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Illustration: Suvajit Dey

In bid to boost spending, new I-T slabs with lower rates — exemptions foregone

SANDEEP SINGH & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

MOVING TO reform personal income tax, the government Saturday announced a new tax regime for individuals, offering much lower tax rates to taxpayers willing to forego all deductions and exemptions including those currently available on EPF contribution, tuition fee payment, principal and interest outgo on home loans, standard deduction of Rs 50,000 and medical insurance premium among others.

This scheme will co-exist with the existing tax structure

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EXISTING TAX SLABS	
Up to ₹ 2.5 lakh	NIL
₹ 2.5 lakh-5 lakh	5%
₹ 5 lakh-10 lakh	20%
Above ₹ 10 lakh	30%

NEW TAX SLABS	
Up to ₹ 2.5 lakh	NIL
₹ 2.5 lakh-5 lakh	5%
₹ 5 lakh-7.5 lakh	10%
₹ 7.5 lakh-10 lakh	15%
₹ 10 lakh-12.5 lakh	20%
₹ 12.5 lakh-15 lakh	25%
Above ₹ 15 lakh	30%

UNION BUDGET 2020-21

In slowdown, Budget slows down on growth

Little room to spend, Govt plays safe on fisc, banks on demand

ANIL SASI & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FACING ONE of the steepest slides in growth and just into the first year of its second term, the NDA-2 government decided to play safe when it came to imparting a positive impulse to the economy.

Union Budget 2020-21, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday, carried a visible imprint of the Prime Minister's fiscal conservatism, inasmuch as it kept a tight leash on expenditure, tacitly admitting there was little headroom for higher spending.

In doing so, however, the Budget reconciled to a new normal of sub-par growth, almost conceding it was unable to do the heavy lifting, particularly at a time when private investment has failed to revive, consumption has collapsed, and exports have shown no signs of a pick-up.

For 2020-21, it projected a nominal growth rate of 10 per cent,

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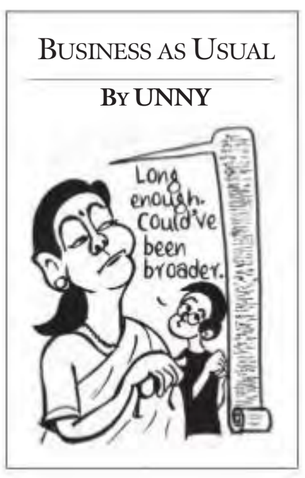
BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY



Divestment goal ambitious ₹ 2.1 lakh cr, an LIC IPO

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE BUDGET 2020-21 announced an ambitious disinvestment agenda, aiming to raise Rs 2.1 lakh crore through stake sales next year, including plans to sell part of the Centre's stake in the country's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) through an initial public offer (IPO).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also proposed to sell the government's equity in the stressed IDBI Bank to private, retail and institutional investors through the stock exchange. This led to a 11.09 per cent jump in the lender's stock price at close on the National Stock Exchange in an otherwise weak market.

The government is expecting to raise Rs 90,000 crore through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The gunman identified himself as Kapil Gujjar. PTI

2 days after Jamia, firing in Shaheen Bagh as well

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

TWO DAYS after a 17-year-old shot at a student of Jamia Millia Islamia during a protest against the new citizenship law, a man fired at least two shots about 50 metres from the stage at the Shaheen Bagh protest on Saturday. No one was injured in the firing, which took place around 4.45 pm.

The man, who identified himself as Kapil Gujjar while being taken away by police, was nabbed by volunteers and passers-by. "He has identified himself as Kapil, a 25-year-old resident of Dallupura (East Delhi). A country-made pistol was recovered from his possession and two empty cartridges were found at the spot," said DCP (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal.

In videos shot by eyewitnesses, Kapil can be heard saying "Jai Shri Ram" and "*hamaare desh mein kisi ki nahi chalegi, sirf*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FAMILY HAS DAIRY BUSINESS PAGE 5

High-salaried to be hit: Employer's annual share to PF, NPS over ₹ 7.5 lakh will be taxed

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FROM THE next financial year, high income earners will have to pay income tax for their contribution to the provident fund, superannuation fund and National Pension Scheme (NPS). The Union Budget for 2020-21 has proposed a combined cap of Rs 7.5 lakh for the employer's contribution to these three categories of payouts, with the amount over and above this to be taxed in the hands of the employees.

The government in the Budget documents reasoned that those with higher salaries are able to design their salary package in a manner where a large part of their salary is paid by the employer in these three funds, while an employee with low salary income is not able to let the employer contribute a large part of his salary to all these three funds.

"Thus, this portion of salary does not suffer taxation at any point of time, since Exempt-Exempt-Exempt (EEE) regime is followed for these three funds. Thus, not having a combined upper cap is iniquitous and hence, not desirable. Therefore, it is proposed to provide a combined upper limit of seven lakh and fifty thousand rupee in respect of employer's contribution in a year

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Why the markets fell, recorded sharpest Budget-day dip in 11 years

SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 1

EXPLAINED

AS UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled Part B of her Budget speech where she announced the new taxation system for individuals, shifting of dividend distribution tax from companies to individuals, and no relief on long-term capital gains tax on equity investments, the benchmark Sensex at the BSE fell sharply by 2.4 per cent — the biggest Budget day fall since Pranab Mukherjee's Budget in July 2009.

The benchmark Sensex fell 1092 points intra-day and closed 988 points down at 39,735.53. The broader Nifty at the National Stock Exchange fell 2.5 per cent to close at 11,661.

At a time when the economy is facing a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

HOW THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REBOOT THE ECONOMY WITH THIS BUDGET
The fine print of the Union Budget for 2020-21 notwithstanding, the central strategy of the government seems to be to boost the disposable incomes of the Indian consumers.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

THE 'AAM' DEBUTANTS TAKING ON KEJRIWAL
Both BJP and Congress have fielded fresh faces against the CM

TECH

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NIA to take over probe into terror recruitment case, TN cop's murder

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 1

THE KARNATAKA government has handed over to the NIA the investigation into an alleged Islamic State-linked recruitment case, which involves the recent hunt for an alleged IS operative from Tamil Nadu and the January 8 murder of a policeman in the state.

The NIA has registered a fresh case and will formally take over the probe over the weekend. On January 10, the Central Crime Branch registered a case pertaining to the Bengaluru component of the alleged IS-linked recruitment plot involving an undertrial Khaja Moideen as well as the murder of policeman Wilson in Kanyakumari, allegedly by two associates of Moideen.

"The case has been handed over to NIA and the agency will formally take over investigations over this weekend," a source in Karnataka police said.

The NIA will also take over investigation into Wilson's murder, allegedly by Abdul Shameem and Toufiq, who were arrested on January 14 in Udupi, Karnataka, and a case regarding Moideen's disappearance from Chennai in December, police sources said.

The terror recruitment case involving Moideen and several youth in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka surfaced in December 2019 after Moideen, who was being probed by the NIA in a 2017 IS recruitment case, jumped bail and disappeared from Tamil Nadu, triggering a hunt that led security agencies to Bengaluru, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Bengal, Nepal and Delhi.

Moideen, also an accused in the 2014 murder of Hindu Munnani leader K P Suresh near Chennai, was eventually nabbed by Delhi Police Special Cell around January 5, along with associates Abdul Samad, 28, and Ali Nawaz, 32, also accused in the 2014 murder case.

The investigation by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka police over the last month into activities of Moideen and others suggest that he and several others were in contact with an unidentified handler and were attempting to travel to Afghanistan to join extremist groups, sources said.

Moideen was accused by the NIA in a March 2018 chargesheet "of furthering the activities of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)/Daish" and receiving funds, organising camps, recruiting, training people and facilitating their travel to Syria. He is alleged to have established links with a foreign handler in Af-Pak region after he was released on bail in April 2019.

In the 2018 NIA chargesheet for IS recruitment, Moideen is specifically accused of assisting a TN origin youth, Haja Fakkurudeen — a Singapore citizen — in joining the IS in Syria in 2014.

According to police sources, Moideen, after his release from prison in April 2019 on bail, resumed radicalisation and recruitment activities under the pretext of carrying out social service for a group called the Al Hind Trust set up in Bengaluru by his associate Mehboob Pasha.

Moideen and Pasha allegedly used the services of a youth from Kolar in Karnataka, Mohammed Zaid, an engineer, to establish contact with an unidentified foreign handler on the dark web who went by the name Abu Bakr and Jabbar.

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION CASE

UP govt nod to prosecute Shia Waqf Board chief

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 1

THE BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has given Prayagraj police sanction to prosecute Shia Waqf Board chairman Waseem Rizvi in a 2016 case in which he was booked for promoting enmity. The case pertains to alleged illegal construction done at Imam Bara, a religious place, in Prayagraj, police said.

Around four months ago, Prayagraj police had written to the government seeking permission to prosecute Rizvi in the case.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Prayagraj) Satyarth Aniruddha Pankaj said, "The government has now given prosecution sanction against Waseem Rizvi and soon a chargesheet will be filed against him in the case."

In October last year, the state government had recommended CBI probe into two cases lodged against Rizvi — the one in Prayagraj and the another in Lucknow in which he and four others are named in the FIR.

Meerut man who sold arms to pro-Khalistan militants held from Uttarakhand: UP ATS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 1

THE UP Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) Saturday arrested a man facing charges of allegedly supplying weapons to the banned militant outfit Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), from Roorkee district in Uttarakhand. The accused, Ashish Kumar, who hails from Meerut, was wanted in a case of attempt to murder lodged at Mohali district of Punjab in 2018, said police.

"The Punjab police had asked us to help them in the arrest of Ashish Kumar, who was absconding. On the basis of information collected, we arrested Ashish Kumar from Roorkee, where he was staying for the past three years. After his arrest, we informed the Punjab police. A team arrived today and took him with them," said Additional Director General, ATS, D K Thakur.

He added that Ashish used to supply weapons to one Gugani Grewal, who is considered a close aide of slain KLF leader Harmeet Singh alias 'Happy PhD'.

"We are collecting information on the criminal background of Ashish Kumar. So far, we have not found any case against him in Uttar Pradesh," said Thakur.

Ashish Kumar confessed to have sold eight pistols to Gugani over the past three years, said an ATS officer. Ashish Kumar, who has two more cases him lodged in Punjab, also confessed to have sold seven more pistols to other criminals in Punjab at different time periods, the officer said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Budget slows down on growth

translating into a real growth of 5.5-6 per cent, given that average inflation for the year may hover around 4-4.5 per cent.

Despite a sharp cut in expenditure, necessitated more due to falling receipts, the Centre's fiscal deficit was 0.5 percentage points higher than budgeted for 2019-20 at 3.8 per cent of the GDP. For the next year too, the Budget has curtailed spending across sectors including the flagship schemes, hoping to rein in the deficit at 3.3 per cent of GDP. This, however, excludes a bevy of off-Budget borrowing items.

Sitharaman's only significant intervention related to the overhaul of the personal income tax structure. While she proposed doing away with 70 of the 100 exemptions, she added two more slabs of 15 per cent and 25 per cent. She claimed the effort was aimed at simplifying the tax regime and would give more money in the hands of the middle class. Tax experts, however, are not sure. Many argued there was no substantial benefit across different levels of income for individual taxpayers and made the new regime more unwieldy and complicated.

While the Finance Minister said there would be a revenue loss of Rs 40,000 crore if all taxpayers shifted to the new regime, the Budget has estimated personal income tax collections to grow 14 per cent.

Finance ministry officials said the restructuring of rates was the first move, and may over a period of time, replace the existing regime where exemptions on housing loans, provident funds, life and health insurance, leave travel concessions, house rent allowance, and standard deduction are allowed.

The Budget sent the Bombay Stock Exchange Sensitive Index dropping almost 2.5 per cent or 988 points, the biggest fall ever on Budget day since Pranab Mukherjee presented the first Budget of UPA-2 in July 2009.

While low growth estimates for 2020-21 forced the Finance Minister's hands in rasing tax receipts, she turned to disinvestments, including a public listing of state-owned insurance behemoth LIC. LIC alone is estimated to rake in Rs 90,000 crore in the total disinvestment receipts of Rs 2,10,000 crore, the highest-ever target set in any Budget. Raising such huge sums from the market carries a substantial execution risk. The chequered history in achieving stake sale targets is a further dampener for the markets.

Similarly, Sitharaman has estimated a one-time windfall from telecom sector, and hoped to realise Rs 1,33,027 crore next year, a 126 per cent increase from 2019-20.

Her estimates on tax receipts for the next year also raise questions even if they were way off the mark in 2019-20. The estimates for corporate tax collection growth at 11.5 per cent look ambitious, more so when it had dipped by 8 per cent in 2019-20. Corporate tax accounts for roughly 18 per cent of all receipts. The unprecedented political mandate to the Narendra Modi Government in 2019 Lok Sabha elections did not reflect in the risk-averse Budget that Sitharaman presented. She could have done much more for the non-banking financial sector (NBFCs) that has choked due to lack of funds, lurching from one crisis to the other.

The signs were all too visible for the last 15 months but the government stayed away from proactively intervening to stem the bleeding. Surprisingly, even for the banking sector, the government did not provision any recapitalisation through bonds, which would have hardly cost the exchequer. The lack of a coherent strategy to resolve this logjam in the financial sector could only prolong the slowdown in both investment and consumption.

In line with protectionist tendencies across major world economies and giving in to domestic industry demands, Sitharaman raised import duty on more than 20 products ranging from toys, footwear and furniture to electrical appliances. The highest increase in duty is on walnuts (30 per cent to 100 per cent), surprising given that the government is setting the stage for a trade deal with the US.

The Finance Minister also accepted India Inc's demand to reverse the taxability of dividends back to the recipients. Now, dividends will be taxed in the hands of recipients, a move that will cost the exchequer Rs 25,000 crore. Companies paid a 10 per cent tax on dividends, whereas individuals would pay as much as 42 per cent at the highest income tax bracket.

Some measures that Sitharaman announced to attract equity flows include tax exemptions on foreign sovereign wealth fund investments in infrastructure, a hike in FPI limits for corporate bonds to 15 per cent of outstanding (from 9 per cent) and the opening of certain specified categories of government securities to non-resident investors. This may lead to an inclusion in foreign bond indices.

New Income Tax slabs with lower rates

and will be optional. While the existing tax system has four tax slabs, the new one has seven tax slabs and offers lower tax rates.

Speaking at a press conference after presenting the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government intends to gradually remove all I-T exemptions.

In an interview to CNBC-TV18 news channel, Sitharaman said eventually, if not today, she would want to see the government removing all exemptions. Saying she has taken the first step towards complete removal of exemptions and deductions, she indicated that the existing tax plan will go, indicating a timeline of five years.

Once an individual opts for the new tax plan, there's no returning to the existing plan that offers deductions and exemptions. "The option shall be exercised for every previous year where the individual or the HUF has no business income, and in other cases the option once exercised for a previous year shall be valid for that previous year and all subsequent years," the Budget document stated.

For now, it has been left to individuals to decide whether they want to opt for the existing system of tax calculation or go for the new one. Rough calculations show that taxpayers across a wide spectrum could face a higher tax incidence under the new taxation system.

For example, under the existing system, an individual with a gross taxable salary of Rs 7.5 lakh will end up paying a tax of only Rs 18,200 after claiming standard deduction, deductions available under Section 80C (EPF and PF contribution, insurance premium, child tuition fee etc), deduction under Section 80D (medical insurance). But under the new tax system, the individual will end up with a tax outgo of Rs 39,000. So, the tax outgo under the new system would be more than double under the existing system.

Similarly, in case of an individual with a taxable salary of Rs 15 lakh, the existing outgo will be limited to Rs 140,400 (with additional deduction on interest income and exemption on home loan interest). But under the new taxation system, one will have to pay Rs 210,600 in taxes. So, the tax outgo works out to be 50 per cent higher under the new system.

In her Budget speech, Sitharaman said in "the new tax regime, substantial tax benefit will accrue to a taxpayer depending upon exemptions and deductions claimed by him. For example, a person earning Rs 15 lakh in a year and not availing any deductions etc will pay only Rs 195,000 as compared to Rs 273,000 in the old regime. Thus, his tax burden shall be reduced by 78,000 in the new regime. He would still be the gainer in the new regime even if he was taking deduction of Rs 1.5 lakh under various sections of Chapter VI-A of the Income Tax Act under the old regime".

However, personal finance experts say it will not benefit many. "Only individuals or assessees who are not in a position to save and claim deduction and exemptions will benefit under the new scheme," said Surya Bhatia, founder of Asset Managers, a financial advisory firm. There are some who feel that the new taxation system may encourage individuals in the informal economy and those with unaccounted money to take advantage of the lower tax rates introduced under the new system, and become part of the formal system. "Small traders, merchants, self-employed individuals may like to take advantage of the new tax charter which is easier to understand and has lower tax incidence," said a Chandigarh-based chartered accountant.

High-salaried hit

to NPS, superannuation fund and recognised provident fund and any excess contribution is proposed to be taxable," the Budget said. Experts said this move though may not make sense from the taxation perspective in times of salary packages designed as cost-to-company (CTC), the move may nudge smaller and medium-sized companies to offer provident fund coverage to lower income employees.

At present, there is no combined upper limit for the purpose of deduction on the amount of contribution made by the employer. The contribution by the employer to the account of an employee in a recognised provident fund over and above 12 per cent of the salary is taxable. Also, any contribution to an approved superannuation fund by the employer over Rs 1.5 lakh is treated as perks in the hands of the employee. Similarly, the assessee is allowed a deduction under National Pension Scheme (NPS) for 14 per cent of the salary contributed by the central government and 10 per cent of the salary contributed by any other employer. The Budget documents said the amendment will be effective April 1, adding that any annual accretion through interest, dividend or any other similar amount during the previous year to the balance of the fund or scheme may be treated as perk, by treating it as part of the employer's contribution.

Markets fall

major slowdown and the GDP growth rate for the second quarter FY'20 plunged to 4.5 per cent, stock market participants stood disappointed as many feel that the budget lacks on providing a visible roadmap for revival of the economy.

"Since the budget was being presented at a time when there was general acknowledgement by the government that there has been a slowdown, there was expectation that they would come out with strong steps to revive growth. However, that is missing and hence the market has reacted negatively," said CJ George, MD, Geojit Financial Services.

He further said that the announcement on dividend distribution tax will lead to an overall reduction in dividend announcement by companies. "Private sector companies in India are run by promoters and most of them get dividends that fall in the highest tax bracket. While tax outgo on dividend till now was 10 per cent, it will now shoot to around 43 per cent and this will lead to a scenario where companies will not announce dividends," said George.

Analysts say this might change the dividend culture of many companies, impacting the private sector investment which has been very sluggish for the last few years.

There are others who also feel that dividend distribution tax at the hands of individuals is a big negative. Nirmal Jain, Founder & chairman of IIF, said: \"DDT has been abolished and, therefore, obviously foreign investors will benefit but then it becomes fully taxable in the hands of shareholders which is not the right way of doing it because shareholders are also owners and as owners of the company they pay tax on profits and it gets taxed again."

Another factor that has dented market sentiment is the government's move to offer a new tax system where the deduction under Section 80C has been withdrawn. "Investors invest in tax saving mutual fund schemes and also in many insurance shames that qualify for benefits under Section 80C. While the finance minister has said that gradually all deductions and exemptions will go, it means that domestic institutions will find it tough to pool investment by investors and this could dent inflow into the stock markets," said a market expert.

So, the alternative provided to individuals for lower rate of tax, provided they do not claim exemptions/deductions, did not seem too attractive. The alternative tax system discourages investments which market participants do not seem to be comfortable with.

Markets were eagerly hoping for a correction in the Long Term Capital Gains Tax (LTCG) which the FM silently ignored. LTCG on returns in equity mutual funds are treated as long term capital gains and taxed at 10 per cent on gains of over Rs 1 lakh in a financial year. Mutual funds were lobbying for the removal of LTCG on equity, which was introduced by Arun Jaitley in 2016.

The hike in deposit insurance cover also led to selling in bank stocks. "Most importantly, the fall in the Bank Nifty due to the additional burden on the banking sector due to five times hike in the deposit insurance costs, up to Rs 5 lakh per depositor. There are no clear policy measures as regards the banking sector is concerned, except that they are encouraged to raised borrowing from the market for additional capitalization," said H K Pradhan, Professor of Finance and Economics, Xavier School of Management (XLRI).

Divestment goal

stake sale in LIC and IDBI Bank, and another Rs 1.2 lakh crore through other disinvestment. With plans afoot for privatisation of BPCL, Container Corporation of India, Shipping Corporation of India and Air India, the next year is going to see the government sell its equity in several state-owned companies at an unprecedented scale. The government currently owns 100 per cent stake in LIC and 47.11 per cent equity in IDBI Bank, which is majority owned by LIC with 51 per cent equity in the stressed lender. The government's equity in IDBI Bank is currently valued at Rs 18,324 crore. The value of the government's equity in IDBI Bank surged by Rs 1833 crore in a single day on announcement of the plan to sell its stake in the bank.

In the last six years, the government has missed disinvestment collection targets thrice and exceeded it thrice. The biggest shortfall in disinvestment receipts is estimated this year, as the target has been revised down to Rs 65,000 crore in RE (revised estimates) from Rs 1.05 lakh crore in BE (budget estimates). For three years between 2016-17 and 2018-19, the government exceeded the BE targets for disinvestment. In 2015-16, the government collected Rs 23,997 crore through disinvestment as against BE of Rs 25,313 crore. The shortfall in 2014-15 was around Rs 2,000 crore from BE of Rs 26,353 crore.

As for LIC, the government will have to first amend the LIC Act before taking the Corporation public. The Finance Ministry has started discussions with the Law Ministry to finalise required legal changes for the listing of LIC. The Department of Financial Services, sources said, will be working on the structuring, modalities and timing of the proposed IPO of LIC.

LIC is currently governed by the LIC Act of 1956 which enables the state-owned insurer to obtain a special dispensation in several areas, including higher stakes in companies beyond the limit set by the insurance sector regulator. Listing of LIC shares on the market is expected to lead to more disclosures of investment and loan portfolios of the Corporation as well as better corporate governance.

"Listing of companies on stock exchanges discipline a company and provides access to financial markets and unlocks its value. It also gives opportunity for retail investors to participate in the wealth so created," Sitharaman said while announcing plans for the LIC IPO.

The government had earlier listed the shares of General Insurance Corporation and New India Assurance through IPOs three years ago. Finance Ministry sources said the government expects these big ticket disinvestments to be completed in the next financial year, providing the Centre with fiscal cushion amid the slack in tax revenues.

Share sale of LIC, which was set up in 1956, is expected to generate significant investor interest given its dominant position. The LIC had 66.24 per cent market share in total first year premium and 74.71 per cent share in new policies in 2018-19, as per its latest available Annual Report.

The insurer's total assets had touched an all-time high of Rs 31.11 lakh crore in 2018-19, an increase of 9.4 per cent. The Corporation realised a profit of Rs 23,621 crore from its equity investment during 2018-19, down 7.89 per cent from Rs 25,646 crore in the previous year.

Shaheen Bagh

Hinduon ki chalegi (No one except Hindus will have their way in our country)". He also said "ours is a Hindu *rashtravaadi desh*", even as people in the area called him an "*aatankwadi* (terrorist)".

An FIR under the Arms Act and IPC Sections 336 (act endangering life) and 506 (criminal intimidation) has been registered against Kapil at the Shaheen Bagh police station, and he is being questioned.

Joint CP (southern range) Devesh Srivastava said that during initial questioning, Kapil said he left home at 12.30-1 pm and reached Shaheen Bagh in an auto-rickshaw. "He claims he was disturbed by the protests and the trouble it was causing the commuters. He said he operated alone," said Srivastava.

A senior police officer said Kapil kept changing his statement about the weapon — sometimes saying he has owned the country-made pistol for five years, at other times saying it was borrowed.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hit out at Home Minister Amit Shah following the shooting. "Mr Shah, what have you made of our Delhi? Bullets are being fired in broad daylight. Law and order is in tatters. Polls come and go, politics continues, but for the sake of people of Delhi, please focus on improving the law and order condition."

The shootings at Jamia and Shaheen Bagh come in the backdrop of a bitter, polarising campaign. Kejriwal has been at the receiving end of attacks by BJP leaders, who have sought to link him to the protests at Shaheen Bagh.

Shah, in several rallies, has urged voters to press the lotus button (BJP's poll symbol) so hard that the "current" is felt in Shaheen Bagh. On Monday, MoS (Finance) Anurag Thakur, while addressing a poll rally, repeatedly chanted "*Desh ke gaddaron ko*" while the crowd completed the slogan with "*goli maaro saalon ko*". BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma has said that if protests in Shaheen Bagh are allowed to continue, protesters will "enter homes and rape our sisters and daughters".

However, in a tweet on Saturday morning, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad struck a more conciliatory note, saying: "Government is ready to talk to protesters of Shaheen Bagh but then it should be in a structured form, and the Narendra Modi government is ready to communicate with them and clear all their doubts they have against CAA."

Meanwhile, even as DCP Biswal said "the youth fired in the air", at least three eyewitnesses claimed "he fired once in the air, and once towards the front". Biswal said the "police staff present near the barricade reacted immediately, overpowered him and took him in custody". A volunteer at Shaheen Bagh, however, said Kapil was handed over to the police after he was nabbed by volunteers and passers-by.

"I saw the man running with a weapon; he fired in the air and then in front. He then ran back to the barricades and we caught him. He was saying 'Jai Shri Ram' and '*Hindustan mein sirf Hindu hi rahega*'," Nawab-ud-din, an eyewitness, told *The Indian Express*.

The shooting at Shaheen Bagh, which has emerged as the epicentre of protests against the CAA, left many shaken. But as panic spread, a few women took to the stage to reassure the protesters: "*Hum sherniyaan hain, hum kahin nahi jaayenge* (we are lionesses, we will not go anywhere)."

324 land from China, none positive for coronavirus so far

SAKSHI DAYAL, ABANTIKA GHOSH & ASTHA SAXENA
GURGAON/NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

NONE OF the 324 Indian nationals who reached the capital on Saturday after being evacuated from China's Wuhan— the epicentre of a coronavirus outbreak — have tested positive for the virus. Over half of them were taken to the 300-bed isolation centre set up by the Indian Army at Manesar, while the remaining were taken to a quarantine facility in Chhawla Camp on Saturday.

"None of the evacuees brought to India tested positive for coronavirus. A total of 220 people were sent to Manesar, and the remaining to the quarantine centre set up at Chhawla camp in Delhi by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police," said an army officer.

Officials said the evacuees sent to Manesar will be kept there for a fortnight and monitored daily for signs of the virus. The facility is being administered by an officer-in-charge, who heads a team comprising a community medicine specialist, a woman medical officer, two nursing officers and a nursing assistant. All of them, with the rest of the healthcare and housekeeping staff at the facility, have been given personal protective equipment like masks, shoe covers, gowns, gloves, and eye shields, which they are expected to wear at all times.

The residents and any visitors, will have to wear a "three layered mask". At the end of 14 days, evacuees who don't display any symptom will be allowed to return home. Their detailed documentation will be forwarded to the district and state surveillance units for further scrutiny.

The first batch of Indian nationals was transported from Wuhan, China, in a flight arranged by Air India. *ANI*

If anyone appears infected, he or she will be moved to the isolation ward at the Base Hospital Delhi Cantonment, from where they will be discharged only after "clinical recovery" and when two successive samples test negative.

Meanwhile, a second Air India flight departed from Delhi Saturday to bring back more evacuees. "Another flight will depart from Delhi at 12.50 pm Saturday with a different set of crew and the same team of doctors. The rescue team is again headed by Captain Amitabh Singh, Director Operation, Air India," the airline's spokesperson Dhananjay Kumar said.

Crew in the flights to Wuhan will be isolated for a week in their respective homes, provided they show no symptoms. In the flight, they have been instructed to ensure minimum contact with passengers and use personal protective gear.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat reviewed the Manesar facility, and Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan also reviewed the state of preparedness to prevent an outbreak. The ITBP campus houses 87 women, 10 men and seven children under the age of 10. A team of 25 doctors — 15 from Safdarjung Hospital and 10 from ITBP —have been stationed at the premises. So far, no person has been admitted to the isolation ward.

"Initial investigations found all tests to be negative. Periodic check-ups are being done. Food, bed and basic requirements are being catered to. All passengers were screened at IGI Airport and a second screening was done by doctors at Chhawla facility," said Vivek Kumar Pandey, ITBP spokesperson. Meanwhile, two new suspected patients were admitted to RML hospital — two men aged 23 and 46.

Dec 16 case: Centre moves HC, hearing to continue today

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

SAYING THAT "guilty persons were trying the patience of the country by their delaying tactics," the Centre Saturday moved the Delhi High Court against a trial court order postponing the execution of death warrants issued against four convicts in December 16, 2012 gangrape-murder case.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait issued a notice to Tihar Director General Prisons and the four convicts — Mukesh Singh, Pawan Gupta, Vinay Sharma and Akshay Kumar Singh — who were scheduled to be hanged on Saturday. He sought their stand by Sunday, when it will conduct a hearing on the Home Ministry's criminal revision, seeking to set aside a trial court order by which it had Friday postponed hanging of the convicts till further orders.

Hearing which, the counsel for Tihar contended the court's order would be complied with.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Ministry, argued "this case will go down in the history of India where convicts of heinous crime are trying patience of the country". Mehta said the convicts have taken the process of law on a "joyride" and are acting in tandem to delay their execution.

The Centre's petition stated Mukesh has "exhausted all possible remedies available to him under law and is now a convict under death sentence waiting to be executed". "It is submitted that any further delay in the execution of his death sentence would have a de-humanising effect on Mukesh," the plea said.

The petition, filed by the Centre's standing counsel Amit Mahajan, said the trial court judge, "while postponing the execution of death warrants 'till further orders', failed to consider that the said four convicts have been found to be guilty of a horrible, dreadful, cruel, abominable, ghastly, gruesome and heinous offence of rape coupled with a bone chilling murder of a young girl which shook the conscience of the entire nation".

The plea stated the "... convicts, by filing their review or curative or mercy petitions, one after another, at such a belated stage.... are being permitted to play with the majesty of law leading to unnecessarily prolonging the execution of the death sentence , taking the judicial process for a ride".

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BJP, Ambedkar Nagar

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)
₹49.92 L
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹27.92 L
CASH: ₹95,000
JEWELLERY: ₹11.13 L
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹22L

Assets	
Houses	₹22 L

TOTAL ASSETS (2013)*
₹82.75 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹82.75 LAKH
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
NIL
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
BA, Delhi University

SAHIRAM (59)
AAP, Tughlakabad

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)
₹1.36 CRORE
MOVEABLE ASSETS*
₹53.09 LAKH
CASH: ₹50,000
JEWELLERY: ₹21.41 L
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹83 LAKH

Assets	
Agricultural land	₹9 L
Houses	₹74 L
Commercial buildings	Nil

TOTAL ASSETS (2015)*
₹97.46 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹16.56 LAKH
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹80.90 LAKH
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
Class 11

(including spouse's assets)

BALLOTIN

BJP campaign song targets protesters

New Delhi: The BJP continued to centre its campaign around Shaheen Bagh with a song saying "it is time to evict those sitting on protest in Delhi". The Hindi song also talks about "teaching a lesson to those who fear the rise of India" It calls on people in Delhi to "give an answer, Delhi, to those who love Shaheen Bagh." **ENS**

CM Yogi Adityanath at the rally in Karawal Nagar on Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

'WHAT AZADI DO THEY WANT?'

On Day 1 in Delhi, Yogi talks bullets, biryani & protests

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said his Delhi counterpart, Arvind Kejriwal, was "providing biryani to those sitting at Shaheen Bagh".

"What kind of slogans are they raising — *azadi, azadi*? What kind of *azadi* do you want," he said, speaking at an election rally in Rohini.

This was his fourth rally in Delhi — he earlier addressed people in Karawal Nagar, Jahangirpuri and Narela.

Adityanath's speeches at all rallies had similar themes and key words — biryani, bullets, Shaheen Bagh and Pakistan.

"Earlier, stone pelters would take money from Pakistan and damage public property (in Kashmir). Kejriwal's party and Congress used to support them. But that stopped after scrapping of its special status (abrogation of Article 370). Similarly, Pakistani terrorists are being sent to hell by our soldiers. Congress and people like Kejriwal used to feed them biryani, but we feed them bullets," he said in Narela. "Understand their mentality towards the country, where they want to take it."

However, when the crowd at the Narela rally chanted, '*desh ke gaddaron ko goli maro saalon ko*', Adityanath said ballot, and not bullet, is the biggest power in a democracy.

> **Kejriwal can't provide clean drinking water to people of Delhi. But Kejriwal government provides biryani to the people sitting at protest in Shaheen Bagh"**
>
> **YOGI ADITYANATH**
> UTTAR PRADESH CM

At the rally, he said: "Kejriwal can't provide clean drinking water to people of Delhi. A survey says that Delhi has the most polluted drinking water. But Kejriwal government provides biryani to the people sitting at protest in Shaheen Bagh and other places."

Referring to protests against the CAA and proposed NRC, he said people tried to take to the streets in Uttar Pradesh too. "But I recovered money from them by making videos (of protesters allegedly damaging public property). I told them that we won't serve you biryani like Kejriwal," he said.

"People who want to serve biryani by taking away the basic needs of people, who speak the language of Pakistan and the enemy country, we need to be safe from them — and elections are the best medium for that," he said.

Talking about the kanwar yatra in Uttar Pradesh, he said the previous government had put several restrictions. He said he was told that removing all restrictions could lead to security concerns along the yatra. "I said we don't put restrictions on any festival, everyone can celebrate it peacefully. *Lekin Shiv bhakton pe koi goli chalaega, danga karaega, toh boli se nahi manega toh goli se maan hi jayega,*" he said.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia both lashed out at Adityanath. "Yogi Adityanath should have been arrested by now. He is mentally sick and requires treatment, and he should know treatment is free in Delhi. Yogi's track record as a CM is dismal. In his own district Gorakhpur, children died due to lack of facilities in a government hospital," Singh said.

Sisodia said: "I want to tell the people of Delhi that these BJP *waale* will bring their MPs, chief ministers and ministers. Please ask them if they have done the things that they are talking about here in their own states. Have you reduced the cost of electricity? Have you improved government schools there? Have you done anything for women?... Tell them, 'go and work in your own area, we have a government which works here'."

Prasad softens stand: Govt ready to talk to protesters in Shaheen Bagh

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FOR THE first time since protests against the new citizenship law erupted across the country in December, the BJP-led central government gave a conciliatory signal, with senior BJP leader and Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad saying the government is ready to talk to protesters of Shaheen Bagh.

"Government is ready to talk to protesters of Shaheen Bagh but then it should be in a structured form, and the Narendra Modi govt is ready to communicate with them and clear all the doubts they have against CAA," Prasad tweeted on Saturday morning.

While taking part in a show on *India TV* on Wednesday, Prasad, however, indicated there cannot be any conditions for the talk. "It's ok you are protesting against the law. But some of you say that the discussions will be there only if CAA is withdrawn. How can it be? For discussion, there has to be a structured request," he said.

Shaheen Bagh has become the epicentre of protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

The remarks from Prasad, a senior minister in the Narendra Modi government, came a day after smaller allies, such as SAD, LJP and JD(U), expressed their displeasure over the ruling party's stance on new citizenship laws. Sources have said that alliance leaders who attended an NDA meeting chaired by Prime Minister Modi on Friday cautioned the government against moves that could create "suspicion and fear" among Muslims. Prime Minister Modi told his coalition partners that Muslims have the same rights as any other community.

The government, sources in the party said, was also under pressure from the international community, which has criticised the new citizenship laws and the proposed NRC, against which there have been protests across the country.

While the BJP has insisted that there will not be any review of the CAA, its leaders gave mixed signals about the NRC. Modi had in his December 22 speech in Delhi said the NRC exercise was not even discussed in the government, and President Ram Nath Kovind, who had mentioned about the NRC in his June address to Parliament, omitted any reference to it in his address on Friday.

This is the first time any senior minister or party leader has indicated the government's willingness to engage in any conversation with the protesters in Shaheen Bagh. However, BJP sources downplayed the remark saying the minister was responding to a question at a television show.

Protesters in Shaheen Bagh, mainly women, have been sitting on a protest there for over 45 days. In Delhi, which is going to polls on February 8, the Shaheen Bagh protest has become a flashpoint between the ruling AAP and the BJP, with the former putting the onus of removing traffic troubles because of the protest on the BJP.

Sisodia says Budget a betrayal of city residents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the Finance portfolio, hit out at the BJP over the Union Budget, saying that it was a betrayal to residents of Delhi.

"From Delhi's point of view, everyone — including us, as residents of Delhi — had expected that since it's election season, perhaps they will take some step or arrangement which will benefit Delhi. But I am very sad that this Budget is a big betrayal to the people of Delhi... despite the economic hardships, the people of Delhi have created a path to survival through their hard work," he said.

He attacked the BJP government in the Centre for non-allocation of funds to Delhi's municipal corporations. "The betrayal that has been done to the municipal corporations is very astonishing because there is a BJP government in the Centre. At the state level, it is understandable if they don't want the Aam Aadmi Party government to carry out developmental work. But the MCDs are in the hands of the BJP. When they were campaigning for MCD elections, Manoj Tiwari had made a promise that he will get funds from the Centre directly for MCDs. Not one paisa has come, while all other municipal corporations in the country have been given funds separately. This money is not required for AAP or BJP. It is required for the salaries and equipment of MCD workers, teachers, doctors... What is your enmity with the people of Delhi?" he said.

The BJP had said in its manifesto for the 2017 MCD elections that the Centre would send direct funds to civic bodies.

"There are elections going on. They released their manifesto and are making tall promises. You are turning back on promises you made for MCD elections even as you make new promises. How will the people trust your promises, Manoj Tiwari? In a way, the BJP has exposed itself and said that election promises mean nothing to them," he said.

He also reiterated that the Centre has been refusing to increase Delhi's share of the Budget, which has remained stagnant since 2001 at Rs 325 crore.

He also criticised the Budget with regard to the education sector and said the central government is trying to make school education a profit-making exercise.

"I expected that the BJP government will increase the education budget because, according to their own National Education Policy, 6% of the GDP should be spent on education. Last year, the education budget was 3.6% of the GDP and this year they have decreased the share to 3.2% of the GDP... They have made another announcement which I think is more dangerous. They are introducing FDI in education... Private institutions in our country are by default not supposed to be profit-making institutions... By bringing FDI, it means you are going to turn it into a profit-making enterprise," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari praised the Budget, saying it will give the country a new direction. "Infrastructure has been given more importance and something has been provided for all sections, such as youth, women, farmers, senior citizens and '*divyang-jano*'. Through our Sankalp Patra and the Union Budget, BJP has done the work of gifting the people of Delhi happiness," he said.

Sisodia at Saturday's press conference

Meanwhile, AAP urges end to stir so BJP can't take 'political advantage using violence'

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

IN A recalibration of its position a week before the Delhi elections, the AAP Saturday appealed to Shaheen Bagh protesters to consider withdrawing their agitation so that the "BJP is unable" to take political advantage of the situation.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the anti-CAA protesters at Shaheen Bagh should "definitely consider" suspending the agitation. Earlier, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia had said he stands with the protesters while CM Arvind Kejriwal had called for a dialogue between them and the Centre.

"I think those running the protests should show patience and understanding so that the BJP is unable to take political advantage through violence," Singh said.

Singh's statement assumes significance as he shared it in the context of Delhi's "alarming law and order situation".

AAP MP Sanjay Singh

Asked specifically if he was asking the protesters to suspend their agitation, Singh, flanked by AAP national secretary Pankaj Gupta, said, "*Nishchit rup se vichar karna chahiye* (It should definitely be considered)."

Referring to Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's statement on the Centre's willingness to enter into structured talks with protesters, Singh sought to know who stopped him from going ahead with the plan. "I know it is Union Home Minister Amit Shah who wants to spread violence in Delhi and postpone the polls. If the EC does not immediately take strong steps, there is a chance of more violence in the coming days," he said.

Singh said the AAP had evidence that some elements were planning to create ruckus at Shaheen Bagh on February 2. "Perhaps someone decided to prepone it," he said, referring to Saturday's firing incident.

"It is unfortunate that the ECI has not responded so far to the AAP's requests for a meeting. How is it possible that individuals in the national capital are brandishing weapons and openly firing? The Home Minister, who is responsible for the law and order in Delhi, instead of controlling the situation, is trying to stoke trouble," Singh said.

WILL VOTE FOR LOCAL ISSUES, SAY RESIDENTS

In Hari Nagar, 2 candidates familiar faces, 3rd more well known online

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

AT A time when most political parties have been banking on the popularity of a single leader to draw votes, West Delhi's Hari Nagar constituency may offer a welcome change.

The reason, voters say, is the accessibility, familiarity and previous work done by the AAP and Congress candidates in the constituency. The BJP candidate, though popular on social media, does not evoke the same connect, residents say.

In the fray in Hari Nagar is AAP's Rajkumari Dhillon, Congress's Surinder Setia, and BJP's Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga.

Dhillon, who is a former Congress councillor from a ward in Hari Nagar, joined the AAP earlier this month. Setia is a councillor from a ward in Subhash Nagar. Bagga, a Delhi BJP spokesperson since 2017, will be contesting polls for the first time.

But the competition, according to Subhash Nagar resident Ravinder Sharma, is between AAP and Congress.

"You can approach (Setia) anytime and he will listen to you and try to solve your issues," the 39-year-old said, adding, "Dhillon is also a good candidate; we have sought her help in the past. But for us, Setia *ji* is better. We also support what Modi *ji* is doing nationally and we vote for him. But here (the BJP) has fielded a candidate who not many people know."

Setia appears to have a stronghold in Subhash Nagar. Rajesh, a resident, said, "He is a councillor and people know him because he lives here, which would definitely get him votes. But the constituency is huge and in areas like Janakpuri, people may not know him. That said, the seat is likely to go to AAP, because of the work it has done."

BJP workers campaign in Subhash Nagar on Saturday. *Express*

The constituency includes urban and rural localities, and industrial and JJ clusters. It covers areas in and around Hari Nagar, Janakpuri, Mayapuri and Subhash Nagar, and has largely middle class neighbourhoods.

Dhillon appears to be a popular name in pockets of Hari Nagar. Shingara Singh (69), a retired central government employee, said, "No one can say that Dhillon *ji* has not done any work during her term; be it construction of roads, sewage lines, installing streetlights. Moreover, she is from the area and everyone knows her. That makes a strong connection."

Dhillon's name has seamlessly merged with AAP's poll plank of *bijli-paani*, education and healthcare. Sourabh Nangia (28), a resident of Hari Nagar, said, "When she was a councillor, she would do everything in her power to help you. Besides that, AAP has done work here, installed CCTV cameras, government schools nearby are good, water supply and quality is good. We're basically happy with everything."

Compared with these local leaders, Bagga seems like a "little known outsider" for residents. Only a few were aware of his popularity on social media platforms, and many asked why he has been fielded from the constituency.

Even though BJP leaders have been pushing forward the decisions taken by the Central government — such as surgical strikes, scrapping of Article 370 and the new Citizenship law — to make gains in Delhi, the mood on the ground in Hari Nagar is to vote for "local issues".

G S Bedi (42), a resident of Asha Park, said, "Why has the BJP fielded (Bagga), no one knows. He is not even from here. He is popular on Twitter, but can that make you an MLA?"

Ajit Singh (43), from Fateh Nagar, said, "What the BJP at the Centre is doing is good, but in this election, local issues matter. It looks like the party will give a strong contest to the AAP this time."

POLICE PRESENCE STEPPED UP FOLLOWING SHOOTING

In Shaheen Bagh, panic — and resolve

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

WHEN AN armed assailant shot at a Jamia Millia Islamia student Thursday, the tremors of the attack were felt at the Shaheen Bagh protest site. Two days later, an armed assailant fired at least two shots barely 50 metres from the stage at Shaheen Bagh, causing fear, panic and anger.

The shots were fired near the police barricades where at least six-seven police personnel are stationed 24x7. Efforts are now being made by police to bolster security at the protest site. A senior police officer said, "While personnel are stationed at the barricades that have been put up near the site, locals and protesters frown when we get any closer. We are thinking of putting door metal detectors as well as frisking people at entry and exit points."

Delhi Police Additional PRO Anil Mittal said that local police has enhanced vigil and will conduct random checking. "The organisers have also been asked to cooperate with police and depute volunteers to assist the police," said Mittal.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened around the venue by volunteers, with at least two of them posted at each entry and exit point of the bylanes leading to Shaheen Bagh. A volunteer said, "We are setting up over 20 CCTV cameras across the site. Apart from this, we are getting generators so that the area is well-lit even when there is no electricity."

The organisers said that the number of volunteers, too, has increased since the shooting, and many are scanning social media accounts that "incite hate". "In order to ensure that we don't retaliate with violence, volunteers were counselled today to not hit back no matter what," said a volunteer.

At 4.45 pm, when the firing took place, Bilkis (80) was at the site. "There was panic inside the tent but people eventually calmed down. We all walked up to the point where the cartridges were found and offered prayers. A human chain was formed for us. These bullets don't scare us."

Appeals were made on the mic to pacify people to maintain peace and continue the protest.

By late evening, the site was teeming with people — women, men and children. Among them was Rehana Khatoon (30) with her two-month-old baby girl. She said, "*Darr hi nahi hai, pata nahi kaha bhaag gaya.* I came here when my daughter was 12 days old and I am here today. We won't leave till CAA and NRC are rolled back."

Protesters raised anti-police slogans and spoke about the Jamia incident when an armed assailant shot at a student, even as police stood metres away. "This happened near the police barricades and there was police presence. How did he manage to fire two shots in front of cops?" asked Noor-un-Nisa (70). Nasreen (40) was at the vegetable market when she found out about the shooting. Instead of returning home, she picked up her son Musheer (10), and gathered neighbours to join the protest. "I have been unable to go to the protest for a week, but after the shooting, I decided enough is enough... *Lathi maaro ya goli, hum nahi darte.*"

Women form a human chain at Shaheen Bagh on Saturday. *Gajendra Yadav*

Gunman a father of 3-year-old girl, family has dairy business

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 1

ON SATURDAY evening, a large crowd had gathered outside the three-storey home of the alleged Shaheen Bagh gunman, who identified himself as Kapil Gujjar. Most who know the family said Kapil is a "no-nonsense" man, "devoted to his family's dairy business".

Chaudhary Kalyan Singh, a relative, said he never knew Kapil to have extreme views or affiliation to far-right groups.

"Yes, he was a devout Hindu like everyone else in this village, but we all live in harmony together. There is no denying that there is a lot of inconvenience because of protesters in Shaheen Bagh, but not even in our wildest dreams could we have thought he would do this. He has always been quiet, never got into trouble," he said.

Relatives and neighbours said Kapil attended school till Class XII and then joined the family's flourishing dairy business.

Two cartridges were found at the protest site

He has a three-year-old daughter and stays with his wife and parents in their Dallupura home in East Delhi.

Kapil's father Gaje Singh has a political background, having unsuccessfully contested MCD elections in 2007 on a BSP ticket. He ran for MCD elections again in 2012 as a BSP member from Khichri Pur, and also contested the assembly elections in 2008, but in vain.

"But Kapil did not have political affiliations. We are unable to comprehend what has happened," said Suryavansh Inderjeet Gurjar, an acquaintance of the accused. As purported photos from social media profiles of the man started being circulated online, locals maintained Kapil was not active online.

"He went for the kanwar yatra but never professed affiliation to a particular group. If there was something brewing in his head about the current protests, we would have known. A while ago, he had changed his WhatsApp number, and since then many of us were not able to interact with him," said Kapil's friend.

According to relatives, on Saturday morning, Kapil went to the dairy as per his normal routine, and was at home by noon.

Locals also claimed they spotted him playing cricket, following which he was not seen by anyone in the locality till news of the firing began circulating.

Knew I had to stop gunman: Man shot at outside Jamia

MUZAMIL JALEEL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE JAMIA Millia Islamia student who was shot at during a protest on Thursday has said he is "in a lot of trauma and has been unable to talk to anyone" since the incident. Shadab Farooq Najar (21) was shot in the forearm by a 17-year-old, even as several policemen stood metres away.

Shadab, who hails from J&K's Chinab valley, has been at Jamia for the last four years. "I wasn't scared somehow; I don't know why. When I saw him raise his gun, I felt I needed to stop him. I was telling him to lower the gun and was walking towards him. I thought once I got closer to him, I would grab him. I also thought police were going to stop him. They were behind him. Perhaps I didn't realise police were not going to do anything," he said.

On the gunman, Shadab said: "He wanted to show Jamia students in a bad light. I am from Jamia and I had to stand for Jamia. I felt that. I think I will stand for Jamia if such a situation comes again. Everybody should stand for rights, for justice."

On the shooting, he said: "At that point, I was alone. I saw this man wielding a gun. He walked 100-150 metres, raising the gun in his hand and shouting slogans. I walked towards him, told him to lower the gun. Other people were also pleading with police to stop him," he said. "I saw policemen standing with their hands inside their pockets... some of them were making videos. I told him twice to lower the gun and when I told him the third time, he opened fire. He aimed at my chest. But I raised my hand and the bullet hit my left forearm."

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Daring escape from jail ends in gunfire

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 1

A GROUP of "eight-ten people" helped two inmates of Gurgaon's Bhondsi Jail to escape, while they were being transported back after being produced in court Saturday. Two of the men who aided the escape and one of the two inmates were arrested in the night, following a chase that left all three men with bullet injuries.

Police said the incident took place around 3.30 pm, while the inmates, Sandeep alias Kala and Kaju alias Dhan Singh, were being taken to Gurgaon from the Faridabad court. As the police vehicle reached near Hanuman Mandir, the group of men in three cars shot at its tyres and also shot an ASI seated at the front in his shoulder.

"The men grabbed the two inmates and fled towards the Pali crusher zone. To mislead police, they abandoned one of their cars in the area and fled in a white Scorpio of a resident of Pali, after shooting him in the leg," said Faridabad Police PRO Sube Singh.

The men rammed into barricades at a Faridabad Police checkpoint in the Sikrona area, and tried to drive through. Being unable to do so, they opened fire on the police team and ran into some fields. As police returned fire, two of the accused were shot in the leg and another was injured in his hand. All three have been admitted to BK Hospital for treatment.

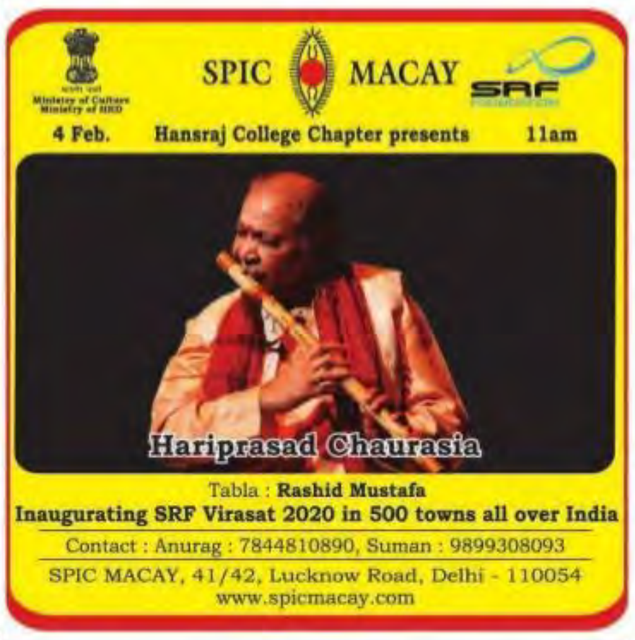
"Seven pistols, 236 live cartridges and one gun are among the arms and ammunition seized. Further investigations are underway to nab the other accused," Singh said.

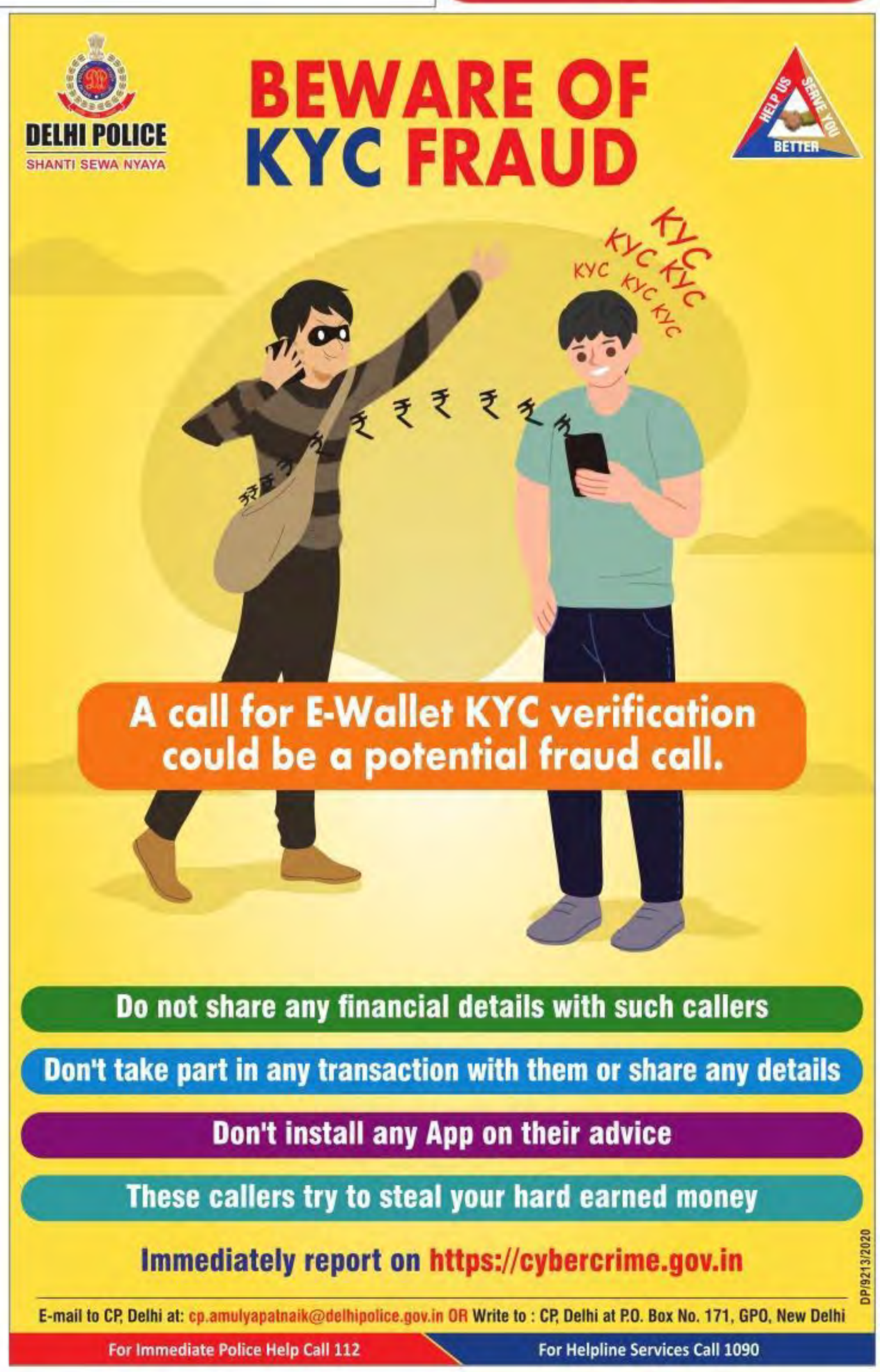
2 drown in canal

New Delhi: A day after two men allegedly drowned in a canal in Bawana while immersing idols, their bodies were recovered by firemen from Bawana Nahar Saturday. According to police, the two men — Raj Kumar (24) and Shiv Kumar (21) — were immersing idols and taking a bath in the canal Friday evening when they drowned. **ENS**

Fire at AIIMS

New Delhi: A minor fire broke out at a building on the AIIMS premises Saturday, officials said. However, no loss of life or damage was reported, the hospital said in a statement. "As a precautionary measure, the patients were temporarily shifted. The patients are being shifted back to their respective wards," the hospital said. **ENS**





TAKE 5

1. Balances due out of collection for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 will be transferred to the Goods and Services Tax Compensation Fund in two instalments. Hereafter, transfers to the fund would be limited only to collection by way of GST compensation cess.

2. The government has withdrawn tax exemptions on perks like rent-free official accommodation, conveyance facilities, medical facilities and leave travel concessions currently available to serving and retired members and chairpersons of UPSC, the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

3. The government said it expected tax buoyancy to take time and the recent cut in corporate tax to cause loss of substantial revenue in short run, but the economy will reap huge returns in due course.

4. Majority of borrowings for 2020-21 would go towards capital expenditure of the government that has been scaled up by more than 21%.

5. The government will encourage public sector banks, which have gone through mergers, to approach capital markets to raise additional capital.

HOPES OF A LIVELIHOOD

Unemployed daily wage labourers wait for customers on the side of a road in Gurgaon, Haryana. *Tashi Tobgyal*

GDP GROWTH
The economy recorded a low growth of 4.5 per cent in Q2 of 2019-20, lowest since 4.3 per cent recorded in Q4 of 2012-13. In recent times, the economy achieved its highest quarterly growth of 9.4 per cent in Q1 of 2016-17. The Economic Survey has projected a recover in economy in the second half of FY'21.

FISCAL DEFICIT
In 2019-20, Centre's fiscal deficit was budgeted at Rs 7.04 lakh crore (3.3 per cent of GDP), as compared to Rs 6.49 lakh crore (3.4 per cent of GDP) in 2018-19 (provisional account). In the first eight months of 2019-20, fiscal deficit stood at 114.8 per cent of the budgeted level.

Govt maintains protectionist stance; hikes import duties on over 100 categories of products

PRABHA RAGHAVAN & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE GOVERNMENT Saturday hiked import duties on over 100 categories of products across sectors, including certain food items, furniture, footwear, household appliances, parts of mobile phones, and toys, continuing a progressively protectionist stance sparked over the last few years. It has also decided to amend customs rules to allow safeguards to limit quantities of imported products that it feels will "threaten" the domestic industry. For instance, the duty on shelled walnuts has been hiked to 100 per cent from 30 per cent. Duties on tricycles, dolls and puzzles are now 60 per cent as opposed to 20 per cent earlier, while completely built units of commercial electrical vehicles like buses and trucks will carry a 40 per cent customs duty, up from 25 per cent, starting April 1.

Exemptions on duties for products like certain milk products and alcoholic beverages, peanut butter, preserved potatoes, tin plates, sheets and strips, goods used in the construction of roads and parts used to manufacture printers have also been withdrawn.

The government is also taxing certain imported medical devices as part of a new health cess to set up hospitals in aspirational districts lacking healthcare facilities to support the NDA government's flagship health insurance scheme for the poor. The 5 per cent cess is also expected to encourage the use of domestically manufactured medical devices in the country, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her budget speech.

At the same time, the government has reduced duties on at least 15 categories of products, including newsprint, parts used to manufacture microphones, calendered plastic sheets used to make smart cards and certain sports goods. For instance, pure bred breeding horses will now carry no duty, while they used to carry 30 per cent earlier. Solar cells, assembled in modules or made up in panels, will carry zero per cent duty, starting February 2.

According to the latest Budget documents, the country's Customs Tariff Act, 1975, is also being amended to allow it to impose a safeguard duty, apply a tariff-rate quota or any "appropriate" measure that would help the government curb imports that could cause "serious" injury to the domestic industry.

The government has also incorporated "suitable" provisions in its Customs Act to prevent "undue" claims of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) benefits that pose a threat to India's domestic industry. "It has been observed that imports under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are on the rise...In the coming months we shall review Rules of Origin requirements, particularly for certain sensitive items, so as ensure that FTAs are aligned to the conscious direction of our policy," said Sitharaman.

Now, merely presenting a certificate of origin "shall not absolve the importer of the responsibility to exercise reasonable care" when seeking preferential rate of duty under an FTA, according to the amendments. The importer would have to establish, among other things, that the goods qualify for the preferential rates and should also possess "sufficient" information on the regional value content of the product. The NDA government, in its previous tenure, had also engaged in a tariff hiking spree covering over 400 items ranging from apples and almonds to cell phone parts.

Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also walked out of the proposed RCEP deal over "significant" outstanding issues. Around this time, commerce minister Piyush Goyal had become positive about resolving talks with the US and reopening discussions with regions like the EU. However, the minister has also been vocal about India's willingness to retaliate in cases where existing agreements have not worked in the country's favour. In December, he had asked the industry for details of non-tariff trade barriers imposed by other countries on Indian exports, adding that the government was "willing to look at retaliatory action" and impose similar trade remedial measures.

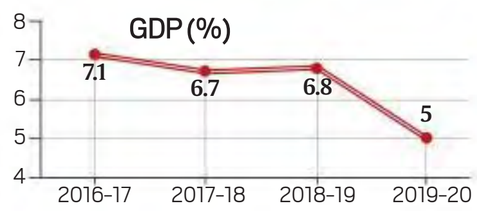
Govt cuts import duty on newsprint to 5% from 10%

New Delhi: Imported newsprint and magazines have become cheaper for publications registered with the Registrar of Newspapers, following the Centre's latest move to slash customs duties for the paper industry.

The government on Saturday reduced duties on newsprint, uncoated paper used for printing newspapers and lightweight coated paper used to print magazines (subject to end-use conditions), to 5 per cent from 10 per cent before. **ENS**

FISCAL STATUS OVER THE YEARS

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Fiscal Deficit	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.5
Revenue Deficit	2.1	2.6	2.2	2.4	2.7
Gross Tax Revenue	11.3	11.6	11.9	10.6	10.8
Current Account Deficit	-0.6	-1.9	-2.1	NA	NA



Note: All Data as percentage of GDP; Source: Finance ministry, RBI

FY20: DEVIATION FROM CONSOLIDATION ROAD MAP

Govt invokes clause in FRBM Act to raise fiscal deficit target to 3.8% from 3.3%

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FALLING TAX and non tax revenues has put a strain on government finances, forcing it to cut expenditure and breach the fiscal deficit target for the third year in a row even as it stopped short of bringing all of the government's off-budget borrowings to the book. For the next year, the government is relying heavily on non tax revenue – for example, target for disinvestment receipts is up more than three times at record Rs 2.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 – to bridge the revenue gap.

Even as the government is projecting spending to rise next year, in the current year, it slashed spending by as much as Rs 87,797 crore from the budget estimate to ease the fiscal strain. With economy facing slowdown in investment, net exports and private consumption, government spending is the only engine which is supporting growth. Total expenditure, therefore, is pegged to rise by 12.7 per cent in 2020-21 to Rs 30.42 lakh crore – a rise of Rs 3.43 lakh crore over 2019-20 revised estimate.

Capital expenditure is set to rise 18.1 per cent to Rs 4.12 lakh crore in budget estimate for 2020-21 over 2019-20 revised estimate. The gross tax revenue is anticipated to grow at the rate of 12.3 per cent in 2021-22. As a result of these factors, the Budget announced a marked deviation from the fiscal consolidation roadmap, though it stopped short of bringing all of the government's off-budget borrowings to the book. The government breached the fiscal deficit target by 0.5 percentage points to 3.8 per cent of GDP for 2019-20. For the next financial year, it is pegged at 3.5 per cent of the GDP as against the earlier estimate of 3.4 per cent.

The government slipped from the fiscal consolidation roadmap owing to a shortfall of Rs 1.45 lakh crore in tax collections and a Rs 40,000 crore shortfall in disinvestment receipts. Direct tax collections for the current fiscal fell short of the budget target by Rs 1.65 lakh crore.

Nominal GDP growth for 2019-20 has been estimated at 7.5 per cent, lower than 11.2 per cent growth in 2018-19. A projection of 10 per cent has also been made for nominal GDP growth for 2020-21.

For the next financial year, the government has pegged an ambitious disinvestment target of Rs 2,10,000 crore. government's non-tax revenues are estimated to rise by 11 per cent to Rs 3.85 lakh crore, while tax revenues are estimated to rise by 8.7 per cent to Rs 16.35 lakh crore in 2020-21. The government has budgeted for lower dividends from the RBI and state-owned banks in 2020-21, expecting to earn Rs 89,600 crore from the Reserve Bank of India, banks and financial institutions, down from Rs 1.52 lakh crore for the current year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2020-21 speech said that the expected "tax buoyancy will take time", adding that the deviation from the fiscal deficit consolidation roadmap is in line with the 0.5 per cent escape clause provided in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

"Section 4 (2) of the FRBM Act provides for a trigger mechanism for a deviation from the estimated fiscal deficit on account of structural reforms in the economy with unanticipated fiscal implications. Therefore, I have taken a deviation of 0.5%, consistent with Section 4(3) of FRBM Act, both for RE 2019-20 and BE 2020-21," she said.

Sitharaman further stated that this fiscal path is a commitment to the path of fiscal consolidation "without compromising the needs of investment out of public funds".

The net market borrowings would be Rs 4.99 lakh crore in financial year 2019-20 and are estimated at Rs 5.36 lakh crore in the next fiscal. The Finance Minister said "a good part" of the borrowings for the financial year 2020-21 would go towards capital expenditure of the government that has been increased by over 21 per cent and would help to boost growth. "...another about Rs 22,000 crore have been allocated for equity to fund certain specified infrastructure finance companies, who would leverage it manifold and provide much needed long-term finance to Infrastructure sector. That should spur growth impulses in the economy," she said.

EXPLAINED

Move in line with FRBM Act

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget 2020-21 speech said that the expected "tax buoyancy will take time", adding that the deviation from the fiscal deficit consolidation road map is in line with the 0.5 per cent escape clause provided in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

Finance Commission recommends 41% share of taxes for states; 1% for J&K, Ladakh in FY21

SUNNY VERMA & HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE 15TH Finance Commission has recommended keeping the tax devolution share "virtually unchanged" to states at 41 per cent for the year 2020-21, compared to 42 per cent at present. The 1 percentage point reduction has been done to account for the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have notionally estimated that the share of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir would have come to around 0.85 per cent of the divisible pool. We believe that there is a strong case for enhancing this to 1 per cent of the divisible pool to meet the security and the special needs of the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Since this enhancement has to be met from the Union's resources, we recommend that the aggregate share of states may be reduced by about 1 percentage point to 41 per cent of the divisible pool," as per the report has said.

The Commission's report, along with an action taken report, was submitted in Parliament today. The Commission has earlier submitted its report to President Ram Nath Kovind last December. "In the spirit of co-operative federalism, I am pleased to announce that we have, in substantial measure, accepted the recommendations of the Commission," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

The commission would submit its final report to the President during the latter part of the year, for five years beginning 2021-22. The commission has also recommended Rs 90,000 crore as grants to local bodies for 2020-21, which is 4.31 per cent of the estimated divisible pool. For determining state-wise allocations for disaster risk management, the panel has suggested a new methodology which combines capacity, risk exposure and proneness to hazard and vulnerability.

According to the Commission's recommendations, the share of several states has decreased in the divisible pool for financial year 2020-21 while others has increased. For instance, Uttar Pradesh which has the largest share in divisible pool, has seen a marginal decline from 17.959 percent during 14th Finance Commission to 17.931 in the 15th Finance Commission. Similarly, Punjab's share has also come down to 1.577 percent from 1.788 percent during 14th Finance Commission. Among the major states, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala too have seen a decline in their share in the divisible pool.

However, the share of Tamil Nadu in divisible pool has increase from 4.023 percent to 4.139 percent. Bihar too have seen a rise from 9.665 to 10.061 percent. Maharashtra is another major state whose share in divisible pool has increased from 5.521 percent to 6.135 percent.

The increase in the share of Tamil Nadu is significant as the state had demanded to reframe the 15th Finance Commission's terms of reference. The State had argued that it will lose if the census year for calculating revenue distribution is changed from 1971 to 2011 as the it had made progress to check the population rise in last four decades.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has also recommended grant for states who implement agricultural reforms. "The States will be eligible for financial incentives if they enact and implement all features of the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in 2017 and Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2018 and Model Agricultural land leasing Act, 2016 prepared by the NITI Aayog", said the Finance Commission in its report.

"We recommend that state government take predatory action by securing the passage of these bills in their respective legislature in 2020-21 to become eligible to avail the grant awarded by us from 2021-22 onwards", it added.

COMMISSION WILL SUBMIT REPORT LATER IN YEAR

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THE SHARE of several states has decreased in the divisible pool for financial year 2020-21 while others has increased

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ANNUAL REVENUE FORGONE BY DDT ABOLISHMENT PEGGED AT ₹25,000 CRORE

DDT scrapped, compliance onus on investors

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

SHIFTING THE onus of compliance arising out of dividend distribution from corporates to individuals, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that recipient investors would now be liable to pay the tax at the existing rates. The move will abolish dividend distribution tax (DDT) on companies who pay these dividends, and is aimed at increasing the return on capital equity for foreign investors. Further, the government also proposed to allow companies deductions for the dividend received from their holding company, Sitharaman said.

The current system of levying DDT leads to an increased tax burden for individuals, the Finance Minister said, adding that it cascaded for investors who were liable to pay tax at rates less than that of DDT, if the dividend is included in their income.

As the dividend received is an income to the shareholder and not the company, the incidence of the tax should also lie on the recipient of the monies, according to Budget documents. "Moreover, the present provisions levy tax at a flat rate on the distributed profits, across the board irrespective of the marginal rate at which the recipient is otherwise taxed. The provisions are hence, considered, iniquitous and regressive," the Budget document read.

At present, the current rate for DDT stands at 15 per cent, which after including the surcharge and cess, comes to around 20.5 per cent. The annual revenue forgone after the abolishing of DDT has been pegged at Rs 25,000 crore.

The move is likely to lead to an increase in the taxable income of individual investors. At present, investors are not required to pay any tax on dividend incomes below Rs 10 lakh, after which it is taxed at flat rate of 10 per cent.

"While the endeavour is to reduce litigation and improve compliance, taxing dividend in the hands of shareholders would defeat the objective of improved compliance. Further, the shareholders may fall in a different tax bracket and hence there could be different tax implications on the dividend income", said Abhishek A Rastogi, partner at Khaitan & Co.

It may also impact private sector investment which has been sluggish over the past couple of years, experts said.

"DDT has been abolished and therefore obviously foreign investors will benefit. But then it becomes fully taxable in the hands of shareholders which is not the right way of doing it. It will impact the private sector investment," Nirmal Jain, founder and chairman of IIFL, said.

DDT was introduced in the year 1997 as a move to boost investment in shares of domestic companies. Though initially capped at 10 per cent of the total dividend being distributed, it has grown to nearly 20.5 per cent over the years. The tax was abolished in 2002, only to be reintroduced the next year.

The government had, while reintroducing the tax in 2003, argued that it was easier for them to collect tax at a single point from the company instead of individual investors.

The idea, the Budget papers for this fiscal noted, had "outlived itself" as newer technology and tracking system made it easier to track the incomes in the hands of investors themselves.

In 2003, while reintroducing the DDT, the government had proposed the tax slab rate at 12.5 per cent. Apart from domestic companies, mutual funds — including UTI Mutual Fund — was also included under the tax bracket. Equity oriented mutual fund schemes had then been exempted from the purview of DDT for one year. The government had also then increased the general deduction given to investors, from Rs 9,000 to Rs 12,000.

"Thus, the total deduction available under Section 80L will be Rs 15,000. Though dividend will not be taxable in the hands of the recipient from next year, I propose to retain this deduction at Rs15,000 for next year also," the then finance minister Jaswant Singh had said.

EXPLAINED

Tax compliance may not see improvement

DURING HER Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the system of levying dividend distribution tax (DDT) results in increased tax burden for investors, especially those who are liable to pay tax less than the rate of DDT, if the dividend is included in their income. The move is also aimed at benefitting foreign investors.

However, there is the possibility that taxing the dividend in the hands of the shareholder would defeat the objective of improved compliance.

Tour packages, overseas remittances under tax net

Sellers of overseas tour packages will be liable to collect TCS at 5%. *Getty Images*

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 1

IN A bid to widen and deepen the tax net, the government has proposed to amend Section 206C of the I-T Act to levy five per cent TCS (tax collected at source) on overseas remittances and for sale of overseas tour package.

According to the Budget documents, an authorised dealer receiving an amount or an aggregate of amounts of Rs 7 lakh or more in a financial year for remittance out of India under the Liberalised remittances Schemes (LRS) of the Reserve Bank of India, will be liable to collect TCS, if he receives sum in excess of said amount from a buyer — a person remitting such amount out of India — at the rate of five per cent. In non PAN/Aadhaar cases, the rate will be ten per cent.

Similarly, a seller of an overseas tour programme package who receives any amount from any buyer — a person who purchases such package — will be liable to collect TCS at the rate of five per cent. The rate will be ten per cent in non-PAN and non-Aadhaar cases.

Overseas tour programme package is defined as any tour package which offers visit to a country or countries or territory or territories outside India, and includes expenses for travel or hotel stay or boarding or lodging or any other expense of similar nature, the Budget documents state.

Further, it has also proposed a new levy of TDS at the rate of one per cent to be paid by a e-commerce operator for sale of goods or provision of service facilitated by it through its digital or electronic facility or platform.

Tax on NRIs

Non-resident Indians (NRIs) not paying taxes in any foreign country will now be taxed in India, according to a Union Budget proposal. The Budget has also proposed to reduce the period of stay in India to 120 days from 182 days earlier for persons of Indian origin (PIOs) to be categorised as NRIs.

As of now, if an Indian or a person of Indian origin managed his stay in India such that he remained a non-resident in perpetuity, he was not liable to pay tax on his global income in India. The government has now proposed to introduce a deeming provision that every Indian citizen who is not liable to tax in any other country, pby virtue of his domicile or residence, will be deemed as a resident of India. Consequently, his global income would be taxable in India.

5 QUESTIONS

1. WHAT WAS YOUR EXPECTATION FROM THE BUDGET?
Whatever it may be, our domestic budget should not be disturbed. We wanted the government to honour taxpayers and they should be rewarded for their honest and hard work. Instead of launching schemes like Smart Cities etc, the focus should be on ground level development work.

2. WHAT IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND ARE YOU HAPPY WITH WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED THEM?
Our household income is between Rs 15 to 20 lakh. About the new tax slabs, we have mixed feelings.

3. DO YOU THINK THAT THE NEW TAX SLAB WILL BENEFIT YOU AND WILL YOU OPT FOR IT?
Hopefully, it will benefit us. We will opt it if it is not much complicated.

4. WHAT ABOUT THE BUDGET MAKES YOU MOST HAPPY OR UPSET?
There is nothing to be happy or upset about the Budget. The middle class, it seems, is a lost entity in the Budget.

5. DO YOU THINK YOU NEED THE HELP OF A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT TO FILE YOUR RETURNS?
Yes, I think we will.

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS

AT HOME, WITH EXISTING PLANS

The Dahiwal family at their home in the Pimpri suburb of Pune. Sarang Vilas Dahiwal, a government contractor is the sole earner in a family of five. Comprising his son Aryan (left), his aunt Hemlata Nagarkar, wife Archana, mother Anuradha and daughter Sanika, his family believes that their domestic budget should not get disturbed due to the Union Budget announcements. With an annual income in the range of Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, the introduction of the new tax plan has forced Sarang to make a choice between opting for the new structure or the old one. *Rajesh Stephan*

New I-T plan to benefit those who avoid deduction, exemption

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

SARANG VILAS Dahiwal, a government contractor in Pimpri, Pune, is the sole earner in a family of six. While his income in a year ranges between Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, the introduction of the new tax plan — announced in the Union Budget on Saturday — has forced him to think on whether he should continue with the existing tax plan or opt for the new one.

While Dahiwal said he expected that the government should reward honest taxpayers, he added that he is upset about the fact that there has been no change in the existing tax plan.

Dahiwal has a home loan where he claims tax benefit on interest outgo of Rs 2 lakh. He also has a health insurance for his family, for which he pays a premium of around Rs 25,000 and claims tax benefit under Section 80C by investing in life insurance scheme and investing in public provident fund.

In aggregate, as of now, he claims deductions and exemptions on an aggregate amount of Rs 3.75 lakh and, thereby, saves taxes to the tune of Rs 1,17,000.

Under the new tax plan, Dahiwal will have to forego all the exemptions and deductions he currently claims. As a result, he will end up paying a total tax of Rs 195,000 as against the current tax outgo of Rs 1,56,000.

Post the announcement of Budget proposals, Dahiwal felt that the new tax plan may be beneficial for him as the tax rates announced by the Finance Minister were significantly lower.

He, however, said that he would seek the advice of his chartered accountant before he opts for the new tax plan proposed by the Finance Minister.

Dahiwal added he feels that the government should have increased the tax benefit on home loan interest payment as that would have reduced his tax outgo and left something extra for him to spend.

With Inputs from Partha Sarathi Biswas

DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO SWITCH?

ADVICE FOR DAHIWAL

■ Even as the Finance Minister announced that the new tax regime will provide substantial tax benefit to a taxpayer, she said that the benefits will depend upon the exemptions and deductions claimed by a taxpayer. While the FM said that a person earning Rs 15 lakh in a year and not availing any deductions will see his tax burden reduce by Rs 78,000 in the new regime, a tax work for Dahiwal shows that with the tax exemptions and deductions he claims, he is better-off staying in the existing taxation structure. His tax worksheet shows he would pay ₹1,56,000 under the existing structure (with deductions and exemptions), but would end up paying a tax of ₹1,95,000 under the new tax plan.

WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM NEW TAX PLAN

■ An individual who earns Rs 15 lakh and does not have a home loan and only claims deductions under Section 80C and standard deduction, he would pay a tax of Rs 210,600 in the existing tax structure and pay a tax of ₹1,95,000 under the new tax plan. Thus he will end up saving Rs 15,600 under the new tax plan. However, if he does not claim deductions under Section 80C and standard deduction, then his tax outgo under the new tax plan reduces by Rs 78,000 under the new tax plan

■ This goes to show that all individuals who don't claim home loan exemptions may benefit under the new tax plan. If they don't even claim other deductions, then their tax savings under the new tax plan only rises.

TAX OUTGO UNDER THE TWO TAX PLANS

	₹15 LAKH		₹7.5 LAKH	
	EXISTING PLAN	NEW PLAN	EXISTING PLAN	NEW PLAN
Gross Taxable Salary	15,00,000	15,00,000	7,50,000	7,50,000
Standard Deduction	-50,000		-50,000	
Interest Income	50,000	50,000		-
Gross Taxable Income	15,00,000	1,55,0000	7,00,000	7,50,000
Less:Deductions				
Interest on Housing Loan Sec.24	2,00,000	-		-
Investments u/s 80C	1,50,000	-	1,50,000	-
Deduction u/s 80D	25,000		25,000	
Deduction u/s 80TTB/80TTA	50,000	-		-
Net Taxable Income	10,75,000	15,50,000	5,25,000	7,50,000
Normal Income	10,75,000	15,50,000	5,25,000	7,50,000
Tax on Normal Income	1,35,000	2,02,500	17,500	37,500
Net Tax after 87A	1,35,000	2,02,500	17,500	37,500
Add: Education Cess				
Secondary & Higher Education Cess				
Health and Education Cess@ 4%	5,400	8,100	700	1,500
Total Tax Payable	1,40,400	2,10,600	18,200	39,000
Impact		70,200		20,800
Additional outgo		50.00%		114.29%

EXEMPTIONS AND DEDUCTIONS

FORGONE IN NEW SCHEME

■ Section 80C deductions with respect to life insurance premium, public provident fund up to a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh

■ Standard deductions amounting to ₹40,000 for salaried employees

■ Section 80D deductions with respect to health insurance premium up to a maximum of ₹50,000

■ Tax benefit for leave travel concessions (LTC)

■ Tax benefit on account of housing rent allowance

TO STAY IN NEW SCHEME

■ Transport allowance granted to a divyang employee to meet expenditure for the purpose of commuting between place of residence and place of duty.

■ Conveyance allowance granted to meet the expenditure on conveyance in performance of duties of an office.

■ Any allowance granted to meet the cost of travel on tour or on transfer.

■ Daily allowance to meet the ordinary daily charges incurred by an employee on account of absence from his normal place of duty.

■ Benefits by availing voluntary retirement scheme up to ₹5 lakh

WALK IN THE IT PARK

Employees outside Mindspace Airoli, an IT park in Navi Mumbai. Experts in the IT industry said the move to remove DDT for companies is a positive. *Amit Chakravarty*

CUT IN TAX RATE LIFTS PROFIT
The government announced a cut in the corporate tax rates in September from 30 per cent to 22 per cent, with an aim to push investment in the economy. This resulted into a rise in corporate profitability in quarter ended December 2019.

LOW CAPACITY UTILISATION HURT FRESH INVESTMENT
With capacity utilisations for manufacturing falling to around 70 per cent in the previous two quarters, companies are likely to wait for the capacity utilisation levels to rise and cross 80 per cent, before they commit fresh investments.

'VIVAD SE VISHWAS' SCHEME

In line with scheme for indirect taxes, window for direct tax dispute resolution

AASHISH ARYAN & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

AFTER A dispute resolution scheme for indirect taxes, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday announced a direct tax amnesty scheme called "Vivad Se Vishwas" with a nearly 60-day window to clear all pending dues without paying interest and penalty. After the March 31 deadline, the rules of the scheme will change to allow taxpayers to avail the resolution under the scheme, but only after paying "some additional amount", for which the details are not known yet.

Through the new scheme, the government aims to resolve disputes with taxpayers in nearly 483,000 direct tax cases pending at various legal and quasi-legal bodies.

Under the scheme, Sitharaman said any taxpayer currently in dispute with the government over the pending dues will be allowed to pay just the principal amount. There will be a complete waiver of interest and penalty, provided the taxpayer pays such amount by March 31, the finance minister said, adding that the scheme would remain open till June 30.

"Those who avail this scheme after 31st March, 2020 will have to pay some additional amount. The scheme will remain open till 30th June, 2020," Sitharaman said.

The direct tax amnesty scheme comes at a time when the government's direct tax collections have taken a hit. The government's gross direct tax collections had fallen 5 per cent year on year till January 15 this financial year. The Budget has pegged gross tax revenues for 2020-21 at Rs 24.23 lakh crore, up 12 per cent from Rs 21.63 lakh crore in current fiscal year.

Around Rs 6.38 lakh crore is expected to be mopped up from personal income tax in 2020-21, a 14.13 per cent increase over Rs 5.59 lakh crore earned in 2019-20. Corporate tax revenue is budgeted to increase 11.63 per cent to Rs 6.81 lakh crore in 2020-21 from Rs 6.10 lakh crore in current fiscal.

The government had missed its gross tax revenue collection targets for the ongoing financial year by as much as Rs 2.97 lakh crore.

The Budget Estimates for gross tax revenue in 2019-20 was Rs 24.61 lakh crore, while in revised estimates it is pegged at Rs 21.63 lakh crore. The government has also missed its direct tax collection target in the current financial year by Rs 1.65 lakh crore.

In the budget for last fiscal, Sitharaman had announced the legacy dispute resolution scheme for indirect tax disputes, to "allow quick closure" of the litigation pertaining to the pre Goods and Services Tax regime.

Under the indirect tax amnesty scheme, nearly 73 per cent of the total eligible taxpayers had committed to pay tax dues of Rs 30,627 crore under the scheme.

The amount declared under the scheme though stands at just 8.5 per cent of the total amount locked in litigation at Rs 3.6 lakh crore for 1.83 lakh cases of central excise and service tax at various quasi-judicial, appellate and judicial forums put together.

To further ramp up the trust between taxpayers and the administration, Sitharaman also said that the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) will adopt a "taxpayer charter", which will work towards reducing the harassment of taxpayers. The first step in this regard would be the adoption of a "faceless appeal" mechanism along the lines of "faceless assessment".

The Budget Estimates for gross tax revenue in 2019-20 was Rs 24.61 lakh crore, while in revised estimates it is pegged at Rs 21.63 lakh crore. The government has also missed its direct tax collection target in the current financial year by Rs 1.65 lakh crore

EXPLAINED

Aims to resolve over 4L cases

THROUGH THE new scheme, the government aims to resolve disputes with taxpayers in nearly 4,83,000 direct tax cases pending at various legal and quasi-legal bodies.

Under the scheme, any taxpayer currently in dispute with the government over the pending dues will be allowed to pay just the principal amount. There will be a complete waiver of interest and penalty, provided the taxpayer pays such amount by March 31, the finance minister said, adding the scheme would remain open till June 30. However, those who avail this scheme after March 31, 2020 will have to pay some additional amount. The scheme will remain open till June 30, 2020.

Turnover limit for audit of MSME accounts now at ₹5 crore

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

MEDIUM, SMALL and Micro Enterprises (MSME), which have a turnover up to Rs 5 crore, will not be required to get their books audited by an accountant from the next financial year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The easing of this compliance burden, however, will be available only to those MSMEs which that carry out less than 5 per cent of their business transactions in cash, Sitharaman said. This will include the receipts and payments done by the MSMEs, according to budget documents.

"Currently, only businesses having a turnover of more than Rs 1 crore are required to get their books of accounts audited by an accountant ... In order to reduce compliance burden ... I propose to raise by five times the turnover threshold for audit from the existing rupees one crore to five crore," she said.

Tax on ESOPs for startup staff deferred; period of profit deduction claim extended

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FROM SETTING up of an investment clearance cell for startups and entrepreneurs to relaxing procedures to claim tax incentives, the Union Budget proposed a slew of measures to promote growth of startups and entrepreneurs. In addition to this, Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Budget speech, proposed easing the burden of taxation on employees of startups by deferring the tax payment on ESOPs (employee stock option plans) by five years, or till they leave the company, or when they sell their shares, whichever is earliest.

ESOPs are significant component of compensation for employees of startups, and are currently taxable. "This leads to cash flow problem for the employees who do not sell their shares immediately and continue to hold the same for long term," Sitharaman said.

The minister also said that an eligible startup having a turnover of up to Rs 25 crore is allowed a deduction of 100 per cent of its profits for three consecutive assessment years out of seven years, if the total turnover does not exceed Rs 25 crore. "In order to extend this benefit to larger startups also, I propose to increase the turnover limit from existing Rs 25 crore to Rs 100 crore. Moreover, considering the fact that in the initial years, a startup may not have adequate profit to avail this deduction, I propose to extend the period of eligibility for claim of deduction from the existing 7 years to 10 years," she added.

Through the investment clearance cell for entrepreneurs, the minister said the government will provide end-to-end facilitation and support including pre-investment advisory, information related to land banks and facilitate clearances at centre and also at the state level.

"The initiatives focused on start-ups such as deferring ESOP taxation for employees...will likely help attract and retain talent; and the tax deduction on profits for eligible start-ups having a turnover of up to Rs 25 crore for three consecutive assessment years out of seven years, will help start-ups meet their working capital requirements during their initial crucial years of operations," said Ankur Pahwa, Partner and National Leader, e-commerce and consumer internet, EY India.

TAKE 5

1. Imports of medical devices like syringes, catheters, dental fittings, hearing aids and X-ray machines will be taxed as part of a new 5 per cent health cess. This is expected to encourage the use of domestically manufactured versions of these products and the funds from the cess will go into setting up hospitals for the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme

2. A new levy of 1 per cent TDS on e-commerce transactions has been proposed on the gross amount of sales or service or both. It will not apply in cases where the seller's gross amount of sales during the previous year through the e-commerce operator is less than Rs 5 lakh and the seller has furnished his PAN or Aadhaar number.

3. The government has proposed that utilities close down thermal power plants that are "old" and which have "high" carbon emission levels so that the land can be vacated and put to alternative use

4. The government has proposed to hike the excise duty through the National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD) on cigarettes, hookah, chewing tobacco, snuff and tobacco extracts and essence.

5. The MCA will be seeking amendments to the Companies Act, 2013 to decriminalise various offences, following recommendations from a high-level committee last year. Similarly, other laws would also be examined where such provisions exist and attempts would be made to correct them.

HOW COMPANIES PAN ACROSS TAX RATES

Profile of companies across range of effective tax rates for financial year 2018-19

EFFECTIVE TAX RATES (%)	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	SHARE IN TOTAL PROFITS (%)	SHARE IN TOTAL INCOME (%)	SHARE IN TOTAL TAX LIABILITY (%)
Less than zero & zero	4,34,782	0	0.9	0.8
0-20	47,286	22.2	11.85	9.95
20-25	34,884	19.28	15.56	15.78
25-30	1,65,433	18.91	20.21	19.41
30-33	45,155	33.18	39.28	41.41
>33	29,920	6.43	12.18	16.38
Indeterminate	33,077	0	0	0
TOTAL	7,90,537	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Finance, Note: effective tax rate inclusive of surcharge and education cess

"The biggest takeaway for me was the call out from the Finance Minister that 'wealth creators will be respected'. This will be a ... sign that we are serious about building a new India, where Corporate India and new age entrepreneurs will be stakeholders in growth"
SUNIL BHARTI MITTAL
FOUNDER-CHAIRMAN, BHARTI ENTERPRISES

"Although my immediate response to the budget was satisfactory, now that I've read the fine print I must say I'm less optimistic about strong economic revival. In fact removal of exemptions n DDT will hurt individual tax payer and affect consumer spending"
KIRAN MAZUMDAR-SHAW
CMD, BIOCON

"Given the constraints that the Finance Minister was facing, this has been a comprehensive statement. The government has done a commendable job and the various measures announced will strengthen India, individuals and industry"
SANGITA REDDY
PRESIDENT, FICCI

Corporate tax concessions extended to new electricity generation firms

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE GOVERNMENT expects to encourage investment in the power sector through measures like lower tax rates for new electricity generation firms and pushing for a switch to prepaid meters to improve efficiency in collecting money for services provided to consumers.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday proposed to extend provisions offering concessional corporate tax rates of 15 per cent to new companies in the manufacturing sector to new domestic electricity generation firms (gencos).

The concessional rates under the Taxation Law Amendment Act, 2019 would be provided to power producers on the condition that they start generating electricity by March 31, 2023, stated Sitharaman in her Budget speech. The amendment will take effect from April 1, 2020, according to the supporting Budget documents.

She also urged states to replace conventional electricity meters with prepaid smart meters over the next three years, in a move to relieve financial stress on electricity distribution companies (discoms).

"Also, this would give consumers the freedom to choose the supplier and rate as per their requirements," said the minister, adding that "further measures" to reform discoms would be taken and that the government would be providing about Rs 22,000 crore to the power and renewable energy sector in 2020-21.

Last year, the government allowed concessional corporate tax rates to manufacturing firms set up on or after October 1, 2019 and engaged in activity like mining, developing computer software, converting items like marble blocks into slabs, printing books and producing cinematograph film. These firms could opt to pay the 15 per cent rate only if they do not avail of "any specified incentives or deductions".

Fraudulently availing GST input credit void of invoice non-bailable, cognizable offence

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

IN A move which would further tighten the noose on those committing frauds under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the Union Budget for 2020-21 has made the fraudulent availment of input tax credit without invoice or bill a cognizable and non-bailable offence. While the Central GST (CGST) Act covers those who engage in fake invoices or circular trading, this move will help the GST authorities to bring to book those who issue invoices without actually carrying out any business.

This category has been added to the existing non-bailable, cognizable offences under the Act. At present, Section 132 of the CGST Act treats supply of goods and services without issuance of any invoice, issuance of any invoice or bill without supply of goods or services, collection of tax but non-payment to government as non-bailable and cognizable offences.

At a time when the government's revenues from GST have slowed, with the revised estimates for 2019-20 for CGST falling short of the original target by Rs 12,000 crore and for cess by Rs 11,016 crore, stricter action on such frauds would help the government to plug revenue leakages in absence of a foolproof online returns matching system.

"...several cases of fraudulent input tax credit (ITC) claim have been caught by the GST authorities. In these cases, fake invoices are obtained by suppliers registered under GST to fraudulently claim ITC and reduce their GST liability. These invoices are found to be issued by racketeers who do not actually carry on any business or profession. They only issue invoices without actually supplying any goods or services. The GST shown to have been charged on such invoices is neither paid nor is intended to be paid. Such fraudulent arrangements deserve to be dealt with harsher provisions under the Act," the Budget documents stated, adding that these changes would be effective from April 1.

The government has also proposed to levy penalty on a person, if there is a false entry or any entry has omitted to evade tax liability. "It is also propose to provide that any other person, who causes in any manner a person to make or cause to make a false entry or omits or causes to omit any entry, shall also pay by way of penalty a sum which is equal to the aggregate amounts of such false entries or omitted entry," it said.

TAKE 5

1. The limit for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to be eligible for debt recovery under the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be reduced from Rs 500 crore to asset size of Rs 100 crore or loan size from existing Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.

2. To strengthen cooperative banks, the central government has proposed amendments to the Banking Regulation Act for increasing professionalism, enabling access to capital and improving governance and oversight.

3. The central government has suggested amendments to the Factoring Regulation Act 2011, which will enable NBFCs to extend invoice financing to the MSMEs through The Trade Receivable Discounting System TReDS.

4. The government has proposed to extend the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on interest paid by certain large co-operative societies whose gross receipts exceeds Rs 50 crore during the last financial year.

5. The government plans to impose commodity transaction tax (CTT) on trading in commodity indices as well as options in goods from April 1. The CTT will be chargeable at 0.01 per cent payable by the seller, which is the same rate currently charged on sale of futures.

LIQUIDITY STILL A CONCERN

Mumbai's business district — Bandra Kurla Complex, home to major lenders and financiers. *Pradip Das*

CAPITAL INFUSION
In the last few years, the government infused capital of about Rs 3.50 lakh crore into public sector banks for regulatory and growth purposes. Some banks raise additional capital from the equity market.

BETTER GOVERNANCE
The government acknowledged the need to take more steps to bring in transparency and greater professionalism in public sector banks. This is part of the Finance Ministry's governance reforms in these banks

Liquidity push: New debt ETF with G-secs for retail investors

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman announced a number of measures in Budget 2020-21 to widen and deepen the corporate bond and the government securities market.

The Centre also unveiled measures to increase bond market access of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). With the government's borrowing programme rising next year, along with expansion in the fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent of GDP, the Centre plans to float a new debt exchange-traded fund (ETF) that will comprise of government securities (G-sec). This will ensure that retail investors — who are so far not investing much in the G-sec market — are able to buy a basket of government bonds through the units in the proposed debt ETF in a seamless manner. The government expects the debt ETF to improve liquidity in the bond market, enhance investor base and smoothen its borrowing plans.

The recently-launched Bharat Bond ETF, which comprised AAA-rated debt papers of large government-owned companies, successfully raised Rs 12,400 crore in its maiden offer. The debt ETF provides of government securities will provide an option to conservative investors to earn around 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent yield, along with the facility of overnight liquidity as ETFs are listed on exchanges. This will also help the Centre diversify its sources of borrowings, as currently only institutional investors are the key buyers of these debt papers. "This will give retail investors access to government securities as much as giving an attractive investment for pension funds and long-term investors," Sitharaman said while presenting the Budget on Saturday.

Apart from domestic retail investors who can now invest in G-sec via ETF, the finance ministry has also proposed to open certain category of government securities for non-resident investors. The government has pegged its net market borrowings at Rs 5.36 lakh crore for 2020-21, up from Rs 4.99 lakh crore in 2019-20. Enabling access to new class of investors will ensure that the government's borrowing programme goes on smoothly without putting upward pressure bond yields.

With regard to corporate bonds, the Centre has substantially raised investment limit for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to 15 per cent of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds from 9 per cent at present. This is aimed at attracting fund flows and comes at a time when the debt market witnessed an outflow of Rs 11,917 crore in January this year. December 2019 saw outflows of Rs 4,616 crore, while November 2019 outflows were Rs 2,358 crore. While the equity investment in calendar year 2019 was Rs 101,122 crore, debt market could attract only Rs 25,882 crore. The Reserve Bank had last December raised FPI investment limits in G-sec as well as short-term bonds.

Meanwhile, to improve MSME access to debt market, the government will introduce a scheme to provide subordinate debt (or quasi equity) for MSME entrepreneurs. This debt will be fully guaranteed through the Credit Guarantee Trust for Medium and Small Entrepreneur, and enable MSMEs to meet their working capital credit requirements, thereby, easing their credit crunch and improving liquidity position. The Budget also proposed measures to enable non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to provide invoice financing to MSMEs through the Trade Receivable Discounting System, or TReDS. As MSMEs usually get payments after a lag of few weeks, funds raised against billed invoice helps them improve their working capital position.

CENTRAL BANK TO CONSIDER EXTENDING PLAN TO HELP ENTREPRENEURS BY ONE MORE YEAR

Govt asks RBI to extend MSME loan recast scheme

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 1

THE GOVERNMENT has asked the Reserve Bank of India to consider extending the loan restructuring scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by one more year till March 31, 2021.

The government proposal, announced in the Union Budget, would help MSME entrepreneurs – who were hit by demonetization and GST implementation — in supporting their business. While over five lakh small businesses had taken advantage of the scheme in the last one year, thousands of units have either shut down or on the verge of closure as the economic slowdown has intensified the woes of the MSME sector.

Unveiling the scheme on January 1, 2019, the RBI had said the aggregate exposure, including non-fund based facilities of banks and non-bank entities, to a small borrower should not exceed Rs 25 crore as on January 1, 2019. The restructuring was originally to be implemented by March 31, 2020 and a provision of 5 per cent in addition to the provisions already held, should be made in respect of accounts restructured under this scheme.

The RBI, when Urjit Patel was the Governor, was initially reluctant to sanction such a forbearance but relented in the wake of pressure from several board members who pushed for the bail-out small borrowers hit by demonetization and implementation of GST. As per the RBI, to be eligible for restructuring, the borrower's account should be in default but is a 'standard asset' as on January 1, 2019 and continues to be classified as a 'standard asset' till the date of implementation of the restructuring. The borrowing entity should be GST-registered on the date of implementation of the restructuring. However, this condition will not apply to MSMEs which are exempt from GST-registration.

The RBI had said accounts classified as non-performing asset (NPA) can be restructured, but the extant asset classification norms governing restructuring of NPAs will continue to apply. However, as a general rule, barring the one-time exception, any MSME account which is restructured must be downgraded to NPA upon restructuring and will slip into progressively lower asset classification and higher provisioning requirements as per the current norms. Such an account may be considered for upgradation to 'standard' only if it demonstrates satisfactory performance during the specified period.

Satisfactory performance means no payment (interest and/or principal) should remain overdue for a period of more than 30 days.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated Rs 350 crore under the interest subvention scheme, for 2 per cent interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs, on fresh or incremental loans.

The Finance Minister said that the government will create a payment platform for MSMEs to enable filing of bills and payment. This will help eliminate delays in payment and give a boost to investment in MSMEs.

PLATFORM FOR FILING OF BILLS AND PAYMENT

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THE RBI had said accounts classified as non-performing asset (NPA) can be restructured, but the extant asset classification norms governing restructuring of NPAs will continue to apply

THE GOVT will create a payment platform for MSMEs to enable filing of bills and payment

EXPLAINED E. To help sector reeling from note ban, GST

THE GOVERNMENT proposal, announced in the Union Budget, would help MSME entrepreneurs — who were hit by demonetisation and GST implementation — support their business. While over 5 lakh small businesses had taken advantage of the scheme in the past one year, thousands of units have either shut down or are on the verge of closure as the economic slowdown has intensified the woes of the sector.

International bullion exchange in GIFT City may lead to better price discovery

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 1

THE GOVERNMENT has proposed to set up an international bullion exchange at IFSC in GIFT City — a move that could lead to better price discovery of gold, create more jobs and enhance India's position in the global bullion market.

GIFT City would set up an international bullion exchange as an additional option for trade by global market participants, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said. The country's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) is in GIFT City, near Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

Somasundaram PR, managing director, India, World Gold Council, said, "The establishment of regulated international bullion exchange in GIFT City in India is a positive step towards making gold a mainstream asset class. With its unique locational, infrastructural and regulatory advantages as an IFSC, GIFT city is well placed to build a fair, efficient and transparent bullion trading ecosystem. An organised bullion trading system will benefit the entire supply chain particularly, small players and exporters."

"This will lead to better price discovery of gold, create more jobs and further enhance India's position in the bullion market. This announcement is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that GIFT City would become a price setter in some of the world's largest traded instruments in the next 10 years," said Tapan Ray, MD & group CEO, GIFT City.

"Finance Minister has re-emphasised the importance of GIFT IFSC as an emerging Global financial services hub. The policy pronouncement regarding GIFT IFSC gives a tremendous boost to investor confidence both in India and abroad," Ray said.

Abhishek Bansal, chairman and managing director, Abans Group of Companies, said: "Creation of the exchange by GIFT City will add liquidity and depth to the gold commodity market. There is tremendous value potential to be unlocked from the gold industry in India in terms of it being one of the largest consumers of the precious metal globally and in terms of the finesse of jewellery produced in India, thereby acting as a vast employment generator."

As the true value of this gets unlocked by the formation of the bullion exchange, India will gain its rightful place in the global gold markets, he said.

Meanwhile, high prices kept buyers away from the yellow metal leading to a 9.2 per cent decline in demand for gold in India to 690.4 tonnes in the calendar year 2019 as compared to 760.4 tonnes in 2018. The yellow metal had glittered during 2019 with prices rising as much as 25 per cent.

The maximum fall happened during the December quarter of 2019 when demand for gold fell 18 per cent to 194.3 tonnes as compared to 236.5 tonnes in the same period of 2018, according to the World Gold Council's latest Gold Demand Trends report. Standard gold had risen from Rs 3,071 to Rs 3,802 per gram during the 12-month period. However, the value of gold bought by consumers in calendar 2019 rose three per cent to Rs 217,770 crore from Rs 211,860 crore in 2018 as prices and volatility remained high.

The country's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) is in GIFT City, near Ahmedabad. *Express file*

₹5 lakh insurance in case bank goes bust; cover hiked from ₹1 lakh now

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 1

IN A major relief to bank depositors, the government has proposed to increase deposit insurance cover from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.

The government move is expected to instill confidence among depositors as the proposal will increase the safety of the money deposited in banks. The bank deposits are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act. After the collapse of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank, there has been a demand from several quarters that the DICGC, the RBI subsidiary that gives insurance cover to bank deposits up to Rs one lakh, should hike the coverage cap.

According to State Bank of India Chairman Rajnish Kumar, the increase in deposit insurance limit from existing Rs one lakh to Rs 5 lakh was necessary. "The hike in deposit insurance cover to Rs 5 lakh could boost the confidence in the banking sector," said K. Paul Thomas, MD, ESAF Small Finance Bank.

Bankers said the proposal is also likely to support the deposit accretion of banks. "However, given the size of insured deposits is likely to increase, the deposit insurance premium paid by banks will increase the operating expenses of banks and will be negative for their profitability to the extent they are not able to pass it on to the bank customers. "As on March 31, 2019, 28 per cent of deposits (in value terms) and 92 per cent of depositors (in terms of number of accounts) were covered by deposit insurance, which is likely to increase to 40-50 per cent, said Karthik Srinivasan, Group Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA Ltd.

What led to the hike in deposit insurance cover? In September 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slapped curbs on Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Ltd (PMC Bank), a leading cooperative bank headquartered in Mumbai, appointed an administrator and superseded its board of directors, sending shock waves among thousands of its depositors. Panic-stricken customers rushed to bank's branches across the state and were unable to withdraw more than Rs 1,000. Irrespective of the deposit amount, be it Rs 25 lakh or Rs 5 crore, the depositor was supposed to get only Rs one lakh if a bank collapsed. Now it will be raised to Rs 5 lakh. However, now depositors holding more than Rs 5 lakh in their account have no legal remedy in case of the collapse of the bank.

The Damodaran panel set up by the RBI had recommended that the deposit insurance cover provided by DICGC should be raised to Rs 5 lakh so as to encourage individuals to keep all their deposits in a bank convenient for them.

While DICGC has a surplus of Rs 87,995 crore, SBI, India's largest bank, has over Rs 30 lakh crore deposits. PMC Bank which collapsed earlier this year has over Rs 11,000 crore deposits. If the insurance cover cap is hiked from Rs 1 lakh, the premium to be paid by the banks may also go up, bankers say.

While Rs 12,043 crore was the premium income collected by DICGC in 2018-19 against Rs 11,128 crore a year ago, Rs 152 crore was the claim in 2018-19 as against Rs 183 crore in the previous year. The total insured deposits were Rs 33,70,000 crore as of March 2019.

PROTECTING DESPOSITORS

- The government move is expected to instill confidence among depositors as the proposal will increase the safety of the money deposited in banks
- The bank deposits are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act. After the collapse of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank, there has been a demand from several quarters that the DICGC, an RBI subsidiary
- As per SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, the hike was necessary

REALITY CHECK, TURNAROUND HOPE

The Budget is an admission of government's limitations in fast-tracking growth, despite moves to incentivise foreign investment and increase domestic consumption

The markets have not taken kindly to Nirmala Sitharaman's second Budget, with the BSE Sensex falling 988 points or 2.4 per cent on Saturday. But they may have been expecting too much from a government, which is in no position to deliver a fiscal stimulus to kickstart the virtuous cycle of investment and growth that many believe the Indian economy badly needs today. Sitharaman's latest Budget should be seen in the context of the limited financial resources as well as state capacity for undertaking any major public expenditure push to offset subdued private consumption and investment demand. The Budget is an admission of this reality.

India's past experience with fiscal stimuli — such as that in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis — shows that these have inevitably ended up creating inflationary pressures and external account imbalances down the line (remember "twin deficits"?). To that extent, Sitharaman should be given credit for not trying to do too much. The Centre's fiscal deficit for 2020-21 has been pegged at 3.5 per cent of GDP, below the 3.8 per cent revised estimate for the current financial year. This seems achievable at least compared to 2019-20, which had originally targeted a number of 3.3 per cent assuming a 12 per cent nominal GDP growth. The latest Budget's assumptions are less ambitious with respect to both nominal GDP growth (10 per cent) and gross tax revenues (the estimate of Rs 24.23 lakh crore is actually lower than the Rs 24.61 lakh crore that was expected in 2019-20). Simply put, with tax revenues in the current fiscal alone expected to fall short of the Budget estimate by nearly Rs 3 lakh crore, and no certainty of a substantial improvement on that score, there is little room for a 2008-09 like stimulus now. That is a reality that needs to be factored in by all market players.

While the Budget offers no stimulus, the disinvestment target of Rs 2.1 lakh crore — nearly thrice the Rs 65,000 crore for this fiscal — is something worth taking note of. Sitharaman has announced plans for an initial public offering in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), besides corporatising and listing of at least one major state-owned port and monetising already built highways. If these are a precursor for a mega privatisation programme of the sort seen during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA regime, that can potentially be a sentiment changer. The Narendra Modi government has until now refrained from implementing any bold stake sale initiative, while actually draining the cash reserves of the LIC, ONGC or NTPC to buy its stakes in other public sector undertakings to meet disinvestment targets. It is high time India re-embarks on genuine privatisation — à la NDA-1 — which can, in turn, create the fiscal space for enhanced public investment.

There are a few other welcome proposals as well. Among them is the 100 per cent tax exemption on interest, dividend, and capital gains income on investments made by overseas sovereign wealth funds (which is good for attracting long-term money to finance infrastructure projects), the removal of dividend distribution tax (which will encourage corporates to give back more to shareholders, thereby boosting stock valuations), enhancing the limit for foreign portfolio investments in corporate bonds from 9 per cent to 15 per cent of the outstanding stock (which, along with the decision to keep fiscal slippage within limits, should help prevent domestic interest rates from rising), and a five-fold increase in bank deposit insurance coverage to Rs 5 lakh (necessary to bring back trust in the financial system, especially after the collapse of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank). These are measures that, similar to the slashing of corporate tax rates in September, will do good in the medium to long run.

The Budget, however, also has proposals that range from introducing unnecessary complexity to outright bad. In the former category is the creation of new slabs as well as rates for income tax payers. Earlier, there were just four taxable income slabs; now there are seven. The number of rates have also gone up from three to six. On top of these, by linking the new slabs and rates to tax payers not availing exemptions and deductions, the government has gone back on the goal of making the tax regime more simple and transparent. If the idea was to stimulate consumption through tax cuts, that should have been done in a straightforward manner, unlike the current proposals which make computation of liability a tedious exercise for the ordinary taxpayer.

The real negatives in the Budget have to do with raising customs duty on a host of items, from dairy and footwear to household appliances, and taking absolutely no action on subsidy rationalisation. The fertiliser subsidy is expected to fall from almost Rs 80,000 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 71,309 crore in the coming fiscal, but there is no mention of any increase in retail prices of urea to enable the same. Even more scandalous is the food subsidy. For 2019-20, the Budget had originally provided Rs 1.84 lakh crore, which has come down to Rs 1.09 lakh crore. For the coming fiscal, the food subsidy is scheduled to go up only marginally to Rs 1.16 lakh crore. In both cases, the formula adopted is the same: The burden of selling nutrients, rice and wheat way below market rates has been simply transferred to fertiliser firms and the Food Corporation of India, who will have to borrow more from the market or the National Small Savings Fund to fund these losses. Subsidy rationalisation could have been the other source of revenue (apart from privatisation) for the fiscal stimulus that the economy would certainly have benefited from. Sadly, the Modi government has squandered this opportunity yet again.

SPEAKING OF HARAPPA

Fiscal speeches rely too much on ancient texts, but news that Indus script has been deciphered must gladden hearts

IN A LAND simultaneously ancient and modern, the land where the concept of Mahakaal or deep time was first articulated, it is not unexpected for the politics of the day to recall history. But in the field of economics, the marginal utility of the past diminishes rapidly when regression reaches a certain point, because the economic systems of those times were pre-modern and bear little relevance to our economy. Economists generally hesitate to draw inferences even from the medieval period, when large parts of the world were dominated, regrettably, by robber barons and mad monks. To venture all the way back to Harappa, whose politics and economy can only be inferred from the archaeological record, takes courage. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has shown her mettle in her Budget speech, going where no economist has dared to go before.

But her speech brought glad tidings to the obscure field of the study of the Indus Valley inscriptions. The epigraphist Iravatham Mahadevan spent his life trying to decipher the script of the lost language, and the Finnish researcher Asko Parpola has spent four decades of his career in the quest. Their tiny community would be overjoyed to learn that the words *sreni, sethi and poddar* have been deciphered, and have been used in a Budget speech to lay claim to the ancient roots of Indian mercantile energy. They, the specialists, must necessarily be overjoyed because it would be news to them, as inspiring as earlier reports of transplant surgery and flying machines in ancient times. And the Left must be devastated at the discovery of the word *sreni*. It is one of the markers of caste, and it must be galling to find the ancient provenance of the system established.

The ancient texts provide popular reference material for policymakers, especially Kautilya's *Arthashastra*, Kalidasa and the *Thirukkural*. However, some relevant texts are unfairly ignored. The game of dice in the *Mahabharata* constitutes a hostile takeover bid. Dandin's *Dashakumaracharita* offers advice about the economics of courtesanship, which bears favourable comparison with the content of modern marketing courses. The frame tale of the *Vetala Panchavimshati* (the oldest recension is in Somadeva's *Kathasaritsagara*) begins with a humble tribute transmuting into gemstones, a process that would gladden a finance minister's heart. If we must consult the ancients on matters of the fisc, let us hear the full gamut of the voices of the past resound in Parliament.

Across THE AISLE

P CHIDAMBARAM
Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter @Pchidambaram_IN

Does the Finance Minister know her onions?

THE PRESIDENT'S Address, the Economic Survey and the Budget are three documents — also opportunities — to spell out the government's policies and goals.

Leaving other matters aside, I looked in the President's Address for signals on how the government intended to tackle the grave economic slide. I found none.

I turned to the Economic Survey. This year it has a new helmsman, Mr K V Subramanian. He seems to love Tamil verse as much as economics. The central theme is that wealth-creation is good and wealth-creators must be respected. It is an idea that is no longer novel or controversial. The sole challenging chapter in the Survey is the one on how government intervention in markets hurts more than it helps but, the next day, the Finance Minister royally ignored the advice! She also ignored all other recommendations on structural reforms.

Let us now look at Budget 2020-21. I intend to assess the Budget — numbers, speech and proposals — under three heads: marksmanship, underlying philosophy and reforms.

POOR MARKSMANSHIP

So many things had been done, under pressure, after the last Budget was presented in July 2019, it is unfair to hold the FM to the budget estimates (BE) of 2019-20. Yet, it must be recorded that she failed on a number of heads:

- Against a projected growth of GDP of 12 per cent (in nominal terms), the GDP will grow by only 8.5 per cent in 2019-20. The estimate for 2020-21 is 10 per cent.
- Against a BE of 3.3 per cent, the fiscal deficit will be 3.8 per cent in 2019-20 and projected to be 3.5 per cent in 2020-21.
- Against an estimated net tax revenue collection of Rs 16,49,582 crore, the government will be able to collect only Rs 15,04,587 crore before the end of March 2020.
- Against a disinvestment target of Rs 1,05,000 crore, the exercise will yield only Rs 65,000 crore this financial year.
- Against the intent to incur a total expenditure of Rs 27,86,349 crore in 2019-20, the government will spend only Rs 26,98,552 crore despite additional borrowing of Rs 63,086 crore.

> The take-away from the Budget speech and the Budget numbers is that the BJP has given up on reviving the economy or accelerating the growth rate or promoting private investment or increasing efficiency or creating jobs or winning a greater share of world trade. So, brace yourself for an economy that will limp along at an unsatisfactory growth rate in 2020-21

NO UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY

It is a matter of grave doubt if the BJP government has an underlying economic philosophy at all. One has to glean its philosophy from the numerous acronyms that were thrown at the people in the last six years. Basically, their guiding principles appear to be self-reliance, protectionism, control, bias in favour of traders (as against producers and consumers), aggressive taxation and faith in government expenditure.

Did Budget 2020-21 signal a change in the thinking of the government? The answer is 'No'. In fact, the FM did not spell out her government's thoughts on the macro-economic crisis faced by the country. Nor did she say if her government thought the slump was due to structural factors or cyclical factors. It appears that the government continues to be in denial; the government is in denial that the economy is demand-constrained and investment-starved. Being in denial, the government has refused to look at serious *reform* measures or propose solutions to the twin challenges.

The government's idea of 'reforms' is to give small dollops of tax relief to tax payers. It was the corporate sector a few months ago; in this Budget, relief of Rs 40,000 crore has been given to personal income tax payers. The FM also yielded to the pressure of the corporates and scrapped the Dividend Distribution Tax. There is no gainsaying the fact that DDT was an efficient tax and stopped all evasion of tax on dividend income. I am certain there will be loss of revenue on abolition of DDT.

In the bargain, the FM has introduced two tax regimes (one with exemptions and one without exemptions) and complicated the personal income tax structure with multiple rates — the same mistake the government made when it introduced GST.

GIVING UP ON REFORMS

The FM outlined three themes and under each theme there were several segments and many programmes. For example, under the theme Aspirational India, she identified three segments, and under each segment she announced many programmes. In the same vein, she devoted nearly an hour to elaborate on the other two themes — Economic Development of All and Caring Society. When she was done, I lost count of the number of themes, segments and programmes. Listening to the speech and reading the text later, I did not find anything that would amount to a *structural reform* in any sector. I wonder what happened to the labours of the Chief Economic Adviser.

On the other hand, I remember the claims that the FM made with a straight face:

1. We have lifted 271 million people out of poverty during the period 2006-2016.
2. We will double the farmer's income by 2022.
3. *Swachh Bharat* is a great success and the whole country is Open Defecation Free.
4. We have taken electricity to every home.
5. We will make India a $5 trillion economy by 2024 (although the ES has stealthily pushed the deadline to 2025).

The take-away from the Budget speech and the Budget numbers is that the BJP has given up on reviving the economy or accelerating the growth rate or promoting private investment or increasing efficiency or creating jobs or winning a greater share of world trade.

So, brace yourself for an economy that will limp along at an unsatisfactory growth rate in 2020-21. I know you did not deserve it but, I am afraid, that is what you got yesterday.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter @tavleen_singh

No economic 'parivartan' yet

SO, I sit down to write this after listening to the longest Budget speech in Indian history. And, was I dazzled? Did it leave me filled with hope for India's future? No. Let me explain why. As someone who believes India has remained poor only because we have allowed the state too much interference in the economy in the name of socialism, I have waited six years for Narendra Modi to deliver on the promises he made before he became prime minister. Remember how he talked then of how it was necessary for India to start dreaming of prosperity instead of just 'alleviating poverty'? Remember how he used to say that he saw no reason for India to be a poor country? Remember how he said government had no business to be in business?

His words were music to my ears. When he talked of "*parivartan*", I believed that he understood that socialism had failed the Indian people. I believed that during his long years as a chief minister he had noticed how officials (elected and otherwise) had created abysmal standards of educational and healthcare services for 'the people' while never deigning to send their own children to government schools or hospitals. I believed he had noticed that private enterprise had been crushed by licenses, quotas and taxes imposed by officials who strutted about like potentates because of the power they had to destroy the men and women who in fact create India's wealth.

This column supported Modi as prime minister because of the hope that he meant what he said when he promised change. In economic terms, that change has never come. There has so far not been a single Budget that has brought real change like that one in 1991 that began the end of the licence raj. Having said this, it is important that I add that P V Narasimha Rao made this historic reform not from an ideological change of heart but because India was broke. He turned failure into an opportunity. So I hoped that at this time, when unemployment is higher than it has been in 45 years and when the economic slowdown is our biggest political problem, this Budget would deliver dramatic change.

The Prime Minister likes to say that under him there have been rapid changes on the 'ease of doing business' front. He points to the number of notches India has jumped on international measures. Now that we are no longer the fastest growing major economy, he has stopped boasting about this and the truth is that since his second term began, he hardly mentions the economy. But it is time that he started paying it more attention or we could see more and more campuses erupt in protest because of the hopelessness young Indians feel at the absence of new jobs. The spectre of unemployment haunts our campuses.

Jobs should not be hard to create if it had really become easier to do business. It has actually become harder because in place of the old licence raj there is now a regulator raj with officials poking their nose into areas in the private sector where they have no business to. Important businessmen have gone on record to point out that regulators have such a long leash since Modi became prime minister that they come up with new regulations every other day. Big businessmen somehow manage to survive. Small businesses can simply not cope with the constant uncertainty.

Modi's ministers and officials behave just like those potentates of licence raj days. Their arrogance and threats have created the atmosphere of fear that Rahul Bajaj so eloquently described at that gathering in Mumbai over which the Home Minister presided. Instead of listening to him the BJP activated its trolls on Twitter to tear him to shreds. Rahul Bajaj is a powerful businessman and can fend for himself, it is smaller entrepreneurs who are truly vulnerable. They have been arrested at airports, fined for accepting more cash payments than allowed even when they have deposited their earnings in banks and paid tax on them. Many have been so defeated by the complexities of GST that they have shut shop. So the most urgent "*parivartan*" that we need is for regulators, tax inspectors and their brethren to be put back on a short leash.

The other urgent change that is needed is for government to honour its contracts. Fine Indian companies have been dragged to the verge of bankruptcy because government departments have embroiled them in court cases and arbitration proceedings just to avoid paying their bills. Has the Prime Minister noticed that on the security of contracts India continues to languish at the bottom on international measures for the ease of doing business?

The Finance Minister's interminable Budget speech left me despondent because I see no signs of India dumping socialism and statism just yet.

Out of MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI

Delhi difficulties

BOASTING IS usually a sign of lack of confidence. Facing the forthcoming elections in Delhi, some BJP leaders have lost control over their rhetoric. Delhi is only a tiny Union Territory sending seven members to the Lok Sabha and has seventy members in its Assembly. But one leader sees the election as a battle between India and Pakistan. Several peaceful, unarmed women sitting in Shaheen Bagh have shaken the BJP. Anurag Thakur whom I regarded as one of the better new BJP leaders has raised the stakes by naming all against the BJP as traitors deserving to be shot.

The Election Commission has read the Riot Act. For me, these statements reveal the nervous funk the BJP has got into. As it is, they lost Delhi five years ago, the first defeat suffered under the Modi banner when he was thought unbeatable. The 67/3 balance left no doubt as to who the Delhiites preferred in 2015. This time around, it would be a multiple miracle if the BJP turned the tables and got a majority. The Aam Aadmi Party delivered good governance once Kejriwal gave up the earlier theatrics. The aggressive campaigning is a clear sign that the BJP hates him and cannot contemplate losing any contest to Kejriwal.

But then the three state elections held since May 2019 have turned out badly for the ruling party. In each of them, the BJP stood on national issues not local ones. There seems to be no learning from experience. In Delhi again, it is the national issues which have been rushed forward and drive the rhetoric. Supporters of the Citizenship Amendment Act are good, while protesters are Pakistan lovers! The only local promise seems to be of Centre investing in Delhi. Does this imply that Centre won't help Kejriwal if he is chosen? Kejriwal has introduced free bus rides for women, mohalla clinics and good schools formula which Delhi citizens have liked.

The logic behind this strategy is hard to fathom. It must be by implication that on local domestic issues, the BJP has nothing to offer which the AAP cannot. After all, welfare issues are common across people of all religions, regions and culture. Members of the Central Cabinet again fronted the release of the BJP Manifesto. Only Modi matters is the basic idea. In 2015, projecting Modi alone and keeping all other names and issues unmentioned did not help the BJP. So why repeat a failed formula?

One can only guess that the ideologues of the BJP are not interested in winning Delhi but in cementing the core Hindu vote and then similarly across India to launch the Hindu Rashtra. Will it work?

Modi 1.0 had spread the BJP net much wider than Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani. Hence his success in 2014. The 40 per cent electoral support that Modi won in May 2019 was not all Rashtravadi Hindus but included aspirational voters who only wish the government to deliver growth and welfare. The rhetoric over CAA is bound to lose these middle of the road voters. Add lack of growth and the mixture becomes toxic. This looks like a vote losing strategy.

epaper.indianexpress.com

FRESH IMPETUS TO REVIVE REAL ESTATE

Under-construction buildings in Greater Noida. *Gajendra Yadav*

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE
As per the Report of the Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline released by the FM on December 31, 2019, total infrastructure investment is projected at Rs 102 lakh crore during FY 2020 to 2025.

TAX HOLIDAY ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Facing continued slowdown over the past six years, the real estate sector got some relief as Sitharaman announced that builders will get tax holiday on affordable housing projects approved till March 2021.

RISING TELECOM PENETRATION
Total telephone connections in India grew by 18.8 per cent from 9,961 lakh in 2014-2015 to 11,834 lakh in 2018-19. As of September 30, 2019, the total subscription stood at 11,943 lakh — 5,147 lakh in rural areas.

Greater private sector play in Rlys, smart cities

100% tax exemptions proposed for investments made in infra projects before March 31, 2024

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

SETTING A theme of opening up more space in the infrastructure sector for private players, the Budget has proposed a slew of measures with the aim of attracting private investment.

These include expanding public-private partnership (PPP) in physical and social infrastructure projects such as railways, highways, medical colleges and smart cities. This is in addition to laying down policy roadmaps for data centres, logistics, etc. Also, 100 per cent tax exemption has been proposed for interest, dividend and capital gains incomes to major FDI investments in infrastructure projects before March 31, 2024, with a lock-in period of three years.

Overall, the Budget proposed an allocation of Rs 1.70 lakh crore for the transport infrastructure sector in 2020-21. In her speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government would focus on infrastructure for economic development, and 6,500 projects across sectors under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) were envisioned towards ease of living for citizens.

As a follow-up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2019 announcement of an investment of Rs 100 lakh crore in the infrastructure sector over the next five years, the Finance Minister had launched the National Infrastructure Pipeline on December 31, 2019 of Rs 103 lakh crore.

Projects in the pipeline include those in housing, safe drinking water, access to clean and affordable energy, healthcare for all, educational institutes, modern railway stations, airports, bus terminals, Metro and railway transportation, logistics and warehousing, and irrigation. A sum of Rs 22,000 crore has already been provided to support the infrastructure pipeline.

According to the Economic Survey for 2019-20, out of the total expected capital expenditure towards the National Infrastructure Pipeline, projects worth Rs 42.7 lakh crore were under implementation, projects worth Rs 32.7 lakh crore were in the conceptualisation stage, and the remaining were under development.

The Survey said that the central government and state governments were expected to have equal shares of 39 per cent each in the funding of the projects, followed by the private sector at 22 per cent.

"In addition to providing Rs 1.7 lakh crore for the transport sector and Rs 22,000 crore for the renewable energy sector, there is a focus on mobilising private capital. Private fund flows are sought to be increased through several measures: tax exemptions to sovereign wealth funds investing in infrastructure; lower tax rate for power generation companies; plans for further asset recycling; the corporatisation and listing of ports; and the promotion of a NIIF (National Infrastructure Investment Fund) sponsored NBFC (non-banking financial company)," said Arun M Kumar, Chairman & CEO, KPMG in India.

The Budget proposed the setting up of a "Kisan Rail" through PPP arrangements, to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishable agricultural goods, including milk, meat, and fish. Four station redevelopment projects and the operation of 150 passenger trains would also be done in the PPP mode. Five new smart cities are proposed to be developed in collaboration with states in PPP mode.

"The Budget's focus on the development of transportation infrastructure, specifically on urban transportation through allocation of funds for Metro rail projects will help achieve Ease of Living through 'Ease of Moving'. The transportation infrastructure development should also focus on accessibility to all, including senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Suburban rail will boost multi-modal connectivity and open up new economic opportunities for areas in and around cities like Bengaluru," policy think tank Ola Mobility Institute said in a statement.

Sitharaman said that the government would consider corporatising at least one major port, and subsequently list it on the stock exchanges. In line with the government's plan to promote domestic air travel, particularly to places not on the air network map of India, the Finance Minister reiterated that 100 more airports would be developed by 2024 under the UDAN scheme. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has received Rs 465.17 crore towards the regional connectivity scheme for 2020-21, which will be utilised towards the revival of 50 airports and viability gap funding for the North East Connectivity plan.

EXPLAINED

Pvt investment essential for infra push

GIVEN THE constrained fiscal situation of the government, particularly in context of the revised fiscal deficit target of 3.8% for 2019-20 due to revenue shortage, it was essential for the Budget to make a strong pitch to the private sector for putting investments in the country's infrastructure. This is especially required considering the Rs 100 lakh crore infrastructure investment target announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

TAKE 5

AP

1. A National Logistics Policy to be released soon to clarify the roles of the Union government, state governments and key regulators.

2. A single window e-logistics market will be created to focus on generation of employment, skills and to make MSMEs competitive.

3. Accelerated development of highways to be undertaken, including development of 2,500-km access control highways, 9,000 km of economic corridors, 2000 km of coastal and land port roads and 2000 km of strategic highways.

4. Proposed setting up of a large solar power capacity alongside the rail tracks on land owned by Railways.

5. Proposed allocation of Rs 6,000 crore to BharatNet programme in 2020-21, and plan to link 1 lakh gram panchayats this year through Fibre-to-the-Home connections under the BharatNet programme.

Promise of more connectivity, but no good news for telecom firms

PRANAV MUKUL & KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

WHILE THE Union Budget laid out plans for setting up of data centre parks and increased broadband connectivity throughout the country, it has almost sent shock waves towards the telecom industry by indicating that not much relief is expected for the sector towards the AGR-related dues that the companies owe the government. The Centre has estimated revenues of Rs 1.33 lakh crore under the 'other communication services' head for 2020-21, 125 per cent higher than Rs 58,989.64 crore as per revised estimate of 2019-20. This is despite the government's decision to defer spectrum payments for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

In the footnotes to the receipt budget, the government mentioned: "Receipts under 'Other Communication Services' mainly relate to the license fees from telecom operators and receipts on account of spectrum usage charges. Department of Telecom collects recurring licence fees from various Telecom Service Providers licensed by it...Spectrum Usage Charges are levied by the department from the Telecom Service Providers (Mobile Commercial VSAT etc.) for usage of spectrum and are calculated as a percentage of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) depending upon the quantum assigned for their network."

The issue primarily affects two telecom players — Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel — that face dues of Rs 53,039 crore and Rs 35,586 crore, respectively, towards AGR-related payments. The companies are in process of seeking relief from the Supreme Court, which has already asked the firms to pay up and rejected their plea to review its earlier order.

Vishal Malhotra, Tax Leader, Telecom Practice, EY India, said: "The budgeted receipts from AGR dues and potential spectrum auctions seem to indicate that not much relief may be forthcoming on the AGR dues arising from the adverse Supreme Court ruling."

The operators have submitted a modification petition to the Supreme Court, seeking permission to negotiate terms and timelines of payment of their statutory dues and the apex court is expected to hear the plea on Monday. Meanwhile, the Department of Telecommunications is also working on spectrum auction, which is likely to be held in April-May 2020.

Further, in line with the government's focus on keeping more data within the country's borders, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the budget speech that the Centre would soon bring out a policy to enable private sector to build data centre parks throughout the country, with an aim to enable firms to incorporate data in every step of their value chains. "This step will help analyse the data better and make a well-informed decision regarding resource allocation for social development of a specific geography and demography," said Takayuki Inaba, Managing Director of network technology firm NEC Technologies India.

WHERE ALL THE TELCOS STAND

	January-March 2018	January-March 2019	April-June 2018	April-June 2019	July-September 2018	July-September 2019
Gross Revenue	₹62,198 cr	₹58,414 cr	₹58,401 cr	₹61,535 cr	₹57,827 cr	₹59,992 cr
AGR*	₹35,697 cr	₹35,932 cr	₹36,552 cr	₹39,124 cr	₹36,142 cr	₹37,338 cr
ARPU**	₹71.62	₹72.49	₹73.34	₹80.65	₹72.50	₹78.17
Internet Subscribers	49.39 cr	63.67 cr	51.22 cr	66.53 cr	56 cr	68.76 cr
Total Subscribers	120.6 cr	118.3 cr	116.8 cr	118.6 cr	119.1 cr	119.5 cr

*AGR= Adjusted Gross Revenue **ARPU= Average Revenue Per User

Govt plans over 15,000-km highways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

EMPHASISING THE need for a robust highway network to boost the economy, the Union Budget has proposed an accelerated programme of constructing 15,500 km of highways, including 9,000-km economic corridors.

The budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has also been enhanced to Rs 91,823.22 crore - against Rs 83,016 crore in the previous Budget.

"Accelerated development of highways will be undertaken. This will include development of 2,500-km access control highways, 9,000 km of economic corridors, 2,000 km of coastal and land port roads, and 2,000 km of strategic highways," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

She said the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, and two more express highway projects, will be completed by 2023.

Work on Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway would also be started, she said.

Welcoming the Budget as growth oriented, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said it is full of innovative initiatives for aspirational India.

150 pvt trains on Rlys map; Tatas 'interested'

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE TATA Group have shown interest in the government's ambitious plan of rolling out 150 passenger trains run by private players, adding heft to the high-priority project — mentioned by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech — that seeks to end Indian Railways' monopoly in the sector.

Representatives from the Tatas participated in the latest stakeholders' meeting in which companies such as the Adanis, Alstom, Siemens and Bombardier, among others, were also present.

"The Tata Group is one of the companies that participated in the stakeholders' meeting," Railway Board chairman V K Yadav said on Saturday.

The government is expecting an investment in rolling stock to the tune of at least Rs 22,500 crore, and Railways is hoping to earn through licence fee and haulage charges by leasing out 100 traffic-heavy routes to private players, who will operate 150 trains.

Railways pegged its revenue expenditure at Rs 2.19 crore. *Express*

In her speech, Sitharaman said, "Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains would be done through PPP mode. The process of inviting private participation is underway."

Sitharaman also proposed setting up of a large solar power capacity alongside the tracks on land owned by the Railways. Yadav later said that 51,000 hectares along the tracks will be used to set up these solar and wind power systems.

The Finance Ministry has given Rs 70,250 crore as gross budgetary support for the next fiscal to fund an overall capital expenditure of Rs 1.61 lakh crore. This is marginally up from Rs 68,104 crore given in the ongoing fiscal for a capital spend of Rs 1.56 lakh crore.

With an operating ratio of 97.4 per cent, a bludgeoning expenditure profile and plateauing income from core business, Indian Railways' finances, as presented in the Budget, show that the national transporter is working hard to keep financial crisis at bay, at least on paper.

The operating ratio is worse than the 95 per cent projected in the Budget Estimate, and in a nutshell captures the precarious income-expenditure disparity the Railways is trying to balance.

Operating ratio is the indicator of money spent to earn every Rs 100 — the lower the better.

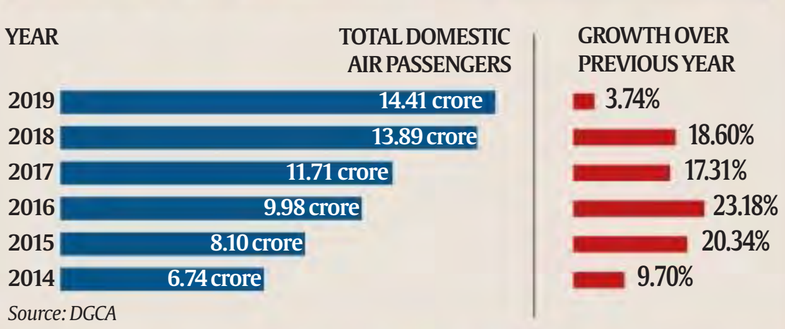
Its revenue expenditure — or money spent to run the house and carry out its business — is pegged at Rs 2.02 lakh crore, while its income is estimated to be Rs 2.06 lakh crore.

The Railways says it will strive to spend less by rationalising "fuel expenditure and imposition of austerity and economy measures". The operating ratio target for next year has been kept at 96.2 per cent.

Freight loading, Railways' core business, is plateauing. The loading target for this fiscal has been kept at 1,223 million tonnes, which is the same as last fiscal.

For the next fiscal, Railways has estimated that it will earn Rs 2.25 crore and pegged its revenue expenditure at Rs 2.19 crore, which is just 8 per cent more than this year.

DOMESTIC AIR PASSENGER GROWTH



Source: DGCA

FCI borrowings to be more than Centre's food subsidy bill

By getting FCI to borrow more to fund food subsidy, Centre has managed to keep its own outgo lower

NUSHAIBA IQBAL & HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman has neither raised the retail rate of urea nor the issue prices of rice and wheat sold through the public distribution system (PDS) in the Union Budget for 2020-21. Yet, the combined subsidy bill on these two accounts is expected to be Rs 77,337 crore lower than the budgeted figure for the current fiscal.

The reduction in the food subsidy bill, from Rs 1,84,220 crore in the budget estimate for 2019-20 to Rs 1,08,688.35 crore, has been brought about by a simple accounting sleight of hand. Page 43 of the latest Receipts Budget shows the Food Corporation of India (FCI) undertaking additional borrowings of Rs 1,10,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) in 2019-20. That figure is budgeted to go up to Rs 1,36,600 crore in the coming fiscal. By getting the FCI to borrow more to fund the food subsidy — which arises from the corporation having to sell wheat at Rs 2 per kg and rice at Rs 3 per kg for the PDS, as against their respective actual economic cost of around Rs 25 and Rs 36 — the Centre has managed to keep its own outgo lower than what it would have been.

The Receipts Budgets for various years shows the investment by the NSSF in FCI, in the form of outstanding loans carrying an annual interest of 8.4%, at Rs 70,000 crore at the end of 2016-17, Rs 1,21,000 crore in 2017-18, Rs 1,91,000 crore in 2018-19, Rs 2,54,600 crore in 2019-20 (revised estimate) and Rs 3,22,800 crore in 2020-21 (budget estimates). In the coming fiscal, FCI will borrow a whopping Rs 1,36,600 crore, of which Rs 68,400 crore would go towards repaying earlier loans. This "off-budget" borrowings of FCI are more than the Centre's Rs 1,15,569.68 crore budgeted food subsidy bill for 2020-21.

It is even worse for fertiliser companies that have no captive borrowing source like the NSSF. For 2019-20, the budgeted fertiliser subsidy was Rs 79,996 crore, while the revised figure is marginally higher at Rs 79,997.85 crore. The fertiliser industry claims that its unpaid subsidy arrears, which will be carried forward to the coming fiscal, would be Rs 40,000-42,000 crore, with domestic urea manufacturers alone being owed some Rs 25,000 crore and not paid since August 2019.

But notwithstanding this huge carry forward payment dues, the fertiliser subsidy for 2020-21 has been pegged even lower at Rs 71,309 crore. At the same time, there is no increase in the maximum retail price of urea that companies can charge from farmers. Sitharaman has merely stated that the prevailing incentive (subsidy) regime "encourages excessive use of chemical fertilisers" and "our government shall encourage balanced use of all kinds of fertilisers, including the traditional organic and other innovative fertilisers". According to an industry source, "our only hope now is that there will be an off-budget increase in retail prices, which will improve our liquidity and reduce the huge interest outgo on borrowings that are not funded through the subsidy".

The Centre's total outgo on all subsidies fell from Rs 2,54,631.84 crore to Rs 2,22,953.75 crore between 2013-14 and 2018-19. This period also saw the subsidy bill come down both as a share of India's GDP (from 2.27% to 1.16%) and the Centre's total expenditures (from 16.33% to 9.63%). But as the accompanying table shows, much of this dip was courtesy subsidy on petroleum products. While the Narendra Modi government could bite the bullet on decontrol of diesel prices and implementing targeted direct benefit transfers in the case of LPG cylinders, it has not been able to do the same with food and fertiliser subsidies. The other major subsidy item that has witnessed a significant rise, from a mere Rs 6,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 21,175 crore in 2020-21, is interest subvention to banks for providing short term credit to farmers at below-market rates.

EXPLAINED

Move on expected lines

THE BUDGET has not raised central issue price of PDS rice and wheat. It has also refrained from hiking farm-gate prices of urea or reducing the fixed per-tonne concession on decontrolled fertilisers. This was to be expected, given that the Budget is as much a political as a bland economic document. Any rationalisation measures in these two big-ticket subsidy items is likely to be only outside the Budget, when there will be no Parliament session either.

CENTRE'S SUBSIDY BILL (IN ₹ CRORE)

Year	Food	Fertiliser	Petroleum	Farm credit	Total subsidy
2013-14	92000	67338.77	85378.16	6000	254631.84
2014-15	117671.16	71075.62	60268.82	6000	258257.89
2015-16	139419	76537.56	29999	13000	264105.5
2016-17	110172.96	66312.93	27538.71	13397.13	234808.87
2017-18	100281.69	66467.57	24460.49	13045.72	224455.15
2018-19	101327	184220	24836.95	11495.66	222953.75
2019-20*	184220	79996	37478	18000	338153.67
2019-20**	108688.35	79997.85	38568.86	17863.43	263557.33
2020-21*	115569.68	71309	40915.21	21175	262108.76

*Budget Estimate; ** Revised Estimate

AWAITING BUMPER RABI CROP

50-year-old Jamer Singh at Khetpurali Raipurani village in Haryana. *Gurmeet Singh*

MGNREGA
Outlay of Rs 61,500 crore in 2020-21 for flagship scheme is below the revised estimate of Rs 71,001.81 crore for current fiscal and also the RS 61,815.09 crore of 2018-19.

BUDGET SUPPORT
Total allocation to agriculture & allied sectors, food processing, rural development and panchayati raj at Rs 271.408.79 crore for 2020-21, up from current year's budget estimate of Rs 264,243.37 crore.

TAKE 5

1. **Spending under PM-Kisan for 2019-20 is expected only at Rs 54,370.15 crore, against the Budget estimate of Rs 75,000 crore.**

2. **The scheme saw 8.38 crore farmers receive the first installment of Rs 2,000 during Dec 2018 to Mar 2019. That fell to 7.56 crore farmers in Apr-Jul, 6.13 crore in Aug-Nov and 3.10 crore in Dec 2019 to Jan 2020.**

3. **Spending has come down due to mandatory linking of bank accounts of beneficiaries with Aadhaar IDs. These conditions were not rigorously enforced before Lok Sabha polls ended in May 2019.**

4. **For 2020-21, Rs 75,000 cr has been earmarked under the scheme, which provides an annual income support of Rs 6,000 to all farmers payable in three equal installments.**

5. **PM Kisan is supposed to in the long run become a direct income support scheme that will subsume all farm input and product subsidies. That expectation has, however, not materialised in the current Union Budget.**

Protection makes dairies happy

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, FEBRUARY 1

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman's second Budget has received a thumbs-up from the dairy industry as well as cooperatives. The Budget has done away with the concessional basic customs duty of 15 per cent on imports of up to 10,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder (SMP) in any financial year. That concession under the existing so-called tariff rate quota (TRQ) regime has been withdrawn and all imports will henceforth attract a uniform 60 per cent duty. The latter rate was until now applicable only on imports beyond the TRQ limit of 10,000 tonnes.

But it isn't SMP alone. The Budget for 2020-21 has also raised the basic customs duty on whey (anhydrous milk protein powder), cheese, butter, butter oil and ghee from 30 per cent to 40 per cent. "They have basically hiked the import duties on all dairy products to the maximum allowable bound rates under the World Trade Organisation rules. This will help us pay better procurement prices to farmers," a cooperative dairy industry official told *The Indian Express*.

The increase in import duties, interestingly, comes at a time when there is pressure from ice-cream makers and even some private dairies to slash the import duty on SMP. Domestic SMP rates have more than doubled in the last one year to Rs 300-320 per kg, even as dairies are now paying Rs 31-32 for a litre of cow milk containing 3.5 per cent fat and 8.5 per cent solids-not-fat, compared Rs 21-22 to a year ago.

"We welcome the Budget decision, as it will stop dumping of imported SMP in the country when milk prices are looking up after a protracted period of low realisations for farmers. The usage of whey powder in milk adulteration will also come down," the official added.

Domestic SMP rates have more than doubled in the last one year to Rs 300-320 per kg.

Cooperative dairies have further welcomed the move to bring cooperative societies at par with corporates in terms of levying tax on profits. Instead of the current rate of 30 per cent (net of the 10 per cent surcharge and 4 per cent education cess), cooperatives will henceforth be taxed at 22 per cent (plus surcharge and cess, which takes the effective rate to 25.17 per cent) provided they seek no exemptions or deductions. Sitharaman has also exempted such cooperatives from the Alternative Minimum Tax just as corporates under the new tax regime are exempted from the Minimum Alternative Tax.

Right now, village-level cooperative societies are exempted from paying taxes on their income (profits) from handling milk and other primary produce bought from farmers. However, district-level unions (which source from the village cooperatives) and state-level federations such as the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF, better known as Amul) are being taxed at 30 per cent. "We have now been granted level playing field, which is most justified," said R S Sodhi, managing director of GCMMF.

In her Budget speech, the Finance Minister also mentioned about the government's plan to eliminate Foot and Mouth Disease, brucellosis in cattle, and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goat by 2025. The Budget has made a provision of Rs 1,300 crore towards this goal in 2019-20, on top of the Rs 811.07 crore spent as per the revised estimates for 2019-20. This intervention is expected to both boost domestic production of milk and also promote export of dairy and meat exports from the country.

Sitharaman also announced the government's intention to expand artificial insemination coverage to 70 per cent of India's breedable bovine population (from the present 30 per cent) and leverage MGNREGA monies for developing fodder farms. The government will further "facilitate" doubling of organised milk processing capacity in the country from 53.5 million tonnes to 108 million MT by 2025, she added.

Examining the FM's plan to double farmers' income in two years

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS
ASHOK GULATI

IN HER Budget speech, Nirmala Sitharaman spelled out sixteen measures to reboot agriculture and re-affirmed the Modi government's resolve to double farmers' incomes by 2022. Agriculture is categorized by her as "Aspirational India". All these sixteen measures are broadly in the right direction, and in line with the tune of the Economic Survey that unequivocally supported the invisible hand of the markets (with trust) for wealth creation. The question for us is to evaluate whether these measures are sufficient to double farmers' incomes by 2022.

In order to respond to this question, we must understand that this would require about 15 per cent per annum growth in real incomes of farmers for the next three years, compared to about 3 per cent growth that was achieved during the five years of Modi 1.0. This five-fold increase in farmers' incomes, from 3 to 15 per cent per annum, is an almost impossible task given the parameters in which farm incomes are determined, and the measures being suggested by her.

Nevertheless, let us look at her key suggestions and see how feasible they are to implement. The FM's sixteen agri-measures range from encouraging states to carry out agri-marketing reforms as per Model Acts for Land Leasing (2016), for Agriculture and Livestock Produce Marketing (2017) and for Contract Farming (2018), to making Indian farmers also producers of solar power, starting 'Kisan Rail' and 'Krishi Udaan' to build efficient value chains for perishable commodities, increasing processing capacity for milk significantly, and so on. It looks like a long laundry list of wishes and intentions, which are good, but will they deliver? How much money and effort is being put to each one of these sixteen measures?

Take the case of agri-marketing reforms.

A five-fold increase in farmers' incomes, from 3 to 15 per cent per annum, is an almost impossible task.

Just "encouraging" states to carry out marketing reforms is not going to deliver. It has been going on since the Model Act of 2003, when Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was at the helm of affairs. And as the late Arun Jaitley used to say, after GST, the biggest returns are going to come from agriculture marketing reforms and the model and priority for that has to be on the lines of GST Council. But unless a focussed and dedicated effort is made in this direction, this will remain merely a wish, and Indian agriculture will remain at the mercy of controls, restrictive and corrupt marketing practices, with high rents for commission agents and local politicians who are often in the ring of running these APMC markets.

The FM's idea of growing solar power on farmers' fields is an innovative one. She has moved from KUSUM, which was to have solar powered pumpsets, to 'power plants' on the barren fields of farmers. But why restrict it to only barren fields? "Solar trees" can be grown on fertile farm fields at 10-12 feet height, which ensures enough sunlight for photosynthesis of crops below. If these solar trees can sell surplus power to the grid, 'solar trees' become their 'third crop', and can help immensely augment farmers' incomes. I have written about it, based on a global survey, how it can be done (*The Indian Express*, August 5, 2019, 'In the shade of solar trees'). In one acre, 500 solar trees can be put in a manner that the farmer can keep cultivating two irrigated crops, even run a tractor, and make additional income of Rs 1 lakh an acre if the surplus power is sold to the main grid. Can she convert this innovation into a revolution? This would require mobilizing financiers, investors, start-ups, and above all, the power utilities to pay in time for the power that farmers generate.

The FM's other ideas for agriculture, especially on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), which she repeated this year, need to be tested before it becomes a national policy. Our work at ICRIER, with my colleague Sandip Das, reflects that compared to conventional chemical-based fertilizer farming, ZBNF may suffer a yield loss of 25-50 per cent in case of wheat and paddy, as per ICAR's ongoing experiments. The best way to promote ZBNF will be to give it a level playing field by reforming the regime of subsidy on chemical fertilizers to direct cash transfer to farmers, and freeing up the prices of chemical fertilizers in line with what the Economic Survey's chief architect, Krishnamurthy Subramanian, suggests. But the FM has shied away from biting this bullet.

Ashok Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER

DECODING THE BUDGET

With the economy in deep crisis, what were the options before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget for 2020-21? With limited resources at her disposal, she has tinkered with several aspects of the economy. But will this strategy work in getting the Indian economy back on track?

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

DID FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman present a "feel-good" Budget or did she show up empty-handed? Will this Budget provide the necessary impetus to spur economic growth in India, or is it bereft of any cogent strategy to lead an economic recovery? Why didn't the government simply break free from the so-called fiscal responsibility norms and spend heavily, as many have demanded, to boost growth? If the government is not spending by itself, then what is the central idea of the Budget?

As she rose to present her second Union Budget in the space of seven months, the Finance Minister had an unenviable task. That is because India's economic growth rate, which was the fastest in the world until about 2017, has since slowed significantly.

What was the context of the Budget?

In 2019-20, which is the current financial year, the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is expected to touch a six-year low of 5 per cent. The situation is worse if one looks at nominal GDP growth, which is expected to fall to a 42-year low of just 7.5 per cent. Real GDP is nothing but the nominal GDP minus the rate of inflation.

If this was just a momentary dip in the growth rate, possibly because of strife in one sector of the economy, the worry may not have been too much. But the fact, despite the government's strenuous denials, is that the Indian economy has been losing power in one engine of growth after another — and that during the past 12 months, the slowdown has intensified rapidly. It has, in the process, also exposed weaknesses of the Indian economy, which are generally hidden when times are good.

Slower economic activity has led to a scenario where even existing jobs are being lost — not to mention the millions that were never created. The resultant decline in incomes has been compounded by a sudden, unexpected, and sharp rise in food inflation towards the end of 2019.

What is the problem with the economy?

Broadly, there are four engines that provide the power to drive GDP growth in an economy. These are: Consumption of private individuals (C), Demand for goods from the government (G), Investments from businesses (I) and the net demand from exports and imports (NX).

GDP = C + G + I + NX

As mentioned earlier, with each passing year, the Indian economy has been losing its engines of growth.

The corporate investments (I) engine has been slowing sharply since 2011. This has happened because most businesses that took loans in the preceding decade, when the going was good, found their bets failing in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. As such, most businesses that could be expected to invest in the economy were hamstrung as they were severely over-leveraged.

The new businesses found that the financiers to the economy, that is the banks (especially the public sector banks, which accounted for 70 per cent to 80 per cent of all lending), were themselves struggling with non-performing assets. Many of these NPAs were the same loans that they had extended to the big businesses who were now hamstrung.

Thanks to domestic bottlenecks and a middling global demand, net exports (NX) were struggling. This trend was not helped by a renewed wave of trade protectionism across the world — reflected in events like Brexit in Europe and the trade war between the United States and China.

That left only C and G — that is private consumption and government expenditure — as the engines of growth.

Private consumption demand was first hurt in the rural areas with poor commodity prices. While this meant that retail inflation was under control, the purchasing power of farmers declined. This weakness in rural demand was compounded by a collapse in urban demand after credit flow from the non-banking financial sector companies stopped following the meltdown in IL&FS.

This is being witnessed in the sales slump across the board — from cars to shampoo sachets.

Government demand carried the day for a considerable time. But with a sharp fall in revenues, thanks to a slowing growth, there is no way the government can spend without massively flouting the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act targets.

What were the options before the government?

In the Indian context, C or private consumption demand accounts for roughly 57 per cent of total GDP. Investments (I) are the next big chunk, accounting for 32 per cent. Government spending (G) is the smallest contributor, with net exports (NX) being negative for India.

Under normal circumstances, it would have been natural for the government to increase its expenditure and thereby provide a strong growth impulse to the economy. That is because what the government spends turns into someone's personal income. This income when spent again, say on buying a car or a bar of soap, generates more economic activity, and further incomes.

In the run-up to the Budget, many had argued that this is what the government should do. But these are not "normal" circumstances.

A slowing economy has upset the government's tax collections. As such, because the nominal GDP grew by just 7.5 per cent in 2019-20 instead of the Budgeted growth of 12 per cent, the gross tax revenues of the government fell from Rs 24,61,195 crore to Rs 21,63,423 crore — that is a shortfall of Rs 3 lakh crore.

The government could have still gone ahead and borrowed more money from the market, but here too there was a problem of supply. In other words, there weren't enough savings in the market to fuel government demand.

As such, the total expenditure of the government is slated to go up by just over 9 per cent over FY20's budgeted figure.

The other option was to boost investments.

To a great extent, the government had already tried to do this outside the Budget, when it announced a sharp cut in corporate income tax last year. The tax cut cost the government over Rs 1.5 lakh crore in 2019-20, with little to show in terms of new investment activity. To be sure, investment decisions are not taken in a hurry and even though the corporate tax cut was a welcome decision, and one that is likely to benefit the Indian economy in the medium to long term, at present, in the immediate term, it has been ineffectual.

That is because investments follow demand, and consumer demand has been declining sharply. This has resulted in high unsold inventories, and is reflected in capacity utilisation falling to an all-time low late last year.

Still, the Finance Minister announced that there will soon be a scheme to encourage investments for the manufacturing of mobile phones, electronic equipment, and semi-conductor packaging. Similarly, she has allowed the electricity generating companies to benefit from the corporate tax cut.

> **At one level, this Budget has exposed the failings of the government when it comes to fiscal health. The fact is that the government seems to have run out of revenues just when it needed them the most**

That left the biggest driver — private consumption demand — and by the looks of it, the government has tried its best to nudge people to consume more and, by that route, kick-start a virtuous cycle. The government has tried to do this by providing people with some options that enhance their disposable income. However, in the process, it has disincentivised savings.

The best example of this is the option of a new Income Tax regime, which removes all exemptions and deductions, but also cuts the tax rates. The government likely hopes that taxpayers will be enthused to opt for this structure because it is likely to leave them with more money in hand.

This is likely to be especially true for those taxpayers who are young and lie towards the lower end of the income brackets. That is because in that age and income brackets, the so-called marginal propensity to consume is higher. The richer and higher-salaried workers tend to save most of their income.

What else has been done?

The Finance Minister has promised a lot of small but meaningful changes that may make it easier for the economic activity to happen, if they are implemented in right earnest. For instance, the Budget outlines several measures to incentivise start-ups in the country. Similarly, for MSMEs too, there was relief from the compliance burden as the Finance Minister raised the turnover threshold for auditing of accounts for small retailers, traders, shopkeepers etc. five times — from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore.

Will this strategy boost growth?

This is not a big bang Budget by any measure. In essence, the government has tinkered with several different aspects of the economy. Even this tinkering has been made possible only after it has announced that it will stray from the FRBM Act path for two consecutive years — FY20 and FY21.

Essentially, the government is hoping that its belief — that the slowdown is "temporary", and that it has bottomed out — is true, and that with a little nudge to consumers and businesses, the economy will dig itself out of the current trough, if not in FY21, then by FY22.

However, nothing can be said for certain. There is no way right now to estimate how far disposable incomes could or would increase. Or indeed if, when people do get some additional cash, they would spend it at all. A spurt in business activity is directly dependent on consumption demand increasing.

And that is where the threat to the bid for a recovery lies. There are many ways in which the plan can go wrong. What if private consumption demand doesn't go up substantially? Or, what if the government is not able to raise the Budgeted revenues from tax and non-tax sources? This is especially true about disinvestment — the government hopes to raise Rs 2.1 lakh crore in FY21, but it raised just about Rs 66,000 crore in FY20.

Could the government have done something else?

At one level, this Budget has exposed the failings of the government when it comes to fiscal health. The fact is that the government seems to have run out of revenues just when it needed them the most — and it is a reflection of not doing more towards achieving fiscal rectitude when the economy was growing rapidly.

To be fair, this limited the government's ability to do a lot. But there is one telling example of where the government missed out even under the current restrictions.

That's in the data related to trends for fiscal deficit (or the net borrowings by the government from the market) and revenue deficits (the gap between revenue expenditure and revenue receipts) for FY20 and FY21. The Budget shows that over these two years, while the fiscal deficit is expected to decline, the revenue deficit is expected to increase.

What this essentially means is that the government will be increasingly using its borrowings to fund revenue expenditure, not capital expenditure.

There is a big difference between the two when it comes to how it pushes economic growth. Research has shown that in India, when government spends Rs 100 on building capital (such as roads and bridges) the economy gains Rs 250; however, when government spends Rs 100 on revenue (such as salaries), the economy gains just Rs 99. (Sukanya Bose and N R Bhanumurthy, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, 'Fiscal Multipliers of India')

Similarly, the government could have created fiscal space by rationalising subsidies.

BUDGET TAKEAWAYS

1. Deposit Insurance Coverage to increase from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per depositor
2. Concessional corporate tax rate of 15 per cent to new domestic companies in manufacturing and power sector
3. 100 more airports to be developed under UDAN
4. Tax concession for sovereign wealth fund of foreign governments and other foreign investments
5. Tax benefits to start-ups by way of deduction of 100 per cent of their profits are enhanced by increasing turnover limit and period of eligibility
6. Turnover threshold for an audit of MSMEs increased
7. Dividend Distribution Tax removed and the classical system of dividend taxation adopted
8. Simplified GST return shall be implemented from April 1, 2020. Refund process to be fully automated
9. PM KUSUM to cover 20 lakh farmers for standalone solar pumps, and another 15 lakh for grid-connected pumps
10. Viability gap funding for the creation of efficient warehouses on PPP mode

VIABILITY GAP FUNDING FOR HOSPITALS IN TIER-2, TIER-3 CITIES

Health gets ₹7.6K crore boost, govt plans to set up hospitals in public-private mode

While overall allocation is up from last year's outlay of Rs 61,398 crore, the allocation for PMJAY has remained static

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE BIG health sector announcement in the Union Budget 2020 is the decision to set up a viability gap funding window for setting up hospitals in PPP mode, in a bid to boost coverage of Ayushman Bharat, the government's flagship health programme.

The sector got proposed allocation of Rs 69,000 crore in the Union Budget, including Rs 6,400 crore for Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

While the overall allocation is up from last year's Rs 61,398 crore, the allocation for PMJAY has remained static — a result perhaps of the inability of the National Health Authority to spend much of its allocation when the revised Budget estimates were drawn up last year.

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "Presently, under PM Jan Arogya Yojana, there are more than 20,000 empanelled hospitals. We need more in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities for poorer people under this scheme. It is proposed to set up viability gap funding window for setting up hospitals in PPP mode. In the first phase, those aspirational districts will be covered where presently there are no Ayushman-empanelled hospitals. This would also provide large-scale employment opportunities to the youth. Proceeds from taxes on medical devices would be used to support this vital health infrastructure.

"In view of the "world-class goods" currently being manufactured in India and to discourage imports, Sitharaman announced "nominal health cess, by way of a duty of customs, on imports of medical equipment keeping in view that these goods are now being made significantly in India. The proceeds from this cess shall be used for creating infrastructure for health services in the aspirational districts."

Sources in the government, however, said that currently there are no aspirational districts where there are no hospitals empanelled under PMJAY, and every district has at least one empanelled district hospital. However, the status is under review and districts where available services are not adequate will be prioritised, they said.

Sitharaman also said, "It is proposed to attach a medical college to an existing district hospital in PPP mode. Those states that fully allow facilities of the hospital to the medical college and wish to provide land at a concession would be able to receive viability gap funding. Details of the scheme would be worked out," she said.

The move will encourage large hospitals with sufficient capacity to offer resident doctors DNB/FNB courses under the National Board of Examinations.

"There exists a huge demand for teachers, nurses, paramedical staff and caregivers abroad. However, their skill sets, many a time, do not match the employer's standards and therefore need to be improved. I propose that special bridge courses be designed by the Ministries of Health, Skill Development together with professional bodies to bring in equivalence. Language requirements of various countries also need to be included. All these should be achieved through special training packages," Sitharaman said in her speech.

The Budget mentioned programmes such as Mission Indradhanush — the programme slogan is "TB harega desh jitega" to end the disease by 2025, five years ahead of the global deadline — and the FIT India movement. Sitharaman also announced expansion of the Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts of the country, offering 2,000 medicines and 300 surgicals by 2024.

There was a small increase in duty on cigarettes though *bidis* remained unchanged.

Calling it a landmark budget, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan said it is a "pragmatic, visionary, progressive and a people's Budget. It aims to be built on three prominent and fundamental pillars of an Aspirational India to boost the standard of living; economic development for all; and building a humane and compassionate society with Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas...this is an inclusive Budget which is pro-poor, pro-farmer, pro-downtrodden and for the development of all sectors and the country."

He said the health sector allocation shows an "appreciable increase of 3.75 per cent, while there has been a 10-per cent hike in allocation for the Department for Health Research".

Cess on import of medical equipment to be used for creating health infrastructure in aspirational districts

EXPLAINED

No cut in outlay makes Health ministry happy

THE OVERALL increase in proposed allocation is below last year's Rs 9,000 crore, but Health Ministry officials are not complaining, especially since there were murmurs of allocation "cuts" in the run-up to the Budget this year. The fact that PMJAY spending has been kept at Rs 6,400 crore bears out the point that Health Ministers often make — that the country's health system is not equipped to spend large increases in health Budget. Till November last year, PMJAY had managed to spend only a third of its allocation.

TAKE 5

1. While Finance Minister Sitharaman said "education needs a better flow of finance", and that steps will be taken to source funding through FDI and external borrowing, 100% FDI is already allowed in the sector but there has hardly been any such investment

2. Sitharaman spoke yet again about the National Education Policy, which has been in the works for five years

3. Budget mentioned Misson Indradhanush — with the slogan "TB harega desh jitega" to end TB by 2025, 5 yrs ahead of the global deadline — and FIT India movement. The Finance Minister also announced the expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts of the country

4. An amount of Rs 35,600 crore has been allocated in the Budget to nutrition programmes, including Poshan Abhiyaan

5. A sum of Rs 385 crore has been earmarked for setting up One Stop Centres aimed at providing assistance to women affected by violence

Little raise for higher education amid fee hikes by universities

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to increase Budget allocation for higher education by only Rs 1,149 crore even as institutions across the country are increasing fees to deal with funds shortage.

Sitharaman allocated Rs 99,300 crore for education — a hike of 4.6 per cent over Rs 94,855 crore last year. Of this, Rs 39,466 crore is set aside for higher education and Rs 59,845 crore for school education. The biggest chunk of the increase — Rs 3,308 crore — has gone to school education, leaving higher education with an additional Rs 1,149 crore.

Scholarships and financial aid for students in higher school education has seen little increase. The budget for interest subsidy scheme (providing interest subsidy during the moratorium period on educational loans taken by students with family income of less than Rs 4.5 lakh per annum) and Prime Minister's Research Fellowship remain unchanged at Rs 1,900 crore and Rs 50 crore, respectively. Overall allocation for student financial aid is Rs 2,316 crore, as opposed to Rs 2,306 crore last year.

The research and innovation head has faced a 50-per cent cut compared to the budget announcement of 2019-20 — from Rs 608.87 crore to Rs 307 crore. No money has been allocated for the Ucchatar Avishkar Abhiyan this year, a scheme launched by the NDA-2 government to promote industry-specific research in educational institutions.

According to sources in the ministry, the significant cut under the research and innovation head was on account of poor utilisation of funds last year. As reported by *The Indian Express* on Thursday, only 25 per cent of Rs 608 crore was spent by the higher education department by December 2019.

The Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a scheme for higher education, has seen probably the biggest cut under higher education. The allocation to the scheme dropped by 85 per cent — from Rs 2,100 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 300 this time. The cut comes in wake of the HRD Ministry flagging corruption in the scheme by its former joint secretary and national coordinator to the Prime Minister's Office.

On January 27, *The Indian Express* had first reported that an audit by TISS had discovered that RUSA's national coordinator B Venkatesh Kumar allegedly misappropriated Rs 2.02 crore of the funds. He had submitted handwritten taxi bills of Rs 1.26 crore to justify some of the expenditure.

That apart, Rs 23 lakh was allegedly spent out of RUSA funds on personal trips of Ishita Roy and her children within India and abroad. Roy, a 1991-batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, was RUSA's national mission director during her stint as joint secretary at the HRD Ministry.

The University Grants Commission, responsible for releasing grants to colleges and universities, has been allocated Rs 4,693 crore as against last year's Budget announcement of Rs 4,600 crore. The All India Council for Technical Education will receive Rs 416 crore, as opposed to Rs 458 crore announced in 2019-20. Fee hike at the IITs and central universities such as Jawaharlal Nehru University had met with resistance from the student community last year. The budget for central universities has gone up from Rs 6,843 crore to Rs 7,643 crore, and for IITs from Rs 6,329 crore to Rs 7,182 crore.

RSS arm opposes FDI stand

RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch opposed the Budget announcement that the government will encourage FDI in education, saying it is a "bad idea" and will lead to "westernisation" of education.

DIGITAL PUSH ON CARDS

Kishore Rathod (58) buys supplies from a fair price shop in Ahmedabad. Outlets of Public Distribution System, anganwadis, government schools, post offices and police stations will be provided digital connectivity, the Finance Minister has announced in her Budget speech. *Javed Raja*

COVERAGE OF PDS
The National Food Security Act, 2013, which came into force in July, 2013, provides for coverage of up to 75 per cent of the rural population and up to 50 per cent of urban population for receiving foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.

PDS ALLOCATION
NFSA has been implemented in all States/UTs. During the year 2019-20, the government of India has allocated 603.88 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to States/ UTs under NFSA and other welfare schemes as on December 31, 2019

RELEASE OF FREE ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS TO BPL

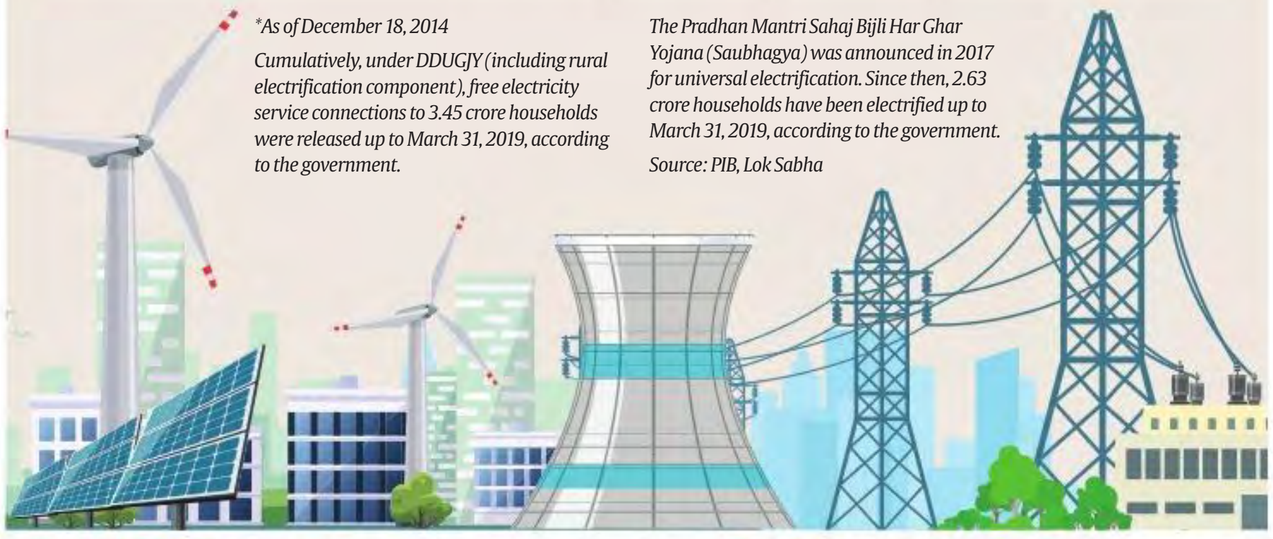
State	Connection already achieved*	Balance remaining*	Connections released to BPL households			
			2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Bihar	25.44 lakh	83.47 lakh	8.29 lakh	7.80 lakh	9.17 lakh	8.60 lakh
Uttar Pradesh	10.79 lakh	41.05 lakh	3.37 lakh	4.83 lakh	10.10 lakh	2.97 lakh
Odisha	28.70 lakh	16.82 lakh	19,477	42,028	1.84 lakh	13.84 lakh
Madhya Pradesh	12.64 lakh	14.38 lakh	1.46 lakh	2.85 lakh	2.72 lakh	3.44 lakh
Assam	11.65 lakh	6.48 lakh	22,077	13	2.46 lakh	5.14 lakh
All India	2.20 crore	1.85 crore	14.39 lakh	22.43 lakh	36.53 lakh	54.34 lakh

**As of December 18, 2014*

Cumulatively, under DDUGJY (including rural electrification component), free electricity service connections to 3.45 crore households were released up to March 31, 2019, according to the government.

The Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) was announced in 2017 for universal electrification. Since then, 2.63 crore households have been electrified up to March 31, 2019, according to the government.

Source: PIB, Lok Sabha



Nutrition mission gets a push, task force to fight maternal mortality

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

NUTRITION, ESPECIALLY among vulnerable groups such as children, adolescent girls and mothers, has received a major push in the 2020-21 Budget announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Finance Minister announced an allocation of Rs 35,600 crore to various nutrition programmes, including Poshan Abhiyaan or Nutrition Mission launched by the BJP in 2017-18.

The Finance Minister's push for improved nutrition comes in the backdrop of the Economic Survey which listed "zero hunger" as an essential focus area for the government.

The Abhiyaan was launched to improve the nutritional status of children (0-6 years), adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The minister further said that more than six lakh anganwadi workers have been equipped with smartphones to upload the nutritional status of more than 10 crore households.

Announcing that the government was determined to eradicating manual cleaning of sewer systems and septic tanks, the minister said the Ministry of Urban Development has been asked to look for alternative technologies to implement mechanised cleaning. The government has, however, not increased the budgetary allocation for the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which has remained at Rs 110 crore, the same allocation as in the last Budget.

The outlay for the Integrated Programme for Rehabilitation of Beggars has been increased from Rs 5 crore in the 2019-20 Budget to Rs 100 crore this year.

The Budget provides for Rs 28,600 crore for programmes specific to women. The minister also announced a task force to work towards lowering maternal mortality rates and improving nutrition levels.

While the minister said the government's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyaan had "yielded tremendous results", the outlay for the programme had been reduced from Rs 280 crore in the 2019-20 budget to Rs 200 crore in the 2019-20 revised estimates. The government has kept an outlay of Rs 220 crore in the 2020-21 Budget.

Of the total outlay of Rs 30,000 crore for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, nutrition-specific schemes such as anganwadi services, which form the core of the Integrated Child Development Scheme, have received the bulk of the allocation at Rs 20,532 crore. This is an increase from the 2019-20 revised budget estimates of Rs 17,704 crore.

The ministry has been allocated Rs 385 crore for One Stop Centres that are aimed at providing integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.

"In furthering this government's commitment towards the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward classes", the Finance Minister has announced a budget provision of about Rs 85,000 crore for 2020-21 and for Scheduled Tribes a budget of Rs 53,700 crore.

Budget has vision and action, will generate jobs: PM

Says new tax process strengthens commitment to minimum government, maximum governance

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

PRAISING THE Budget for having "vision" as well as "action" and for its focus on boosting economic growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it would strengthen the foundations of the Indian economy in this decade.

"The main areas of employment are agriculture, infrastructure, textiles and technology. In order to boost employment generation, these four areas have been given a lot of emphasis in this Budget," Modi said in his reaction to the Budget immediately after it was presented in the Lok Sabha.

The Prime Minister also said that by easing the taxation process, the Budget had further strengthened the government's commitment to minimum government, maximum governance. Modi also said the 16-point action plan to revive the agricultural sector would ensure doubling of farm incomes and generate employment in rural areas.

"The National Logistic Policy will benefit trade, business and employment. The target to build 100 airports in India will embolden the will of a general Indian. This infrastructure is very important for Indian tourism," the Prime Minister said. He added: "India will now move to become a key member of the global value chain. The skill development of the youth has also been stressed upon. Skill sets needed for the development of a modern and New India have been focussed."

Others BJP leaders too highlighted Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's key announcements to assert that the Budget would help India become a five trillion-dollar economy by 2024.

Home Minister Amit Shah said the Budget would help fulfill the Central government's resolve to double the income of farmers and provide "unprecedented" relief to the taxpayers. In a series of tweets, Shah said world-class highways, railways, ports, airports and metros would be built in the country with the allocation of Rs 100 lakh crore. "In this Budget, the Modi government has taken effective steps to rationalise the tax system, boost basic infrastructure, strengthen the banking system, promote investment and ease of doing business, which will further the Modi government's resolve to make India a five-trillion-dollar economy," he said.

PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi. *PTI*

Hailing the Budget as "visionary, futuristic, growth-oriented, transformative and all-inclusive", BJP president J P Nadda said it would ensure development of all sections of society.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar described the Budget as the "most pragmatic" at a time when the world economy is facing headwinds. India has not only managed a "good growth rate" but is also marching towards a better rate, he said, adding that the Budget would usher in all-round development.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the Budget will revive growth and rejuvenate demand in the economy. It is investment-friendly and will go a long way in doubling farmers' income and unshackling Indian industries, he said.

"The first Budget of the new decade presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gives an outline of a new and confident India. It is a promising, proactive and progressive Budget which will make India healthy and wealthy in coming years," Singh said.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari asserted that the Budget will boost growth.

SECURITY CHECK

Security personnel inspect packets containing copies of the Budget documents, at Parliament complex. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Longest-ever Budget speech had poetry and history too

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 01

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday delivered the longest-ever Budget speech for two hours and 40 minutes, breaking her own record of a two-hour-17-minute speech in the last Budget.

"Everything that we do here, everything that we speak through the Budget and everything that this government does, with the guidance and leadership of the Prime Minister, is for this 'pyara watan'," she said in her speech, which contained quotes from Sanskrit, Tamil and Kashmiri poems.

Sitharaman had two pages of her speech left to be read when she appeared uneasy and was seen wiping her forehead.

Soon, her ministerial colleague Harsimrat Kaur Badal rushed to her seat and offered candies. TMC Member Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, a doctor by profession, also rushed towards the front row. As a few more women members moved towards Sitharaman, Speaker Om Birla asked them to remain seated. Later, Sitharaman opted to discontinue the speech, asking the Speaker to consider the remaining part of her speech as read.

PM Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh watch as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pauses during the speech Saturday. *PTI*

When the House was adjourned after introduction of Finance Bill, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked to her seat and asked about her health. Several other Union ministers and members of the Opposition members also asked about her health.

Sitharaman started her speech with expressing gratitude to the people for re-electing the Narendra Modi government with a massive mandate in the 2019 general election.

Describing the GST as one of the most historic structural reforms, Sitharaman remembered her predecessor and former Union minister late Arun Jaitley and called him the "chief architect" of GST. During her speech, she invoked Kashmiri poet Dinanath Kaul and referred to his poem which says our country is the most loved country of the world.

Making a case for the balanced use of fertilisers, the Finance Minister invoked Sangam-era Tamil Woman saint poet Avvaiyar's verse — "Bhumi tiruthi Unn" — meaning one must "first tend to till one's land and then eat".

Invoking Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar's words, "Freedom from illness, wealth, produce, happiness and protection (to subjects); these five, are the ornaments of a kingdom", she said these are the five priority areas of the government as well. After she made the remark, some Opposition members were heard raising slogans.

While announcing the direct tax proposals, Sitharaman quoted verses from Raghuvamsa by Sanskrit poet Kalidasa, "Surya, the Sun, collects vapour from little drops of water. So does the King. They give back copiously. They collect only for people's wellbeing."

The Finance Minister referred to the Indus Valley Civilization as Sindhu-Saraswati while talking about trade in ancient India.

Trinamool, Left tear into Budget: From economic crisis to disaster

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE OPPOSITION on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the government over the Union budget. While the Trinamool Congress said the budget will take India from "economic crisis to economic disaster" and "from the ICU to the ventilator", the Left parties said the budget revealed that the government is clueless about how to address the crisis gripping the country's economy. Both the TMC and the Left said the budget was bent on privatisation.

"Today's budget takes this country from economic crisis to economic disaster; from the ICU to the ventilator. It completely failed to lift the gloom and doom. No mention of employment generation, no mention of relief for the poor, no mention of unorganised sector... We have a cess on health. It is anti-people because it is bent on privatisation, selling the family jewels. Railways, BSNL, Air India and now LIC and worse still, LIC sale will be used to compensate the states on GST," TMC leader Derek O'Brien said.

O'Brien said the budget was misleading on many counts. "The first one is on doubling farmer income. Where are we going? At current rates we will reach the doubling by 2030. Look at Bengal we have already tripled farmers' income in seven years...more fudging if you read the fine print on the I-T cuts, 70 of 100 exemptions lifted such as LIC PPF etc. This kills the small saving opportunity of the middle class," he said.

Asserting that the budget speech was "full of rhetoric", CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said, "This budget is a complete failure to address the current economic slowdown, it doesn't have a roadmap of how the economy can be turned around...which means, more importantly, greater and greater economic attacks on the livelihood of the people are in the offing. The only source of revenue that the government seems to be banking on is privatisation."

The CPM said in a statement that the budget numbers reveal that the "Modi Government is only interested in providing the corporate sector and the wealthy relief rather than tackling the increasingly grim employment and livelihood situations of the working people — workers, farmers and those forced into self-employment — which is the root cause of the slowdown."

CPI general secretary D Raja said the budget is a "shameless declaration" that government is abdicating all its responsibilities and working towards large-scale participation of domestic private sector and foreign investors.

Calling the budget disappointing, SP president Akhilesh Yadav said," This budget provides no relief to the salaried class, businessmen, industry, the farmers, the workers and the poor. Youth are further disappointed and the homemakers hit by price rise are in despair now."

Insipid, govt has given up on reviving economy: Cong

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

HOURS AFTER Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the Budget for fiscal 2020-21, the Congress tore into the government, saying there was nothing in the Budget which will revive growth.

It said the government has junked reforms, failed to come up with steps to create jobs and has given up on reviving the economy, fiscal consolidation, accelerating the growth rate and promoting private investment. It also accused the government of trying to dispose of national assets through a "grand clearance sale".

Asked to rate the Budget on a scale of 1 to 10, former finance minister P Chidambaram said, "10 has got a one and a zero. You can pick either a number."

Arguing that unemployment and economic slowdown are the major challenges before the country today, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, "I didn't see any concrete idea, any strategic idea that could help our youngsters get jobs. I saw a lot of tactical stuff, redundant things...I think, it describes the government quite well. (The budget speech was) more than 2 hours, 45 minutes... Lot of repetitions, lot of rambling, nothing concrete, so, it is the mindset of the Government, all talk, all talk, all talk, nothing happening, but the country is, of course, suffering..."

The Congress also hit out the government for reducing food subsidy claiming that it has snatched food from the plates of the poor. "How do you call it a Budget for a caring society? Food subsidy has been reduced, fertiliser subsidy has been reduced... Petroleum subsidy shows a marginal increase because of anticipated increase in oil prices. It appears that the people will not get any relief on the price front," Chidambaram said.

While Chidambaram said he unable to recall any memorable idea or statement in the speech, senior party leader Anand Sharma said the "Budget is insipid, lacking in stimulus for growth and there was no clear road map for job creation".

Poet Nirmala quoted: Kashmiri, Leftist, close to Abdullah

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 1

BEGINNING HER Budget speech, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman quoted a verse from 'Myon Watan (My Country)', a poem by renowned Kashmiri poet, late Dina Nath Kaul 'Nadim', to emphasise that "everything the government does is for this beloved country".

Sitharaman quoted the verse: *"Soun watan, gulzar shalimar hyu (our country is like a blossoming Shalimar Bagh)*

Dal manz phalwun pamposh hyu (like a blooming lotus in Dal lake)

Nuwjawnan hun roshan khumar hyu (like the warm blood of its young)

Myon watan, choun watan, soun watan, nundboon watan (my country, your country, our country, the beautiful country)."

"The poem was actually written about Kashmir. There are many such poems that he (Nadim) had written," historian Mohammad Yousuf Taing said.

Kashmiri Pandit scholar B N Betab said: "You can interpret any piece of art, any piece of literature, in a different context. I think Nirmala Sitharaman had in her mind...I was watching it, she said (it) because she was presenting the Budget and saying something about the development that the government is going to give to Kashmiris."

So who was Dina Nath Kaul 'Nadim'? A Leftist, a self-admitted "fan" of the scholar and the agnostic person in Jawaharlal Nehru, and a close associate of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, whose son and grandson — Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah and former J&K CM Omar Abdullah, respectively — have been detained by the government.

Born in Murran village in south Kashmir's Pulwama district in 1916, Nadim first emerged as a poet when he recited two poems at Mujahid Manzil, the headquarters of the National Conference in Kashmir.

In an interview with a Jammu-based English daily days before his death in 1988, Nadim had said that after he recited the poems at a public gathering, Sheikh Abdullah raised him in his arms and said, "Look, here is our poet..." He recalled that it was the day Muslim Conference was converted into National Conference by Sheikh Abdullah.

Nadim was a senior member of the Progressive Writers' Forum and had said in an interview that he was part of the Cultural Front, an underground communist organisation. In 1971, he was conferred with the 'Soviet Land Nehru Award'. Sixteen years later, he was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award.

Nadim used 'Makhmoor' as his pen name in his earlier writings but changed it on the insistence of Prem Nath Shala, a contemporary. On Saturday, the Finance Minister called him Dina Nath Kaul and omitted the pen name.

Several measures to simplify tax structure, but no magic wands

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS
BIBEK DEBROY

FINANCE MINISTER quoted from Kalidasa's *Raghuvamsham*. (She also quoted others, but this *shloka* (number 18 from Sarga 1) caught my attention.) She quoted in Sanskrit, and gave the translation. Ignoring the Sanskrit, her translation was, "Surya, the Sun, collects vapour from little drops of water. So does the King. They give back copiously. They collect only for people's well-being."

As most people know, *Raghuvamsham* is about Raghu's lineage, one into which Rama was born. This particular shloka is about Rama's ancestor, the famous King Dilipa. The translation is perfectly accurate, except that the word *bhuti* can also be translated as prosperity or wealth, not just well-being. Translated as wealth, it meshes perfectly with Economic Survey's theme. The Sanskrit also has the word *bali*, which means taxes. The king collects taxes, which at that time, was one-sixth, roughly 16.7%. Coincidentally, until GST brought down tax revenue, Union and State-level taxes together amounted to around the same share of GDP, 16%. The preceding *shloka* (not quoted) compares Dilipa to a charioteer, with neither Dilipa, nor the subjects (wheels of the chariot) deviating from the accepted path. Union Budget is one instrument in a government's policies and, as the FM pointed out in her speech, the accepted path is one of structural reform and inclusive growth. That was the path during 2014-19 and continues under the second Narendra Modi government. The accepted path is one of reducing the malign influence of government (improving ease of doing business, ease of living) and enhancing effectiveness of benign hand of government (DBT, sanitation/water, energy, credit, digital inclusion, affordable housing, social security, health).

Under both heads, there are bits in the Budget that feed into the broad thrust and their import will only become manifest gradually — encouraging state governments to implement model agricultural laws, 100 water-stressed districts, incentives for solar, balanced use of fertilisers, agri-warehousing and cold storage, village storage, cold supply chains, Krishi Udaan, a crop/district matching, negotiable warehousing receipts integrated with e-NAM, viability gap funding for hospitals in PPP mode, apprenticeship embedded degrees/diplomas, internship with local bodies, IndSAT, attaching medical colleges to district hospitals in PPP mode, National Infrastructure Pipeline, National Logistics Policy, solar capacity along rail tracks, corporatisation of a sea-port, removal of criminal liability in legislation, National Recruitment Agency, mechanism for recruitment to tribunals, strengthening Contracts Act, National Policy on Statistics, off-loading government equity in IDBI, opening government securities for non-resident investments, hiking limits for FPI investments in corporate bonds, off-loading government equity in LIC.

Let's not forget that one of the successes of the government, since 2014, has been containment of inflation, dramatically stated in Economic Survey using *thaalis*

All these (and there are a few more) feature in Part A of the Budget speech and are incremental to reforms already being undertaken. Yes, they will be a function of how they are implemented, and yes, implementation often depends on state governments. Anyone who expected Big Bang policy announcements through the Union Budget had unrealistic expectations. Except in the rare instance of the 1989-1991 balance of payments crisis, there never has been Big Bang. It has always been incrementally chipping away in Steady State. Many issues are state subjects. Did one expect the FM to do something about gun licences in Delhi, highlighted eloquently by the Survey? The Budget should stick to its knitting Union government receipts and expenditure.

Notice, in all this, there has been no deviation from the goal of fiscal consolidation. That's the reason targeted fiscal deficit/GDP ratio is projected at 3.5% in 2020-21. It logically follows there has been no dramatic increase in expenditure as a result of these items mentioned in Part A. Any substantial revamp of public expenditure (such as Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) has to wait for final recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission. While there have been arguments for counter-cyclical fiscal policy when there is a growth slowdown, what it entails is never clearly spelt out. Even if expenditure is not compressed during a growth slowdown, that amounts to a widening of deficit ratios. If fiscal caution is thrown to the winds, this has consequences, sometimes borne by succeeding FMs. Let's not forget one of the successes of the government, since 2014, has been containment of inflation, dramatically stated in Economic Survey using thaalis. The counter-cyclical fiscal policy arguments essentially amount to fiscal concessions for specific sectors, or across-the-board reductions in taxation. Before moving on to taxes, the disinvestment target of Rs 210,000 crore may seem to be excessive. However, given the time-line of identified enterprises lined up for disinvestment/privatization, that figure is doable.

GST is the purview of the GST Council. Note that when GST was introduced, it was expected to replace all existing indirect taxes from a revenue point of view too. That is, the average revenue neutral GST rate was expected to be 16%, perhaps a bit more. In contrast, the last computed average GST rate is 11.6%. Stated differently, there has been a fiscal stimulus through lower indirect tax rates. On direct taxes, corporate tax rates have already been reduced (22% and 15%), with an element of voluntary choice. Either one opts for lower rates and gives up exemptions, or one opts for higher rates with exemptions. Most people would like low rates, spliced with exemptions, thus enriching CAs and lawyers. That doesn't make tax administration simple, nor does it reduce litigation. Government also doesn't possess resources to deliver expected physical and social infrastructure (collective goods in nature) or welfare schemes (individual in nature). Following the mode adopted in case of corporate taxes, for personal income taxation too, Union Budget has introduced an element of choice (with some exemptions removed across the board). Admittedly, along this route of choice, there are too many slabs. That's probably been determined by some calculation of revenue foregone. As growth rates improve and tax revenue stabilises, the number of slabs will no doubt be reduced.

In passing, there are several measures (both on direct and indirect) on simplifying tax administration. Yes, India went through a growth slowdown and Economic Survey expects real GDP growth to be between 6 and 6.5% in 2020-21. (Budget expects nominal growth of 10%.) If one expected a magic wand Budget would provide to jack growth up to 9%, one was being unrealistic.

The author is Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

MHA ALLOCATED ₹ 1,67,250 CRORE

₹30,757 cr for J&K, panel for hike in UT share

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

IN THE first budgetary grant to it since becoming a Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated over Rs 30,000 crore in the Union Budget. Part of the allocation for the Ministry of Home Affairs, this grant includes an enhanced finance commission devolution to the UT, apart from other central grants.

The Home Ministry itself has been allocated Rs 1,67,250 crore for the next fiscal, with enhanced allocation for police forces and Census 2021. The grant for modernisation of state police forces has, however, been slashed by almost 25%, while the budget for Special Protection Group (SPG), which now provides security cover to just the Prime Minister, has gone up.

According to the Union Budget, the finance commission devolution for Jammu and Kashmir has been increased by 0.15 percentage points to take it to 1% of the total. To accommodate this, the government has reduced the aggregate finance commission devolution to states by one percentage point to 41%.

The UTs of J&K and Ladakh have been given Rs 30,757 crore and Rs 5,958 crore respectively. Of J&K's total allocation, over Rs 19,000 crore is the newly worked out finance commission devolution fund. The rest make up other Central grants-in-aid. In the last financial year, the finance commission devolution money for J&K stood at over Rs 1,400 crore.

As preparations for Census 2021 has begun, the government has allocated Rs 4,568 crore under the Census Surveys and Statistics head. The houselisting phase of the Census and the National Population Register will be carried out from April 1 to September 30, 2020. The Census will have its reference date as March 1, 2021, but for snow-bound Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, it will be October 1, 2020.

The Union Cabinet has already approved Rs 3,941.35 crore for the NPR exercise. The Budget allocated Rs 1,126.62 crore for relief on account of natural calamities and Rs 842.45 crore for social security and welfare schemes.

A major share of the Home Ministry Budget has gone to the paramilitary forces with a total allocation of Rs 92,054.53 crore for 2020-21. The allocation to the paramilitary forces will be distributed proportionately between the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which is engaged in anti-militancy operations in J&K, the Northeast and often deployed for internal security duties, and the Border Security Force, which guards the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders. The other forces which will also get funds from the Home Ministry are the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Industrial Security Force, the Sashastra Seema Bal, the Assam Rifles and the National Security Guard. The budget for SPG has increased from Rs 540 crore to Rs 590 crore. Of this, Rs 145 crore (more than double of last year) is capital expenditure. The total allocation for modernisation of police forces has come down from Rs 4,155 crore to Rs 3,161 crore.

Rs 3,688.10 crore has been earmarked as grants-in-aid to the state governments, Rs 1,001.30 crore as grant-in-aid to the Union Territory administrations and Rs 195 crore for the Northeast.

Rs 1140.38 crore has also been earmarked for expenses of the Council of Ministers.

The Budget also earmarked Rs 25,000 crore for the National Disaster Relief Fund, up from Rs 10,000 crore in 2019-20.

Besides the budget allocated to J&K and Ladakh, Rs 5,164.26 crore has been allocated for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Rs 4,635.10 for Chandigarh.

The recently merged UT Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu has been earmarked Rs 2,180.52 crore and Lakshadweep has been given 1,349.71 crore Also, Rs 1,116 crore has been given to Delhi and Rs 1,703.02 crore to Puducherry.

The vegetable market on Dal Lake in Srinagar. This is the first Budget after J&K became a UT. *Shuaib Masoodi*

BUDGET, LIVE

People watch the Budget speech of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a showroom in New Delhi on Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

Marginal rise in defence allocation, no special outlay for dept under CDS

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE NEWLY created Department of Military Affairs, headed by the Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat did not find any mention in either Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's speech, nor has it been mentioned as a separate subhead in the revenue outlay for the Defence Ministry.

Sitharaman, in fact, did not mention anything regarding allocation for the Defence Ministry, or the three forces, in her Budget speech on Saturday.

At Rs 3.375 lakh crore, defence allocation has seen a marginal rise compared to the budgeted estimates from last year of Rs 3.19 lakh crore, an increase of 5.6 per cent.

The hike becomes even smaller when compared to the revised estimates for 2019- 20 at Rs 3.31 lakh crore — a rise of just 1.8 per cent.

Capital outlay for the services has increased by 3 per cent — from Rs 1.104 lakh crore in 2019-20 to Rs 1.137 lakh crore. Capital outlay for the Army has increased from Rs 29,461 to Rs 32,392 crore; for the Navy from Rs 23,156 to Rs 26.688; and for the Air Force from Rs 39.302 crore to Rs 43,281 crore.

If revised estimates for last year are taken into account, capital allocation for the Air Force has, in fact, come down. The revised estimate for Air Force last year was Rs 44.869 crore, compared to Rs 43.281 crore this year.

The government has given the Defence Ministry in revenue outlay Rs 2.09 lakh crore this year, compared to Rs 2.02 lakh crore last year in Budget estimates.

The Defence Budget becomes much bigger if the allocation for defence pension is added to capital and revenue outlays. When included in the Defence Budget, the largest increase in allocation for defence has come for pension. It jumped by 18.75 per cent — from Rs 1.12 lakh crore last year to Rs 1.33 lakh crore in the Budget presented on Saturday. Put together, it pushes the Defence Budget to Rs 4.71 lakh crore. To push this allocation, and for the sake of predictability and stability for flow of funds for national security, the Finance Commission is contemplating setting up an expert group with representatives of Home, Finance and Defence ministries to come up with detailed modalities for either non-lapsable funds for national security, or to come up with an alternate mechanism.

Mentioned in its interim report for 2020-21, the Finance Commission has stated that it has received communication from the Defence Ministry about continuous inadequacy of funds. It has mentioned that the Defence Ministry has said that "though India is currently not engaged in any conflict, the nature of threat that it faces demands complete defence preparedness", and "big defence acquisitions require larger capital outlays". The ministry also told the Finance Commission that "the current provisions are inadequate to fund these and hence the need for alternate sources of additional funding".

The Defence Ministry has proposed several mechanisms, which include "setting up a non-lapsable fund, levy of cess, monetisation of surplus land and other assets, tax-free defence bonds and utilising proceeds of disinvestment of defence public sector undertakings".

The 15th Finance Commission's terms of reference were amended by the Union Cabinet in July 2019 to secure adequate funds for the country's defence and internal security.

Preparations ahead of Defence Expo 2020 in Lucknow. *Vishal Srivastav*

EXPLAINED

Acquisition plans to take a hit

THE MARGINAL increase in allocation to the defence sector is unlikely to please either of the three forces, all of whom have been asking for more money to modernise. All three forces — the Army, the Navy and the Air Force — are also hoping to make big-ticket acquisitions as a process of modernisation.

Govt plans to set up varsity for heritage and conservation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

ALLOCATING Rs 3,150 crore to the Ministry of Culture in the Union Budget, the government on Saturday announced plans to establish an Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation (IIHC), which will be given a deemed university status. However, no specific allocation was made for setting up of the IIHC in the Budget. The government also announced plans to transform five archaeological sites across the country into iconic spots with on-site museums.

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "Our government proposes to establish an Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under Ministry of Culture; it shall have the status of a deemed University to start with. Acquisition of knowledge in disciplines such as museology and archaeology is essential for collecting and analysing scientific evidence of such findings and for dissemination through high quality museums. Currently, lack of trained manpower is a handicap for both these disciplines. This also affects tourism."

Rakhigarhi in Haryana, Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh, Shivsagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu are slated to be developed as iconic sites with museums.

Sitharaman also said that a museum on numismatics and trade will also be located at the historic Old Mint building in Kolkata. "Four more museums from across the country shall be taken up for renovation and recuration so that a world class experience can be offered to visitors," she said.

A tribal museum in Ranchi and a maritime museum in Lothal — a Harappan age maritime site — near Ahmedabad under Ministry of Shipping is also underway, she added.

Fund push for Chabahar port, nominal cut in MEA outlay

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

THE GOVERNMENT on Saturday allocated Rs 100 crore for the strategically-located Chabahar port project in Iran and Rs 140 cr to Seychelles where it is developing infrastructure in the Assumption Island. It has also allocated Rs 100 crore for organising the G-20 summit in 2022.

The allocation for Chabahar port is now more than twice the allocation of Rs 45 crore last year. The allocation to Seychelles has also gone up substantially as last year's budget allocation was Rs 50 crore.

The overall allocation for the Ministry of External Affairs has been reduced marginally from Rs 17,372.27 crore to Rs 17,346.71 crore.

The reduction in budget outlay was most significant for Nepal, where it has been slashed from Rs 1,200 crore to Rs 800 crore.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ₹ 100 crore for the strategically-located Chabahar port
- ₹ 140 crore to Seychelles where it is developing infrastructure in the Assumption island
- ₹ 100 crore for G-20 summit preparations in 2022

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said India will host the G-20 Presidency in 2022 and Rs 100 crore has been allocated for this purpose.

"I am happy to inform that India will host G-20 Presidency in the year 2022 — the year of 75th anniversary of Independence," she said. "For this historic occasion, I allocate a sum of Rs 100 crore to begin the preparations," she added.

₹ 5,029 cr for Minority Affairs, up by 7 per cent

New Delhi: The Union Budget allocated Rs 5,029 crore for the Ministry of Minority Affairs, up 7 per cent from last year's Rs 4700 crore. The ministry said that in the last 10 years, its budget had almost doubled. In 2010-11, ministry's budget was Rs 2600 crore.

In her Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "For today's youth born at the turn of the century, for every member of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who seeks a better life, for every woman wishing to stand up and get counted, for every individual from the minority sections of our society, this Budget aims to have your aspirations and hopes addressed," she had said.

"(This is a) Practical Budget, a budget of transformation for a government that believes in performance. It is also a people-friendly budget. We have also docked the ship after traversing some very choppy waters. The kind of circumstances we were in...the Budget keeps in mind villages, the poor, farmers and youth," Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said in a statement. ABANTIKA GHOSH

Budget turned a blind eye to reality of economic slowdown

SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS
THOMAS ISAAC

THE BASIC mistake of the 2019-20 Union Budget is being repeated. Within four months of her maiden Budget, the Union Finance Minister had to propose three so-called "mini Budgets", revising some of the key tax proposals, providing tax concessions, advancing recapitalising the banks and so on. The Budget had turned a blind eye to the growing reality of slowdown in the economy. As slowdown accelerated, a slew of supply side financial measures had to be introduced which, however, had little impact on the downward slide of the economy. The profits and cash balance of corporate companies sharply improved, there was much cheer in the share market, but there was very little to show on the investment front. For four successive months, the core industrial sectors continued to shrink. And so, finally, the Government of India had to revise its own projection of GDP growth for 2019-20 to 4.9 per cent.

The Union Budget of 2020-21 has chosen to hide the above reality with the average growth rate for the 2014-19 period, the narrowing of trade deficit, increase in inflow of FDI and so on. So the Budget assumes that the supply side economics is working and seeks to pursue more of the same. At consultations with state finance ministers on the Union Budget, there was almost a consensus that measures had to be adopted to stimulate aggregate demand in the economy. Bihar Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi even had a written note where he argued that states also be allowed to have higher fiscal deficit given the recessionary conditions.

The present situation is a clear case of failure of aggregate demand. Unpublished reports of the National Sample Survey revealed that per capita monthly consumption in 2017-18 was s lower than in 2011-12 and that unemployment in 2019 was at a 45-year high. So I had expected that there would be a course-correction in government spending.

It is most surprising that the total expenditure Rs 30.4 lakh crore is only 9 per cent higher than the budget estimate of 2019-20 and as a ratio to GDP, it is even marginally lower. In her long-winding Budget speech, the Finance Minister didn't for once care to compare her outlays with the previous years. Such a comparison would have revealed the lie of her claims of the Budget being pro-agriculture and pro-poor. The allocation for the employment guarantee programme - on which Rs 61,815 crore was spent in 2018-19 and Rs 71,002 crore in 2019-20 — is only Rs 61,500 crore in 2020-21. Similar is the fate of many of the so-called 'care' programmes. The allocation for agriculture-allied sectors is only Rs 1.5 lakh crore, same as in the previous year. Embarrassingly, women empowerment programmes have also faced a cut.

The basic constraint to the Budget has been on the receipt side where there have been huge tax giveaways. The corporate tax budget is less than the receipts in 2018-19. Therefore, to keep the budget deficit in check, the Union government has decided to once more raid Reserve Bank reserves and target to sell public sector firms, including IDBI and LIC.

After adopting all these measures, the share markets have slid, with the Sensex by 1,000 points. Maybe they had expected more, like a sharp reduction in long-term capital gain tax. One wonders what the Union Finance Minister can give further for corporate appeasement. The poor and unorganised sectors cannot retaliate as the corporate share brokers in the share market. If they could, they would have booted out the Budget of 2020-21.

The Budget of 2020-21 is also significant since this is the first year of the 15th Finance Commission. The worst fears expressed by many states seems to be coming true. Though there is only a marginal reduction in the tax share of states from 42 per cent to 41 per cent, the tax devolution to the states is seen to be only Rs 7,84,181 crore as against the actual transfer of Rs 7,61,454 crore in 2018-19. The share of many states like Kerala has sharply declined. Kerala's tax share, which was budgeted to be Rs 19,000 crore in 2019-20, would only be Rs 15,236 crore in 2020-21. Its share in the horizontal distribution of tax share declined from 2.5 to 1.9 per cent. Details of distribution of other grants are not yet available to make a final assessment. The GST compensation would in future be limited to compensation cess. There will be no relaxation of the borrowing ceiling for states. There is no proposal for additional borrowing for states facing natural calamities.

The Union Finance Minister's speech hid more than it revealed. So much time was spent on Aspirational India, Economic Development and Caring Society, that many of what was said did not fit easily under those labels. If one were to search for a macro-economic vision and direction in this Budget, it would be in vain.

The writer is Finance Minister, Government of Kerala

'We want to gradually remove everything called exemptions'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that deductions and exemptions under the personal income tax regime will be gradually removed but when they are, the government will set attractive rates to make taxation more simple. Excerpts from her post-Budget interview with *DD News*

One of the things that was expected of this Budget was a stimulus to growth. So if you have to pick two or three themes from the Budget which you think will really give a stimulus to the economy, what would those be?

The first main thing is, as is the analysis done by economists, policy experts and so on is, if private investment is not really catching up, where does it stop? Where does the buck stop? The buck stops at the government's doors. The government will have to show that it is not waiting for the private investments to happen, it will happen whenever it happens but we have to go about investing, and that's what we made very clear saying, "Yes, we will invest and in infrastructure." I want to point out two or three things to you, to prove and strengthen that point.

We are definitely spending on infrastructures, obviously, we have gone into the detail. It is not just that (the) Prime Minister announced it in the Red Fort speech during Independence Day, Rs 100 lakh crore in five years. Soon after that we started, we had a task force, we looked into details, we consulted states, we consulted private sector and came up with a pipeline of 6,500 projects. You've seen government for a very long time, within a matter of four months, if we were able to come out with a complete pipeline, and in this budget to help that pipeline see the light of the day ... I have given enough concessions for sovereign funds which want to come into India to invest and that condition is also addressed. Infrastructure, if you invest, we give you all these concessions.

> "I am very clearly committing myself, disinvestments will happen, but the money will go into the infrastructural lending, institutions that we are creating. So that investment disinvestment money will not go for revenue expenditure, it will go for capex"

That's not just said as an offer, several funds who have been in touch with us, they want to invest in India. They see India as a potential country for high investments. So, after that we have given concessions for foreign investors, sovereign funds and so on. We have also not just spoken about it, Rs 22,000 crore has already been given for those companies, which are now going to do the handholding and direct investments towards these pipeline projects, third. Fourth, together with this we are also separately investing also in some of the water connectivity, inland water connectivity projects. The Dhubri-Assam link, Brahmaputra link, Ganga link, Haldia link, all this is happening. So, in infrastructure, if the economic theoretician, economists are saying private investment being slow, will public investments happen? It is happening. So that is where, I want to say, the expectation about spend the money in creating assets, and some of the suggestions which had also had been floating around in the media is, "Alright, you're going to be doing all this disinvestment. The money will come, and it will go away." You sold the family silver, no. I am very clearly committing myself, disinvestments will happen, but the money will go into the infrastructural lending, institutions that we are creating. So that investment disinvestment money will not go for revenue expenditure, it will go for capex. Capex is what is going to receive it.

When you look at the rural economy, carrying on from what you were saying, one of the things that seemed to have helped this year was the job guarantee scheme, MGNREGA, and you originally budgeted Rs 60,000 crore, but you ended up spending close to Rs 71,000 crore on that. This year, if you look at it, the Budget Estimates are a little down on that. Are you expecting enough of a pick up in rural jobs and the rural economy to sort of offset this, or is it one of these things where, if the need arises you will step in and invest?

PTI

The principle behind the MGNREGA is that when the need arises, we'll give. Need arises is based on the demand, when they come. It's a demand-driven scheme, so when they come and ask for it we will give it. But if you notice in my Budget speech, I have also mentioned that MGNREGA will also be extended for further creation, because today livestock in many of the water-distressed districts don't even have enough fodder, livestock maintenance is becoming an issue, and if it is possible for us to use many of those not so fertile lands, I wouldn't say barren lands, but not so fertile lands, if they are used for cultivating fodder you're local livestock will survive from it, and that itself can be one of the MGNREGA activity.

So we have tried bringing all those necessary, lose-end tying up, just say local youth and also demand-driven scheme like MGNREGA will flourish.

The idea is, over a period of time, all exemptions will go, because right now at every point I can be taxed either in one way or the other, which itself is a little complex, right?

So, we want to gradually remove everything called exemptions and that is why I am not waiting for that golden day. I have started the process by offering a new stream. I am not forcing people, you can continue to be where you want, if you want exemptions. But gradually, when exemptions go, I will also give an attractive rate with which taxation will be simple.

The tax changes that you've made, do you think that is significant enough to have an impact on consumption?

Yes. I am giving you an example, Rs 78,000 is what an individual with a Rs 15 lakh annual salary will save. And he will have to use that money, either in savings or in consumption.

So you feel that this fear that some people have that savings are gone altogether...

No, I don't think. I mean I don't want to believe that a taxpayer will have to be goaded to save. A taxpayer is smart enough, intelligent enough responsible enough to take a call on how much he wants to spend and how he much he wants to save, after all, we should trust them to that extent.

On the tax issue itself, the charter that you did. It's probably the first time that any government has gone out and said as a taxpayer you have some rights of not being harassed and we've talked about this in the past also, there is this huge fear that a lot of people have, not just individual taxpayers, but more importantly the corporate sector. So can you just tell us a little bit about this charter?

As you said, I have gone around the country talking to tax administrators to say, "Yes you have a target to collect revenues, but please don't overreach, we've been assuring taxpayers that we shall ensure that there will be a fair assessment, we'll do it all digitally, centrally monitored, you'll be given a document identification number, all that is on one level, but beyond that, that the government trusts and respects the taxpayer, how many times the Prime Minister himself has said. There is still this thing about you know, do you really taxpayers, we are building the nation and so on. So we said, we are very clear in our intentions, so why should we even hesitate to put it in the law. So we have made it possible to have it as a part of the statute itself, I think if my research is right, there are only three countries which have it in there law itself: Australia, USA and Canada. I am glad that we have joined that league to assure taxpayers that this government's intention is to trust and respect wealth creators and taxpayers. We do not mean less, so we put in the law now.

If you look at the tax numbers, some of the tax receipts that you are expecting this year are actually lower than the budget estimates for last year...

Yes.

Do you think they are achievable this year?

Yes, that is the point I am trying to make corporate tax cut will have a time lag for it to show, but today I bear the brunt of having lost that money as a result my revenue collection will suffer. But if I am able to come back to some kind of a discipline, fiscal deficit by saying 3.5 per cent in my BE, it is because I expect revenue generation to improve, so I can cut my fiscal deficit back down, towards a glide path, 3.8 per cent comes to 3.5 per cent.

> "We are definitely spending on infrastructures, obviously, we have gone into the detail. It is not just that (the) Prime Minister announced it in the Red Fort speech during Independence Day, ₹100 lakh crore in five years"

Even your nominal growth expectations at 10 per cent...

Realistic, I think.

Yes, and it is the lowest in a long time, but like you said it is realistic.

Realistic because we don't want to give an impression that we are... in fact I thought in the house, even as I read it out, some members did not even hear me completely, or misunderstood what I said. So I repeated it, in fact, twice repeated it. Saying, "nominal GDP growth 10 per cent".

Transcribed by Mehr Gill

ECONOMY BOOSTER

ANURAG SINGH THAKUR, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE

"The Budget is aimed at boosting income and purchasing power of people. Keeping the same in mind, middle class has been given top most priority ... new tax regime has been proposed to provide significant relief to individual taxpayers ...

The grant of 100% tax exemptions for sovereign wealth funds for their investments in infra sector is expected to give a boost to infra investments ... abolition of DDT will serve beneficial to the global yield-seeking infrastructure investors in India."

PIYUSH GOYAL, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

"A series of steps have been taken in the budget which encompasses almost every section of society and every aspect of the national economy. All of them put together collectively will be seen as a leg up to investment and growth.

All the investments proposed in the budget, be it in roadways, railways, seaways and more are to give more income to the people. This is a budget which balances fiscal prudence with all the sections of the country for a better future of the country."

FATEHGARH HOSTAGE CRISIS: TWO DAYS LATER

Hostage-taker had enough ammo to last several days: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 1

FATEHGARH POLICE on Saturday said that the 40-year-old murder convict, who had held 23 children hostage at Karthiya village in the district on Thursday night, had enough ammunition to fight with the police for several days.

Subhash Batham, who was out on bail, was shot dead at the end of the nine-hour hostage crisis. His wife, Ruby Batham, died later in hospital early Friday after she was assaulted by a mob of local residents, police had said. While none of the children held hostage suffered any physical injury, two policemen were injured as Batham detonated an explosive placed among a heap of bricks outside his house.

"At Subhas Batham's house, the bomb disposal squad found 15 kg cylinder bomb, four big size crude bombs connected to wires, 135 hand grenade-type bombs, four medium crude bombs, one paint box bomb — yellow and grey, around 3 kg — bulb element, fuse, white tape, electric wires and battery. This was in addition to a .315 bore countrymade rifle and .315 bore countrymade pistol along with 11 empty cartridges and 20 live cartridges," read a statement issued by the police on Saturday.

Police also said Subhash had meticulously planned the attacks and gathered knowledge of explosives and bomb-making from the Internet. He also extensively read about cases of children held hostage in other countries, police said, citing the search history of his smartphone. "From the search history of his cellphone, the surveillance team found that Subhash searched for bomb-making technology and incidents in foreign countries related to children being held hostage," police said.

"It seems Batham had planned it for a month... He had studied in detail a similar case in 2004 in Russia where children were held hostage, besides some other similar cases," Inspector General of Police (Kanpur Range) Mohit Agarwal said.

"He was in jail last time four months ago for robbery. It seems he had planned this there, learning details from other inmates. He collected arms and explosives with their help," he added.

The construction of a toilet in his house just a few days ago made the police draw the conclusion that Subhash had planned to keep the children hostage for several days. Three FIRs have been registered against Subhash and his wife Ruby.

Police to finance dead couple's 2-yr-old child's education: I-G

Lucknow: Inspector General of Police (Kanpur Range) Mohit Agarwal on Saturday said that police department will bear the educational expenses of the two-year-old daughter of Subhash Batham, who had taken 23 children hostage and was shot dead during the police operation on Thursday night.

The child's mother, Ruby, was also killed after she was assaulted by a mob of villagers. The two-year-old daughter, who was present in the house when the police broke in to rescue the 23 children held hostage, is currently being taken care of by a woman constable at the local police station.

"We have decided that the police department will take care of the expenses of the child's education. We will finance her education even if the girl is adopted through the proper procedure... We want the girl to become an IPS officer and we will provide her all the resources and opportunities," IG Agarwal told *The Indian Express*.

SHO of Mohammadabad Police Station, Rakesh Kumar, said that the child was doing well and bore no injuries. "After the child was rescued, she was given to a woman police constable who is taking care of her at Mohammadabad police station... We have even contacted her grandmother (Subhash's mother), but she has not yet responded," he said. **ENS**

UNION BUDGET

Old, polluting coal power stations to be closed: FM

Over Rs 4,000 cr announced for better air quality in cities

AMITABH SINHA & SOWMIYA ASHOK
PUNE, NEW DELHI, FEB 1

THE UNION government on Saturday announced that all coal-fired power plants not meeting prescribed carbon emission standards will be shut down.

In another major decision for the green sector in the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Rs 4,400 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal for improving air quality in cities with population of more than 1 million.

"There are thermal power plants that are old and their carbon emission levels are high. For such power plants, we propose that utilities running them would be advised to close them, if their emission is above the preset norms. The land so vacated can be put to alternative use," Sitharaman said.

Sources in the government said about 80 coal-fired power plants — all below 100 MW capacity — are likely to be affected by the government's decision. Many of these have already been served notice, they said.

"The process has already been initiated," a source said. "These power plants are old and below 100 MW capacity, and they have significant emissions with virtually no option to bring down their emissions through adoption of new technologies. Such power plants have already been identified and are being asked to close down."

About 80 coal-fired power plants — all below 100 MW capacity — are likely to be affected by the government's decision.

However, many of these power plants are owned by state governments, and there might be some resistance to the decision to close down.

India has already said it would not sanction any new coal-fired power plants after 2022.

On clean air, Sitharaman said the Centre would actively help the state governments that are trying to improve air quality in their cities. "Parameters for the incentives would be notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Allocation for this purpose is Rs 4,400 crore for 2020-21," she said.

Fifty cities with population of over 1 million will benefit from this decision.

Environmental activists, while welcoming the decisions, said the government needs to come out with the details soon.

Kanchi Kohli, senior researcher, Centre for Policy Research, said: "The allocation of Rs 4,400 crore implies that the government considers pollution as a critical issue to be addressed. However, this announcement does not come with clarity on what the money will be spent on. For instance, subsidies to waste-to-energy plants or investing in smog towers have been the solutions proposed in the past, which are non-starters and wasteful expenditure."

After teacher 'talks up' CAA, NSUI workers vandalise school

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 1

ACCUSING A teacher of talking up the new citizenship law and NRC, NSUI activists allegedly vandalised a private school at Mandla in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. But even two days after the incident, no police case has been registered.

The management of Bharat Jyoti Higher Secondary School, the largest private school in the tribal-dominated district, has said in their complaint to police that activists of NSUI — students' outfit affiliated to the Congress — reached the campus on Thursday and sought permission to enter a classroom to meet a Class IX teacher.

When the management refused to let them enter, the activists allegedly hurled abuses and vandalised furniture in the school. A video clip showed activists kicking some tiffin boxes on their way out.

Accusing the teacher of having an "anti-Muslim mindset", NSUI leader Akku Thakur said, "The teacher asked if there are any Muslim students in the class. There was one girl but she kept mum. The teacher then told the students that Muslims are being driven out of the country for good. The girl later told her guardians about it and they got in touch with us."

"Even elders don't know much about CAA or NRC. If you start teaching students like this and poisoning their young minds, they will grow up with a divisive mindset," said the NSUI activist.

Asked about the vandalism, he criticised the management for not acting against the teacher and said, "Normally we don't do such things but what will we do when we are not heard."

The school has lodged a complaint to the police and demanded security cover. It has said the teacher had engaged in a general discussion on CAA and NRC.

"When the NSUI activists were denied permission to enter the classroom, they misbehaved with other teachers and broke furniture," the complaint said.

Mandla SP Deepak Shukla said the police had tried to get in touch with the school management on filing an FIR in the matter, but it hasn't come forward. "We will wait till Monday and then act on our own because we have the video (of vandalism)," he said.

Despite repeated attempts, school manager James D'souza did not answer calls.

Meanwhile, NSUI's rival student outfit ABVP submitted a memorandum to district authorities, demanding action against NSUI for vandalism.

"A student had asked a question out of curiosity. The law has been passed by Parliament, what's wrong in talking about it. It's not against any particular community. If the administration does not act against NSUI activists, we will take to the streets," said district ABVP convener Manglesh Chakravarti.

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded swift action from the Kamal Nath government.

"Has the Congress decided to end the rule of law in the state? Will there be strict action against these goons," asked BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal.

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि०
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
CIN: U40109UR2001SGC025867
E-mail id: eecm.upcl@gmail.com Website : www.upcl.org

ई–निविदा सूचना
निविदा संख्या–06 / अधि.अभि.(का.में.) / 2019–20

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि. के वि.का.वि. गबर सिंह भवन देहरादून परिसर में अनावासीय एवं आवासीय भवनों के वार्षिक अनुरक्षण के कार्य हेतु मोहर बन्द निविदायें दिनांक 13.02.2020 को अपरान्ह 05:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो कि दिनांक 14.02.2020 को अपरान्ह 03:30 तक खोली जायेगी। निविदा की विस्तृत शर्त एवं निर्धारित प्रपत्र वेबसाईट www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। अन्य नियम व शर्ते मूल निविदा के अनुसार रहेगी।

No.91/EE (CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date:- 31-01-2020 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (मु.)

राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें, बिजली बचाने हेतु एल.ई.डी. बल्ब का प्रयोग करें। (टोल फ्री नं. 1912) विद्युत बिलों के 24x7 ऑनलाइन भुगतान हेतु www.upcl.org पर जाए। (विद्युत चोरी की सूचना टोल फ्री नं. 1800 180 4185 / फैक्स संख्या–0135–2760911 पर दें।)

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTICS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)
CIPET: CENTRE FOR SKILLING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT(CSTS)
Haridwar Road, Post-Bhaniyawala, Doiwala, Dehradun-248140 (UK)
Ph: +91-135-2695075, 9599314775, Website: www.cipet.gov.in
Email: cipetdehradun@gmail.com / dehradun@cipet.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Online)

E-TENDER No.: CIPET/DDN/Tender/Equip/2019-20/01

CIPET invites technical & commercial bids separately from the reputed suppliers/manufacturers for the supply & installation of Testing Equipments / Machinery for CIPET Dehradun. Interested and eligible bidders are requested to apply through e-tender (online), website www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET, also visit CIPET website for complete details on technical specification and commercial terms. CIPET reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders either in part or in full without assigning any reasons thereof.

Last date for the online submission of the bid : 22/02/2020, 05.30 p.m.
Opening of Technical bids : 24/02/2020, 10.00 a.m.
Opening of Commercial bids : After Evaluation of Technical Bids

For further clarification, please contact +91-135-2695075
Deputy Director and Head

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer
VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.3 Arasikere
Ph: 08174233111 e-mail: eeypd3ask@gmail.com

Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-03/YGC/TN-03/2019-20/1164 Dated:31.01.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 03/2019-20
Dated:31.01.2020 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Only through E-procurement system)

"Percentage" tenders through e-portal is invited forthe work of "MODIFICATION OF 220KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT AND 110KV SINGLE CIRCUIT LINES FORPROPOSED CANAL WORK BY VJNL IN ARASIKERE TALUK, HASSAN DISTRICT"(VJNL/2019-20/TL/WORK_INDENT 1371)by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.3, Arasikere on behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Ltd., Registered office, Bangalore from the**registered Government Licensed Super grade electrical and PWD Class I license Contractors** who fulfill the pre-qualification conditions as per the published bid documents for the works.The amount put to tender for the work is **Rs. 517.44 Lakhs**. The contractor must submit the completed bid documents throughe-portal only *www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in*. Intending bidder can access from **03.02.2020.** Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at O/o Chief Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole project Zone, Tumkuru on **10.02.2020 from 11:00AM to 12:00 NOON.**Last date for the submission of the bid is**18.02.2020**up to16.00 Hrs. Details such as Scope of work/EMD amount/Qualification of bidders/ Tender Conditions etc can be obtained through e-procurement.Thetechnical bid (Cover-I) will be opened on**20.02.2020 at 16.30 Hrs**at the office of the Superintending Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Circle, No.1, Tumakuru through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the technical bid pre-qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the e-portal. Any further information required may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. NOTE: Bidder must remit the EMD as mentioned in the eportal as per the norms. Under any circumstances no exemption is applicable on EMD.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
VJNL, Y P Division, No.3 Arasikere

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

HEAD CONSTABLE C.P. SINGH KSHATREE SECR BILASPUR

16.06.1975 to 02.02.2011

On 01/02.02.2011, Head Constable C.P.Singh along with SI Sripal Singh was tasked to conduct a raid to recover stolen railway properties as well as to arrest the fugitive criminals at Pali village of Bilaspur District. When raid was in progress, he was attacked by some outsiders. Exhibiting extraordinary courage, Head Constable C.P. Singh faced them with courage but sustained grievous injuries and attained Martyrdom. On the face of hostile situation, indomitable courage shown by him is an example of sheer guts and commitment to other member of the force.

"REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE
DG AND ALL RANKS OF RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE PERSONNEL"

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. S.E.J.C. (R&B)-08/2019-20

B-652

No. 373 Date. 27.01.2020

1. Name of the work : Building Works
2. Total No. of Works : 04 (Four) Nos
3. Estimated cost : Rs. 131.27 to 403.74 lakhs
4. Period of completion : 09 (Nine) Months to 11 (Eleven) Months
5. Bid Cost : Rs. 10,000/- (Each)
6. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : from 10.00 hours of 04.02.2020 to 17.00 hours of 18.02.2020
7. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal : 17.00 hours of 18.02.2020
8. Opening date of Bid : 11.00 hours of 19.02.2020
9. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
34108/11/0009/1920

पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0,
विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित निविदाओं के द्वारा निम्नवर्णित कार्य को बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से कराने हेतु अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा / निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है :–

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सं0–11 / वि0कार्यशाला ख0 / मेरठ / 2019–20 {निविदा मूल्य–रू0 1180.00 (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित (अप्रतिदेय)। अनुमानित लागत–रू0 1.00 लाख, धरोहर राशि रू0 1,000.00}। विद्युत कार्यशाला मण्डल मेरठ, विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, मेरठ एवं अधीनस्थ कार्यशालाओं मेरठ, मवाना अडडा मेरठ एवं बडौत के प्रयोगार्थ फर्नीचर क्रय।

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सं0–12 / वि0कार्यशाला ख0 / मेरठ / कार्य / 2019–20{निविदा मूल्य–रू0 1180.00 (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित (अप्रतिदेय)। अनुमानित लागत–रू0 2.64 लाख, धरोहर राशि रू0 3,000.00} विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड मेरठ में अधिशासी अभियन्ता विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु 01 नग डीजल चालित हल्का वाहन चालक सहित माह 04 / 2020 से माह 03 / 2021 (12 माह) तक बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से किराये पर रखने हेतु।

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सं0–13 / वि0कार्यशाला ख0 / मेरठ / कार्य / 2019–20{निविदा मूल्य–रू0 1180.00 (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित (अप्रतिदेय)। अनुमानित लागत–रू0 2.64 लाख, धरोहर राशि रू0 2,900.00} विद्युत कार्यशाला मेरठ में सहायक अभियन्ता विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु 01 नग डीजल चालित हल्का वाहन चालक सहित माह 04 / 2020 से माह 03 / 2021 (12 माह) तक बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से किराये पर रखने हेतु।

अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सं0–14 / वि0कार्यशाला ख0 / मेरठ / कार्य / 2019–20{निविदा मूल्य–रू0 1180.00 (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित (अप्रतिदेय)। अनुमानित लागत–रू0 2.64 लाख, धरोहर राशि रू0 2,800.00} विद्युत कार्यशाला बडौत में सहायक अभियन्ता विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु 01 नग डीजल चालित हल्का वाहन चालक सहित माह 04 / 2020 से माह 03 / 2021 (12 माह) तक बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से किराये पर रखने हेतु।

ई–निविदा खुलने की दिनांक :–15.02.2020

प्रतिभागी फर्मो द्वारा अपने चालू बैक खाते से ई–निविदा हेतु वांछित धरोहर राशि एवं ई–निविदा शुल्क (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित) (अप्रतिदेय), आर.टी.जी.एस. / एन.ई.एफ.टी. के माध्यम से अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, मेरठ के नाम से सैन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया की जेल चुँगी, मेरठ स्थित बैंक शाखा में संचालित चालू बैंक खाता सं0 1403900519 (IFSC Code CBIN0282337) में जमा कराया जायेगा। आई.एम.पी.एस द्वारा जमा कराई निविदा शुल्क व धरोहर राशि मान्य नही होगी तथा यह धनराशि जब्त कर ली जायेगी। निविदा भाग–1 (निविदा राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र), निविदा भाग–2 (प्राइजबिड) निविदा खुलने की तिथि को 14:00 बजे तक ई–टेण्डरिंग वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जायेगी। ई–निविदा भाग–प्रथम, उसी दिनांक में 16:30 बजे के बाद ऑनलाईन खोला जायेगा। कृपया वैबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in पर विस्तार में सभी जानकारी, विवरण / डाउनलोड तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन / विस्तार के लिये निविदा खुलने से पहले तक लॉग इन करें। निविदा प्रपत्र खोलने वाले दिवस को अवकाश होता है तो उक्त कार्य के लिए अगला कार्य दिवस माना जायेगा। अधोहस्ताक्षरी किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार / अस्वीकार या समस्त निविदाओं को या उसके किसी भाग को और अपूर्ण निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार बिना कारण बतायें सुरक्षित रखते हैं। विद्युत सम्बन्धी शिकायतों की सूचना "1912" पर दें।

Remark : www.etender.up.nic.in

पत्रांक 114 दिनांक 31.01.2020
राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड,
प0वि0वि0नि0लि0 मेरठ

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

Two open Tender (**Tender Notice Elect-Chg-65-19-20-05**) is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, KGP Division acting for and on behalf of the President of India, through e-Tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mention below. Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only, in **www.ireps.gov.in** website. **Name of the Work:** "Maintenance Contract of TL Coaches (SG Non-LHB type & EOG LHB type) at Santragachi, Shalimar & Padma Pakur Coaching Depot for Three Years". **Tender Value:** Rs.5,24,58,484.79 **EMD:** Rs.4,12,300/- **Cost of Tender form (Non refundable):** Rs.10,000/- **Tender closing date & time:** 03.03.2020 upto 15.00hrs. **Allocation:** D-519-21 (REV). Tender Notice, tender document and other details is given in the **www.ireps.gov.in** **(PR-1319)**

e-Tender (**Tender Notice No. TRD-KGP-W-2019-20-19RT1, Dated: 28.01.2020**) is invited by the Sr DEE/TRD, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Description of works:** Renewal of OHE in suburban section under Kharagpur Division of S. E. Railway (Phase-II). **Tender Value:** Rs.5,99,66,798.82 **EMD.:** Rs.4,49,800/-. **Cost of Tender document:** Rs.10,000/- **Date of opening:** 12.03.2020. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) months. **Date of Submission:** upto 15.00 hrs of 12.03.2020. Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. **(PR-1312)**

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Advertisement no. EL/G/E/OT/Advt./ 2019-20/07
Dated : 29th January, 2020

Tender No. EL-G-E-OT-19-20-13 **Name of Work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 01 No. Johnson make 13 passenger (884 Kg.capacity) lift (Elevator G + 3 floors), installed at DRM office building, Nagpur for a period of three years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,30,100.00/- **Tender document cost :** ₹ 1,000/- **EMD:** ₹ 4,600.00/- **Completion Period:** Thirty Six (36) Months

Tender No. EL-G-E-OT-19-20-14 **Name of Work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 01 No. Kone make 13 passenger (884 Kg capacity) lift (Elevator G + 4 floors), installed at RCC building at DRM office complex, Nagpur for a period of three years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,65,500.00/- **Tender document cost :** ₹ 1,000/- **EMD:** ₹ 5,300.00/- **Completion Period:** Thirty Six (36)Months

Tender No. EL-G-E-OT-19-20-15 **Name of Work:** I) Provision of lift for passenger application at Gondia & Rajnandgaon. II) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 02 Nos. 13 passenger capacity lifts (Elevators) to be provided at Gondia and Rajandgoen Railway Stations for a period of five years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 64,31,984.60/- **Tender document cost :** ₹ 5,000/- **EMD:** ₹ 1,28,600.00/- **Completion Period:** Eight (8) Months

For all above tenders the cost of tender document and EMD is to be deposited in favour of F. A. & C. A. O. S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur through Internet Banking, Credit / Debit card or payment mode as available on **www.ireps.gov.in**
Last Date for submission of electronic offers is dated 27/02/2020 at 15.00 hrs. Please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for other details.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)
S.E.C. Railway / Nagpur
For and on behalf of the President of India
VAPL/06/240

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION
BULK ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT IN SWARNA JAYANTI RAJDHANI EXPRESS

Tender Notice No. CA11/13/Bulk/VW/12957/58/2019-20 Date: 28-01-2020 **Tender No.** DRM/Comml/278/2019-20. **(1) Work/Location/Description:** Bulk Advertisement Contract of display through Vinyl Wrapping in Train No. 12957/58, Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express, running between Ahmedabad-New Delhi-Ahmedabad of Ahmedabad Division for a period of five years. **(2) Estimated Value (Per Annum):** ₹ 18,30,500/- (Eighteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Only) **(3) EMD:** ₹ 1,94,400/- (One Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred Only), payable through online only. **(4) Date & Time of Submission of Tender Date & Time of Closing and Opening of the Tender:** 28-02-2020 (Friday) at 15:00 hrs. and 28-02-2020 (Friday) at 15:30 hrs. **(5) Website address for submission of Tender:** www.ireps.gov.in 366

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निदेशालय,
उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड,
मण्डी भवन, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)
फोन 05944-250058
फैक्स: 05944-250059

पत्रांकः उ.वि.बो./विप./सब व लीलियम बल्ब(1902) 2019-20/3936 दिनांकः 01/02/2020

ई–निविदा सूचना

उत्तराखण्ड की मण्डी समितियों में लिलियम बल्ब की आपूर्ति हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी धरोहर राशि रु. 1,50,000.00, निविदा मूल्य रु. 4000+GST@18%=Rs. 4720, निविदादाता को दिनांकः 12.02.2020 की सांय 5.00 पूर्वान्ह तक निविदा स्टॉप रु. 100, आपूर्ति की लागत की EMD मूल रूप में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। निविदा की अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें दिनांकः 02.02.2020 से Ukapmb.org पर देखी जा सकती है तथा Online निविदा https://www.uktender.gov.in पर दिनांकः 13.02.2020 को 12.00 बजे तक स्वीकार की जायेगी तथा उसी दिन सांय 3.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

हस्ता./–
(परितोष वर्मा)
उत्तराखण्ड कृषि उत्पादन विपणन बोर्ड
मण्डी भवन, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)।

DAKSHINANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(UNDERTAKING OF U.P. GOVERNMENT)
(CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460)

e-Tender Extension Notice

पत्रांकः 388/अधी.अभि.(कार्यशाला.)द.वि.वि.नि.लि./निविदा सूचना दिनांकः 31.01.2020

Tender No.	Short Description	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Revised Earnest Money in Rs.	Revised Tender Fee in Rs.	Tender Opening Date & Time
46/2019-20	Replacement of 160 to 630 KVA Damaged T/F at various workshops under EWD, Jhansi	Approx. Rs. 65.00 Lac	Rs. 65,000 00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	25.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.
60/2019-20	Providing Testing Operator at workshops under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 35.00 Lac	Rs. 35,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	25.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.
61/2019-20	Hiring/Providing of Deisel Run Vehicle for SE/EE/AE workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 50.52 Lac	Rs. 50,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	25.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.
62/2019-20	Providing Computer Operator & Poen at Offices/workshops under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 160.00 Lac	Rs. 1,60,000. 00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	25.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.
73/2019-20	Reclamation of Burnt and Old Transformer Oil as per IS 1866 2000 at various Workshop by Mobile Reclamation Plant under EWC, Agra	Approx Rs. 180.00 Lac	Rs. 1,80,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	10.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.
74/2019-20	Reclamation of Dirty and Burnt Transformer Oil Including loading unloadina and carriage under EWC, Agra	Approx Rs. 170.00 Lac	Rs. 1,70,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	10.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.
75/2019-20	Shifting Work of Material/ Machinery from w/s Kanpur/ Panki to Nemly workshop Jainpur/sachendi under EWD, Kanpur	Approx Rs. 82.00 Lac	Rs. 80,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	10.02.2020 16:00 Hrs.

Other Terms & Conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit at eprocurement portal of UP Government **https://etender.up.nic.in** or contact us at given address as follows:

Urja Bhawan, 220 KV Sub-Station, Bye Pass Road, Sikandra, Agra 282007 (UP) Ph. No. 9068944455

Superintending Engineer (Workshop)
D.V.V.N.L. AGRA

Uttarakhand Transport Corporation
H.Q. U.C.F. Sadan, Deepnagar Road, Vishnuvihar Ajabpurkalan, Dehradun
(TENDER NOTICE)

Uttarakhand Transport Corporation (A Government of Uttarakhand Undertaking) invites sealed tenders **For Service Provider Agency for washing/ Security/cctv/& Parking in Dehradun Mandal**. The tender form can be downloaded from site **www.uktenders.gov.in** and can be submitted along with the cost of tender, in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Managing Director, Uttarakhand Transport Corporation payable at Dehradun.

E-Tender Schedule

Last Date for Downloading of Tender Form 19 February-2020 upto 14.00 Hrs.
Last Date for submission of Tender Forms 19 February-2020 at 15.00 Hrs.
Pre Bid Meeting 19 February-2020 at 11.00 Hrs.
Tender Opening (Technical bid) 19 February-2020 at 16.00 Hrs.

General Manager (Operation), Uttarakhand Transport Corporation

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, PURI, ODISHA
Phone: 06752-223447/e-Mail: eephpuri@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

C-473

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 34 of 2019-20 Dated 31.01.2020

1. Name of the Work :- Procurement of DI pipes under State Action plan
2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 589.20 lakhs
3. Period of Completion :- 2 (Two) Months
4. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal :- 06.02.2020 (11.00 A.M) to 17.02.2020 (5.00 P.M)
5. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the Portal :- 5.00 P.M of 17.02.2020
6. Date and time of opening of bids :- 12.30 P.M of 18.02.2020
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- Executive Engineer, P.H Division, Puri Phone: 06752-223447, Fax: 06752-223447 E-Mail: eephpuri@gmail.com
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Sd/-
13010/11/0010/1920 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (P.H, PURI)**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice

Divl. Rly. Manager, Engineering, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below:- **Sr.No.1. Name of work with location: ENGG-JP-2019-20-244(S) ADEN (SIKAR) Sub division-Outsourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable conditions under. Approx Cost of work:** 1235652/- **Earnest money** Rs. 24700/- **Sr.No.2. Name of work with location: ENGG-JP-2019-20-245(S) ADEN Line/JP Sub Divn.-Out sourcing of maintenance activities to provide habitable conditions under ADEN-Line/JP. Approx Cost of work:** 1540704/- **Earnest money** Rs.: 30800/-. 1.Other terms & condition will be shown on N.W.Rly website-**www.ireps.gov.in**. No any manual tender will be accepted. 2. Payment of earnest Money deposit (EMD) & tender document cost (TDC) in respect of E-tendering should be accepted through net banking pr payment gateway only.) The payment is to be made in favour of FA&CAO, NWR, Jaipur, other wise tender will not be considered. 3. Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-**www.ireps.gov.in** and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. 4. Tender No ENGG-JP-2019-20-244(S) to ENGG-JP-2019-20-245(S) is to be closed on 24.02.20 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 24.02.20 at 16.00 hrs. 141-AJ/20

Contact help line no. 139 for general complaints

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice

DRM (Electrical) Jaipur, for and on the behalf of president of Union of India, invites, e-tenders for following works:- **SN. 1. NIT No.: EL/JP/48R-II/2018-19. Name of work: Sr.DEN(S)/JP:- Electrical work in c/w providing of gang tool room in ADEN-FL and (line)/JP Section. NIT Cost:** 457545. **Earnest money:** 9200. **Tender opening date:** 24.02.2020. **SN. 2. NIT No.: EL/JP/28/2019-20. Name of work: ADEN (HQ-I)/JP Sub Div.:- Electrical work in c/w Providing two no. of 200mm dia. Borewell with DI pipe line, rainwater harvesting, Maintenance of club civil Engg. & community hall, renovation of kitchen of PHOD Bunglow's, improvement to SS & glass railway of balcony flats of Rail Nikunj Colony at Jagatpura in connection with taking over of club area & community hall from construction department. NIT Cost:** 2580770. **Earnest money:** 51600. **Tender opening date:** 24.02.2020. **SN. 3. NIT No.: EL/JP/29/2019-20. Name of work: DEN/E/JP/Section:- Electrical work in c/w various work in connection of AWR-DGW newly commissioned doubling. NIT Cost:** 2165070. **Earnest money:** 43300. **Tender opening date:** 24.02.2020. Note: **Date & time of closing of e-tenders:** On tender opening date Upto 15.00 hours. **Date & time of e-tender opening:** On tender opening date after 15.00 hours. **Complete details of tender can be seen on website No.: http://www.ireps.gov.in.** 139-AJ/20

Contact help line no. 139 for general complaints

FIR against Punjab singers for 'glorifying gun culture'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 1

THE PUNJAB Police on Saturday booked Punjabi singers Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, aka Sidhu Moose Wala, and Mankirat Aulakh on charges of promoting violence and gun culture in a song the duo had uploaded on social media.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Mansa, Narender Bhargav said a case under sections 294 (sings, recites or utters any obscene song), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 149 (unlawful assembly) of the IPC has been registered against the duo. The FIR has been lodged on the complaint of Advocate BC Arora.

The Ludhiana police had summoned the singers separately to present their side. Both told police they had neither written nor sung the song: *'Pakhiyan, pakhiyan.. gun vich panj goliyaan, ni tere panj veeran layi rakhiyan...Ni jidey uttey tu mardi, ohde uttey ikk 302 da parcha.* (I have five bullets in my gun for your five brothers...The guy you love is already booked for murder)".

No arrests have been made so far, police said.

Justice Chandrachud moots short-term judges for HCs

Collegium system needs reconsideration, says retired Justice Sikri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 1

SUPREME COURT judge, Justice D Y Chandrachud, on Saturday mooted the idea of short-term appointments to the higher judiciary and suggested that lawyers can come in for a specific period in High Courts and then return to practice.

At the same event, former Supreme Court judge, Justice A K Sikri, said the Collegium system of appointment of judges "needs reconsideration", and that "India is the only country where judges appoint judges".

The two were speaking at a panel discussion on the occasion of launch of the book 'The Cases That India Forgot', written by Chintan Chandrachud, Justice Chandrachud's son and a scholar.

Justice Chandrachud said, "We always joke that once a judge, you are a judge for the rest of your life. I think we need to think outside the box. Why can't we bring into judiciary people who will come in for shorter periods and go back? You are doing that now in government — you have lateral entry into

Justice Chandrachud

the government at very senior level. Why do we have to believe that when we recruit a judge as a district judge at the age of 25, that person will continue all the way to 62 or 65? Why don't we think of bringing in lawyers, for instance, on short-term appointments to High Courts, say for five years?"

"A lawyer from Delhi HC who hasn't become a career judge will come in at the age of 50. Work not in Delhi HC, but in Bombay HC or Gujarat HC; work for five years and then go back..." he said.

To a specific question about the Collegium system, Justice Chandrachud said it is "constitutional", and "that is the law as it stands". One thing that could be done is to increase diversity in the judiciary, increase women's representation, he said. But this, he said, is "easier said than done", as in many states, there is "asymmetry in terms of growth and development of women's education, which reflects in the number of women at the Bar".

Justice Chandrachud said: "Unlike the American system, where you can pick up someone from public life and ask her to become a judge of Supreme Court, we don't except for the eminent jurist category have that liberty under out Constitution. So one area where I think we need to do some work is to bring about a greater sense of diversity within the judiciary."

"I think laying down transparent norms on the basis of which we will assess individuals for higher judicial office will be one very important step we can take towards making the Collegium system of appointment more transparent," he said.

Justice Sikri said, "Most of the time we (appointing judges) go by our impressions. It may not be a scientific study made about a particular candidate...therefore many times those may be aberrations; those who are taken, they may not be deserving, and many times, those who are deserving are let out." That, he added, "needs to be taken care of".

Asked about the book, Justice Chandrachud said its central theme is that "increasingly courts have not just become social institutions for resolution of conflicting claims over private rights, or conflicting claims over public rights, but we have become institutions for social engagement.... That is why perhaps there is so much of critique about the courts and the work that the courts are doing."

He also said that judges remain partly insulated from the society given the role they perform, and that "insulation is good in so far as your work is concerned as a judge — like nobody can call you up and tell you what to do. But equally, that insulation should not be taken to a point where the meaning of the work which courts do doesn't get transformed into the lives of society."

UP man kills wife, walks to cops with her head

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 1

A MAN allegedly severed his wife's head with a sickle and tried to walk — with the body part wrapped in a piece of cloth — to the Jahangeerabad police station in Barabanki district on Saturday before he was stopped by police personnel. The accused has confessed to the crime, police said.

Barabanki SP Arvind Chaturvedi said the incident took place two months after the death of the couple's infant daughter due to a disease. "On Saturday morning, the couple had an argument and in a fit of anger, Akhilesh Rawat (28) attacked her with a sickle on her neck, severing her head. He wrapped the head in a cloth and was heading to the police station, which is around 3 km from his house in Bahadurpur village. Police got information from the public and we intercepted him on the main road near Jahangeerabad police station and arrested him," Chaturvedi said.

Circle Officer (City) Sushil Kumar Singh said Rawat left the body home, leaving a trail of blood on the road. "He had blood on his hands and his clothes were also blood-soaked. The couple stayed with other family members but they were not home on Saturday," Singh said.

The victim, Ranjana (24), also a native of Barabanki, was living with her parents since the death of the infant and had returned to her husband's house four days ago. "Neighbours told us that since she came back, they had been arguing and fighting. We also found some broken bangles at the crime scene. Their daughter died two-and-a-half months ago and neighbours say that the man used to stay depressed after his daughter's death. The man's family members have also told us that he remained aloof since his daughter's death," the SP said.

Police have lodged a case against Akhilesh based on a complaint from the woman's family. "The complaint is of dowry harassment... We have lodged a case under IPC Section 304-B (death of woman within seven years of marriage in connection with demand for dowry). We are investigating the matter," the SP said.

Kamra sends legal notice to IndiGo, seeks Rs 25 L in damages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 1

STAND-UP COMEDIAN Kunal Kamra, who was slapped with a six-month ban by IndiGo for heckling journalist Arnab Goswami on board its flight, has sent a legal notice to the airline, demanding revocation of the ban and a compensation of Rs 25 lakh.

The notice sent by Kamra's counsel Prashant Sivarajan to the CEO of Interglobe Aviation Limited calls for the revocation of the six-month flying suspension from immediate effect. It also seeks an apology from the airline.

"Pay compensation towards my client in sum of Rs 25,00,000/- on account of the mental pain and agony suffered by my client as well as losses incurred on account of cancellation of his scheduled shows and programmes in India as well as abroad on account of adoption of a totally illegal, arbitrary and high-handed procedure which is against the extant DGCA CAR on the subject matter," the notice states.

Apart from IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet and GoAir have also put Kamra on their no-fly list.

The legal notice from Kunal Kamra also seeks an apology from the airline

On Thursday, the pilot in charge of the IndiGo aircraft in which Kamra and Goswami were travelling wrote to the airline, objecting to the ban on Kamra. Questioning the process followed to ban the comedian from flying, the pilot-in-command conveyed to the airline that he was "disheartened to learn that my airline has taken action in this case solely on the basis of social media posts, with no consultation whatsoever with the Pilot-in-Command".

In his e-mail, the pilot-in-command described the incident in detail and pointed out that while Kamra's behaviour was "unacceptable and verbally abusive", he complied with the crew's instructions and the offence "cannot be classified" even in the Level 1 category.

"While he did briefly display Level 1 traits for disruptive behaviour… he was also immediately compliant of crew instruction, was never issued a red warning card and hence cannot be classified as such. Furthermore, in-line with the IndiGo SEP (security & emergency procedures) Manual guidelines for Disruptive Behaviour, the situation was defused, the passenger in question kept under observation and the cabin kept in lockdown for the duration of the flight. Hence, no further action on the part of the Cockpit Crew was required," the pilot wrote.

"Your love & support is helping me go legal against @IndiGo6E. Also Lawmen & White have taken this fight to court for me as special case. To all artists out there don't fear there are enough good people in society to always support the constitution," Kamra tweeted.

Koregaon Bhima inquiry panel gets extension

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 1

DAY AFTER the two-member Koregaon Bhima Commission of Inquiry asked the Maharashtra government to wind it up citing "humiliation" of staff and denial of even basic financial resources, home minister Anil Deshmukh announced the commission has been given an extension of two months and funds have been released for salary of officials, staffers and other expenses.

Deshmukh tweeted in this regard on Saturday evening. In the tweet, he also stated that orders have been issued for taking action against the officials who caused delay in releasing funds for the commission.

In a letter to the state chief secretary, with subject 'Recommendation to wind up Koregaon Bhima Commission of Inquiry for want of funds', commission chairman retired justice J N Patel said the government did not seem serious about the work of the Commission. He said the Commission was not in a position to function for want of money to even take care of its day-to-day expenses.

"Salaries and honorarium of all including honourable chairman (Justice Patel) are due from December 2019 onward. Most of the staff members are hired on contract basis. They would starve for want of salary.." it stated.

Chhattisgarh Armed Force constable opens fire at colleague, probe on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 1

A CHHATTISGARH Armed Force constable opened fire at another constable at a camp in Bijapur district on Saturday night.

Both constables, including the shooter, have been grievously injured in the incident, police said. Another constable suffered a minor injury.

According to sources, the incident occurred at the Farsegarh CAF camp in Bijapur. "Constable Dayashankar Shukla fired upon constable Raviranjan with his official weapon, an Insas rifle. He then fired at himself," P Sundarraj, IG (Bastar) said.

A third constable, Mohammad Sharif, also sustained a minor injury on his leg during the shooting, police said. A senior police officer said, "The injured have been airlifted to Bijapur district hospital. We are investigating the matter."

inside TRACK
COOMI KAPOOR

TRUMPETING STADIUM

Donald Trump's maiden visit to India in February will in all likelihood include a trip to, besides Delhi and Agra, Ahmedabad. In Modi's home state, a town hall-style event, similar to the Howdy Modi interaction in Texas, is planned. The venue will be the Motera cricket stadium which has just been completed. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are keen to showcase the stadium, which is said to be the largest in the world with a 1.1 lakh seating capacity and built at a cost Rs 700 crore. The project took shape during the tenures of Modi and Shah as presidents of the Gujarat Cricket Association, while the junior Shah, Jay, as joint secretary, was in charge of overseeing the construction and costs. It is doubtful whether Trump will be particularly interested in the stadium as he knows little about cricket. His sport is golf — he owns two golf courses in Scotland and three in the USA.

POLLSTER PUTTED

At first, some assumed that JD(U) vice president Prashant Kishor might be speaking on behalf of Nitish Kumar when he criticised the Citizenship Amendment Act. The wily Bihar Chief Minister has often used others to send a message to his allies, as, for instance, when he was planning to quit the mahagatbandhan. But when Kishor tweeted a series of hostile messages aimed directly at Amit Shah, it was a point of no return. Shah would not have countenanced Nitish giving Kishore such a long rope. The professional election manager blames Shah for Nitish not involving him in last year's Bihar Lok Sabha polls. Now that he is out of the JD(U), Kishor is looking for fresh pastures. The Congress is out since Rahul Gandhi and the old guard are not enamoured by the pollster, although Priyanka has a soft corner for Kishor, who wanted to handle her social media account. Kishore has taken it as a personal challenge that AAP should retain the Delhi Assembly with the same thumping margin as before. His hope is that if this happens, AAP would then find a way to reward him.

DIVIDER-IN-CHIEF

Mohammed Ali Jinnah did not merely divide India, he was also the first person who sowed the seeds for the partition of Pakistan. This is brought out by BJP MP M J Akbar in his latest book, Gandhi's Hinduism, Jinnah's Islam. In March 1948, an ailing Jinnah was forced by his Cabinet to visit Dhaka since he had never set foot in East Pakistan's capital. Jinnah's visit did much harm - he alienated Bengalis irrevocably when in a speech he emphasised that Pakistan's state language was Urdu and no other language would be permitted. Jinnah described anyone who demanded Bengali as a state language as a fifth columnist who had been beguiled by enemies of Pakistan. His categorical statement disillusioned Bengalis proud of their language and culture. Ironically, more than 30 years earlier, addressing a gathering of Gujaratis in Bombay, Jinnah and most others spoke in English and it was left to Mahatma Gandhi to protest in Gujarati that it would have been more appropriate to have spoken in their mother tongue. Both Gandhi and Jinnah were Gujaratis and by coincidence, Jinnah's family, like Gandhi's, originally settled in Rajkot, just 30 miles from Gandhi's birthplace.

NO MORE SURPRISES?

The Modi 2.0 BJP government has so far come up with controversial Bills at the start of the first two Parliament sessions. In the Monsoon session, it was the abrogation of Article 370, in the Winter session, it was the amendment of the citizenship Act. The grapevine is that the Budget session could see the introduction of a Universal Civil Code Bill. However, while preparations are afoot for such a Bill, it is unlikely that it will be tabled in the coming session. The government has enough problems dealing with the fallout of the earlier legislation.

TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

J P Nadda, the new president of the BJP, is soft spoken and gentle, a contrast to his predecessor, Amit Shah. Although Nadda's home state is Himachal Pradesh and he contested all his elections from there, he spent his formative years in Bihar. His father, Narain Lal Nadda, was a professor of economics at Patna University and later became Vice Chancellor. Nadda is the only politician in a family of academics and professionals. In the ABVP in Patna, Nadda was mentored by Sushil Modi, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Ashwini Choubey. Nadda is described as a team player, causing some to comment caustically that the team will consist of Modi, Shah and Nadda. It may be tough for Nadda to prove himself in his first year in saddle. Arvind Kejriwal's AAP is believed to have the edge in Delhi and Mamata Banerjee is determined to hold on to her turf in Bengal in the Assembly elections.

Pulwama bomber's cousin among three sent to 7-day police custody

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 1

SAMEER DAR, a cousin of Pulwama suicide bomber Adil Ahmad Dar, is among the three overground workers of the Jaish-e-Mohammad who were sent to seven-day police custody by the Special Court for NIA cases here on Saturday.

Adil Ahmad Dar of Kakapora, who was affiliated to the JeM, had rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a bus, killing 40 CRPF personnel at Lethpora on February 14 last year.

Pulwama residents Sameer Dar, Asif Ahmed Malik and Sartaj Ahmed Mantoo were held during a joint operation of the J&K Police and CRPF in which three heavily armed JeM militants were killed near the Ban toll plaza along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, 28 km from Jammu, on Friday morning. A huge cache of arms, including five AK-47 and AK-56 rifles, one M4 rifle, five pistols, and hand grenades, were seized from the slain Pakistani militants.

The militants were travelling from Jammu to Kashmir in a truck loaded with putty that was being driven by Sameer. Asif was the truck's cleaner.

Additional Public Prosecutor Sanjay Kohli had sought 10-day remand of the arrested overground workers .

Pointing out that the investigation was underway and will take time to conclude, Special Judge Subash Gupta remanded the accused in seven-day police custody, observing that their police remand is imperative in view of the gravity of the offences. The judge said the accused must be provided medical facilities.

Meanwhile, CRPF Director General Dr A P Maheshwari said all the security forces are working proactively to neutralise all security threats, saying that those captured alive were captured so that they could be interrogated for further leads.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.
In the matter of
OA No. 706/2018/DRT-III
Punjab National Bank ... Applicant
Versus
Vijaya Bank & Anr ... Defendants
To,
D-4 : Ajay Gupta C/o BO Kalkaji, 59/1, Saroj Tower, Guru Ravidas Marg, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi-19
D-5 : Nitin Kumar C/o BO Kalkaji, 59/1, Saroj Tower, Guru Ravidas Marg, Kalkaji Extension, New Delhi-19
D-6 : Israel Sheikh C/o Ansari Road Branch No. 2/10, Ansari Road, Old Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 06.03.2020 at 10.30 am
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand & seal of this Tribunal on this 23rd day of December, 2019.
By order of this Tribunal
For Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

GOLDEN KEY ARMY PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEMENT TOWN
VACANCY

Post	Minimum Age	Qualification
Principal	35 yrs	Graduation/Post Graduation with minimum three yrs teaching experience with NTT/B.Ed degree and knowledge of computers.
Teacher	25 yrs	Graduation/Post Graduation with minimum one yr teaching experience with NTT/B.Ed degree and basic knowledge of computers.
Assistant Teacher	25 yrs	Graduation/Post Graduation with NTT/B.Ed degree and basic knowledge of computers. Should know musical Instruments and singing in case applying for post of music teacher
Civil Clerk	35 yrs	Prefereby ex-servicemen with minium ten yrs service and three yrs experience in maintaining accounts
Ayahs	35 yrs	Fifth Class pass

Forward your resume by 20 February 2020 to Golden Key Army Pre- Primary School, Clement Town, Dehradun
Office- 2737 (Army) Mob. No. : - 9103174205
E-mail ID :- gkapps.dehradun@gmail.com

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS POLYCLINIC HALDWANI & RUDRAPUR)

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following staff in contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinic Haldwani & ECHS Polyclinic Rudrapur for a period of FY 2020-2021.

Ser. No.	Appointment	ECHS Polyclinic				Remarks
		Haldwani	No. of Vac	Rudrapur	No. of Vac	
(a)	Med Offr.	Haldwani	04	Rudrapur	01	For terms & conditions, application from, Remuneration kindly see website www.echs.gov.in
(b)	Med Spl	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(c)	Dental Offr.	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(d)	Gynecologist	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(e)	OIC	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(f)	Radiographer	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(g)	Lab Asst	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(h)	Lab Tech	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(j)	Physiotherapist	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(k)	Pharmacist	Haldwani	02	Rudrapur	01	
(l)	Nursing Asst	Haldwani	02	Rudrapur	01	
(m)	Dental A/T/H	Haldwani	02	Rudrapur	00	
(n)	Dvr	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(o)	Chowkidar	Haldwani	00	Rudrapur	01	
(p)	Female Attendent	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(q)	Peon	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(r)	Safaiwala	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	01	
(s)	IT Network Tech	Haldwani	01	Rudrapur	00	
(t)	Clk	Haldwani	02	Rudrapur	01	

2. For details please contact Station HQ (ECHS Cell), Haldwani at Tele No. 05946-282374. Last date of receipt of application on 27 Feb 2020. Interview will be conducted on 04 Mar 2020 (Wednesday), 1000h onward at Military Station, Station Headquarters Haldwani. Candidates will bring original certificate/degree along with one certified copy including testimonials/experience duly attested by a gazetted officer & medical fitness certificate is also required from Govt Hospital at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible for the interview.

IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
Company Petition No. 04/230-232/ND/2020
Connected With
CAA No. 157/230/232 of 2019
In the matter of Section 230 & 232 of the Companies Act, 2013
AND
In the matter of Amalgamation of the **SUPER MANAGEMENT & PORTFOLIO PRIVATE LIMITED** (First Petitioner/Transferor Company) having its registered office at G-25, Ground Floor, Vardhman Mayur Market, CSC Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110096
AND
QUICK FIN SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED (Second Petitioner/Transferee Company), having Registered Office at G-25, Ground Floor, Vardhman Mayur Market, CSC Mayur Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110096.
Petition regarding sanction of Scheme of Amalgamation under Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013
Notice of Petition:
Company Petition under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for approving the Scheme of Amalgamation of Super Management & Portfolio Private Limited (Transferor Company) with Quick Fin Solutions Private Limited (Transferee Company) was presented by Mr. Rajesh Agrawal (Advocate for the Petitioners) on 19th December 2019 which was listed on 7th January 2020, when notice was issued and the said Petition is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench (court No.V) on 16.03.2020. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send a notice of his/her intention to the Petitioner's Advocate, with his name and address so as to reach the Petitioner's Advocates not later than 7 days before the date fixed for the hearing of the said Petition. In case any person wishes to oppose the said Petition, the grounds of the opposition or a copy of your affidavit should be furnished along with the notice. A copy of the Company Petition will be furnished by the under mentioned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.
Petitioners Through
sd/-
Rajesh Agrawal
Advocate for the Petitioners
B-35, (LGF), South Extn.-II, New Delhi 110049
Place: New Delhi
Dated: 01.02.2020

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD
TRICHY HOUSING UNIT
APPLICATIONS FOR LOT /SEALED TENDER-CUM-OPEN AUCTION NOTICE
Trichy Housing Unit of Tamil Nadu Housing Board has proposed to sell the Commercial Site / Shop Site/ Community Hall Site/ School Site/ Public Purpose Site / Primary School Site/ Nursery School Site/ Religious Purpose sites **(Totally 54 items)** through Inviting Applications for Sealed Tender Cum- Open Auction.
Please Visit TNHB website **"www.tnhb.tn.gov.in"** from **03.02.2020** for further details regarding Code No, Plot No, Plot Extent, Upset Price, EMI amount, Auction date, cost of Application, Cost Details, Period of sale of application and conditions. Also contact below address for further details.
Address: The Executive Engineer & Administrative Officer
Tamil Nadu Housing Board,
Trichy Housing Unit, Kajamalai Colony,
Trichy-620 020. Phone No.0431-2420614.
Exe.Engr &
Admn Officer ,
Trichy Housing Unit
DIPR /196/ DISPLAY / 2020

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,PRIYA DAS Spouse of MANI SANKAR DAS,resident of,Village-Janaphul,PO-Janaphul, District-North.24. Pargana,West Bengal-743263,have changed my name from PRIYA DAS to PRIYA DAS SARKAR vide-affidavit-dated:01/02/2020, before Notary,Advocate:Ram Kishore Singh,having Registration.No:-2548,New Delhi. 0040529872-8

My actual/ correct name is Vijender Sharma instead of Vijender Kumar Sharma (wrongly mention in some documents/paper.) S/o Ram Chander Sharma, C-5/72-B, Keshav-Puram, Delhi-35. 0040529953-3

It is for general information that I,Rama Kulpati,D/O-Bans Gopal and W/oRama Kant R/O -B-3/49A,Phase-II,Ashok Vihar,Delhi-110052, Occupation house Wife declare that the name of my father has been wrong written as RamaKant in my Pan Card.The actual name of my father is Bans Gopal, I respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certify that,I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040529943-4

I,hitherto known as K. Lalita,D/o-Kunda Lingamurthy Sarma,R/O-2-B,Block-1,Pocket-B, Ashok Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110052, occupation Govt. employee my name K. Lalita in my service record,but my correct name and shall hereafter be known as Kunda Lalita.It is certify that I,have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040529943-5

I,Umesh Kumar Gupta S/o-Vijay Kumar Gupta R/o-181 New Layalpur-Colony, Krishna-Nagar Delhi-110051,have changed my name to Umesh Gupta for all purposes. 0040529897-9

I,Sunita Rana D/o Sabal Singh R/o-RZ25M/1, Indra Park,Palam Colony,New.Delhi-110045,have change my name to Sunita Devi for all purposes. 0040529872-2

I,SATINDER SINGH,S/o Amarjeet Singh,R/o-K-21, Block-K,Gali.no.13,Krishna park Ext.,Tilak Nagar,N.Delhi-110018,have changed my son's name from RAJVEER SINGH DHANJAL to RAJVEER SINGH. 0040529872-5

I,Priyanka,D/o-Suresh Kumar Ahuja,R/o 71/82, IInd Floor, Prem Nagar, Janak Puri,Delhi-110058,have changed my name to Priyanka Ahuja for all purposes. 0040529872-6

I,Nisha D/O Jata Shankar Dubey W/O Amit Sharma R/O A-3/184-185,F.Floor,Near Sanskriti Aptt.,Sector-28,Rohini, Delhi-110042,have changed my name Nisha Dubey for future. 0040529943-1

I,Naveen Kumar S/o Purshotam Das Garg R/O-H-2/3,Near Friday Bazar,Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-10089,myfather's name mentioned as Parsotam Das Garg in CBSE-record, Purushotam DasGarg in Aadhar Card. Parsotam Das Garg and Purshotam Das Garg both are same person. 0040529943-3

I,Leena Anand W/o PawanSibbal R/o-C-32,Lane.No.4, Mahendru Enclave,G.T.K.Road,Delhi-10033,aftermarriage have changed my name,Bhavy Sibbal Alias Leena Sibbal for future.Soboth are same person. 0040529943-2

I,Kuldeep Singh Marwaha R/o-Flat.No-7, Tower-A3,Charry Country,Gh-5B Tech Zone-4,Greater Noida West, Surajpur, G.B.Nagar, (U.P.), have changed my name to Kuldeep Singh S/o Attar Singh for all purposes. 0040529872-1

I, Solly W/o Joseph John R/o 85, Savitri Nagar, South Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Santhamma K K. 0040529924-3

I,KULVINDER SINGH alias KULWINDER SINGH DHANJAL,S/o-Amarjeet Singh,R/o-K-21,Block-K,Gali.no.13,Krishna park Ext.,Tilak Nagar,N.D.-110018,have changed my name KULVINDER SINGH alias KULWINDER SINGH DHANJAL to KULWINDER SINGH. 0040529872-3

I,Hardeep Kaur D/o-Darshan singh W/o-Jagdish Singh R/o-House.No.E-16/1,Ward No.1,Mehrauli,Near-LIC Office,New Delhi-110030,have changed my name to Amrit Kaur after marriage for all,purposes. 0040529929-2

I,HARBHAJAN KAUR DHANJAL,W/o-Amarjeet Singh,R/o-K-21,Block-K,Gali.no.13,Krishna park Ext.,Tilak Nagar, N.D.-110018,have changed my name HARBHAJAN KAUR DHANJAL to HARBHAJAN KAUR. 0040529872-4

I,Dipin Arora S/o,Jagdish Kumar Arora R/o-D-205,West Patel-Nagar,New Delhi-110008,have changed my son's name Diyan Arora to Divyam Arora for,all purpose. 0040529929-1

I, Khairun Nisha W/o Mohamad Moin Ansari R/o-E-12, Sector-B1, TronicaCity, Loni, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Khairun Nisha Ansari. 0040529897-2

I,Chandan Singh Rawat resident-7B,Pocket-B-5, Mayur Vihar,Phase-3.(My rank NCE),inform that,in my service record,my son's name wrongly,mentioned as,Birendra Singh Rawat and,date-of-birth is-08-November-1994.The Correct-name of my Son is,Birender Singh Rawat and,date-of-birth is 24-October-1994. In,future my son should be known,and recognized by this name,and date-of-birth.,And Birender Singh is recorded in Divyang Service Record and,the date-of-birth is recorded,on 08-October-1994.,Which is wrong.,The Correct name is Birender Singh Rawat. And,date-of-birth is 24-October-1994. 0040529872-7

I, Syed Salman Ali S/o Syed Khursheed Abbas Zaidi R/o-S-786, 3rd-Floor, Gali.5, Jogabai-Extn. Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi-110025. changed my name to S Salman Ali Zaidi. 0040529898-9

I, Shalu Jain W/o Alok Kumar Jain R/o-H.No.-C-3 F.F. New Jafrabad, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Anita Jain 0040529897-8

I, Sanu Harijan S/o Sukru Harijan R/o Rajpur, Pharasara Boden, Nuapada Odisha- 766111, have changed my surname and shall hereafter be known as Sanu Jagat for all purpose. 0070695956-1

I, Rishabh S/o Anil Sharman H.No.2673, Sector-23, Choma(62) Gurgaon Carterpuri, Haryana-122017, have changed my name to Rishabh Sharman permanently. 0040529897-6

I, Ramesh Ram Katwaru Ram S/o Sh. Katwaru Ram R/o Paschimpatti, Indara Maunath, Bhanjan Mau,Uttar Pradesh-275102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ramesh Ram . 0070695960-1

I, Rama Anand W/o-Kanwal Kumar Anand R/o-A-52, Ist-Floor Phase-III Ashok-Vihar, New Delhi-110052.have changed my name Rama Anand to Sunita Anand. 0040529898-1

I, Rakesh Kumar (Rakesh Arora), Son of Late Sh. Om Prakash, R/o. D-004, Sector-9, Jansatta Apartment,Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P. hereby to declare both names are one and the same for all future purpose. 0040529798-1

I, Prasang kumar F/o Pratham Kumar R/o B-2203, Angel Jupiter AhinsaKhand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, have changed minor son name Pratham Raj. 0040529897-7

I, Parwati W/O Veer Bahadur H.No-37 KhNo-233 GaliNo-6 Inder-Enclave Phase-1 Kirari-Suleman Nagar N.Delhi-110086. Changed My Name To Pamma Vati. 0040529944-3

I, Mohd Moin S/o Mohd Sarfuddin Ansari R/o-E-12, Sector-B1, TronicaCity, Loni, Ghaziabad. have changed my name to Mohamad Moin Ansari. 0040529897-3

I, Mohd Hafeezur Rehman Pathan S/o-Mohd Abid Pathan R/o-S-521near, TVS-Showroom-School-Block, Shakarpur, East-Delhi-92, have changed my name to Mohd Arif Khan 0040529911-2

I, Mohammad Rashid S/O-Mohd Shamim R/O-House.No-7134, Gali-Teliyan,Ahata Kidara Quresh Nagar,Sadar Bazar,Delhi-110006,Have Changed My Name To Mohd Rashid For All,Future Purposes 0040529929-4

I, Meekad Hasan Khan F/o Mohd. Mamoon, DOB 26-03-2005 R/o H.No. 43, Khasra No. 92, Village Sahurpur Extension, New Delhi-110070. Changed my son name Mohd. Mamoon to Kazim Hasan Khan for all purposes. 0040529861-1

I, Manju Bala, W/O Mr.Pramod Kumar Khanna, R/O-9-B, Pocket-14, Himgiri-Apartments, Kalkaji-Extension, New Delhi-110019, Have Changed My Name To Manju Bala Khana, For All Purposes. 0040529924-4

I, Mahesh Sharma W/o Parveen Sharma R/o H.No. 473/3 Nai Abadi, Basai Road, Gurgaon have changed my name from Mahesh Kumari to Mahesh Sharma for all purposes. 0040529910-1

I, MOHD SAHIL NISAR S/o-Mohd Nisar Khan R/o-B-89/S-1, Dilshad-Colony, Delhi-110095,changed my name from MO SAHIL NISAR to MOHD SAHIL NISAR,for all purposes. 0040529911-3

I, Kabir Ahmed Ansari S/o Ahmad Miyan R/o Silaunja, Post-Basadhi, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar, have changed my name to Kabir Uddin. 0040529897-5

I, Jeetram S/O Kailash R/O B-220 J.J.Colony Raghubir Nagar Delhi-110027 Changed My Name To Jeet Ram. 0040529924-1

I, Grish Chand S/o Shri Ram R/o C-908, Metro Vihar-I, New Delhi-110040 have changed my name to Girish Kumar. 0040529897-1

I, Gaurav S/o Janardan Ram R/o-G-164, HIG, Sector-11, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP have changed my name to Gaurav Kumar. 0040529924-8

I, Fatma Farehat W/o Zahid Ali R/o-H.No.72 Gali No.5 Rashid Market Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Fatima Farhat. 0040529944-11

I Fouzia Nasreen R/O 456 Zakir Nagar West, New Delhi Changed My Name As Fauzia Nasreen For All Future Purposes. 0040529898-6

I, FARHEEN JAHAAN D/o Noor Mohammed R/o Old Address: H.No. D-571, Street No.20, Chauhan bangar, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053, New Address: C-18, F/F, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my religion from Muslim to Hindu by my heart feelings. Also I have changed my name from FARHEEN JAHAAN to DIA for all future purposes. 0040529859-1

I, Chandra Shekhar alias Chander Shekhar S/o Late.Udi Ram R/o-X-22, 20-Foot-Wali Gali-BudhVihar Phase-1 Delhi-110086. changed my name to Chander Shekhar. 0040529924-10

I, Azhar Ahmad S/o Mohd. Usman, R/o 2967 Kucha Neel Kanth Darya Ganj Delhi-02 have changed the name of my minor son from Aaman Ahmad to Amaan Ahmad. 0040529862-1

I, Ayyaub S/O Iliyas R/O-Ward.No-3, Ferozepur Jhirka District Mewat Haryana-122104,Have Changed My Name To Mohd Ayyub For All Future Purposes. 040529929-3

I, Ashok Kumar S/o Phina Ram R/o-G-701, Type-3, G-Point Kali-Bari-Marg, Presidents Estate Quarter, New Delhi-110001 inform that name of mine has been wrongly written as Ashok Kumar Jaryal in my Service Records.Correct name is Ashok Kumar. 0040529944-2

I, Aashi Choudhary D/o Jatan Singh, R/O Vill-Chandan Ki Mandiya PO-Guloothi Distt. Bulandshahar UP-245408.have changed my name from Aashi Choudhary to Aashi Chaudhary vide-Affidavit dated 01-2-2020 at-Delhi. 0040529944-6

I, Aabid Ali S/o Jameel Ahmed R/o.H.No.744/A, Gali No.28, Jafrabad, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Abid Ali. 0040529898-10

I hitherto known as Neha Budhiraja D/O Sh.Sham Lal Budhiraja W/O Rahul Raj Malik R/O H.no.33 Block.BT Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088 At Presently H.No.B-3 Jangpura B New Delhi-110014 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Neha Malik. 0040529944-1

I Vibha R/O. B-5, Sector 21, Jalvayu Vihar, Noida-201301 Have Changed My Name To Vibha Khattar For All Purpose. 0070695951-1

I Rudra Vashisht S/O, Ramesh Sharma R/o 24 Shreshtha Vihar, Delhi have changed my name to Rudra Vasishth for all purposes. 0040529921-1

I Riyaz S/O Mohammed Ahamed R/O G-1/524, Shalimar Garden Extn.-1, Shahibabad Ghaziabad U.P.-201005 Have Changed my Name to Riyaz Ahmed. 0040529897-10

I Ram Briksh/ Ram Briksh Singh S/o Ram Narayan Mahto R/o-R-172, Gali-No.7, Karan Vihar, Part-6, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Ram Briksh Mahto for all purposes. 0040529899-1

I Rajani Sharma W/O, Dhirendra Dev Sharma R/o 2991, Gali Rai Bahadur Shiv Sahai Mal, Ballimaran, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Rajni Sharma for all purposes. 0040529920-1

I Rabish Chander Sharma S/O-Jagan Nath Sharma R/O-14-A/58, 3rd-Floor, WEA-KarolBagh, Delhi-110005 Have Changed my Name to Acharya Ravish Chander Sharma. 0040529898-3

I Rabindra Singh S/O Virendra Singh Rawat R/O-32-B, Ground-Floor J&K-Block Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092. Changed My Name To Rabindra Singh Rawat. 0040529924-7

I Pramod Kumar H.No-542 Chirag Delhi Malviya Nagar S.O South-Delhi-110017. Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Preeti To Preeti Gulliya. 0040529924-5

I Neeru W/o Ramesh Chopra R/o DG-3/337 Vikas Puri New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Neeru Chopra. 0040529924-2

I Neerja w/o Mahesh Gautam R/O GD-152 Pitampura Delhi-34 Changed my Name to Neerja Gautam. 0040529898-8

I Narendra Kumar Pal R/o-V+PO-Mohana, Dist-Bulandshahr(U.P).I am serving in indian air force.In service Documents my Daughter's Name and DOB are Recorded Wrong. Her Correct Name is Preeti Pal and DOB is-13/03/1990. 0040529944-7

I Mohammad Saud Umar R/O-456 Zakir-Nagar-West, New Delhi Holding. Passport No.M7569905. My Father's Name Is Mentioned Mohammad Ilayas Instead Of Mohammad Ilyas. 0040529898-4

I Mohammad Arshad S/o Abdul Subhan DOB-01/06/1978 R/o-220/B Savitri Nagar, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Arshad Malik for all future purposes. 0040529944-10

I Mahesh S/o Om Parkash Gautam R/o GD-152 Pitampura Delhi-34 have changed my name to Mahesh Gautam. 0040529898-7

I Ginni W/O, Sanjeev Kumar R/o Tower 8, Flat No 401, Chd Avenue 71, Sector-71, Gurgaon have changed my name to Ginni Dusgotra for all purposes. 0040529777-1

I, Kalimu Nisha Ansari W/o Kabir Uddin R/o Silounja, Post-Basadhi, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar have changed my name to Kaliman Bibi. 0040529897-4

I Amogh Prashant Vithalkar S/O, Prashant Mukund Vithalkar R/o Building No. 23, Ber Sarai, Delhi have changed my name to Amogh Vithalkar for all purposes. 0040529855-1

I Amit Kumar S/o Aman Chand R/o-43-A, Chauk-Panna Nangli-Sakrawati Delhi-43. have changed my minor Son's name, from Natik Tehlan to Naitik Tehlan(DOB-24/09/2009) 0040529898-2

I Amarjit Kaur W/o Sh. Mohar Singh R/o-A-7/8, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Amarjeet Kaur. 0040529924-9

I Aiysha Umar R/O-456 Zakir-Nagar-West, New-Delhi Holding Passport No.P9228392. My Mother's Name Is Mentioned Faizia Nasreen Instead Of Fauzia Nasreen. 0040529898-5

I Ranjeeta Verma/Ranjeeta W/O Sumit Verma H.No.484 Sector-16/A Faridabad, Haryana 121002. Changed My Name To Ranjeeta Gupta. 0040529924-6

I, Jay Gobind Tiwari R/O J-12, 3rd Floor, SharmaColony Budh Vihar Phase 2, Delhi-110086 HaveChanged My Name To Jay Govind Tiwari For All Future Purposes 0070695953-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Varun Jawa S/o-Satish Jawa R/o-29/1,Ward.No.1, Mehrauli, N.Delhi-30,have lost stamp Duty Paper for property 1043/D, 12A, Ward-8, INDL79906191832998.If found pls contact: 9711336005. 0040529929-5

I, Vaishali Hooda D/o-Kulbir Singh Hooda R/o-Vill-Barota, Sonipat, has lost my 10th-Class-Certificate Roll-No-2158823 passed from CBSE, Swaranprastha Public School Sonipat,in 2010 lost,Sector-15 market dt.10-12-2019, Sonipat. Finder-contact-9813512780 0040529911-1

LOST

We Meenoo Puri W/o Atul Puri and Sheetal Duggal W/o Manit Duggal owner of Shop No. 10 DDA Market, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049 have lost original conveyance deed issued by DDA on dated 23/03/2010, LR No- 11098 /2020 on dated 31/01/2020 anyone finding it, please contact 9811567636, 9871143777.

SITUATION VACANT

Urgently required experienced Civil Engineers, Degree / Diploma Holder and Supervisiors for our road construction projects in various states send Resume : job4roadconstructions@gmail .com contact No. 9501635781. 0020401565-1

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- Please Contact -
Mr. T. N. Rathi
09850955322
020-24525525

GENERAL

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KHATRIS/ARORAS

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SIKH/PUNJABI

Pune / Ahmednagar Based Small Educated Ramgariah / Ahluwalia Industrialist/ Businesses Family Looking For A Bride For Their Clean Shaven Son January 91 Born,. 5'10" Diploma In Business Administration Cast No Bar Call 9822024493 Call Vijay Singh 9822024493 0050160876-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general public information that my Client Chandra Bhan Sharma S/O Late Shyam Chandra Sharma and his wife Jaimanti Devi W/O Shri Chandra Bhan Sharma, both R/O D-2/143, Hari Nagar Extension, Jaitpur Badarpur, New Delhi- 110044, have debarred, disown and break down all the relationship from their son namely Lalit Kumar and his wife Smt. Pooja, from their all moveable and Immoveable properties either self acquired, or ancestral situated all over India due to their misconduct, disobedience and misbehavior attitude. My client will not be responsible in future for their acts which was done by them.

Sd/-
M.P. SHUKLA (Advocate)
Ch. No. 403, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Shri Fateh Singh S/o Late Sh. Kishan Lal R/o. H.No-9/4098, Gali No. 15, Ajit Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031 and his wife Smt. Kamlesh have debarred and disowned his son Sandeep Kumar from all his movable and immoveable properties due to their misbehavior and misconduct with my clients, and severing all relations with them and, if anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for any act of above named person in any manner of whatsoever.

AIDEL SINGH-ADVOCATE
Ch. No. 433
Rohini Court, Delhi -110085
Mob.: 9210421363

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Ms. Farzana Begum, W/o Sh. Late Sultan, R/o H.No. H-66, Sanjay Colony, Okhla Phase-2, New Delhi-110020, has disowned and debarher daughter APSANA from her all moveable and immovable properties and she and her family members have also severed all relations with her due to negligent and bad behavior. My client and her family members shall not be responsible for the acts and actions of APSANA. If anybody deals with her shall be responsible for the same.

Jameel Ahemad (Advocate)
Ch. No. 538, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that I, **MAMTA SONI** W/O MR. SURENDER SONI R/O B-2/39, MAIN SHIV MARKET, DABRI, PALAM ROAD, VIJAY ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110045, I am the registered owner of **A-44, GALI NO.4, OUT OF KHASRA NO.26/2, AREA MEASURING 100 SQ.YDS., DABRI EXTN., NEW DELHI-110045, BEARING REGD. NO.14206, BOOK NO.1, VOL. NO.6242, ON PAGES 92-98, DT.17/12/2011, BEFORE SR IX, NEW DELHI,** and I have misplaced/lost the original Property Papers with chain i.e. DEED OF WILL executed by SATWANT KAUR in favour of GURMEET SINGH, Regd. No.1616, Book No.III, Vol. No.470, on pages 8788, dt. 13/10/2009, before S.R. IX, New Delhi, in respect of above said property & I have lodged a FIR/NCR Vide LR No.89904/2020. Date 24/01/2020, if anybody finds the said documents. Please inform at the above said address or Mobile No.9818700722.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under Instructions from & on behalf of my client, General Public is informed that **Smt. Bably Paarija**, W/o Pawan Kumar, R/o G-22, 3rd Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-08, has disowned her elder son **Aman Paarija** & his Wife **Shraddha Gupta Paarija** R/o 29/144, 3rd Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-08, due to their misbehaviours, from all her Immovable properties & Movable assets, as they have become unfaithful, dishonest, disobedient, & bad behaviour towards my client. My client and her family members will not be responsible for their any kind of liabilities, dealings, acts, criminal proceedings, obligations, financial transactions, claims etc. My client has severed all relations with them. **J.C. Trikha** (Advocate) M-4, Civil Lines Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Kundan Singh Mehra S/o Late Sh. Tej Singh Mehra & Smt. Swadesh Mehra W/o Sh. Kundan Singh Mehra both R/o B1C-11B, Janak Puri New Delhi-58, have disowned & debarred their Son Manish Mehra his wife Sonia Mehra and their children Sarthak Mehra, Anasuya Mehra from all their movable & immovable properties/assets & they shall not be responsible for any matter regarding them & they have not any type of relation with them.

Adv. B. B. N. Deo
Authority Building, Janakpuri

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Mr. Ashwani Kumar Pathak S/o Late. Sh. Balkrishan Pathak Kumar Pathak R/o 194 Sector 24, 17 Pocket Rohini Delhi 110085 have debarred & disinherit their son Gaurav Pathak S/o. ASHWANI KUMAR PATHAK from their all Moveable & immovable properties as the son quite disobedient, insolent & of hostile behavior toward my clients & are not under their control. Neither My clients nor any family members of my clients will not be responsible for any of their deeds & acts.

Sd/-
RITU VERMA (ADVOCATE)
Enrl No:- D/1126/92

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clients Mr. VIKAS ANAND declares as under that I disowned my son PARTH ANAND and my Daughter ANANYA NANAD from my all movable/ immovable properties/assets for wrong behavior. Hereafter I shall not be held responsible for any kind of acts done by both in money or transaction and any illegal/legal and property purpose in future. That debarred from entering my premises situated at B-499, SECTOR-19, NOIDA UTTAR PRADESH- 201301.

Sd/-
RITU VERMA (Advocate)
En. No. D/1126/92

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Lokesh Aggarwal S/o Late Sh. Kishori Lal & Smt. Hemlata Aggarwal W/o Sh. Lokesh Aggarwal both R/o G-8/2, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, hereby disown their son Vikas Aggarwal and daughter-in-law Payal Knplani. Henceforth they will not have any right/share in my client's properties and my clients shall not be responsible for their acts.

S.S. Malik (Advocate)
C-1/121, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in general that Smt. Ravitanaya Sodani and Shri Ritesh Aggarwal (Purchasers) are purchasing Entire 1st Floor of Plot No. D-59, Saket, New Delhi-110017 (Schedule Floor) from Shri Rakesh Kumar Arora (Seller) having title vide Sale Deed registered on 03.07.2008. The Seller has purchased the Schedule Floor from Shri Zeeshan Ali, who purchased the Schedule Floor from M/s Satkartar Builders through Shri Sarabjeet Singh and Shri Sat Narain Mittal vide Sale Deed dated 16.12.2005, who had purchased the entire Plot from Shri Abhay Bahrgava vide Sale Deed registered on 20.09.2004. As per seller, Sale Deed dated 20.09.2004 is available in original as on date with the erstwhile plot owner(s) and the plot is free from all sort of Encumbrances Lien, Charge, Mortgage, Sale, Gift, Succession etc. and no third party interest whatsoever has been created in respect of said plot in favour of any person(s). This public notice issued on behalf of the purchasers in view of the intended sale w.r.t. Schedule Floor inviting any claim or objection of any right, title, interest etc. whatsoever, on the plot to be raised only supported with documents to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days of this publication otherwise, the same shall be treated as null & void and it shall be presumed that the plot is free from all encumbrances, charge, lien, mortgage, claims etc. whatsoever.

Rajendra Gupta (Advocate)
Ch. No. E-516, 5th Floor,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032
Mob-9811417690, 9311417690

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Original Allotment Letter Of property Flat No. 501, Block C, Omaxe Palm Green, Sector MU, Greater Noida dated 07.04.2009 Has been lost. We Rahul Kothari & Deepika Kothari wants to take a home Loan by mortgaging the said property From SBI RAPC Noida Code 14702. In Case any party has any claim towards the said property the same should belodged within 15 days with SBI RAPC Plot No. C-03B, Sector -55, Noida 9968000081

[illegible]

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

VARIOUS WORKS AT C&W DEPOT

E-Tender is invited from eligible contractors for the following work. **E-Tender Notice No.** DRM(M)ADI/23/2019-20 dated 28-01-2020, **Tender No.** M 443/1/Welding/GIM/2019-20 (Retender-2) **(1) Name of the Work:** Contract work for hiring of welders in ROH, slick line & BG yard to attend welding work in wagons at C&W depot, Gandhidham of Ahmedabad for a period of one Year. **(2) Estimated cost of work:** ₹ 69,73,792.20/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two and Paise Twelty Only) **(3) EMD:** ₹ 1,39,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) **(4) Date & Time of tender closing and opening:** Closing at 15:00 Hrs. on dated 28-02-2020 and opening at 15:30 Hrs. on dated 28-02-2020. **(5) Website particulars Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and Address of the office of tender inviting Authority:** Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), (W.Rly.), Mechanical Branch, Naroda Road, P.O. Saijpur Bogha, Ahmedabad-382 345. Website: **https://www.ireps.gov.in** 360

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MANIPUR STATE POWER COMPANY LIMITED

CIN: U40101MN2013SGC008344
Keishampat Junction, Imphal-795001
Fax : +91385 2450702
Tele: +91385 2450050

Corporate Office:- Electricity Complex, Patta No, 1293 under 87(2), Khwai Bazar, Keishampat, Imphal -795001, Manipur, INDIA

No. 4/84/(New-Hydro)/ED(G&C)/MSPCL-2019/4166-72 **Imphal, the 31st January, 2020**

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Limited, a Government of Manipur Enterprises invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for conducting Survey & Investigation (S&I) and Formulation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the recently identified hydroelectric projects in the State from the intending Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or Private Agencies who have experienced in similar nature of assignments. The applicant(s) should submit their proposal(s) package-wise which may be either for all the packages or lesser number of packages..

Tender Specification No	Name of Assignment	Last date of receipt of request for clarification	Last date of receipt of EOI application	Opening of EOI application	Cost of EOI document
4/3/20	Shortlisting of agencies for conducting Survey & Investigation (S&I) and formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of 28 (twenty eight) nos,. of hydroelectric projects in Manipur	10.02.2020	20.02.2020 upto 4:00 p.m.	21.02.2020 at 2:00 p.m.	Pre Package as detailed in the enclosed notification (@ Rs. 10,000/- per project)

The details of the Expression of Interest (EOI) can be downloaded from the websites **www.manipur.gov.in** and www.mspcl.in. All correspondence / communication/submission of Eligibility Criteria of bidder shall be made to the Managing Director, Manipur State Power Company Ltd., Keishampat, Imphal- 795001, Manipur, India, Telephone No. (0385) 2450050, Fax No. (0385) 2450702, Email: edcivil.mspcl@gmail.com

Sd/-
(N. Sarat Singh)
Managing Director, MSPCL

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

Bays No. 67-70, Sec.-2, Panchkula-134151
(Website: www.hssc.gov.in)

EXAMINATION NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE CANDIDATES FOR ONLINE WRITTEN EXAMINATIO (COMPUTER BASED TEST) FOR VARIOUS POSTS OF INSTRUCTORS, AGAINST ADVT. NO. 12/2019 FOR SKIL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA

It is Notified for Information of All Concerned that Haryana Staff Selection Commission will hold the Online Written Examination **(COMPUTER BASED TEST)** for various Posts of Instructors, against Advt. No. 12/2019 for **SKIL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA** from **19.02.2020 to 20.02.2020 & 22.02.2020 to 23.02.2020** at various Institutions:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Advt. No.	Cat. No.	Date, Shift & Time of Examination	Place
1.	**Group Instructor/ Apprenticeship Supervisor/Senior Technical Assistant/ Junior Apprenticeship and Placement Officer**	**12/2019**	**22**	**19.02.2020 (Wednesday)** **1st Shift** Entry Time:- 08:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M. No Entry after:- 09:00 A.M. Exam Start Time:- 09:30 A.M. Exam End Time:- 11:00 A.M.	As Per Admit Card
	Computer Operator	**-do-**	**64**	**2nd Shift** Entry Time:-11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. No Entry after:- 12:30 P.M. Exam Start Time: - 01:00 P.M. Exam End Time:- 02:30 P.M.	
2.	**Storekeeper**	**-do-**	**18**	**20.02.2020 (Thursday)** 1st Shift Entry Time:- 08:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M. No Entry after:- 09:00 A.M. Exam Start Time:- 09:30 A.M. Exam End Time:- 11:00 A.M.	As Per Admit Card
	Information Technology and Electronics System Maintenance Instructor (Theory)	**-do-**	**75**	**2nd Shift** Entry Time:-11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. No Entry after:- 12:30 P.M. Exam Start Time: - 01:00 P.M. Exam End Time:- 02:30 P.M.	
	Employability Skill Instructor	**-do-**	**07**	**3rd Shift** Entry Time:- 03:00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M. No Entry after:- 04:00 P.M. Exam Start Time:- 04:30 P.M. Exam End Time:- 06:00 P.M.	
3.	**Forger & Heat Treater (Black Smith) Instructor (Theory)**	**-do-**	**02**	**22.02.2020 (Saturday)** **1st Shift** Entry Time:- 08:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M. No Entry after:- 09:00 A.M. Exam Start Time:- 09:30 A.M. Exam End Time:- 11:00 A.M.	As Per Admit Card
	Surveyor Instructor (Theory)	**-do-**	**01**	**2nd Shift** Entry Time:-11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M No Entry after:- 12:30 P.M. Exam Start Time: - 01:00 P.M. Exam End Time:- 02:30 P.M.	
	Interior Decoration and Designing Instructor (Theory)	**-do-**	**91**	**3rd Shift** Entry Time:- 03:00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M. No Entry after:- 04:00 P.M. Exam Start Time:- 04:30 P.M. Exam End Time:- 06:00 P.M.	
4.	**Craft Instructor (Women) Cutting & Sewing (Theory)**	**-do-**	**46**	**23.02.2020 (Sunday)** **1st Shift** Entry Time:- 08:00 A.M. to 09:00 A.M. No Entry after:- 09:00 A.M. Exam Start Time:- 09:30 A.M. Exam End Time:- 11:00 A.M.	As Per Admit Card
	Group Instructor In-Charge (Women) / Group Instructor (Women) for TTC in Fashion Technology, Cutting and Sewing, Embroidery and Needle Work, Dress Making	**-do-**	**70**	**2nd Shift** Entry Time:-11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. No Entry after:- 12:30 P.M. Exam Start Time: - 01:00 P.M. Exam End Time:- 02:30 P.M.	
	Junior Programmer	**-do-**	**65**	**3rd Shift** Entry Time:- 03:00 P.M. to 04:00 P.M. No Entry after:- 04:00 P.M. Exam Start Time:- 04:30 P.M. Exam End Time:- 06:00 P.M.	

2. **Selection Criteria**

Total Marks: 100 marks

I. **Written Examination.....90 Marks**

II. **The examination for the said Post will comprise of 90 multiple choice question of 90 minutes duration and divided into two portions comprising:-**

a) 75% weightage for General awareness, Reasoning, Maths, Science, Computer, English, Hindi and Concerned or Relevant Subject, as Applicable.

b) 25% weightage for History, Current Affairs, Literature, Geography, Civics, Environment, Culture etc. of Haryana.

Each question will carry equal marks.

III. **Socio-Economic criteria and experience..... 10 Marks**

No Applicant shall be given more than 10 marks for Socio-Economic Criteria and Experience under any circumstances.

Admit Card for Written Examination of the Candidates will be uploaded on the Commission Web-site i.e. **www.hssc.gov.in**. The Candidates can download the Admit Cards from the Commission Web-site from **11.02.2020 onwards. Candidates are advised to read the instructions on the Admit Card carefully and follow the same strictly.**

No separate information will be sent to the candidates by the Commission through post.

3. **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR WRITTEN EXAMINATION ARE AVAILABLE ON COMMISSION'S WEBSITE i.e. www.hssc.gov.in WHICH SHOULD BE GONE THROUGH BEFORE COMING FOR EXAMINATION.**

Sd/-
Secretary,
Haryana Staff Selection Commission,
Panchkula

Place: Panchkula
Dated:- 31st January, 2020

MALDIVES REJOINS COMMONWEALTH

Maldives was officially readmitted to the Commonwealth on Saturday more than three years after the Indian Ocean archipelago nation quit the organisation over criticism of its human rights record, taking the count of the bloc's membership countries back to 54. The island nation had quit the Commonwealth in October 2016 after being threatened with suspension over its human rights record and lack of progress on democratic reform

TOP OF THE WORLD

At a protest. *Reuters*

IRAQ

President appoints new premier

Baghdad: Mohammad Allawi, a former communications minister, said Saturday he has been appointed Iraq's new premier, replacing Adel Abdel Mahdi who resigned under pressure from the street. The move could end the paralysis gripping Iraq's political elite, which has struggled to respond to four months of anti-regime rallies in Baghdad and mainly-Shiite southern Iraq. "... I wanted to talk to you first... I will ask you to keep up the protests, because if you are not with me, I won't be able to do anything," Allawi, 65, said in a video he posted to Twitter.

YEMEN

US drone hit building 'housing militants'

Sanaa: Tribal leaders said Saturday a suspected US drone strike destroyed a building housing al-Qaeda militants last week in Yemen. The tribal leaders said the drone strike took place in the Wadi Ubaidah area in the eastern province of Marib. The area is known as a stronghold for al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, as the Yemeni affiliate is known. They said at least three explosions rocked the area, and that the building was set ablaze. It was not immediately clear how many militants were in the building or their identities.

CHILE

Four dead as protests grow

Santiago: A man died of carbon monoxide poisoning after a supermarket was torched in Chile's capital Friday, and another succumbed to injuries sustained in clashes with police, bringing the death toll in a new wave of unrest to four. Protests that flared up in October — initially over a rise in metro fares — had appeared to have calmed down. But there has been a spike in violent protests this week. A mob looted and then set fire to the supermarket in southern Santiago in the early hours of Friday. When firefighters arrived they found a dead man aged 30 to 40 and two other people suffering from signs of asphyxiation.

Reuters

AT THE STROKE OF BREXIT

- Britain's Union Jack was removed from lines of EU member state flags at the European Council and European Parliament buildings in Brussels on Friday evening
- Britain will become the first country to quit the European Union after 47 years in the club, leaving 27 member states that will now regard it as a third country
- In the UK, a party at Parliament Square and a light display count down at Downing Street marked the historic moment, while elsewhere there were some anti-Brexit rallies
- 'This is the moment when the dawn breaks and the curtain goes up on a new act in our great national drama,' said UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a video message.

BEIJING HITS OUT AT WASHINGTON

US, Australia restrict entry as virus death toll in China hits 259

AGENCIES
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 1

SEVERAL COUNTRIES, including India, scrambled to evacuate their nationals from the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, as the death toll in China soared to 259 and nearly 12,000 people infected with the deadly virus

Chinese health authorities on Saturday announced that the death toll has increased to 259 as 46 more people, all but one in Hubei, died in the preceding 24 hours. With 2,102 new infections, the total confirmed cases in China increased to 11,791.

The US and Australia are temporarily denying entry to noncitizens who have recently traveled to China. The American restrictions, announced on Friday, exempt immediate family members of American citizens and permanent residents. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Australia's temporary ban on Saturday, saying that "Australian citizens, Australian residents, dependents, legal guardians or spouses" would still be allowed into the country.

China's government criticised the United States' measure, which it said contradicted the World Health Organisation's appeal to avoid travel bans, and "unfriendly comments" that Beijing was failing to cooperate.

"Just as WHO recommended against travel restrictions, the US rushed to go in the opposite way. Certainly not a gesture of goodwill," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

Screening at Basra airport in Iraq on Saturday. *Reuters*

MEASURES AROUND THE WORLD

HONG KONG
Thousands of Hong Kong medical workers voted Saturday to strike as they urge the government to close its border with the mainland. It has 13 confirmed cases so far

UNITED KINGDOM
Britain on Saturday said it was temporarily withdrawing some staff and their families from its diplomatic sites in China to 'ensuring their safety and wellbeing'

VIETNAM
Vietnam has suspended all China flights, which applies to all airlines 'which have routes between Vietnam and China' and also includes Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan

BANGLADESH
Over 300 Bangladeshis on Saturday returned home from Wuhan on a special aircraft and were quarantined in a facility under military and police vigil, officials said

JAPAN
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan said the country would bar entry to foreigners who had visited Hubei within the past 14 days, or who had passports issued in Hubei

TAIWAN
Taiwan is barring Chinese nationals from Guangdong from entry beginning Sunday and travelers who recently visited the area will be subject to a 14-day quarantine.

Pak declares emergency to battle locusts

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 1

PAKISTAN, WHICH is facing its worst locust attack in decades, has declared national emergency to tackle the insects destroying crops on a large scale in Punjab province, country's main region for agricultural production.

The decision was taken at a meeting convened by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday. The meeting, attended by federal ministers and senior officials of the four provinces, also approved a National Action Plan (NAP) that requires a sum of Rs 7.3 billion to overcome the crisis.

Minister for National Food Security Khusro Bakhtiar informed the National Assembly about the gravity of the situation and the steps so far taken by the federal and provincial governments to deal with the crisis, the Dawn newspaper reported.

During the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, which was also attended by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Hafeez Shaikh among others, a detailed briefing on the overall situation was given to the PM.

The meeting was informed that besides involving the officials concerned at the provincial and district levels, different tasks have been given to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), provincial disaster management authorities and federal and provincial departments to deal with the threat.

Prime Minister Khan ordered formation of a high-level committee to be headed by Bakhtiar to take decisions at the federal level for the elimination of insects. The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to make immediate measures on the basis of damage of ripened crops.

"Protection of farms and farmers is the highest priority of the government. Therefore, the federal government should take all necessary steps to save national crops and provide required resources to the quarters concerned," Khan was quoted as saying in the report. **PTI**

> "...the federal government should take all necessary steps to save national crops and provide required resources to the quarters concerned"
> — IMRAN KHAN

RAPE CASE

Weinstein yelled you owe me: Key accuser

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 1

A KEY accuser in Harvey Weinstein's trial testified Friday that he raped her twice, once bellowing, "You owe me!" as he dragged her into a bedroom.

The first time, the heavyset Hollywood tycoon trapped her in a New York hotel room in March 2013, and angrily ordered her to undress as he loomed over her, and then raped her, she told jurors.

Still, she kept in touch, sending him flattering emails, because "his ego was so fragile," she said, and it "made me feel safe, worshipping him in this sense. ... I wanted to be perceived as innocent and naive."

Then, eight months later at a Los Angeles hotel where she worked as a hairdresser, she told Weinstein that she was dating an actor, she said. "You owe me one more time!" he screamed, she told jurors.

She said she begged him not to take off her clothes, but he said, "I don't have time for games" and ripped off her pants before pushing her legs apart and raping her.

Afterward, she said, she crawled into the bathroom, her eyes red and swollen from tears, and worried that he'd get angry if he knew she was crying.

"OK, now go have your relationship," he told her, according to her testimony. His apology: "I just find you so attractive, I couldn't resist."

The 34-year-old woman's testimony, which is set to continue Monday,is a pivotal moment in the rape case against the once-powerful movie producer who became one of the #MeToo movement's top targets.

Weinstein leaves the court in New York. *Reuters*

4 ARE AFRICAN NATIONS, 3 HAVE MUSLIM-MAJORITY POPULATIONS

Trump's expanded travel restrictions target Nigeria, five other countries

TED HESSON
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 1

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump issued an expanded version of his travel ban on Friday that targets prospective immigrants from Nigeria and five other countries, a move that could affect thousands of people and reignite debate on whether the policy is discriminatory.

Of the six countries added to the ban, four are African nations and three have Muslim-majority populations. Democrats and immigration advocates accuse the Trump administration of seeking to expand its original 2017 ban that targeted Muslim-majority countries and of disproportionately focusing on African countries.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said during a call with reporters that the six countries failed to meet US security and information-sharing standards, which necessitated the new restrictions. The problems Wolf cited ranged from sub-par passport technology to a failure to sufficiently exchange information on terrorism suspects and criminals.

Belarus, which had been under consideration for inclusion, took steps to remedy deficiencies in recent months and will not face visa restrictions, Wolf said.

The US will suspend the issuance of visas that can lead to permanent residency for nationals of Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar and Nigeria, a presidential proclamation said. Temporary visas for tourists, businesspeople, students and workers from those nations will not be affected, it said. **REUTERS**

Donald Trump

EXPLAINED

Reignites debate ahead of election

WITH THE new additions, Trump's travel ban now places restrictions on a total of 13 countries. While the Trump administration has cited security as the reason behind the move, it has been repeatedly criticised for excluding large groups of people "without adequate justification". Experts also suspect that the move, which comes as the 2020 poll season in the US is heating up, will be used by Trump to appeal to his voter base at a time when he is facing multiple allegations amid his impeachment trial.

US ADVISES CITIZENS AGAINST TRAVEL TO PAK

ADVISING ITS citizens to reconsider visiting Pakistan due to terrorism, the US on Friday issued the highest level travel alert for Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with the Line of Control.

The rest of the areas in Pakistan continues to remain on Level 3 of the travel alert. "Do not travel to the India-Pakistan border. Militant groups are known to operate in the area. India and Pakistan maintain a strong military presence on both sides of the border," it said.

Indian and Pakistani military forces periodically exchange gunfire and artillery fire across the LoC, the advisory said. **PTI**

Mahmoud Abbas

Abbas threatens to cut security ties with Israel, US

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, FEBRUARY 1

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Mahmoud Abbas threatened to cut security ties with both Israel and the US on Saturday, in a lengthy speech delivered at an Arab League meeting in Egypt's capital that denounced a White House plan for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The US plan would grant the Palestinians limited self-rule in parts of the occupied West Bank, while allowing Israel to annex all its settlements there and keep nearly all of east Jerusalem.

The summit of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo was requested by the Palestinians, who responded angrily to the American proposal. Abbas said that he told Israel and the US that "there will be no relations with them, including the security ties" following the deal that Palestinians say heavily favours Israel.

The Palestinian leader said that he'd refused to take US President Donald Trump's phone calls and messages "because I know that he would use that to say he consulted us."

"I will never accept this solution," Abbas said. "I will not have it recorded in my history that I have sold Jerusalem." He said the Palestinians remain committed to ending Israeli occupation and establishing a state.

LEGIONS OF READERS WERE ADDICTED TO HER PAGE-TURNERS

Mary Higgins Clark, best-selling 'Queen of Suspense', dies at 92

HELEN T VERONGOS
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 1

MARY HIGGINS Clark, a fixture on best-seller lists for decades and a writer whose more than 50 novels earned her the sobriquet Queen of Suspense, died on Friday in Naples, Florida. She was 92.

Her death was confirmed by her daughter Carol Higgins Clark, also a mystery novelist. In addition to Naples, Higgins Clark had homes in Saddle River and Manhattan and on Cape Cod.

Higgins Clark, whose books have sold more than 100 million copies in the United States alone, was still writing until recently, her daughter said, and had a book published in November.

Legions of readers were addicted to her page-turners, which popped up on the market one after another. She wanted to create stories that would make a reader say: "This could be me. That could be my daughter. This could happen to us," she told Marilyn Stasio in a 1997 interview in The New York Times.

In her memoir, "Kitchen Privileges" (2002), Ms. Higgins Clark described herself in her younger years as "aching, yearning, burning" to write, certain that she would succeed but needing guidance. There are, however, two things that won't be found in her books — sex and profanity — and that choice was deliberate.

In her first successful novel, "Where Are the Children?" (1975), which Ms. Higgins Clark sold for $3,000, a young mother who is accused of killing her son and daughter changes her identity, finds a new husband and builds another family, only to have her second set of children disappear.

Although she had begun pitching her first short stories to confession magazines when she was 16, Higgins Clark endured a rain of rejection slips for the next several years before she sold her first story, "Stowaway," to Extension magazine in 1956. By then she had three children: Marilyn, Warren Jr and David. The fourth, born in 1956, was named Carol for a character in that story. The youngest, Patricia, was born in 1958.

As the best sellers piled up, they would sustain her family beyond anything she had ever dreamed possible. In 1988, The New York Times reported that she had broken a record for what was believed to be "the first eight-figure agreement involving a single author." The multibook contract guaranteed her at least $10.1 million. "All I have to do now is write the books," she told The Times.

In a statement on Friday, Simon & Schuster said that beginning with "Where Are the Children?," each of her 56 books had been a best seller.

After 14 years of a marriage, Warren Clark, who worked in the shipping and airline industries, died of a heart attack in 1964, when Higgins Clark was 37. Higgins Clark married twice after she was widowed. Her brief second marriage is glossed over in her memoir as a mistake. The marriage was annulled, and in 1996 she married John Conheeney, a former Merrill Lynch executive. He died in October 2018. Her five children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive her.

Even into her 90s, Higgins Clark continued to address her fans in online videos, appearing elegantly dressed and accessorised with glittering gems.

In one video, Higgins Clark, who was grand marshal of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Manhattan in 2011, discussed the role of the Irish narrative heritage in her work and her legacy. "Let others decide whether or not I'm a good writer," she said. "I know I'm a good Irish storyteller." **NYT**

AP/File

Clark's books sold over 100 million copies in the US alone

BRIDGE

Dealer South, NS vulnerable.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠K65	♠84
❤QJ4	❤K109872
♦A94	♦K4
♣AK32	♣J87

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠	2NT	Pass	4❤
All Pass			

West opens a weak two in spades. How would you play in 4H on the queen of spades lead?

THE WEST HAND: ♠QJ10973❤6♦J62♣Q54
THE EAST HAND: ♠A2❤A53♦Q10875♣10963

There is a guiding principle that may help here. The more cards you have with an honour card, the better protection it has. You need your SK as a trick, and you are in no hurry for it as you have lots to guard the other suits.

Unless West is being particularly clever, they doesn't have the ace. With the weak two opening to guide you, the spade suit looks to be an open book. So not only does a full view of the hand tell you that the ace will fall of its own accord, you could have worked that out at the time. If you play low twice on the spades, your king will be come a tenth trick. If West has been smart enough to lead from SAQJ10xx, then good luck to them.

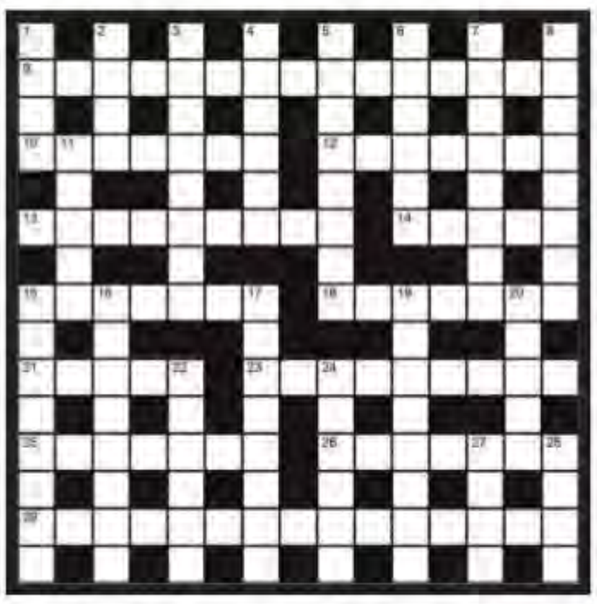
Dealer South, both vulnerable.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠AKJ73	♠62
❤AQ2	❤KJ3
♦95	♦AKQ
♣953	♣108762

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♣		
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

How would you play 3NT on the four of hearts lead?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2253



ACROSS
9. Actually (2,1,6,2,4)
10. Surgical knife (7)
12. Abrupt in manner (7)
13. Legal (9)
14. Lloyd Webber musical (5)
15. State neighbouring Assam (7)
18. Not like or get on with (7)
21. Former Force India driver (5)
23. Chiefly (9)
25. Small charcoal brazier (7)
26. Proficient (7)
29. Comma, full stop or semi-colon, etc. (11,4)

DOWN
1. Fairy tale teller ___ Christian Andersen (4)
2. Heroic tale (4)
3. Received enthusiastically ? (6,2)
4. Slanting script (6)
5. Ran forward with the ball in control in hockey or football (8)
6. Exude (6)
7. Cocktail (8)
8. Part of the passenger ship with lowest fares ? (8)
11. Spanish enclave in Morocco (5)
15. Deform (8)
16. Note well (8)
17. Retaliation (8)
19. Trains stop here (8)
20. Popular tourist destination in North India (5)
22. Situate (6)
24. Infuse (6)
27. Linen plant (4)
28. Norse god of mischief (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES
ACROSS
9. Favourite source of water withdrawn and support for towels too (4,6,5)
10. Give Dad a mud pie and Indian cracker (7)
12. Counsel a coloratura somewhat when returning with spots (7)
13. See a wild saurian by the tree (9)
14. Is in a quandary on a Middle Eastern peninsula (5)
15. In Nice I desire to eat portion of fried mulloway (7)
18. Essayist finding a way to scold severely (7)
21. Drops many tears (5)
23. Our shandy mixed without water (9)
25. Hit back and burst into a song - but is that a grammatical exercise ? (7)
26. FFO to withdraw (4,3)
29. Drama of how the old master was saved? (11,4)

DOWN
1. Exchange prisoners of war in return (4)
2. Go down into a bad dive (4)
3. Arab emirate has an immature flower in a habit yet incomplete (3,5)
4. Crustaceans — almost the very same river contained (6)
5. Carpet a university residence (8)
6. What many rustics have in the farmyard (6)
7. Country long restricted by revolutionary voices (3,5)
8. May be seen round the trunk of this tree, perhaps (3-5)
11. Censor a textbook to give speech inside (5)
15. Indian city's producing trousers (8)
16. Restaurant employee began work activating one lock (8)
17. Had eager spin bowler? (8)
19. It may be taken to promote good feeling (8)
20. Material to fill up (5)
22. So a gin is mixed with post (6)
24. Arrogance of one shrub ? (6)
27. Dripping with unction? (4)
28. Fairies guilty of loud affirmatives (4)

Solutions to 2252

QUICK CLUES Across: 9 Triumph, 10 Echelon, 11 Nairobi, 12 Longing, 13 Swordplay, 15 Ebola, 16 Blooper, 19 Debases, 20 Lotus, 21 Ponderous, 25 Reactor, 26 Trivial, 28 Doctors, 29 Feelers. **Down:** 1 Atones, 2 Aikido, 3 Umbo, 4 Thrill, 5 Replayed, 6 Changeable, 7 Illinois, 8 Anagrams, 14 Deposition, 16 Belgrade, 17 Outmatch, 18 Rephrase, 22 Notify, 23 Opined, 24 Splash, 27 Item.
CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 9 Earlobe, 10 Knock-up, 11 Obverse, 12 Niagara, 13 Fat chance, 15 Sloth, 16 Vinegar, 19 Placard, 20 Notch, 21 Abridgers, 25 Recants, 26 Partial, 28 Gunners, 29 Rockery. Down: 1 See off, 2 Privet, 3 Moor, 4 Severn, 5 Skin deep, 6 No-man's land, 7 Oklahoma, 8 Splashed, 14 Highhanded, 16 Vanbrugh, 17 Noticing, 18 Reassess, 22 Rupert, 23 Exiles, 24 Splays, 27 Ruck.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday February 2
The pace begins to pick up today, especially if you have choices to make. This may not be the best moment to make final decisions. However, it is an ideal time to talk about feelings, desires and plans.

Monday February 3
It's time to plan ahead. You really should take worldly, professional and business matters seriously. Other people may not realise what you really want unless you tell them.

Tuesday February 4
It's time to choose your words with care. Say the right thing and you'll keep important people on board. Emotional pressures could cause your financial judgment to slip.

Wednesday February 5
In matters of the heart you need variety and interest. There is every reason to hope that you will do well in competitive activities.

Thursday February 6
Your current planetary movements are inspired and confident. Socially and romantically you'll continue to call the shots, and partners will shape up.

Friday February 7
You'll be happiest when you're active and busy, and even if you're taking time off you'll want to pursue worthwhile activities. You're not quite sure what a close partner thinks about you — but the feeling is mutual.

Saturday February 8
It's the moral questions which count, and you'll have to ponder on whether what you're doing is right or wrong. Legal matters are vital, and be aware of your rights as well as your responsibilities.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
This is an ideal moment to complete projects which you began earlier in the year. At the very least, you should make strenuous efforts to bring personal and professional matters to a satisfactory point. Various spheres of life could be affected, although public ambitions still seem to be of over-riding importance.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
If you've any nagging ailments, get back into shape as soon as you can, as life will be much happier if you're physically fit over the coming months. If you find yourself granting too many favours to friends and colleagues during the next week then don't let resentment build up.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your artistic and creative nature will be enhanced by special celestial alignments and, if you've ignored this side of your life, now is the time to develop your talents. Those of you with worldly ambitions to pursue will experience a powerful planetary configuration and widespread domestic changes.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your romantic desires benefit from current stars, but you'll have to be prepared to deal with odd problems as they arise. Already this week you may have the sense that the approaching set of lunar alignments will put the accent on domestic changes so now is the time to get going.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Your planets are busy and life can certainly be pretty hectic. If you're tied down by work or domestic routine then you really must try and lighten the load. If at all possible, try to take a break and recharge your batteries. Remember that it's your duty to avoid family confrontations and keep relationships on an even keel.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Money hopes should be high, although this may be a better time for making plans than actually risking your cash. The chances of a satisfying time emotionally are good. Career chances are being steadily lifted by Jupiter's profoundly helpful presence.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
This promises to be a lively time just as long as you take advantage of the stimulating effects of the Sun's presence in your sign. However, with Mercury playing up again, you may find yourself going over old ground, digging up memories from the past or revising some recent decisions.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
True to your secretive nature, you'll be active behind the scenes once again, perhaps helping in a voluntary enterprise, possibly involved in some kind of friendly conspiracy. You'll find it hard to keep information to yourself, though, so don't make any promises you can't keep. A social phase seems to be coming to an end.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Mars and Venus, a dynamic combination of planets, are in an active mood, so there seems to be no reason why you shouldn't have a profitable week. Legal affairs which have become bogged down require a great deal of patience and effort if you are to secure a favourable outcome.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Although major professional questions should be settled, the Sun's strident relationships leave you with the distinct feeling that all is not quite right. By all means continue to investigate certain avenues of experience and reject no possibility out of hand. You may have to wait until the end of the month to hear definite news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The week favours not just travel, but overseas exploration. There's no doubt that your mood is expansive but the chances are that you're hemmed in by existing arrangements and will be unable to fulfil much of your potential. Rather than give in to frustration why don't you start planning for the future?

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Your financial prospects are good, but try to focus on business deals rather than on your own immediate earnings. This may be a good moment to check out insurance or savings offers. However, remember that any deals finalised before the middle of the week are unlikely to stick.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
What a child doesn't ____ he can seldom later __ - P D James (7,..,4)

GSEEE
GNOMIC
CLEIR
ACEIVV

SOLUTION: GEESE, RELIC, COMING, VIVACE
Answer: What a child doesn't **receive** he can seldom later **give** - P D James

SUDOKU 4108

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

	9	2	1					
4				3				6
	3				5	8		
7					8	4		
		3				6		
		9	6					5
		5	3				7	
3				9				8
					2	9	1	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4107

8	4	2	3	5	1	7	6	9
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4	2
9	7	6	2	4	8	1	5	3
4	9	8	5	3	7	6	2	1
1	2	7	6	8	4	9	3	5
3	6	5	1	2	9	4	7	8
7	8	3	4	1	2	5	9	6
2	1	9	7	6	5	3	8	4
6	5	4	8	9	3	2	1	7

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

BULK ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT IN AZIMABAD EXPRESS AND AHMEDABAD CHENNAI EXPRESS

Tender Notice No. CA11/13/Bulk/VW/12947/48/2019-20 Date: 28-01-2020 **Tender No.** DRM/Comml/276/2019-20. **(1) Work/Location/Description:** Bulk Advertisement Contract of display through Vinyl Wrapping in Train No. 12947/48, Azimabad Express running between Ahmedabad-Patna-Ahmedabad and Train No. 19420/21, Ahmedabad Chennai Express, running between Ahmedabad-Chennai-Ahmedabad of Ahmedabad Division for a period of five years. **(2) Estimated Value (Per Annum):** ₹ 13,75,000/- (Thirteen Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only) **(3) EMD:** ₹ 1,46,100/- (One Lakh Forty Six Thousand One Hundred Only), payable through online only. **(4) Date & Time of Submission of Tender Date & Time of Closing and Opening of the Tender:** 28-02-2020 (Friday) at 15:00 hrs. and 28-02-2020 (Friday) at 15:30 hrs. **(5) Website address for submission of Tender:** www.ireps.gov.in 364

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WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

BULK ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT IN SABARMATI EXPRESS

Tender Notice No. CA11/13/Bulk/VW/19167/68/2019-20 Date: 28-01-2020 **Tender No.** DRM/Comml/277/2019-20. **(1) Work/Location/Description:** Bulk Advertisement Contract of display through Vinyl Wrapping in Train No. 19167/68, Sabarmati Express running between Ahmedabad-Varanasi-Ahmedabad and Train No. 19165/66, Sabarmati Express, running between Ahmedabad-Darbhanga-Ahmedabad of Ahmedabad Division for a period of five years. **(2) Estimated Value (Per Annum):** ₹ 28,30,000/- (Twenty Eight Lakh Thirty Thousand Only) **(3) EMD:** ₹ 3,00,600/- (Three Lakh Six Hundred Only), payable through online only. **(4) Date & Time of Submission of Tender Date & Time of Closing and Opening of the Tender:** 28-02-2020 (Friday) at 15:00 hrs. and 28-02-2020 (Friday) at 15:30 hrs. **(5) Website address for submission of Tender:** www.ireps.gov.in 365

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SILCHAR
(An Institution of National Importance)
Assam – 788 010
Phone : (03842) 244879, Web Site: http://www.nits.ac.in
Fax : (03842) 224797, EPABX:233841-5100/5101

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-tender invited from experienced and financially sound contractor/ agency for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work NIT No. NIT-E/Estate/ 2019-20/10	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Cost of tender documents (In Rs.)	Last date for submission of E-Tender
1	Renovation of Boys Hostel No. 4 at NIT Silchar.	29,94,190/-	59,884/-	90 Days	1000/-	12.02.2020 upto 4.00 PM
2	Renovation of outside of the building including inside of kitchen, dinning room & extension portion of Boys Hostel No. 1 at NIT Silchar. Phase-2	29,73,976/-	59,480/-	90 Days	1000/-	
3	Renovation of Girls Hostel No. 2 at NIT Silchar.	29,68,901/-	59,378/-	90 Days	1000/-	
4	Providing, fitting & fixing of RCC precast slab to cover the open drain of Hostel No. 9 NIT Silchar.	7,85,174/-	15,703/-	30 Days	500/-	
5	Supplying, fitting & fixing of PVC vinyl flooring at outer periphery of wooden Badminton court of Sports Complex NIT Silchar.	3,33,480/-	6,670/-	30 Days	500/-	
6	Laying of UG cable to provide DG power from new administrative building to guest house at NIT silchar	6,93,234/-	13,865/-	60 Days	500/-	
7	Supplying and laying of UG cable from substation 2 to panel at new academic building at NIT silchar	20,24,862/-	40,497/-	60 Days	1000/-	
8	Supply and installation of post top lamps at new type V qtr at NIT Silchar	23,85,035/-	47,701/-	60 Days	1000/-	
9	Supply and installation of post top lamps lights along the road at L type qtrs. at NIT Silchar	19,91,019/-	39,820/-	60 Days	1000/-	

The detailed tender notice may be seen at Institute website **http:/www.nits.ac.in, www.tenderwizard.com/NITS** & Institute notice board.

Sd/- Registrar

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P. O. Sainik Colony, Jammu - 180 011, Jammu & Kashmir. Tel : +91-191 2484778

OPEN e-TENDER
Tender Notice No. : KR-JK-ST-TEL-OFC-6Q-2020 dtd. 31/01/2020

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites **"Open e-Tender"** in "Two Packet System" from experienced agencies for **"Provision of OFC & 6 Quad Cable System with Control Communication on Katra - Dharam Section (KRCL Jurisdiction of Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla Rail Link Project, J & K Union Territory)". Approx. Cost of the work :** ₹ 70.54 Cr., **Earnest Money :** ₹ 36,77,400/- **Completion Period of Contract** : 18 Months from the date of issue of LOA. **Submission of Tender** : 12/03/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. **Opening of Tender :** 12/03/2020 @ 15.30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form : (i)** ₹ 29,500/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal only. For further details and updates please visit **https://www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P. O. Sainik Colony, Jammu - 180 011, Jammu & Kashmir. Tel : +91-191 2484778

OPEN e-TENDER
Tender Notice No.: KR-PD-JK-Road-01-2020 dtd. 31/01/2020

Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites **"Open e-Tender"** in "Two Packet System" from experienced agencies for **"Construction of approach road from Tunnel T-14P1 (Basindadhar) to Tunnel T-14 Adit (Ind) on the Katra Dharam Section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Jammu & Kashmir " Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 126.16 cr, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 64,58,000/-. **Completion Period of Contract:** 18 Months, **Submission of Tender:** 13/03/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. **Opening of Tender:** 13/03/2020 @ 15.30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form: (i)** ₹ 29,500/- (Rupees Twenty Nine thousand Five hundred only) to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal only. For further details and updates please visit **https://www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT P-II
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA, SRINAGAR

Subject: Extension in eNIT

Ref: eNIT No. SIMS 15 (P-II) of 2019 dated 16.12.2019

The schedule dates for downloading & submission of tenders invited vide above referred eNIT for **Supply, of "Oxygen Analysers"** at SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar is hereby extended as per following:

1.	Last Date & Time for **Downloading** of Tenders	12.02.2020 (01.00 P.M.)
2.	Last Date & Time for Deposited in **Electronic Format**	12.02.2020 (02.30 P.M.)

The tenders (Technical Bids) will be opened on **15.02.2020 at 2.30 P.M.** or any other date convenient to Tender Opening Committee.

Other terms & conditions of the eNIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Materials Management Officer

No. SIMS-325/22/2019-297-305-4178-80
Dated: 30.01.2020

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
HIMACHAL PRADESH
SHIMLA-171004, PHONE NO- 0177-2811335
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Director, Department of Transport hereby invites tender only through **e-tendering** system for Supply, Delivery, Testing, Commissioning, Acceptance and Operation of **Mobile Automated Testing Stations** in various districts of Himachal Pradesh on PPP mode.

Detailed RFP Document is available at official website of Department of Transport Himachal Pradesh. (http://himachal.nic.in/transport) (https://hptenders.gov.in/)

Last date for downloading /submitting the RFP Document is 5th March 2020, 11:00 A.M.

Director Transport
Himachal Pradesh

0710/HP

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993).

In the matter of **O.A. NO. 313/2019**

BANK OF BARODA Vs **M/S MYRA IMPEX & SERVICE**
Applicant **Defendants**

D-1 M/s Myra impex & Services through its proprietor Mrs. Sughandha Virlley, 52/10, Old Rajender Nagar, S.O.Central, Delhi-110060

Also At : P-15, South City-I, Sector-40, Gurgaon-122002

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal **20.03.2020** at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **09th day of Jan., 2020.**

By order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR
(Established by Parliament Act No. 16 of 1970)

TENDER NOTICE

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following equipments/items :-
1. Purchase of Microplate Reader for the Dept. of MBB&B, COBS&H, CCSHAU, Hisar.
2. Purchase of Water Purification System for the Dept. of MBB&B, COBS&H, CCSHAU, Hisar
3. Purchase of 30 KVA UPS with batteries for the Computer Section, Dean, COBS&H, CCSHAU, Hisar.
4. Purchase of Insignia for COBS&H, CCSHAU, Hisar.
5. Purchase of Vertical gel electrophoresis system with power supply for Dept. of Genetics & Plant Breeding, CCSHAU, Hisar.
6. Supply, Installation and commissioning of Automated Rain out shelter for Dept. of Botany & Plant Physiology, CCSHAU, Hisar.
7. Purchase of Rotavator for DDUCE-OF, CCSHAU, Hisar.
8. Purchase of Hydraulic trolley for DDUCE-OF, CCSHAU, Hisar.
9. Purchase of Water tanker for DDUCE-OF, CCSHAU, Hisar.
10. Purchase of Multi crop thresher for DDUCE-OF, CCSHAU, Hisar.
11. Purchase of Power tiller/rotary weeder for DDUCE-OF, CCSHAU, Hisar.
12. Purchase of equipments for smart class room under IDP Project, Director of Research.
13. Purchase of Chlorophyll Concentration Meter for Principal, COA, Bawal.
14. Purchase of Multiple Water Quality Analyzer for College of Fisheries Science.
15. Repair of Greenhouse/polyhouse for the Dept. of Horticulture.

For detail information and e-tendering schedule, please visit the website: http://etenders.hry.nic.in and University website: **http://hau.ac.in**.

Date of start of bid preparation and submission on 4.2.2020 (09.00 hours) and Closing on 24.2.2020 up to 17.00 hours. Opening of Technical Bid on 25.2.2020 at 10.00 A.M. Opening of Financial Bid on 26.2.2020 at 10.00 AM.

Note:
1. **All updates, amendments, Corrigenda etc. (if any) will be posted only on the CCS HAU Website/Tender website. There will not be any publication of the same through Newspapers or any other media.**
2. **Interested bidders are advised to deposit bid security/EMD on or before 48.00 hrs of expiring date and time of bid online so as to get the payment verified.**

Sd/- **Director (Store & Purchase), CCSHAU, Hisar.**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
CHHABRA THERMAL POWER STATION, CHHABRA

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 2052(RVU1920GLOB01921)

Online tenders are invited for Supply and replacement of PVC V-Bars, Drift Eliminator blades nozzles, GRP Grids and associated items of Paharpur make Induced draft, cross flow Cooling Tower, Model 1513-12(20'AT) of Unit#3&4. Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/19/4926 RVUN/PR-3338 **Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)**

JAIPUR VIDHYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer (Regulation) Room No. 149, Old Power House Premises, Banipark, Jaipur-302016 Email- srmd5@jvvnl.org, Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl
CIN: U40109RJ2000SGC016486

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & 5 Years Comprehensive Maintenance of distributed grid connected solar PV systems for solarization of grid connected agriculture consumers under "KUSUM Scheme – Component C" in JVVNL against JVVNL/KUSUM-C/GRID-SPV/TN-04/2020 (Lot 1 to 10). All the details regarding tender is available at web site **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl**, **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. In future, corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only at web site **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl**, **http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in UBN No. VVN1920WLOB00706 to VVN1920WLOB00715**

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (REGULATION)

Raj.Samwad/C/19/4938 JPR-2542 (2020)

For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

Short Term Tender Notice

Tender Notice NIT.No. 41/CW/DO/T.No.59/2019-20 Dt.31.01.2020

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** for the following work from Civil/Electrical Class-I State level Civil/Electrical Contractors registered in State/Central or Quasi Government Organisations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on **11.02.2020** and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Providing Street light arrangements along the roads at SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Gummidipoondi and Cheyyar. (Retender)	**Rs.546.00 lakhs**	**Rs.2,83,000/-**

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.in**

DIPR/666/Tender/2020 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SIPCOT, Chennai-8**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.-1/19-20 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

A-622

i	**Name of Work**	Excavation of Paunsia Distributary from RD 9300M to RD 10290M with Cement concrete ining, Structures and Inspection road
ii	**Estimated Cost (Lakh)**	Rs. 1003.50 Lakh
iii	**Period of Completion**	18 (Eighteen) Claendar Months
iv	**Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal**	03.02.2020 at 10 A.M.
v	**Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal**	17.02.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
vi	**Name & Address of the O.I.T.**	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurment Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi
32074/11/0001/1920 bid_**cebmbsbb@rediff.com**

FIFTH T20 INTERNATIONAL
NZ vs IND
Live on Star Sports: 12:30 pm onwards

Toast of the town

Fearless Kenin rallies from a set down to deflate Muguruza, becomes youngest Australian Open champion since 2008 at 21

NO PAIN, NO CHAMPAGNE

Sofia Kenin toasted the win with the reporters, who all got a glass of champagne walking into the press conference. Love-40 at 2-all in the decider, the American blasted five winners to climb out of the hole and take control. "That's the game I feel changed things," she said. *AP*

HOWARD FENDRICH
MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 1

THIS, ESSENTIALLY, was where Sofia Kenin was going to win or lose the Australian Open final: She was down love-40 while serving at 2-all in the third set against two-time major champion Garbine Muguruza. Kenin sensed this was the moment that would matter. Up in the stands of Rod Laver Arena, so did her father, Alex, who's also her coach.

"I knew I had to take my chance," Kenin said. "I had to be brave."

Sure was. The 21-year-old American won the next five points, each with a winner — one an ace, the others clean groundstrokes to cap exchanges of 11 shots or more — and was on her way to becoming a Grand Slam champion.

Demonstrative as can be — whether spiking a ball, dropping her red-white-and-blue racquet or slapping her thigh — and at her best when necessary, the 14th-seeded Kenin won the first major final of her career Saturday by coming back to beat a fading Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 at Melbourne Park.

"That's the game I feel, like, changed things. I had to play some (of my) best tennis. I did," Kenin said. "After that, I was on fire. I was ready to take the beautiful trophy."

Kenin was so magnificent when it mattered the most, saving 10 of 12 break points she faced, while converting 5 of 6 that she earned.

"I'm not very happy about my performance. ... At the important moments, I didn't find my shots," Muguruza said. "I think she found her shots. I didn't."

Muguruza was visited by a trainer after the second set and her movement wasn't ideal down the stretch. Nor was her serving: She double-faulted eight times, including three in the last game, one on championship point.

"A little bit lack of energy," Muguruza said.

For quite some time, Kenin was overlooked and underappreciated, drawing much less attention than other young tennis players from the U.S., such as 15-year-old Coco Gauff -- Kenin beat her in the fourth round this week -- and 18-year-old Amanda Anisimova.

Maybe it was because Kenin is only 5-foot-7. Maybe it was because she went into last season with this resume: ranked outside the top 50, yet to get past the third round of a major, yet to win a tour-level title.

A seven-year-old Sofia Kenin spilled the secret to defeating Andy Roddick in an interview: "I can return his serve... If I split and then I turn around and hit my forehand with my short swing". One of Kenin's role models growing up was former world No. 8 Anna Kournikova, who was also born in Moscow before her family moved to America. *Twitter*

Age no barrier

Kenin will be taken more seriously now. By everyone. She is the youngest Australian Open champion since 2008, when Maria Sharapova won the hard-court tournament at age 20.

Kenin, who eliminated No. 1 Ash Barty in the semifinals, is expected to rise to No. 7 in Monday's WTA rankings, the youngest American to make her debut in the top 10 since Serena Williams in 1999.

"Those people that didn't believe in her, they had very valid reasons not to, because she's always been the smallest one," Alex Kenin said the day before the final. "But I guess, thank God, I saw something that they didn't. Because I know her better. I feel pretty happy. I guess I was right." Kenin was born in 1998 in Moscow to Russian parents; they had moved to New York in the 1980s, but returned to be with family for the birth of their daughter. A few months later, they went back to the U.S. for good; Kenin grew up in Florida and still makes her home there.

Muguruza came into the day with a far more formidable record. She has been ranked No. 1 and won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2017 -- the only woman to beat each Williams sister in a Grand Slam final.

But she tumbled out of the top 30 last season because of so-so results. She was trying to become only the third unseeded champion at the Australian Open in the professional era, which began in 1968.

Muguruza put on her game face from the moment she walked through the tunnel leading to the court. She didn't even spare a smile for pre-match photos up at the net with a grinning Kenin. And when she made her first move in front, breaking to go up 2-1 after 15 minutes, Muguruza just tucked her racquet under her left arm like an old-school commuter with a folded newspaper on the way to catch a subway train.

Kenin makes her mood obvious at all times. After lost points, she bounced her racquet or kicked it, rolled her eyes, muttered to herself. After winning points, she would pump a fist and scream "Come on!" -- or, when she went up 5-2 in the second set, Kenin grabbed a tennis ball and slammed it off the blue court. Did that again later, too, as the end neared.

While Muguruza generally stuck to her preferred tactic of hit-'em-hard, harder, hardest — not a ton of nuance — and moving forward when an opening demanded it, Kenin put more shape and spin on balls, and turned to her favourite element, drop shots, when possible. Soon enough, Kenin was kissing the trophy, just as her father had kissed her on the cheek right before the walk from the hallway outside the locker room to the court.

When Kenin entered the interview room for her post-match news conference, she was handed a glass of bubbly. She's barely old enough to drink legally back home, but yes, she is old enough.

Her mom stayed in Florida and awaited a phone call to find out about the match _ too nervous to watch in person or on TV. When it was time for Kenin's on-court speech, Dad called her over for a bit of advice. "He just told me a few things what to say," Kenin said. "I told him, 'I know what to say. I'm 21. I can do this.'"

What can't she do right now? **AP**

MAIDEN TITLE WINNERS

8 Kenin is the eighth first-time women's champion in the last 12 Grand Slams after Bianca Andreescu (US Open '19), Ashleigh Barty (French Open '19), Naomi Osaka (US Open '18), Simona Halep (French Open '18), Caroline Wozniacki (Australian Open '18), Sloane Stephens (US Open '17) and Jelena Ostapenko (French Open'17).

Thiem out to breach Djoko's Melbourne Park fortress

REUTERS
MELBOURNE, FEBRUARY 1

"KING" NOVAK Djokovic has won all seven Australian Open finals he has contested, he is on a 12-match winning streak and will become world number one if successful in the Melbourne Park decider on Sunday.

Against those overwhelming odds, few are giving Dominic Thiem much of a chance to wrench the title from his iron grip and clinch a maiden Grand Slam. But the Austrian, remarkably, is the one with the recent edge. Djokovic is 6-4 in their career head-to-heads, but Thiem has won four of the last five.

Three of those were on his favoured clay, but he also came from a set down to beat the Serb on hardcourts at the ATP Finals in November. Djokovic is the first to admit that the slick 26-year-old has successfully refined his game over the past 12 months to compete on all surfaces. And he acknowledges it is just a matter of time before Thiem wins a Slam.

"I don't think he's really anymore 'next generation'. He's been around for many years. Now already he's an established top-five, top-10 player," said Djokovic.

"It's just a matter of one match here and there that can potentially give him a Grand Slam title, that he can actually get in the mix of top three in the world," he added.

Despite the platitudes, Djokovic, 32, is banking on adding yet another chapter to his storied Melbourne Park career, and heads into the match with an extra day's rest after dispatching an injured Roger Federer in his semi-final on Thursday. The world number two has been firing ever since arriving in Australia a month ago, and was unbeaten over six ATP Cup singles matches as he led Serbia to the inaugural title ahead of the Australian Open.

"Yes, I'm pleased with the way I've been feeling and playing. I thought ATP Cup went really well for me, got a lot of hours spent on the court, singles and doubles," said the 16-time Grand Slam winner. "Obviously got a lot of positive energy from that competition. I dropped only one set so far up to the finals. Hopefully I'll be able to perform as well as I always have in the Australian Open finals."

'It's his comfort zone'

Thiem, who has beaten four seeds to make the grade, including Rafael Nadal in the last eight, is no stranger to Grand Slam finals, making the last two at Roland Garros. But this is his best effort outside of the French Open. He lauded Djokovic as the "king of Australia" and insisted his recent succusses against him counted for little at the Serb's favourite tournament. "It's true, I won I think more of the last encounters than he did. But I think it doesn't count so much. It's absolutely his comfort zone here," he said.

"He always plays his best tennis in Australia since many, many years. So I'm expecting that as well in the finals. All I can do is my best again, play great tennis again, and of course take a look at the last matches we had... try to repeat the good stuff that I did there."

Despite playing down his chances, Thiem has the weapons to trouble Djokovic.

He is supremely fit and regarded as one of the fastest movers on court, with a one-handed backhand that generates heavy spin and a power-packed forehand.

While the slower clay has always been his preferred surface, beating Federer in the Indian Wells final last year was a turning point for the Austrian on hardcourts.

"That victory gave me so much relief and so much confidence because finally I got my first Masters 1000 title on hardcourt," he said. "I made this huge step forward. I really developed my game I think in the right direction."

LIVE: From 2:00pm on Sony Six, Sony Ten 2

Change in schedule robs India's only ATP event of star power

SHAHID JUDGE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 1

THE HOARDINGS outside the Balewadi Tennis Stadium in Pune tell the story in images. In the past two years that the venue has hosted India's only ATP 250 event, the Tata Open Maharashtra, those billboards depicted pictures of Marin Cilic and Kevin Anderson, who were then world no. 6 at the 2018 and 2019 editions respectively. This year, the giant posters have pictures of some of the more iconic locations of Maharashtra.

But this was not a result of some administrative goof-up. It is a result of a change in the ATP schedule that left the tournament without any star attractions.

Ever since the start of the tournament in its former host city Chennai, it was played as a season-opener and attracted top stars – the likes of Carlos Moya, Patrick Rafter, three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka, and even a certain Rafael Nadal. It was an ideal pit-stop for the top guns from Europe on their way to the Australian Open. The ATP Cup this year, however, forced the Tata Open to be pushed back by a month. And since it is being played in the week between the year's first Grand Slam tournament and the ATP 500 event at Rotterdam in the Netherlands, the big names have shied away.

"Players have been in Australia for a month, under tough circumstances and probably want to go back home (to Europe)," says Sunder Iyer, honorary secretary of the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA), the hosts for the tournament. "The (tennis) circuit now moves to Europe. Montpellier this week and Rotterdam next. So it's much easier to go back to Europe and start playing."

The inaugural ATP Cup, held in the first week of January – a spot the Indian Open enjoyed for years – meant that most of the top 10 on the men's tour descended upon Australia, with no intention of stopping by at Pune on the return trip. That makes this the first time since 2003 that the Indian ATP tournament has not had a current top 10 player in the line-up – Argentina's Guillermo Canas, the then world no. 15, was the top seed 17 years back.

With the February slot, Pune's chief competition is the ATP 250 in Montpellier. Both tournaments have similar prize money – Pune has a purse of $610,010 and the French event $672,702. But the geographical proximity of Montpellier to Rotterdam has helped it attract top names. While the likes of world no. 10 Gael Monfils, no. 11 David Goffin, Denis Shapovalov (13) and Grigor Dimitrov (20) have chosen to go to France, Pune's top seed is world no. 21 Benoit Paire – the only top 50 player in the draw.

The depleted field, though, has benefitted the Indians. The country's top two ranked players Prajnesh Gunneswaran (123) and Sumit Nagal (131) made the main draw on merit, and wild cards were handed to compatriots Ramkumar Ramanthan (184), Sasikumar Mukund (266) and local lad Arjun Kadhe (617).

India's top two Prajnesh Gunneswaran (123, in pic) and Sumit Nagal (131) made the Tata Open Maharashtra main draw on merit.

"It's a standalone tournament and nobody is (using it) to prepare for Australia," says Prajnesh. "But it's good for the Indians because it gives us an opportunity to make the most of it. Hopefully a few of us, or maybe all of us, can win a few rounds and points and use it as a springboard."

The change in schedule may have affected the tournament's line-up, but it was a choice between now and September, when the foreign contingent could have been even worse because the tour would have been on its South American swing, and Pune would still be experiencing monsoons.

"In this week, we are going to be meeting with Alison Lee (executive vice- president of the ATP International Group)," tournament director Prashant Sutar says. "We will be raising the issue that Asian tennis needs to be revamped. We will strongly take it up."

But while that meeting takes place, five Indians will compete in the main draw of their home ATP tournament for the first time. And with a depleted field standing in the way, there's a murmur of a few upsets in the offing. Maybe even an Indian going all the way to the title. "Why not? It can be done," Prajnesh adds.

Paes gets wild card

In potentially his last appearance in a tournament in India, veteran Leander Paes has been given a wild card to enter the doubles draw, along with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden. The duo will take on India's Divij Sharan and New Zealand's Artem Sitak in the first round. Meanwhile Rohan Bopanna will team up with Arjun Kadhe (also wild card entrants), and Purav Raja and Ramkumar Ramanathan will form a second all-Indian team.

INDIANS' SINGLES DRAW: Prajnesh Gunneswaran vs Yannick Maden (Germany, rank 125); Sumit Nagal v qualifier; Ramkumar Ramanathan vs Salvatore Caruso (Italy, rank 95); Sasikumar Mukund vs Taro Daniel (Japan, rank 110); Arjun Kadhe vs Jiri Vesely (Czech Republic, rank 109).

Windfall for Khelo in budget

New Delhi: The government on Saturday allocated Rs 2,826.92 crore to the sports budget for the next financial year, which is an increase of a mere Rs 50 crore from the revised estimates of 2019-20. The government gave a substantial hike of Rs 312.42 crore to its Khelo India programme by allocating Rs 890.42 crore as compared to the 2019-20 revised amount of Rs 578 crore, which meant that most of the other heads got reduced allocation in an Olympic year.

The highest reduction was seen for National Sports Federations with Rs 245.00 crore being allocated in the union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Rs 55 crore less than the revised Rs 300.85 crore for 2019-20. As far as incentives for sportspersons are concerned, the budget has proposed to slash the amount from Rs 111 crore to Rs 70 crore. The budget for National Sports Development Fund also got reduced to Rs 50.00 crore from the earlier Rs 77.15 crore.

The government also brought down the allocation to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) from the revised Rs 615 crore to Rs 500 crore. The SAI is the nodal organisation to manage nationals camps, provide infrastructure, equipment and other logistics to the country's sportspersons.

In the budget for 2019-20, Rs 22,16.92 crore was allocated for sports but it was later revised to Rs 2776.92 crore. **PTI**

United strike a deal in China

Sign up striker Ighalo on loan from Shanghai Shenhua as Tottenham and Chelsea left frustrated

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LONDON, FEBRUARY 1

MANCHESTER UNITED'S late swoop for Nigerian international striker Odion Ighalo was the most striking move of a quiet transfer deadline day for Premier League clubs on Friday. United looked set to miss out on cover for the injured Marcus Rashford when interest in Josh King was rebuffed by Bournemouth, but Ighalo, 30, will join on loan for the rest of the season from Chinese side Shanghai Shenhua.

The Red Devils were also responsible for the biggest move of the window with the signing of Portuguese international midfielder Bruno Fernandes for an initial 55 million euros (£47 million, $61 million) that could rise to 80 million euros in add-ons.

However, deals were difficult to do for even some of the world's richest clubs as Chelsea and Tottenham were frustrated in their search for a striker. Total spending for the month by English clubs was marginally up from last season's £180 million ($234 million), but well short of the record £430-million outlay in 2018.

The mid-season window is increasingly seen as an undesirable time to do business for clubs wary of overpaying in a seller's market.

"We would need a striker to have a better squad to face the great challenges in front of us in three different competitions," said Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho, who must cope without England captain Harry Kane for most of the remainder of the season.

"But we want to do things not to resolve the problems of today or tomorrow but things that are also good for the future."

Spurs did make one significant signing in Dutch international winger Steven Bergwijn for £27 million from PSV Eindhoven as well as making Giovani Lo Celso's loan deal from Real Betis into a permanent move to replace Christian Eriksen, who finally departed for Inter Milan.

Lampard denied

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard cut the most frustrated figure as the Blues failed to add a single player despite seeing their transfer ban lifted. "It's clear we wanted to bring players in and I've made that pretty clear over the last weeks but it hasn't happened," said Lampard on Friday. Chelsea's stumbling form has left the door open for United, Tottenham and Wolves to pip them to fourth and a place in next season's Champions League.

Wolves pounced by adding to their Portuguese contingent with the signing of Daniel Podence from Olympiakos.

Liverpool had no such need to dive into the market as they sit serenely 19 points clear at the top of the table and on course for a first league title in 30 years. However, the Reds' leapt on a £7.25-million buyout clause in Japanese international Takumi Minamino's contract with Red Bull Salzburg. "The better the season is, the better the squad is, the less you have to do, the more you are happy with the players you have," said manager Jurgen Klopp.

Sheffield United armed their attempt to qualify for Europe for the first time with a club record £22-million signing of Norwegian midfielder Sander Berge from Genk. At the bottom of the table, Aston Villa and West Ham were the most active in trying to preserve their top-flight status. Villa brought in strikers Mbwana Samatta and Borja Baston and experienced goalkeeper Pepe Reina as cover for long-term injuries suffered by Tom Heaton and Wesley.

West Ham had a busy final few days as they secured the loan signing of Czech international Tomas Soucek and a £20-million move for Hull forward Jarrod Bowen.

Barcelona go for youth

Barcelona signed two young players to join the club after the season and Atlético Madrid announced the return of Yannick Carrasco on Friday, the final day of the transfer window in Spain. Barcelona said it completed deals to bring Portuguese forward Francisco Trincão and Brazilian midfielder Matheus Fernandes into its squad on July 1.

Barcelona said it agreed to pay Portuguese club Braga 31 million euros ($34 million) to acquire the 20-year-old Trincão after the season ends for five years. Since debuting with Braga in December 2018, Trincão has scored three goals in 29 matches. He has played for Portugal's youth teams and helped it win the Under-19 European Championship in 2018 as its top scorer with five. Barcelona described him as a "talented and quick player with a good left leg" who can play as a winger on either side of the attack. Barcelona said it paid Brazilian club Palmeiras 7 million euros for Matheus, who will play the remainder of this season on loan at Valladolid. He will then sign five seasons for Barcelona. Atlético will hope to boost its goal production immediately with the return of Carrasco, a Belgium forward who played for the Spanish club from 2015-18 before leaving for China. He returns on a loan deal until the end of the season from Chinese club Dalian Professional.

Carrasco scored 23 goals, including one in the 2016 Champions League final that Atlético lost to Real Madrid. He made 124 appearances in his first stint with Atlético. Villarreal presented striker Paco Alcácer on Friday, a day after securing his move from Borussia Dortmund. Sevilla also presented midfielder Jesús "Suso" Saénz two days after he joined the club on loan from AC Milan for this season and the next.

Ighalo was the top scorer in the African Cup of Nations last year with five goals in Nigeria's run to third place. *Reuters*

BIG MONEY TRANSFERS

BRUNO FERNANDES	£68 million	Sporting Lisbon → Man United
GIOVANI LO CELSO	£30 million	Real Betis → Tottenham
DEJAN KULUSEVSKI	£30 million	Parma → Juventus
REINIER	£25.6 million	Flamengo → Real Madrid
STEVEN BERGWIJN	£25 million	PSV Eindhoven → Tottenham
SANDER BERGE	£22 million	Genk → Sheffield United
PACO ALCACER	£19.4 million	Dortmund → Villarreal
ERLING HAALAND	£19.2 million	Salzburg → Dortmund

Liverpool show Saints no mercy, extend lead to 22 pts

REUTERS
LIVERPOOL, FEBRUARY 1

PREMIER LEAGUE leaders Liverpool opened up a 22-point gap at the top of the table with second-half goals from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Jordan Henderson and a Mohamed Salah brace giving them a 4-0 home win over Southampton on Saturday.

It was Liverpool's 20th successive home win dating back to last season, matching Manchester City's record set between March 2011 and March 2012. It left them miles clear of second-placed champions City, who visit Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Missing the injured Sadio Mane, Liverpool looked disjointed in the first half with goalkeeper Allisson Becker twice denying Danny Ings after Southampton's Alex McCarthy made an excellent double save at the other end.

Oxlade-Chamberlain, who also came close in the first half with a deflected shot, fired the home side ahead in the 47th minute when he cut inside and left McCarthy wrong-footed with a fine low drive from 18 metres.

Henderson doubled the lead on the hour when he drove the ball into the roof of the net from 10 metres out thanks to some good work by Roberto Firmino, who broke down the left flank and squared the ball back to his skipper.

Salah put the icing on the cake with two late goals - a dinked 72nd-minute finish as Henderson turned provider, followed by a scrambled stoppage time effort after he was released by Firmino.

Rudiger rescues Chelsea

A rare double from defender Antonio Rudiger earned Chelsea a point in an entertaining 2-2 draw with third-placed Leicester City at the King Power Stadium in the Premier League on Saturday.

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard sprung a major surprise ahead of kick off by leaving out first choice goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga after some recent poor showings, handing a start to 38-year-old Willy Caballero.

The veteran was called into action to make a smart save to deny Jamie Vardy in a first half otherwise largely dominated by Chelsea, who again struggled to make their chances count in front of goal.

However, it did not take the visitors long after the break to take the lead, as Rudiger headed home his first league goal since October 2018 just over a minute into the second half.

The lead did not last long though, as Harvey Barnes found the net eight minutes later via a huge deflection, before the turnaround was complete in the 64th minute as Ben Chilwell slotted home to give Leicester the lead.

Rudiger had the final say, however, looping a header over Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel in the 71st minute to snatch a draw that means Leicester remain eight points clear of Lampard's side in fourth, who have won just four of their last 13 league games.

"Not many people gave us the top four slot and I understand why, and it's probably the same now," Lampard said. "We've come to Leicester, who everyone's raving about, quite rightly, and we've got a point. We move on."

Chelsea almost struck first with just five minutes on the clock, with Callum Hudson-Odoi missing his kick from a good goalscoring position.

Further opportunities came and went for Chelsea before Harvey Barnes blazed Leicester's best chance over later in the half.

With fans still taking their seats after the interval Chelsea found the net through Rudiger, who climbed highest at the back post. But the Blues were immediately pegged back by Barnes, who scored for the third league game in a row.

Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah scored a brace in their 4-0 win against Southampton. *Reuters*

The King's Speech: LeBron honours his 'brother' Kobe

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES, FEBRUARY 1

LOS ANGELES Lakers forward LeBron James delivered an emotional speech honoring his "brother" Kobe Bryant prior to the first Lakers game since the NBA great, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others died in a helicopter crash on Sunday.

James began by reading the names of all nine victims of the tragedy and then throwing a piece of paper containing his prepared remarks on the court.

"Laker nation, man, I would be selling you all short if I read off this shit so I'm going to go straight from the heart," James said to a raucous applause from the sold-out crowd at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles.

"I know that at some point we will have a memorial for Kobe, but I look at this as a celebration tonight.

"This is a celebration of the 20 years of the blood, the sweat, the tears, the broken down body, the getting back up -- the determination to be as great as he could be," he said of Bryant, who played 20 seasons with the Lakers, 18 as an all-star, and won five NBA championships.

"Tonight we celebrate the kid who came here at 18 years of age, retired at 38 and became probably the best dad we've seen over the last three years," he said of Bryant, a husband and father to four daughters.

"Kobe is a brother to me ... and throughout my career, the one thing we shared was that determination to win and be great.

"Along with my teammates I want to continue his legacy not only for this year but as long as we can play the game of basketball that we love because that's what Kobe Bryant would want.

"So in the words of Kobe Bryant, Mamba out," he said, referring to Bryant's famous sign off after his final game as a Laker in April 2016. "But in the words of us, not forgotten," he said. "Live on brother."

Players, coaches and fans could be seen wiping tears from their eyes after James' remarks. The Lakers ran out the 24 second shot clock on their first possession of the game and the visiting Portland Trail Blazers did then same when they first got the ball, as teams around the NBA have done since Bryant's passing. At halftime the Lakers led 62-60.

'We miss you, brother'

Shaquille O'Neal paid tribute to his friend and former teammate, Kobe Bryant, with one of their shared favourite hobbies: music.

O'Neal, who moonlights as DJ Diesel, brought his carnival-themed event "Shaq's Fun House" to Miami on Friday night ahead of the Super Bowl, telling the audience: "Put your cellphone lights on. We gone light this (expletive) up one last time for Kobe Bryant."

Standing from behind a soundboard, O'Neal then played Kanye West's "All of the Lights." A large purple-and-yellow banner featuring Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers numbers — 8 and 24 — hung from the ceiling as O'Neal dedicated several moments of his set to the basketball legend, who also recorded music. "We miss you Kobe Bryant," he said, holding his hands up and looking to the ceiling.

I know that at some point we will have a memorial for Kobe, but I look at this as a celebration tonight. This is a celebration of the 20 years of the blood, the sweat, the tears, the broken down body, the getting back up — the determination to be as great as he could be,

LEBRON JAMES
LOS ANGELES LAKERS STAR

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (right) reacts after a pre-game tribute to Kobe Bryant, who died in a helicopter crash. *USA TODAY Sports*

Women bosses breach glass ceiling at Super Bowl

REUTERS
MIAMI, FEBRUARY 1

WHEN THE Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers take the field on Sunday, new ground will be broken with this year's Super Bowl being the first to feature two teams with women owners.

With Denise York helping lead the Niners as co-owner and co-chair and Norma Hunt the matriarch of the Chiefs, Super Bowl LIV will represent a small crack in the glass ceiling of the overwhelmingly male-dominated world of pro football.

"We say football is about family, and we have two of the best in sports in this Super Bowl," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell told reporters on Wednesday. "They happen to be led by women - the first match-up of its kind." Chiefs' co-owner Hunt, the so-called 'First Lady of Football', is the only woman to have attended every one of the 53 Super Bowls and hopes to see her team lift the Lombardi Trophy for the first time in half a century.

The widow of the late Lamar Hunt, the man who founded the team and coined the term "Super Bowl," Norma told the Kansas City Star in a rare interview that the long wait since the Chiefs' Super Bowl IV triumph in 1970 was testament to the league's competitiveness.

"It just shows how hard it is to get there (to the Super Bowl) and how important it is to take advantage of the opportunities when they come along," said Hunt, whose son Clark co-owns the team and acts as its CEO.

York, a billionaire businesswoman who oversees the Niners alongside husband John and son Jed, had previously served as the president of the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins.

Another female trailblazer in Sunday's match is San Francisco's offensive assistant Katie Sowers, who will be the first woman to coach in a Super Bowl.

Sarah Axelson, who heads up advocacy at the Women's Sports Foundation, said that the teams' female ownership was a meaningful development on top of the impact that Sowers had made on the coaching side.

"They might, to some, feel like incremental steps but to make progress there need to be steps along the way," said Axelson.

"We're excited to see increased representation of women in football both on the coaching front and on the ownership front."

Kansas City Chiefs' co-owner Norma Hunt, the so-called 'First Lady of Football', is the only woman to have attended every one of the 53 Super Bowls.

The Indian EXPRESS FILM CLUB

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Confirmation SMS will be your ticket. Limited seats available on first-come-first-served basis.

Here are some comments shared by our readers about the unique format of The Indian Express Club.

"The post screening discussion gives a beautiful opportunity for exchanging insights and view points, compelling us to stop and dig deeper into ourselves and engaging into reflective thinking".

Yashna Dewani
Student of Indian Classical Music

"The post screening discussions are quite interesting as people coming from different backgrounds add value and flavour to the film interpretation".

Amit Gupta
Government Official

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