need for large-scale renewable energy adoption. India has ambitious renewable energy goals, aiming for 500 GW of capacity by 2030. However, the very heatwaves that renewable energy seeks

to combat pose challenges, particularly for the solar energy sector. Solar panels, primarily using photovoltaic technology, are designed for optimal efficiency between 15 and 35 degrees Celsius. As temperatures rise, their efficiency drops, with prolonged exposure to high temperatures potentially reducing efficiency by 10-25%. This is because increased thermal agitation disrupts electron flow within the circuits, decreasing voltage output. To address this challenge, several solutions are being explored. Monocrystalline panels, known for their superior performance under stress, could be a viable alternative for heatwave-prone areas, despite their higher cost. Advances in technologies like TOPCon (Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact) are also promising, enhancing the efficiency and performance of solar components in harsh environments. Additionally, incorporating advanced cooling systems, such as ventilation within panels, can manage excess heat. Using heat-resistant materials in solar panel construction could also help

withstand high temperatures with minimal efficiency loss. The intense heatwaves in India underscore the urgency of climate action. The renewable energy sector must innovate continuously to develop efficient and affordable solar panels capable of withstanding India's diverse weather patterns, from extreme heatwaves to heavy monsoons. Local geographical factors must be considered in design and deployment strategies. The country's renewable energy sector must rise to the challenge by fostering resilient technologies that can withstand extreme weather events like heatwaves. This journey demands a multi-pronged approach to accelerate the development of heat-resistant solar technologies. Promoting public-private partnerships can facilitate the large-scale deployment of these advancements, making them more accessible and affordable. Only then can India ensure a cleaner, greener legacy for future generations.

(The writer is the Chairman of Hindustan Power Group; views are personal)



RATUL PURI



## FIRST COLUMN

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF OPTIMISM

In the high-pressure maze of the corporate world, optimism emerges as a powerful antidote to stress



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

The corporate world is a maze of challenges, deadlines, and pressures that often leave an employee drained and disheartened. However, amidst this complex and mostly daunting environment, there lies a strong antidote: optimism. That very saying, "The whole world runs on hope," has within itself a very deep message that can turn around professional life and make it work wonders. Optimism, not pessimism, is not some feel-good philosophy but a very practical way to build resilience, increase productivity, and foster a more positive workplace culture. Long-term optimism is the positivity of thinking towards the occurrence of good things and ultimately positive results from our efforts. This mindset should be at the core of every working principle in a corporate setting. Projects may fail, market conditions may go for a toss, or other obstacles might impede; it is then that the optimist who views these obstacles not as insurmountable barriers but as opportunities for growth and learning.

Consider its effect on workplace morale. The optimistic frame of mind can make a lot of difference in the general feel of an office. If leaders or team members have bright, twinkling eyes and a positive outlook, this no doubt will breed others to emulate and follow in their footsteps, creating an upward spiral of sentiments. This sort of collective optimism yields openness to collaboration, increasing innovation, and a willingness to take calculated risks. A team that believes in the possibility of success is going to realize it far more than one that is bogged down in doubt and negativity. Optimism allows for an increase in resiliency. When faced with setbacks, an optimistic person is more likely to try again and views these failures as being transitory, or conquerable.

This elasticity can prove particularly useful in business circles where preservations are often what distinguish between giving up and breaking through to success. In its instance, the optimistic approach will make individuals keep themselves motivated and move consistently toward their goals, even when the odds are not favourable. Even so, optimism needs to strike a correct and delicate balance with realism. Blind optimism that is not based on the real situation brings over-optimistic expect-



tations with a sense of subsequent disappointment. The key here is to adopt realistic optimism: know the challenges, and uncertainties, but emphasise solving the problems and cultivating the outcomes. This balanced approach will keep one hopeful without losing sight of practical considerations.

One of the ignored facts about optimism is its relationship with the capability of stress management. The corporate world itself is a very stressful environment with great stakes and constant demands. Optimism hence acts as a defence mechanism against this stress and thus helps them cope better under pressure. Optimistic employees must, therefore, be more likely to resort to proactive coping strategies like problem-solving and seeking support than become prey to anxiety and despair.

This kind of camaraderie enhances job satisfaction, reducing turnover rates and generally creating a stable and harmonious work environment. Inculcating optimism in professional life does not mean one gets oblivious to challenges and uncertainties in a business environment. Instead, it is a manner of relating to them with hope and activity. Without attachment to the outcomes, giving it our best creates the opportunity for a whole lot of possibilities to start unwrapping. Life itself, much like work, is unpredictable. Embracing that uncertainty optimistically makes us able to move through the corporate landscape resiliently, creatively, and in high spirits. Optimists by choice can build a workplace that is productive, enriching, and supportive. This means that optimism is not merely a personal virtue; rather, it is a business asset with its key to professional success and better careers.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

## Income tax amendment promises relief for MSMEs



UTTAM GUPTA

The biggest problem faced by small enterprises is delayed payment of their dues by large enterprises as it results in a shortage of working capital severely impacting their production



An amendment to the Income Tax Act, introduced through Finance Act 2023, and effective from April 1, 2024 stops businesses from claiming tax deductions for payments beyond 45 days to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for supply of goods and services has caused much consternation. The MSMEs are ancillary units engaged in the production, manufacturing and processing of goods and commodities (mostly intermediate goods) which are supplied to large enterprises or master units. These units operate on a small scale and are further categorized into micro, small and medium enterprises depending on the 'investment' and 'turnover' threshold as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

A micro-enterprise is one where investment in the plant and machinery or equipment doesn't exceed Rs 10 million and turnover doesn't exceed Rs 50 million. A small enterprise is an entity where investment in the plant and machinery is less than 100 million and turnover doesn't exceed Rs 500 million. For a medium enterprise, the thresholds are set at Rs 200 million for investment in the plant and machinery or equipment and Rs 1000 million for turnover. According to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the share of MSME Gross Value Added (GVA) in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is around 30 per cent. The share of MSME manufacturing output in all India Manufacturing output is even higher at around 36 per cent.

The share of export of MSME-specified products in all India exports has oscillated between 44-50 per cent during the last couple of years, according to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIIS). As for employment, according to a report released by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), MSMEs in India contribute 62 per cent to the total. Looking at the omnibus 'informal' sector - apart from MSMEs, it also includes proprietary household and partnership establishments - its contribution to employment is even higher at more than 75 per cent whereas in GDP its share is almost 50 per cent. The MSMEs thus play a predominant

role in shaping the prospects of the economy more so in promoting 'inclusive' development with particular emphasis on increasing employment and income and reducing income inequalities.

Yet, they have borne the brunt of far-reaching economic decisions implemented by the Modi - Government during its first two terms such as demonetization (2016) and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), 2017 also the devastating impact of the Corona - pandemic (2020). The government has taken several mitigation steps including a Rs 500,000 crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for businesses/MSMEs; equity infusion of Rs 50,000 crore through MSME Self-Reliant India Fund; no global tenders for procurement up to Rs. 200 crores (it bolsters their chances of securing government contract); relaxing threshold for classification of MSMEs; extension of non-tax benefits for 3 years in case of an upward change in status of MSMEs; inclusion of retail and wholesale trades as MSMEs; launch of Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) to bring the Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) under the formal ambit for availing the benefit under Priority Sector Lending (PSL); launch of an online Portal "Champions" to cover various aspects of e-governance including grievance redress and handholding of MSMEs and so on.

Even as all these initiatives seek to address issues of credit availability, technology infusion, market support etc, a problem haunting small enterprises has to do with delayed payment of their dues by large enterprises. When they don't receive payment for the goods supplied by them, it results in a shortage of working capital severely impacting their ability to continue with production. To address this problem, Section 15 of the MSMEs Development Act 2006, had mandated payments to micro

and small enterprises within 45 days in case of written agreement (in case, there was no written agreement, the time limit was set at 15 days). In 2019, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs came up with the Specified Companies (Furnishing of information about payment to micro and small enterprise suppliers) Order that required large firms to file returns every six months even if there is no outstanding to MSME beyond 45 days.

Yet, the problem persisted forcing numerous firms to down shutters. This prompted the Union Government to look for a solution under the IT Act (1961). The Finance Act 2023, inserted Section 43B(h) in the IT Act (1961), which prescribes that if a larger company doesn't make payments to micro and small enterprises within 45 days in case of written agreements, it cannot deduct that expense while calculating the taxable income of the relevant financial year. How does it impact the large enterprises? To arrive at the profits during a financial year (FY) and hence the income on which tax is levied (known in IT parlance as 'taxable income'), a company deducts all expenses incurred on running the business from the total revenue it earns. The payments made by it for the purchase of goods from the MSMEs are an important item of expense; therefore it is deductible from the revenue.

If, it doesn't pay the small firm say Rs 5 lakh within the prescribed 45 days, Section 43B(h) will kick in and the large firm won't be allowed to deduct this amount in that FY thereby increasing its taxable income to that extent. So, it will end up paying more tax during that FY. Taking an effective corporate tax of 34.9 per cent (basic corporate tax of 30 per cent plus 12 per cent surcharge plus 4 per cent Health & Education Cess), the extra tax works out to Rs 174,500/-. This will

be a deterrent strong enough to dissuade large enterprises from holding back payments to MSMEs.

It is not as if this extra tax ends up impacting the company's balance sheet forever. This additional tax paid (albeit due to delays in making payments to MSMEs) can be adjusted the following year when the company pays the supplier. The Section thus strikes a good balance between the interests of all stakeholders. Even while creating a strong incentive for large enterprises to prioritize payments to the MSMEs thereby bolstering the latter's financial health and growth, it doesn't unduly penalize the former. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also relaxed the reporting requirements under its 2019 Order. A notification issued on July 15, 2024, requires that "only those specified companies which are having payments pending to any micro or small enterprises for more than 45 days from the date of acceptance or the date of deemed acceptance of the goods or services under section 9 of the MSMEs Development Act, 2006 shall furnish the information". Earlier, they were required to furnish even if there was no outstanding to MSME beyond 45 days.

Yet, industries and businesses have asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to defer the implementation of the clause in the IT Act by a year to April 2025. At the same time, we see reports of large enterprises arm-twisting small firms by deciding not to buy from MSMEs; instead deal with those MSMEs that are not registered with the Udyam portal (It's an online system for registering MSMEs, launched by the Union MSME ministry) or from non-MSMEs. This must be avoided. Section 43B(h) of the IT Act should be given a fair chance to succeed.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)



A MICRO-ENTERPRISE IS ONE WHERE INVESTMENT IN THE PLANT AND MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT DOESN'T EXCEED RS 10 MILLION AND TURNOVER DOESN'T EXCEED RS 50 MILLION

## India introduces three new criminal laws: A shift from colonial past

While some legal bodies have criticised the new laws, other see these laws as a transformative step towards a modern justice system

At the onset, with the introduction of three new criminal laws, launched on July 1st, some of the legal bodies and other civil organisations opposed the move stating it to have been introduced without 'much discussion' in the Parliament. Whereas, some of legal experts consider it to be a 'New Avatar' that will enable the country to have a paradigm shift from favoured colonial laws to a contemporary India. The laws; of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) have replaced the almost 150 years ago laws of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian



MANOJ VARGHESE

Evidence Act (IEA), formulated during the British regime. The new laws will bring in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes. With around 20 new offences added, 40 offences amended, 83 new fines imposed and six community services introduced, the

new laws are all set to deliver speedy justice in the public interest.

The new laws are framed on the lines of 'citizen first, honour first and justice first'. The general impression is that the police will now need to work with 'data' instead of 'danda' (baton). Universally, introducing and executing a change in any system is a challenging task. Above all, a change in the legal system is a complex mechanism for adaptation. "Change is inevitable, and progressive laws are good for any nation", says Prof Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, of Indraprastha University.

The police need to understand that they cannot refuse to register an FIR based on lack of jurisdiction or disputed

jurisdiction. It is tough for them to bring it into practice as the number of cases filed in their jurisdiction will bring in a bad reputation for their respective Police station.

They are now legally bound to register (Zero FIR) and transfer such a case to the respective police station. Section 37 of the BNSS requires a police officer in every police station, not below the rank of Assistant Sub-inspector, to be responsible for maintaining and prominently displaying information about the arrested persons. Justice M L Mehta, Former Judge of Delhi High Court says, "Law is a set of norms enshrined by state for the welfare of the people. Law is the efficacious remedy for legal system. Delays are unavoidable mechanism in the legal system.



With only 20% cases reaching the court, over five crore cases are pending. It is a herculean task and will take over 300 years to dispose of these pending cases."

As per the BNSS, the new laws prioritise the investigations of crimes against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information

(Section 193). Summons can now be served electronically (Sections 64, 70, 71). Courts grant a maximum of two adjournments to avoid unnecessary delays in case hearings (Section 346).

The new laws mandate all state governments to implement the Witness Protection Scheme (Section 398). A new chapter has been added to the BNS specifically to address offences against women and children (Chapter V) and the introduction of community service for minor offences (Sections 4, 202, 209, 226, 303, 355, 356). For its effective implementation, and creating awareness among all stakeholders including police, prisons, prosecutors, judicial, forensic personnel as well as the general public, the

Government has organised several rounds of orientation and training programs. The awareness is happening at different levels to understand the legal system better concerning the newly introduced three criminal laws. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has made 23 functional modifications to the existing CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) application to facilitate technology compatibility with new criminal laws, including the filing of an FIR. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has developed 13 training modules for capacity building of police, prisons, prosecutors, judicial officers, forensic experts and central police organisations.

The Bar Council of India has made it mandatory to include the three new criminal laws in the curriculum of universities and legal education centres from the academic year 2024-25. Justice Talwant Singh, Former Judge of Delhi High Court is all praise for the role of academicians in drafting the new laws. He suggests that in the days to come the country will require an ample number of forensic experts. In contrast, the more new laws are unfolded; the more is the possibility of its lacunae being exposed. Is growing incidents of crime good for police and lawyers, is a million-dollar question! (The writer is former editor with Free Press Journal and Media Advisor to Delhi Govt. Presently Media Advisor to GGSIPU; views are personal)

# Palestinian factions unite after China-brokered talks

PTI ■ BEIJING

In a rare show of solidarity amidst the war in Gaza, 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, have jointly pledged to end their deep divisions and strengthen Palestinian unity by signing a declaration on Tuesday at a meeting brokered by China.

China's Foreign Ministry, which coordinated the dialogue among the rival factions for the past three days, said on Tuesday that the declaration was a first step to promote a "comprehensive, durable and sustainable ceasefire" in the Gaza Strip battered by Israeli attacks.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi who met the leaders' factions said the signing of the agreement was "an important, historic moment in the Palestinian cause". He said that under the deal the rival groups had agreed to set up an "interim national reconciliation government" to govern post-war Gaza.

The pact aims to unite Palestinians in their conflict with Israel which launched the war against Hamas in Gaza in October last year following the abduction of over 200 Israeli hostages.

Signatories included senior Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzuk and Fatah envoy Mahmoud al-Aloul along with emissaries from 12 other Palestinian groups.

The Chinese foreign ministry said it was the first time the 14 rival groups had gathered together in Beijing for reconciliation talks.

"Reconciliation is an internal matter for the Palestinian factions, but at the same time it cannot be achieved without the support of the international community," Wang said.

"The core outcome is that the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) is the sole legitimate representative of all Palestinian people," Wang said, adding that "an agreement has been reached on post-Gaza war governance and the establishment of a provisional national reconciliation government." It was unclear from Wang's comments what role Hamas, which is not part of the PLO, would play in such an arrangement, or what the immediate impact of any deal would be.

## Israeli govt quietly funds West Bank settler outposts

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli government has budgeted millions of dollars to protect small, unauthorized Jewish farms in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, underwriting tiny outposts meant to grow into fully-fledged settlements, according to an anti-settlement monitoring group.

Documents uncovered by Peace Now illustrate how Israel's pro-settler government has quietly poured money into the unauthorized outposts, which are separate from its more than 100 officially recognized settlements. Some of those outposts have been linked to settler violence against Palestinians and are sanctioned by the US. Palestinians and the international community say all settlements are illegal or illegitimate and undermine hopes for a two-state solution.

The Ministry of Settlements and National Mission, which is headed by a far-right settler leader, confirmed it budgeted 75 million shekels (USD 20.5 million) last year for security equipment for "young settlements" — the term it uses for unauthorized Jewish farms and outposts in the West Bank. The money was quietly authorized in December while the country's attention was focused on the war against Hamas in Gaza.

Peace Now said the funds have been used for vehicles, drones, cameras, generators, electric gates, fences and new roads that reach some of the more remote farms. The group estimates approximately 500 people live on the small, unauthorized farms and 25,000 more live in larger outposts. Those outposts, while not officially authorized by the government, often receive tacit support before they are retroactively legalized.

Hagit Ofra, director of Peace Now's "settlement watch" program, said the funding was the first time the Israeli government has channeled money to the outposts so openly.

Rights groups say the expanding network of remote farms atop



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, center, hosts an event for Mahmoud al-Aloul, left, vice chairman of Fatah, and Mussa Abu Marzuk, a senior member of Hamas, to meet at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Tuesday. AP/PTI

West Bank hilltops are the primary drivers of violence and displacement of Palestinians.

In the last month alone, Israel's government has legalized five formerly unauthorized settlements and made the largest land grab in the West Bank in three decades, declaring a wide swath of the territory state land in preparation for new construction.

Palestinians say violence by people associated with these farms has soared since Hamas' October 7 attack, which sparked Israel's war against the militant group in the Gaza Strip. On Friday, the top United Nations court said Israel's presence in the Palestinian territories is unlawful and called for an immediate halt to settlement construction.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly denounced the nonbinding opinion, saying the territories are part of the Jewish people's historic homeland.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza — areas claimed by the Palestinians for a future state — in the 1967 Mideast war. It has settled over 5,00,000 Jews in the West Bank, most of whom live on authorized settlements, in addition to over 2,00,000 others in contest-

# Rishi Sunak to remain interim UK Opposition leader until Nov 2

PTI ■ LONDON

Rishi Sunak will remain in place as the UK's interim Opposition Leader for over three months after the Conservative Party set out the timetable to elect his successor by November, with nominations opening on Wednesday. The 1922 Committee of backbench members of Parliament responsible for the Tory leadership race on Monday evening unveiled a two-phase election process that will see the new leader being installed on November 2. The 44-year-old British Indian leader, who had announced his resignation on July 5 after the party's worst general election defeat, had said he would remain in place as interim Tory leader until his successor has been elected.

"I will stay in post until November 2 and the result of our leadership election," said Sunak.



"This will allow our party to fulfil its role as the official opposition professionally and effectively. I believe this is what is best for the Conservative Party and, most importantly, our country," he said.

"It would be inappropriate for me to make any comment about the leadership campaign or candidates. I am confident that this timetable decided by the party board and the 1922 Committee will allow for a thoughtful, professional and respectful contest," he added.

Among the leading Tories expected to contest to become the Opposition Leader include former Indian-origin home secretary Priti Patel and Suella Braverman, shadow ministers James Cleverly, Kemi Badenoch, Tom Tugendhat and Mel Stride, and former minister Robert Jenrick.

To be nominated, each candidate will require a proposer, seconder, and eight further nominations which would mean a maximum of 11 possible Tory MPs could be on the ballot paper by the time nominations close on July 29. This will be followed by a first round of campaigning in August after which the Conservative Parliamentary Party will whittle down the candidates to four MPs, with votes scheduled between September 4 and 11.

The Tory party conference between September 29 and October 2 will be seen as a so-

called "beauty contest" when the four finalists will be given key speaking slots to address the wider Conservative membership and make their pitch. The parliamentary party will get a second-round vote to further whittle down candidates to the final two by October 10, who will go ahead for a head-to-head clash in an online ballot by the entire Tory membership.

After voting closes on October 31, the winner will be declared on November 2. Bob Blackman, the newly elected Chair of the 1922 committee, said he believed this timetable would allow for "a respectful and thorough leadership debate."

"While there are significant debates to be had about our party's future, we must remember that the country — and our members — want to see us engaged in proper debate not personal attacks," he said.

## Taiwan cancels air force drills due to approaching typhoon

AP ■ TAIPEI

An approaching typhoon prompted the cancellation of air force drills off Taiwan's east coast on Tuesday, although naval and land exercises were set to continue in other parts of the self-governing island democracy, which China threatens to invade. The Air Force 5th Tactical Mixed Wing announced the cancellation, citing adverse weather conditions. According to the Central Weather Bureau, Typhoon Gaemi was heading westward toward the island with sustained winds of 144 km (about 90 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 180 kph (110 mph). Ferries and some domestic flights were cancelled Tuesday, Taiwan's Central News Agency said. Military spokesperson Sun Li-fang said the annual Han Kuang military exercises are on track to continue with adjustments to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment, although some sea and air exercises would be altered due to the weather.

This year's drills follow the election of Lai Cheng-te as presi-



dent, who continues the Democratic Progressive Party's near-decade in power. The party rejects Beijing's demands it recognises Taiwan as a Chinese territory.

Taiwan's military has long relied on support from the United States, but has in recent years reinvigorated its domestic arms industry, producing submarines and training aircraft that complement upgraded weapon systems purchased from abroad.

Taipei and the surrounding regions also held a regularly scheduled air raid drill Tuesday

afternoon, with sirens sounding, vehicles parking and pedestrians clearing the streets to enter buildings and metro stations as they would in the event of an air attack from China or a natural disaster. Troops were also deployed to the port of Tamsui, a key entryway to Taipei's river system which a motor boat from China entered last month. The boat apparently went undetected by radar and other security systems in what was seen as a test of Taiwan's capacity to respond to covert missions by the Chinese military.

## UK police warn: Violence against women at 'epidemic' levels

London (AP): Violence against women and girls has reached "epidemic levels" and police are treating it as a threat on the same scale as terrorism, Britain's police chiefs said Tuesday.

More than 1 million violent crimes against women and girls were recorded by UK police in 2022 to 2023 — accounting for one-fifth of all recorded crime, a new report commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing said.

One in every six murders was related to domestic abuse in the same period. At least one in every 12 women each year will be a victim of crimes including sexual offenses, rape, stalking, harassment or online sexual abuse, the report estimated, with the exact number thought to be much higher because of crimes that go unreported.

"Violence against women and girls is a national emergency," Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth said in a statement.

## British Pakistani radical preacher faces life term

London (PTI): Anjem Choudary, a radical Islamist preacher with dual British and Pakistani nationality, was on Tuesday found guilty of directing a banned terrorist organisation and faces life imprisonment in the UK following a joint international investigation.

Choudary, 57, was found to have taken on a "caretaker role" in the Al-Muhajiroun (ALM) and a trial at Woolwich Crown Court in London heard that he directed the terror group for a significant period after 2014 and encouraged support for it by addressing online meetings.

He now faces a life imprisonment term when he is sentenced on July 30 following the conviction, which was the result of investigations by the Metropolitan Police, the New York Police Department, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"ALM's tentacles have spread across the world and have had a massive impact on public safety and security," said Commander Dominic Murphy, head of the Metropolitan Police's Counter-Terrorism Command. ALM was first proscribed, or banned, by the UK in 2006 under the name Al Ghurabaa. In 2010, ALM was included in the ban as an alternate name. Choudary was one of the original three members of ALM, which was founded in 1996.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said he was still acting as its leader as late as July 2023, making online speeches to a US-based offshoot called Islamic Thinkers Society (ITS). That group was infiltrated by undercover law enforcement officers in the US, who were present at online lectures in 2022 and 2023. The court heard that Choudary said he viewed being called an extremist as a "medal" during lectures. Choudary was released early from a five-year sentence for inviting support for the Islamic State (ISIS) terror group in October 2018 but his licence conditions prevented him from using the internet until July 2021.

## Trump's lawyers urge NY appeals court to overturn 'egregious' civil fraud verdict

AP ■ NEW YORK

Fresh off victories in other legal cases, Donald Trump on Monday pressed a New York appeals court to overturn the nearly USD 500 million New York civil fraud judgment that threatens to drain his personal cash reserves as he campaigns to retake the White House. In paperwork filed with the state's mid-level appeals court, the former president's lawyers said Manhattan Judge Arthur Engoron's Feb. 16 finding that Trump lied to banks, insurers and others about his wealth was "erroneous" and "egregious."

Trump's appeal arguments echoed many of the gripes he delivered during his trial to TV cameras outside the courtroom. His lawyers argued that New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit should have been promptly dismissed, the statute of limitations barred some allegations, that no one was harmed by Trump's alleged

fraud and that James' involvement in private business transactions threatens to drive business out of the state.

Trump's lawyers contend that Engoron's decision, if upheld, would bestow James, a Democrat, with "limitless power to target anyone she desires, including her self-described political opponents," Trump's lawyers wrote in a 116-page filing with the Appellate Division of the state's trial court. Engoron rejected many of the same objections as the case proceeded to trial last year, at one point equating them to the plot of the film "Groundhog Day" and fining some of Trump's lawyers USD 7,500 each for "repetitive, frivolous" argument.

Trump posted a USD 175 million bond in April to halt collection of the judgment and prevent James' office from seizing his assets while he appeals. If he wins, he won't have to pay the state anything and will get back the money he has put up

now.

"Such an outrageous miscarriage of justice is profoundly un-American, and a complete reversal is the only means available to restore public confidence in the integrity of the New York judicial system," Trump lawyer Christopher Kise said in a statement. He called Engoron's decisions "legally bereft" and "untethered to the law or to commercial reality," and described the staggering judgment as "draconian, unlawful, and unconstitutional."

The Appellate Division has said it will hear oral arguments in late September. Trump's lawyers initiated the appeal days after Engoron's ruling and had until Monday to file written arguments.

James' office said Trump and his lawyers are raising ungrounded arguments. "We won this case based on the facts and the law, and we are confident we will prevail on appeal," James' office said in a statement. Monday's appeal filing is the lat-

## Harris visits battleground Wisconsin in first rally

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris is making her first visit to a battleground state Tuesday after locking up enough support from Democratic delegates to win her party's nomination to challenge Republican former President Donald Trump, two days after President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid. As the Democratic Party continues to coalesce around her, Harris is travelling to Milwaukee, where she will hold her first campaign rally since she launched her campaign on Sunday with Biden's endorsement. Harris has raised more than USD 100 million since Sunday afternoon and has scored the backing of Democratic officials and political groups.

Tuesday's visit was scheduled before Biden ended his campaign, but it took on new resonance as Harris prepared to take up the mantle of her party

against Trump and looks to project calm and confidence after weeks of Democratic Party confusion over Biden's political future. The visit comes a week after the Republican National Convention wrapped up in the city and as Harris works to sharpen her message against the GOP nominee with just over 100 days until Election Day. Wisconsin is part of the Democrats' "blue wall" of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania that is critical to their 2024 plans.

The vice president previewed the themes that will be prominent in her campaign against Trump on Monday during a stop at her campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware, contrasting her time as a prosecutor with Trump's felony convictions — "I know Donald Trump's type," she said — and casting herself as a defender of economic opportunity and abortion access.

"This election will present a clear choice between two different visions. Donald Trump wants to take our country back to a time before many of us had full freedoms and equal rights," she said in a statement responding to the AP delegate tally. "I believe in a future that strengthens our democracy, protects reproductive freedom and ensures every person has the opportunity to not just get by, but to get ahead."

"I am grateful to President Biden and everyone in the Democratic Party who has already put their faith in me, and I look forward to taking our case directly to the American people," she added.

By Monday night, Harris, who also ran for president in 2020, had the support of well more than the 1,976 delegates she'll need to win on a first ballot, according to the AP tally of delegates. No other candidate was named by a delegate contacted by the AP.

## Nearly 40 mn had HIV in 2023: UN

United Nations (AP): Nearly 40 million people were living with the HIV virus that causes AIDS last year, over 9 million weren't getting any treatment, and the result was that every minute someone died of AIDS-related causes, the UN said in a new report launched Monday.

While advances are being made to end the global AIDS pandemic, the report said progress has slowed, funding is shrinking, and new infections are rising in three regions: the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America.

In 2023, around 630,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses, a significant decline from the 2.1 million deaths in 2004. But the latest figure is more than double the target for 2025 of fewer than 250,000 deaths, according to the report

by UNAIDS, the UN agency leading the global effort to end the pandemic.

Gender inequality is exacerbating the risks for girls and women, the report said, citing the extraordinarily high incidence of HIV among adolescents and young women in parts of Africa.

The proportion of new infections globally among marginalised communities that face stigma and discrimination — sex workers, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs also increased to 55 per cent in 2023 from 45 per cent in 2010, it said.

UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima said: "World leaders pledged to end the AIDS pandemic as a public health threat by 2030, and they can uphold their promise, but only if they ensure that the HIV response has the resources it

## BAPS Hindu temple vandalised in Canada

PTI ■ OTTAWA

A BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in the Canadian city of Edmonton has been vandalised with alleged hateful and anti-India graffiti, amidst rising Hinduophobia in the country. The Consulate General of India in Vancouver said in a post on X: "We condemn the defacing of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in #Edmonton with anti-India graffiti. We have requested the Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action against the perpetrators." There has been no reaction as yet from the BAPS — the B o c h a s a n w a s i A k s h a r p u r s h o t t a m Swaminarayan Sanstha, the organisation that runs the temple. Also, there are no reports yet of any official action against the vandalism that took place on Monday morning. "Earlier today,

the Edmonton BAPS Mandir was vandalised with paint, displaying hateful rhetoric on the walls of what should be a place of refuge. Hate has no part in Canada — much less in places of worship & prayer. This incident is wrong & goes against the values of our city," said Randy Boissonnault, Member of Parliament /Deputy — Edmonton Centre.

A statement from the Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce (CHCC), dedicated to promoting the interests of the Hindu business community in Canada, said, "The act of vandalism is not only an attack on a physical structure but also an affront to the sentiments of the Hindu community and the principles of respect and tolerance that our society holds dear." It condemned the "senseless act of hate" and the "rising tide of Hinduophobia" across Canada and said, "These incidents are deeply troubling and

have no place in our multicultural and inclusive society."

The CHCC urged the Canadian government and local authorities to take immediate and effective measures to combat Hinduophobia and protect religious institutions and communities from such acts of violence and intolerance, the statement said and called for united efforts.

Last year, there were at least three incidents of attacks on Hindu temples, including at Mississauga, Brampton and Windsor, and some saw Khalistani referendum posters with veiled threats to Hindus.

The latest vandalism in Edmonton also invoked strong reactions from all quarters, including from elected public representatives.

Chandra Arya, a member of Parliament from Nepean in the House of Commons said, "During the last few years, Hindu

temples in the Greater Toronto Area, British Columbia and other places in Canada are being vandalised with hateful graffiti. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of Sikhs for Justice last year publicly called for Hindus to go back to India."

"Khalistani supporters publicly celebrated in Brampton and Vancouver the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and brandishing images of deadly weapons," he said in a post on X and added, "As I have always been saying, Khalistani extremists seems to get away with ease with their public rhetoric of hate and violence." "Again, let me put it on record, Hindu-Canadians are legitimately concerned. Like a broken record, I again call on Canadian law enforcement agencies to take this issue seriously before these rhetorics get translated into physical action against Hindu-Canadians," he said.



# Death toll in Ethiopia mudslides rises to 157

AP ■ ADDIS ABABA

At least 157 people were killed in mudslides in a remote part of Ethiopia that has been hit with heavy rainfall, many of them as they tried to rescue survivors of an earlier mudslide, local authorities said Tuesday. Young children and pregnant women were among the victims of the mudslides in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi district of southern Ethiopia, said Dagmawi Ayele, a local administrator. The death toll rose from 55 late Monday to 157 on Tuesday as search operations continued in the area, said Kassahun Abayneh, head of the Gofa Zone communications office. Gofa Zone is the administrative area where the mudslides occurred. Most of the victims were buried in a mudslide on Monday morning as rescue workers searched the steep terrain for survivors of another mudslide the previous day. At least five people have been pulled alive from the mud, Ayele said. Another official in Gofa, Markos Melese, said many people remained unaccounted for among the group that was covered by mud while trying to rescue others.



In this handout photo released by Gofa Zone Government Communication Affairs Department, hundreds of people gather at the site of a mudslide in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi district, Gofa Zone, southern Ethiopia, Monday, July 22, 2024. At least 146 people were killed in mudslides in a remote part of Ethiopia that has been hit with heavy rainfall, according to local authorities. AP/PTI

"We are still searching for the missing," said Melese, director of the disaster response agency in Gofa Zone. "There are children who are hugging corpses, having lost their entire family, including

mother, father, brother and sister, due to the accident," he said. Landslides are common during Ethiopia's rainy season, which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September.

# Imran & wife seek int'l standard jail amenities

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Jailed Pakistan prime minister has moved a top court here to get jail amenities in line with international standards for him and his wife, according to a media report on Tuesday. Geo News reported that Khan and Bushra Bibi filed the petition at Islamabad High Court on Monday to seek "high-quality facilities" at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail where they are lodged. The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who was ousted from his office via a no-confidence motion in 2022, has been in prison for more than a year after his arrest in various cases, including the Toshakhana, cipher, and the un-Islamic marriage cases. Bushra, 49, has also been behind bars for months in the Un-Islamic marriage case as well as the Toshakhana corruption case. In the plea filed by their lawyer Azhar Siddique, the secretaries of cabinet, interior and law have been made parties. It was also prayed that the Punjab chief secretary, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and Islamabad Inspector General are also made parties in the case, Geo News reported. Additionally, the IHC was urged to order the Adiala Jail administration to

## Imran's residence was used as 'terrorist training hub'

Lahore (PTI): Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's residence here became a "training hub for terrorists", where petrol bombs were made and attacks on the state were planned, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz claimed on Tuesday. Maryam claimed that during a four-month period when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader feigned leg injuries, they orchestrated the May 9, 2023, attacks on government buildings and key military installations. In a statement, Maryam condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as a group focused on creating chaos and damaging the state. The Express Tribune newspaper reported. The daughter of former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party supreme Nawaz Sharif claimed that the cricketer-turned-politician's residence in Lahore, Zaman Park, had become a "training hub for terrorists",

where petrol bombs were made, and attacks on the state were planned, the report added. The May 9 riots were triggered across the country after 71-year-old Khan was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a 190-million-pound corruption case. He faces over 200 cases and has been in jail since August last year. Hundreds of PTI workers and senior leaders were put behind bars for their involvement in violence and attacks on military installations, including the Jinnah House, ISI building in Faisalabad and General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, last year on May 9. The Punjab Chief Minister also accused PTI of conspiring to default the country, writing letters to the International Monetary Fund, waving cipher messages (diplomatic cables), and disrespecting memorials as part of a larger plot. Maryam called for strict action against the PTI under the Constitution and law, citing national security and interests.

ensure the implementation of international conventions, constitutional sections and jail rules for the political inmates.

The plea also requested that a complete list of those persons who wanted to meet the jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI

founder at the Rawalpindi jail should be summoned, as well as a report on the duration of their meetings. The lawyer, in his petition, also pleaded with the court to ascertain the reasons from relevant authorities if the ex-premier was kept in solitary confinement. The fresh petition was filed after Khan claimed in an interview with British newspaper The Sunday Times through his lawyers that he was imprisoned in a death cell, where "terrorists" are kept to ensure "they have no contact with anyone". The federal cabinet rejected Khan's claims on Monday and termed his prison cell a presidential suite which is "better than a middle-class person's house". The former prime minister has claimed many times that he's not being provided several facilities, however, the government submitted documentary evidence of facilities being provided to the PTI founder in Adiala Jail, rebutting his claims that he was being kept in solitary confinement. The photos shared with the court showed that the PTI founder was provided with several facilities, such as an exercise bike and stretching belt for physical fitness, books, a separate kitchen, a special menu, an exclusive gallery for walking, LED, a room cooler and a study table since he's a

former prime minister. Earlier this month, there was hope that the former couple would be released from prison after a court suspended their sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case, while other courts overturned his convictions in the cipher and iddat cases, respectively. However, their hopes were dashed when NAB arrested them on fresh charges related to the sale of state gifts. The chances of Khan's release from jail further dimmed after the Lahore police declared his arrest in several cases related to the May 9, 2023, riots that erupted after his detainment from the IHC premises last year in which protesters targeted government and military installations. In the new Toshakhana corruption case, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the anti-corruption watchdog, accused the couple of purchasing a jewellery set from the Toshakhana and selling it by violating the laws. Toshakhana is a repository where presents handed to government officials from foreign officials are kept. According to Toshakhana rules, gifts/presents and other such materials received by persons to whom these rules apply shall be reported to the Cabinet Division. Earlier, the two were arrested on July 13 following their acquittal in the un-Islamic marriage case.

# Pak PM sets ambitious goal to increase exports to \$60 bn within 3 years

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday set an ambitious goal to increase the cash-strapped country's exports to USD 60 billion within three years. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader was chairing the National Export Development Board meeting in Islamabad, where he directed the Ministry of Commerce and relevant agencies to implement practical measures to achieve this target. According to state-run Radio Pakistan, Sharif "directed the Ministry of Commerce and other relevant departments to take practical steps to achieve the export target of sixty billion dollars in the next three years". He said the country's exports exceeded USD 30 billion last fiscal year, and IT exports surpassed USD 3.2 billion, terming it a positive sign. He also instructed that the issues highlighted by exporters should be resolved within the next two weeks, with a report to be submitted. "I will personally chair the National Export Development Board meetings every month and a half. We must all work hard for Pakistan's progress. Despite challenging circumstances, I salute the business personalities and investors who

have played their part in increasing Pakistan's exports," he said. The prime minister also instructed the Ministry of Commerce to finalise policy proposals in collaboration with representatives from export-capable sectors. He also tasked the Ministry of National Food Security to work with provinces to improve extension services, ensuring high-quality seeds and further processing of agricultural products for export. Sharif emphasised the importance of introducing high-yielding varieties of agricultural products and resolving shipping issues to reduce delivery times to Europe and the US. "To boost exports and create a unique identity for Pakistani products, focus on research and development, innovation, and brand development," he said. The premier said that any delay in exporters' refunds by the Federal Bureau of Revenue will not be tolerated while trade officers in Pakistani embassies worldwide should facilitate exports and guide Pakistani exporters. The prime minister asked for a comprehensive plan from the Ministry of Power to reduce electricity costs for industries, highlighting that the private sector plays a crucial role in a country's development and should be included in policy formation to address their issues.

# China agrees to bolster coop with Maldives in infrastructure projects

PTI ■ BEIJING/ MALE

China has agreed to strengthen its collaboration in key infrastructure and renewable energy projects that are vital for the sustainable development of the Maldives, Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer said on Tuesday. Zameer said that he held a "fruitful meeting" with Luo Zhaohui, chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) where they discussed key infrastructure projects. Zameer further said that he was "delighted" to have witnessed the signing of the Letter of Exchange on the feasibility study for the redevelopment of Malé and Villimalé Roads Project, a key pledge of President Mohamed Muizzu's government. The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in key infrastructure projects that are vital for the sustainable development of the Maldives, the Maldivian foreign ministry said in a press release. Zameer emphasised the importance of the partnership between the Maldives and CIDCA, highlighting ongoing initiatives and exploring new opportunities for cooperation. Both sides agreed on the importance of timely implementation of projects that will improve infrastructure and

enhance economic growth in the Maldives, thus providing substantial benefits for the Maldivian people, the release said. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to collaborate closely, ensuring the successful execution of future initiatives that benefit both nations, it said. Earlier, Zameer shared photos from his meeting with Jin Lique, president and chair of the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). "Greatly appreciate AIIB's support over the years in promoting and protecting our interests through deeper partnerships and innovation, notably the Greater Malé Waste-to-Energy Project," he wrote. Zameer said they also discussed potential funding avenues for President Muizzu's ambitious development agenda, especially for infrastructure investments in connectivity projects and renewable energy. The Maldives foreign minister also met with the chairman of China EXIM Bank Wu Fulin. Zameer said he briefed him on the latest fiscal and economic updates and also on the reform programme announced by President Dr Muizzu. He said the discussion was focused on financing key development projects and potential future collaborations. On Monday,

Zameer met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and briefed him on the economic and fiscal situation in the Maldives, emphasising the importance of carrying out diligently, the fiscal reforms announced by President Muizzu. Zameer also requested China's support in carrying out the reform programme that will foster consumer and investor confidence in the Maldivian economy, thereby positively impacting the island nation's economic resilience. Foreign Minister Zameer was accompanied by Mohamed Shafeeq, Minister of Finance, Abdulla Muththalib, Minister of Construction and Infrastructure and senior officials. China has scaled up its relations with Maldives, since Muzuz, widely regarded as a pro-Beijing leader, took over power last year. In May, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned the Maldives that it faces a high risk of debt distress without significant policy changes. The IMF noted that the Maldives' current account deficit is expected to remain large and that its overall fiscal deficits and public debt are projected to stay elevated. Subsequently, the Muizzu government sought restructuring of loans from China. The Maldives' debt to China reportedly amounted to over USD 1.3 billion.

# PPP challenges SC verdict allocating reserved seats to Imran Khan's party

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Bilawal Bhutto Zardari-led Pakistan Peoples Party on Tuesday challenged the Supreme Court verdict allocating reserved seats to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party a week after its ruling coalition partner Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) submitted a review petition, according to a media report. On July 12, a 13-member full bench of the apex court ruled that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was eligible for the seats reserved for women and minorities in the National Assembly and provincial assemblies, which would make Imran Khan's party the largest in Parliament. Although several leaders from the ruling coalition were apprehensive of the Supreme Court's judgment, it was Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of PML-N party supreme Nawaz Sharif, who launched a salvo against the Supreme Court verdict saying, "I would like to ask the SC judges to let the country function." Maryam expressed her surprise and questioned the legitimacy of reinstating individuals she described as "criminals of the nation", The Express Tribune newspaper

reported. The PPP's review petition seeks to overturn the July 12 decision that previously annulled the decisions of the Peshawar High Court and the Election Commission of Pakistan directing that the reserved seats be allocated to PTI. This ruling affirmed PTI's status as a legitimate party within Parliament and provincial assemblies and if implemented in letter and spirit, the party will become the largest in the National Assembly as its seats will soar from 86 to 109 after it gains 23 seats reserved for women and minorities. The ruling PML-N party-led government on July 15 already filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against its decision to allocate reserved seats to PTI. The Supreme Court has scheduled the hearing of the review petitions after the September holidays. However, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, dissenting from the majority decision, argued that the summer holidays should be cancelled to address the review petitions promptly, the report said. Isa emphasised that the Constitution should take precedence over the convenience of judges, stating that delaying the hearing would be unjust, the newspaper said.

# Qureshi seeks open trial in May 9 riots case

Lahore (PTI): Former Pakistan foreign minister and veteran opposition politician Shah Mahmood Qureshi has sought an open trial instead of an in-camera trial in connection with the May 9 riots case. Qureshi, a senior leader of jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, is accused of abetment to the attack on Shadman police station here following Khan's arrest on May 9 last year. He has denied all charges against him but was indicted in this case. Punjab police shifted Qureshi, 68, to Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail from Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi last week and was on Monday presented before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), a hearing for which was held at the Kot Lakhpat Jail. During the hearing, the ATC-1 Lahore Judge Khalid Arshad directed the lawyers of Qureshi and other suspects to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses in the Shadman police station attack case. Most of the prosecution witnesses are policemen. During the hearing, Qureshi, who is the PTI party's vice-chairman, requested the court to hold an open trial in the case. "Open trial is my fundamental right. The public should know about the allegations and evidence against me and other suspects in the fake cases of May 9," he pleaded.

# Maduro strengthens Venezuela military support ahead of critical vote

AP ■ AGUA CALIENTE

At a crossroads not far from a gas station overgrown with weeds, young men and women in faded green fatigues stop vehicles returning from a rally for opponents of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, ask passengers for their identifications, and inspect their cars, trucks and motorcycles. Such checkpoints have proliferated across the country's vast tropical plains, forested highlands and beach fronts in the run-up to Sunday's presidential election, aiming to intimidate and occasionally detain government critics. They often involve a request for a ride, bananas or "collaboration" — Venezuela's euphemism for a small bribe. But the power play frequently falls flat. When their superiors slip away from the scorching sun, the grunts betray their displeasure with Maduro and openness to a new commander in chief. "Did the lady arrive? Were there a lot people?" one giddy soldier asks about opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. We wanted to watch, but there is no Wi-Fi here," whispers another. Since taking power in 2013, Maduro hasn't hesitated to deploy troops to crush protests



while rewarding senior officers with lucrative government jobs and control of key industries. But days away from a hotly disputed vote that threatens Maduro's hold on power, the self-proclaimed socialist is working harder than ever to shore up the loyalty of the armed forces — the traditional arbiter of political disputes in Venezuela — and keep top commanders in line. In recent days, the president has appeared on state TV attending a graduation ceremony for 25,000 police officers, praising them as the first line of defense against what he called attempts by rightwing hardliners to provoke a tragedy. He also promoted dozens of officers and bestowed a new title on his longtime defense minister, Vladimir Padrino Lopez: "General of the Sovereign

People." "The destiny of Venezuela depends on our victory," Maduro said at a rally this month. "If we want to avoid a bloodbath, or a fratricidal civil war triggered by the fascists, then we must guarantee the biggest electoral victory ever." The top brass has stood fast with Maduro, delving deep into political mudslinging instead of sticking to its traditional role safeguarding the vote. Gen Domingo Hernandez Larez, the head of the joint chiefs of staff, posted a photo on social media purportedly showing Machado speaking in front of a white board scribbled with notes calling for the "elimination" of the armed forces. Machado, who was banned from running and is backing stand-in candidate Edmundo Gonzalez, has called the accusation "fake news." A media watchdog group said the image was manipulated. Maduro's opponents have long struggled to win over doubters in the military. The armed forces have been an integral part of Maduro's grip on power ever since his mentor and predecessor, former tank commander Hugo Chavez, led an uprising against an unpopular austerity government in 1992. When Chavez was elected president in 1998, he purged offi-

cers indoctrinated in the US to fight communism, placed fellow coup plotters in top positions and poured the country's oil wealth into fighter jets and expensive military hardware. Maduro, without Chavez's military pedigree, has nonetheless empowered his own crop of uniformed allies, many of whom, like the president, face allegations of corruption and human rights abuses. The National Guard has also quietly imported anti-riot gear and refurbished armored vehicles that could be used to quell protests, according to retired Gen Rodolfo Camacho, a Maduro opponent who writes a report on military affairs. Meanwhile, the government hasn't hesitated to punish soldiers who step out of line. Members of the armed forces make up about half of the 301 Maduro opponents currently imprisoned and classified as political prisoners by Caracas-based legal assistance cooperative Foro Penal. The Defense Ministry did not respond to an emailed request for comment. While nobody is predicting a barracks revolt, discontent among the rank and file is widespread, said William Brownfield, a former US Ambassador to Venezuela and senior fellow at the Wilson Center in Washington.

# Lankan govt to apologise to Muslims on forced cremation of Covid victims

Colombo (PTI): The Sri Lankan government on Tuesday said it would formally apologise to the island nation's Muslim minority community for its controversial cremation policy adopted during the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. The mandatory order taken in 2020 to cremate the bodies of COVID-19 victims, which denied minority communities, including Muslims, their religious rights, was later revoked in February 2021 amid mounting international criticism. The Sri Lankan Cabinet in a meeting on Monday approved the proposal to tender an apology to the Muslim community for the enforced decision made in March 2020, according to a Cabinet note. The Cabinet has decided "to plead the apology on behalf of the Government, from all the communities", it said. The Cabinet also decided to introduce legislation to prevent a repetition of such controversial moves. The note said the Cabinet also gave nod to a proposed legislation on the burial or cremation of dead bodies based on religious discretion. Attention has been drawn to introducing a law,

which allows a certain person or relations to select the burial or cremation of the dead person at their discretion. The Muslim community had opposed the policy of forced cremation, and some even left the bodies of their loved ones in hospital mortuaries. The community members had said that either they were coerced into allowing cremations or that occurred without their knowledge. The cremation of bodies is forbidden in Islam. Accordingly, 276 corpses of Muslim persons were cremated, until the order was revoked in February 2021. The Sri Lankan government was resisting calls to allow burials citing health concerns. It cited the opinion of some experts who claimed that the burial of COVID-19 victims would contaminate the water table thereby spreading the pandemic further. The country had also come under intense criticism from UN groups, including the UN Human Rights Council, over the cremation order. The rights groups said it failed to respect the religious feelings of the victims and their family members, especially the Muslims, Catholics and some Buddhists.

# S Korean tech giant Kakao's founder held

Seoul (AP): South Korean prosecutors said Tuesday they have arrested the founder of technology giant Kakao Corp. for alleged stock price rigging during his company's takeover of a major K-pop agency last year. Kim's arrest came after the Seoul Southern District Court approved an arrest warrant, citing concerns that he could flee or destroy evidence. Prosecutors have up to 20 days to investigate Kim and determine whether to indict him, according to a senior prosecutor at a Seoul district prosecutors' office. He requested anonymity because an investigation was under way. Kim faces allegations that he orchestrated and approved schemes to collaborate with the operator of a private equity fund to deliberately inflate the stock price of K-pop agency SM Entertainment to prevent Hybe Corp., the parent company of another K-pop powerhouse behind global sensation BTS, from buying SM Entertainment, according to the prosecutor. Kim, 58, denied the allegations, according to the Seoul prosecutors' office. He was not immediately available for comment. Another Kakao executive and the head of the equity fund had already been indicted in the case, according to the prosecutors' office. Kakao Corp. is best known for its hugely popular free mobile chat app, called

Kakao Talk. It reportedly had about 41 million active users in South Korea, a country with 52 million people, as of December. The company has used the popularity of its mobile messenger to branch into banking, online shopping, gaming and other services in recent years. Kakao Corp. said in a statement Tuesday that "the current situation is regrettable." It said it will strive to minimise the management gap but didn't directly address Kim's arrest. Kakao's stock price fell more than 5 per cent on Tuesday. SM Entertainment's top executives had objected to Hybe's attempt to increase ownership of the company, describing it as a hostile takeover attempt and saying it would lead to monopolisation of the industry, pushing up costs for fans.

**PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY**  
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.1  
e-ENDER CALL NOTICE  
e-TCN No. CE/ARW/ACC/TS/2023/231,  
dttd. 17.07.2024.  
Name of the Work: Supply & installation of Ladders & Bollards along with installation of Cell & Super-M Fenders in various Berths of Paradip Port for two years".  
Put to tender value: Rs.1,16,88,795.32 plus GST as applicable. Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 08.07.2024 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Harbour Works Division No.-1  
Paradip Port Authority  
PPA/PR/24/2024-25 dtg.22.07.2024



# Sensex, Nifty tumble

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

Stock market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty tanked after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a hike in STT (Securities Transaction Tax) on F&O (Futures and Options) securities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped as soon as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman began presenting the Budget for 2024-25. But, within minutes it slipped in the red and later plummeted 1,266.17 points to 79,235.91 during the afternoon trade.

The NSE Nifty also tumbled higher as the finance minister began the presentation of her 7th Union Budget in the Lok Sabha. However, volatile trends soon came in and the benchmark later tanked 435.05 points to 24,074.20.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 264.33 points to 80,766.41 in early trade. The Nifty went up 73.3 points to



24,582.55.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government plans to raise the capital gains exemption limit on certain financial assets to Rs 1.25 lakh per year for the middle and upper middle class.

Presenting the Budget for 2024-25, she announced a hike in STT (Securities Transaction Tax) on F&O (futures and options) securities by 0.02 per cent and

0.1 per cent.

This is the first Budget during Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's third term in office.

India's economic growth continues to shine while the global economy is still in the grip of policy uncertainty, Sitharaman said.

The country's inflation continues to be stable and is moving towards 4 per cent, and core inflation stands at 3.1 per cent.

Among the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finserv were the major laggards.

Titan, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and Adani Ports were among the biggest gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 3,444.06 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo traded higher while Shanghai and Hong Kong quoted lower.

The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.12 per cent to USD 82.40 a barrel.

Falling for the second day in a row, the BSE benchmark fell 102.57 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,502.08 on Monday.

The NSE Nifty dipped 21.65 points or 0.09 per cent to 24,509.25.

# ₹1.28 lakh cr for telecom projects; BSNL gets lion's share of ₹82,916 cr

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The government has proposed the allocation of Rs 1.28 lakh crore for telecom projects and public sector firms under the telecom ministry with a majority of funds earmarked for state-owned BSNL.

Of the total proposed allocation, over Rs 1 lakh crore is meant for BSNL and MTNL-related expenses, including Rs 82,916 crore infusion in BSNL for technology upgradation and restructuring at BSNL.

"The total net allocation for this demand in BE (Budget Estimate) 2024-25 is Rs 1,28,915.43 crore plus Rs 1,11,915.43 crore plus Rs 17,000 crore. The additional provision of Rs 17,000 crore is met from the balances available under Universal Service Obligation Fund and will be utilised for schemes viz., Compensation to Telecom



Service Providers, Bharatnet and Research and Development," the budget document said.

The budget has proposed to allocate Rs 17,510 crore for pensionary benefits of the employees of the Department of Telecommunications, including employees absorbed in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd and employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd with effect from April 1, 2014.

The government has proposed to allocate Rs 3,668.97 crore for

Budget 2024-25 to boost domestic telecom gear manufacturing.

"To incentivise domestic manufacturing, I propose to increase the BCD (Basic Customs Duty) from 10 per cent to 15 per cent on PCBA (printed circuit board assembly) of specified telecom equipment," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The increase in basic customs duty for telecom PCB assembly comes with the exemption of critical minerals that are used in the manufacturing of communication equipment.

The finance minister proposed to fully exempt 25 minerals, such as lithium, copper, cobalt and rare earth elements, which are critical for sectors like nuclear energy, renewable energy, space, defence, telecommunications and high-tech electronics from customs duties and reduce basic customs duty on two of them.

payment of principal amount of MTNL bonds.

The budget has made provision of Rs 34.46 crore for Technology Development and Investment Promotion, Rs 70 crore for Champion Service Sector Scheme and Rs 1,806.34 crore for Production Linked Incentive Scheme.

Besides the allocation, the government has proposed to increase import duty on motherboards, technically called printed circuit boards, by 5 per cent in the Union

# Gold, silver, mobiles to become cheaper

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Gold, silver and other precious metals along with imported mobile phones, certain cancer drugs and medical devices are set to become cheaper with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing cuts in customs duty in the Union Budget 2024-25.

However, certain items such as imported garden umbrellas and laboratory chemicals are set to become costlier due to an increase in basic customs duty.

Sitharaman in her Budget speech on Tuesday proposed reducing "customs duties on gold and silver to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent" to enhance domestic value addition for jewellery in the country.

Moreover, to provide relief to cancer patients, the finance minister proposed to fully exempt three more medicines from customs duties -- Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib and Duralumab.

She also proposed "changes in the BCD (basic customs duty) on x-ray tubes & flat panel



detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme, so as to synchronise them with domestic capacity addition."

Earlier X-ray tubes used in manufacturing of X-ray machines for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary use attracted 15 per cent BCD, which has been proposed to reduce to 5 per cent.

The government also proposed slashing import duty on mobile phones, chargers and some components that are used for manufacturing of handsets.

Sitharaman said with a three-fold increase in domestic production and almost 100-fold jump in exports of mobile phones over the last six years, the Indian mobile phone industry has matured.

"In the interest of consumers, I now propose to reduce the BCD (basic customs duty) on mobile phone, mobile PCBA and mobile charger to 15 per cent," Sitharaman said.

Earlier BCD on mobile phones, chargers and motherboard was 20 per cent. The government has proposed to exempt specified goods for use in manufacturing of connectors in mobile phones and oxygen-free copper for

use in manufacturing of resistors (an electronic component) from BCD levy.

The BCD on specified goods for use in manufacturing of connectors was in the range of 5 to 7.5 per cent and oxygen-free copper for use in manufacturing of resistors attracted 5 per cent BCD.

Similarly, customs duty on 25 critical minerals such as lithium, copper, cobalt and rare earth elements, which are critical for sectors like nuclear energy, space, defence, telecommunications, and high-tech electronics either got fully exemption or reduced.

"This will provide a major fillip to the processing and refining of such minerals and help secure their availability for these strategic and important sectors," she said.

The finance minister also proposed removing BCD on specified capital goods for use in manufacturing of solar cells or solar modules and said this will "support energy transition".

However, she withdrew customs duty exemption on import of solar glass and

tinned copper interconnect "in view of sufficient domestic manufacturing capacity".

Similarly, Sitharaman also proposed reducing BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed to 5 per cent to promote India's seafood exports, which has touched an all-time high of more than Rs 60,000 crore in the last financial year.

For leather and textile sectors, she proposed to remove duty on import of wet white, crust and finished leather for manufacturing of textile or leather garments, footwear or other leather products for export.

"...To enhance the competitiveness of exports, I propose to reduce BCD on real down filling material from duck or goose. I am also making additions to the list of exempted goods for manufacture of leather and textile garments, footwear and other leather articles for export," she added.

Sitharaman proposed to increase BCD on garden umbrella from 20 per cent to 25 per cent or Rs 60 per piece, whichever is higher.

# After bumper profits, Govt scraps ₹30,000 cr capital support to oil firms

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The government has scrapped the Rs 30,000 crore equity infusion it had planned in state-owned fuel retailers after they made record profits in the fiscal year ended March 31, according to the Budget Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented on Tuesday.

Sitharaman had on February 1 last year, while presenting the annual Budget for the 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024), announced an equity infusion of Rs 30,000 crore in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to support the three state-owned firms' energy transition plans.

Alongside, she had also proposed Rs 5,000 crore for buying crude oil to fill strategic underground storages at Mangalore in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh that India has built to guard against any supply disruptions.

In the interim budget, the



finance minister presented in February this year ahead of the general elections, the capital support to the three oil companies was halved to Rs 15,000 crore and the plan for filling strategic underground storage was deferred.

In the full budget for 2024-25, both plans have been scrapped.

The budget documents showed nil allocation for capital support to the three oil marketing companies (OMCs) in 2024-25 against Rs 30,000 crore that was provisioned in the 2023-24 budget. While the interim budget in February this year showed the amount against this entry at Rs 15,000 crore,

the revised allocation in the full budget presented today showed Rs 0.01 crore as the expenditure for 2023-24 and nil in the 2024-25 budget provision.

While other state-owned oil companies like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and GAIL (India) Ltd too have lined up billions of dollars of investment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions, the equity support was limited to the three fuel retailers, which had suffered huge losses in 2022 when they held retail petrol, diesel and cooking gas (LPG) prices despite a spike in raw material (crude oil) prices, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

# Mixed response from tea industry

**PTI ■ KOLKATA**

The budget for 2024-25 presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Tuesday evoked mixed reactions from the tea industry.

The Tea Association of India (TAI), a leading producer's body, said that the scheme "Pradhan Mantri Shramik Protisahan Yojana (PMCSPY) devised for the welfare of tea workers, especially women and their children in Assam and West Bengal, is a welcome move.

Secretary of the Association of Tea Auctioneers (ATA) Sujit Patra, however, said apparently there is nothing for the tea industry in the budget for 2024-25.

The government has earmarked Rs 1000 crore for implementing the scheme,



which the tea industry will benefit immensely, the association said.

Development of digital and banking infrastructure in the tea growing areas has been a consistent demand of the industry for several years.

"Announcement of setting up bank branches in the northeastern region is a positive step towards that direction" TAI said.

The continuation of PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) and PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) will surely benefit the rural population including those residing within the tea gardens, the association said.

ATA Secretary Sujit Patra, however, said that the industry expected some assistance in boosting exports by providing higher RoDTEP rates, which did not find a place in the budget.

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# Announcement on abolition of angel tax cheers startups, investors

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Startup and venture funds on Tuesday cheered the Budget decision on the abolition of angel tax for all investor classes, terming it a "game-changer" that would remove significant barriers in growth and foster a vibrant and dynamic ecosystem.

Angel tax refers to the tax that the government imposes on funding raised by unlisted companies, or startups if their valuation exceeds the company's fair market value.

"To bolster the Indian startup eco-system, boost the entrepreneurial spirit and support innovation, I propose to abolish the so-called angel tax for all classes of investors," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

The angel tax issue has been a thorn on the side of startup founders and investors, and



ecosystem, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship across the country," Prateek Jain, Associate Director-Startup and Alliances, Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) said.

Shyam Menon, Co-Founder and Partner, Bharat Innovation Fund dubbed the move as "a significant and positive step" towards

alleviating a longstanding issue in startup investing.

"For some time, angel tax has been a notable point of friction, creating challenges for investors and startups, alike. By eliminating this tax, the government is addressing a key barrier that has hindered investment in emerging businesses," Menon said.

According to the industry, the decision would stimulate an increase in capital inflow, and foster more supportive environment for the formation and growth of startups within the country.

It will lead to a cessation of fresh litigation, noted Brijesh Damodaran, Partner at Auxano Capital.

"Furthermore, funds that would have been tied up in deposits for cases involving notice issuance cease. This redirection of cash flow will enable businesses to allocate

resources more effectively towards their core operations, thus enhancing their overall operational efficiency and growth prospects," Damodaran pointed out.

Arjun Malhotra, General Partner of Good Capital described the development as a huge win for the Indian startup ecosystem.

"It's heartening to see the government not only listening but taking decisive action to support innovation. As an investor, I've seen firsthand how this tax has been a thorn in the side of founders and investors alike, creating unnecessary friction in the funding process," Malhotra noted.

Tech Entrepreneurs Association of Mumbai believes that startups will now be better positioned to scale operations, invest in technologies, and create high-quality jobs.

# Customs duty exemption on lithium, cobalt to aid growth of EV sector: Auto Inc

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The proposed exemption in customs duty on import of lithium, cobalt and other rare minerals in the Union Budget 2024-25 is likely to lower the battery production cost and help in making electric vehicles more affordable for the buyers, auto industry leaders said on Tuesday.

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget for 2024-25 proposed to fully exempt customs duties on 25 critical minerals and reduce Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on two of them.

"This will provide a major fillip to the processing and

refining of such minerals and help secure their availability for these strategic and important sectors," she noted.

Minerals such as lithium, copper, cobalt and rare earth elements are critical for sectors like nuclear energy, renewable energy, space, defence, telecommunications, and high-tech electronics, Sitharaman stated.

Auto industry body SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said the exemption of customs duty on import of lithium, cobalt and other rare minerals and extension of concessional customs duty on Li-Ion cells till March 2026 and withdrawal of equalisation levy of 2 per cent

on e-transactions is expected to propel the growth of the Indian auto industry.

"The Indian automobile industry welcomes the continued emphasis on economic growth with several announcements, especially the strong fiscal support for infrastructure in the next five years," Aggarwal stated.

Liberal allocation for rural development and infrastructure of Rs 2.66 lakh crore is a welcome step that will boost the rural economy, he added.

SIAM also welcomes several proposals in the Budget such as measures for skilling and upskilling and support to manufacturing and



employment generation and support to MSMEs, many of whom form the large supplier

base for the auto sector, Aggarwal said.

Auto component body

ACMA President Shradha Suri Marwah stated that the reduction in customs duty on critical minerals will encourage cell manufacturing in the country and add to the evolving EV ecosystem in the country.

Deloitte India Partner Rajat Mahajan said the move is likely to encourage few players to indigenise battery production in India.

He, however, noted that the Budget has been silent on direct benefits to the automotive sector.

"The industry was not expecting a lot but was definitely looking for some announcements with respect to FAME III subsidies, and

other direct benefits for EV/NEV (New Electric Vehicle). We may have to wait to see if there are any further relaxations in the future by the FM or by the GST Council," Mahajan said.

BatX Energies Co-Founder & CEO Utkarsh Singh said the reduction of BCD and exemption of 25 essential minerals from custom charges is set to lower production costs for battery manufacturing and recycling, enhancing the affordability and accessibility of electric vehicles in India.

The strategic move will significantly impact India's EV market by lowering production costs and

enhancing competitiveness, he added.

Hero MotoCorp Executive Chairman Pawan Munjal said the Budget positions India as a technology-driven and knowledge-driven economy, reaffirming commitment to sustainable development.

Ashok Leyland Executive Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said reduction in duties on rare earth minerals will help in promoting sustainable mobility.

Mercedes-Benz India MD & CEO Santosh Iyer said the Budget clearly underlines the government's priorities on creating a robust foundation for a developed Indian economy.

# ASALANKA TO LEAD SRI LANKA IN T20I SERIES AGAINST INDIA

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Charith Asalanka was on Tuesday named captain of the Sri Lanka T20 team for the three-match series against India, starting here on July 27, replacing spin all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga, who stepped down after the team's early exit from last month's T20 World Cup. The 27-year-old comes with considerable captaincy experience. In the absence of Hasaranga, who was facing suspension due to ICC code of conduct violations, Asalanka had captained Sri Lanka in two T20Is on the tour of Bangladesh earlier this year. A former Sri Lanka U-19 captain, he also led Jaffna Kings to the Lanka Premier League title last week. Sri Lanka Cricket Selection Committee opted for several changes following the team's dismal show at the T20 World Cup, where the island nation managed to win only one game and made an early exit. Overall, the 16-member squad is a good mix of experience and youth. The seasoned pair of all-rounders Angelo Mathews and Dhananjaya de Silva, wicketkeeper Sadeera Samarawickrama and left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka have been left out of the squad. Returning to the squad are 34-year-old Dinesh Chandimal, who last played a T20I in



February 2022, and Kusal Janith Perera. Uncapped all-rounder Chamindu Wickramasinghe has earned a maiden call up. Right-arm seamer, who had been training at the MRF Pace Academy in India, has been rewarded for his breakout IPL season.

Pacers Binura Fernando and Avishka Fernando also find themselves back in the national fold. Sri Lanka will play the first of the three T20Is on July 27 here, followed by games on July 28 and 30. The Indian team, which will be led by a new captain in

Suryakumar Yadav as well, landed here on Monday night for the series, which also features three ODIs scheduled next month.

Fernando, Kusal Mendis (wk), Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Duniya Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamindu Wickramasinghe, Matheesha Pathirana, Nuwan Thushara, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fernando.

**SRI LANKA SQUAD:**  
Charith Asalanka (capt), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Janith Perera (wk), Avishka



## Rahul Dravid screamed and cried, recalls Ashwin on India's T20 World Cup celebrations

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Virat Kohli handing over the T20 World Cup trophy to former coach Rahul Dravid after India's title triumph in Barbados and the much revered coach 'screaming and crying' in joy is something that will remain etched in his memory, Ravichandran Ashwin has expressed. After India pipped South Africa in a tense final last month to win their second T20 World Cup, former coach Dravid was seen letting out his emotions in a rare show while holding the trophy aloft. Ashwin admitted it was indeed a special moment for the 51-year-old Dravid, who could not win an ICC title as a player but finally redeemed it as a coach.

"My moment was when Virat Kohli called Rahul Dravid and gave the cup and cry," he said in a video on his YouTube channel. "Rahul Dravid screamed and cried. I saw him enjoy it. I felt that a lot." Ashwin also reckoned that Dravid was scared being at the helm of another campaign in the Caribbean, for the team under his captaincy had made a group-stage exit in the 2007 ODI World Cup. "I want to talk about a sacred person. (In) 2007, (the) 50-over World Cup. India gets knocked out. Rahul Dravid (was) the captain then. He does not captain the one-day side after that," he said. "He has been with the Indian team. If something does not go well, if the Indian team goes out, or if they lose a match,

immediately they ask what Dravid is doing." Ashwin also acknowledged the hard work done by Dravid during his stint as India coach, saying he brought balance to the team and changed in approach. "I know what he has been doing with this team for the past two to three years. I know how balanced he has been. I know how hard he has worked to change this approach," Ashwin said. "I know what he has given each of his players. Even when he is just sitting at home, he has been planning how to do this and that," he added. Under Dravid, India reached the finals of the World Test Championship and the ODI World Cup but lost to Australia on both occasions.



## Bernard dubbed Olympics' godfather; here's how he built LVMH's fortune

AP ■ PARIS

For decades, France's LVMH has been the face of luxury for the wealthy who tote Louis Vuitton bags, don Christian Dior clothing, spritz Bulgari perfume and sip Veuve Clicquot Champagne. This week, the world's dominant luxury group - home to 75 high-end brands across fashion, jewellery, watches and alcohol - will be the face of a global event for the masses: the Paris Olympics, with its billions of viewers around the planet. With a major sponsorship role aimed at burnishing the image of the Games and the French capital, it's a new chapter in LVMH's speciality of selling exclusivity at a grand scale under its chair and CEO, Bernard Arnault. Assembling and growing dozens of exclusive labels under one powerhouse roof has put Arnault, 75, at the very top of Forbes' list of the world's richest people. As recently as June 3, Forbes

estimated his wealth at USD 207 billion, narrowly ahead of Tesla's Elon Musk and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. With ever-shifting stock-market prices, the three men often trade places (according to Forbes' real-time billionaires list on Tuesday, Arnault and his family are currently No. 3). LVMH's cosmetics brand Sephora sponsored the Olympic torch relay. Berluti designed France's opening ceremony uniforms. Jeweler Chaumet crafted the Olympic medals. Those will rest in cases designed by Louis Vuitton, whose headquarters at 2 Rue Pont Neuf will be hard to miss as the opening ceremony parade floats by on the Seine River. "We tried to find a way to do it, to do something else than just signing a check and getting billboards on the side of the streets," Antoine Arnault - LVMH's head of environment and image and Arnault's eldest son - told The Associated Press on Monday.

## Purnima's sacrifices for elusive archery medal

PTI ■ PARIS

Purnima Mahato didn't even know when her son Siddharth and daughter Archisa turned 17 and 10 as she would often feel guilty of being a perennially absentee mother. But in her three-decade career as an archery coach, the myriad desire to see one of her wards stand on the Olympic podium allowed her to make sacrifices and also demand a bit of it from her children. "We have everything but an Olympic medal. Archery has become life for me. My children grew up on their own and I didn't even realise," the Dronacharya Awardee coach told PTI in an exclusive interaction. "I hardly got to spend any time back home all these years with my kids. I left my son (Siddharth) at home when he was not even a year old. He is now all grown up and 17 years old, preparing for his 12th standard board exams. My daughter (Archisa) is 10 years old. It seems they have sacrificed way more than me for this Olympic medal," she gets a touch emotional. She has not even stayed at home for a week in 2024. "I went home for four days this year busy with the trials and camp, this has been the story so far. We have got all the medals but the Olympic medal is still a work in progress," she rued. **BETTER EQUIPPED TO KEEP EMOTIONS UNDER**



**CHECK:** The heartbreak of missing the 'Inner 10' when it matters is way too familiar a feeling for Purnima, who is again in charge of the women's team at the Paris Games where she wants veteran Deepika Kumari and her compatriots to focus on process rather than thinking about the end result. "Medal layenge, medal layenge yeh baat tum dimaag se nikal do (a medal will never come if you chase after a medal, just focus on the processes)," she has told the trio of Deepika, Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur. "They are now better placed to control their emotions and overcome the nervousness in big matches. It's (an Olympic medal) just a matter of time now." A CWG medallist, Mahato took up coaching at Tata Academy after leaving the sport in late 90s. She first coached the national team in an Olympics during the Beijing

edition where Dola Banerjee and V Praneetha were part of the squad. It was a 10-team draw and India got a bye to quarters as they needed to win two matches for their maiden Olympic medal. They were pitted against China, where they lost by big five-point margin and their story of heartbreaks continued since then. Every time the Olympic approaches, the expectation reaches its peak for the archers. And this time, it is no different. The women's team, who finished the Olympic cycle as World No. 8, topped the rankings among the non-qualified nations to earn the team quota. The men also made it on rankings by finishing the Olympic cycle as world No. 2. Paris, as a venue, has also been lucky for the Indian team. The women's team had won a silver and bronze medal in the World Cup Stage 3 in 2022 and

2023 in Paris, while senior archer Deepika Kumari has an individual gold here from World Cup Stage 3 in 2021. "The Koreans and the Chinese also have hearts that beat faster but they know how to control it by being mentally strong," Mahato said. "It's about following the process, stay engaged and relaxed without looking at scoring a perfect 10." "I don't want them to focus on the opponent's team, it's about keeping the atmosphere relaxed, by humming a song or focusing on the breath when your turn comes," she said. **STRATEGY AND CODE WORDS:** In the team event, Ankita will shoot first followed by Bhajan while Deepika with all her experience has the responsibility to play the role of the finisher. "Whenever one archer goes to the shooting line, the other has the job to keep the mood light by using their respective code words," Mahato said. This time the women's coach has the added responsibility after being awarded the Padma Shri three months back. "It's not a burden but an added responsibility, whenever you get a recognition you have an extra responsibility. I've been coaching for the last 28 years now and our players also do well but never got a medal. "But everyone in this team comes into the Olympics after doing well in the World Cups held during the current Games cycle. We have medals across all categories," she signed off.



## Vidhatri eyes back-to-back wins on Hero Women's Pro Tour

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Talented golfer Vidhatri Urs, who captured her first title as a professional on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour last week, will look to make it two in a row as she tees up at the 10th Leg of the tournament at the par-72 Prestige Golfshire here on Wednesday. The field is once again very strong in the presence of the current Hero OOM leader Hitaashee Bakshi and last year OOM winner Sneha Singh, who have won twice each this year. The field also has Anvitha Narender, winner of the eighth leg, the experienced Amandeep Drall, winner of the fifth leg, and Neha Tripathi. While Amandeep seeks greater consistency, Neha is trying to make a comeback from a back injury.

Vidhatri, who is related to one of India's top pros Pranavi Urs, has been in excellent form. She was third in her first two appearances and then grabbed a win last week. Some of the other young pros waiting to make a mark include Durga Nittur, Jasmine Shekar, Gourabi Bhowmick and Karishma Govind. The amateurs have also shown a lot of promise with the prominent ones being Saanvi Somu and Mannat Brar, who have also played for India in international teams chosen by the Indian Golf Union. Apart from the in-form Saanvi Somu and Mannat Brar, the other amateurs are Aaradhya Shetty, Anuradha Chaudhuri, Keerthana Rajeev and Kaya Daluwatte of Sri Lanka. The event carries a purse of Rs 13 lakhs and will have a total 38 players including six amateurs.

# Woods watches 15-year-old son Charlie shoot a 12-over 82

AP ■ BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (MICHIGAN)

Charlie Woods, the 15-year-old son of Tiger Woods, covered his face with his cap after shaking hands with his playing partners on the 18th green at the Oakland Hills North Course. Woods shot a 12-over 82 on Monday in the U.S. Junior Amateur, a tournament he played his way into. "He still qualified," Tiger Woods said to his son's caddie after the rough round. "That's what I keep telling him," caddie Luke Wise said. Woods earned a spot in the field of top juniors from around the world when he shot a 1-under 71 to win his qualifier last month in Coral Springs, Florida. He will have to have quite a turnaround Tuesday on the Oakland Hills South Course, which Ben Hogan called "The Monster," to be among the low 64 scorers from a field of 264 players from 40 states and 35 countries. Charlie Woods is the only

one in the world who knows what it's like to be the son of Tiger Woods, and now he's fully aware of what it's like to compete with all eyes on him. At an event that usually draws a few hundred people for the championship match, about 100 were waiting on the first tee to see Charlie play while his dad watched, and at least that many spectators followed them for hours. Oakland Hills had six members assigned to assist with crowd control. That wasn't enough, and 10 more men were dispatched to hold ropes to give the players - and Tiger - some space. After Charlie hit his tee shot on the seventh hole and left behind his tee, adorned with a palm tree, a fan took it out of the ground to keep as a memento. "I feel like he's feeling pressure," said 35-year-old John Pinch of Warren, Michigan. "If his dad could talk to him, he would probably try to get him to



settle down. "You can tell he's really down on himself." Charlie was frustrated and let it show, slamming and swinging clubs into the ground after errant shots and shaking his head from side to side. His father was relatively helpless because rules prevent parents from coaching their children during the tournament. After a brief exchange prior to the round on the practice green, Tiger didn't say a word to his son and didn't appear to even make eye contact as he watched from afar while surrounded by police officers - at least one of whom snapped photos - and security personnel. Without a doubt, Tiger wished his son could hear him on the 181-yard, par-3 fourth. A rules official gave Charlie relief because his ball landed on a metal cap on the right side of the green. "He gets a club length," Tiger said, standing out of earshot

of his son. Tiger wanted his son to place his ball to the left, but Charlie elected to take relief to the right. "No, no, no," Tiger muttered to himself. "Go the other way." Charlie ended up with his first of five double bogeys at No. 4 to go with four bogeys and two birdies - on both of the par 5s. He was wild off the tee - often missing to the right - came up short on a series of flop shots out of thick rough and sailed some approaches over greens. Tiger was 14 when he qualified for his first U.S. Junior and reached the semifinals. He won his first U.S. Junior a year later and went on to become the only player to win the tournament three times in a row. Tiger traveled to suburban Detroit from Scotland after matching his highest 36-hole score as a professional at the British Open, missing the cut for the third straight time in a major.



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