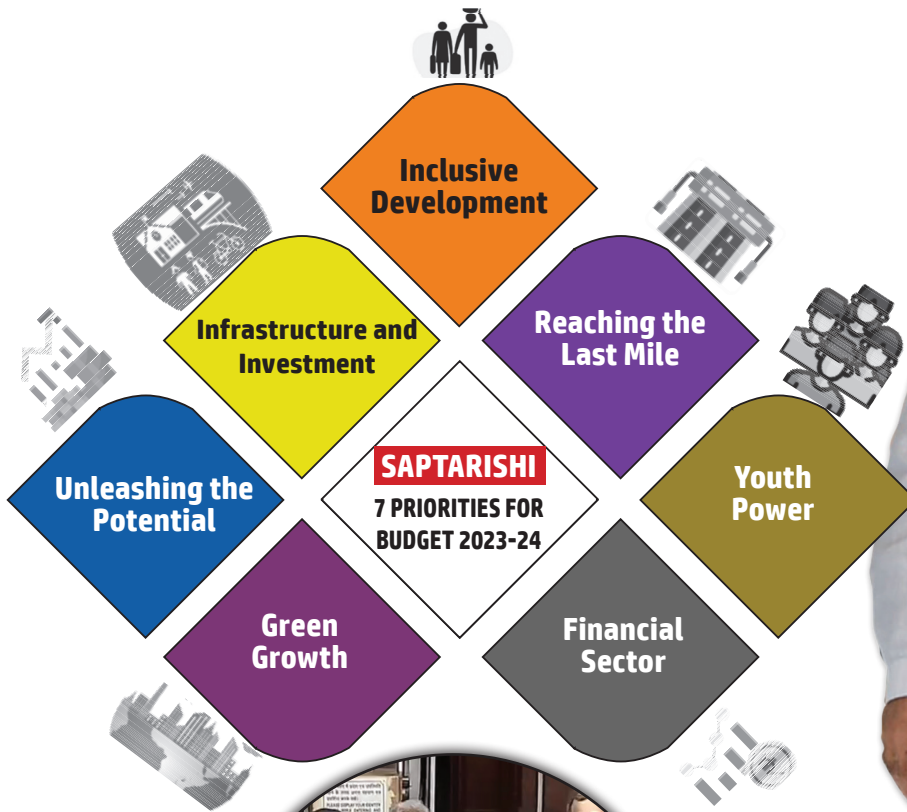


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₹20



BUDGET 2023-24



'BUDGET LAYS A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR ASPIRATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF A DEVELOPED INDIA'



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing a massive "Vijay Sankalp Rally" at Kumarghat, Tripura on 03 February, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and other senior leaders at the CEC Meeting in New Delhi on 27 January, 2023



A five-member delegation of ruling party of Tanzania, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) met BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda at BJP HQ under "Know BJP" initiative on 30 January, 2023



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing a huge "Vijay Sankalp Maharally" at Jasidih, Deoghar, Jharkhand on 04 February, 2023



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah receiving the greetings at a public rally in Belagavi, Karnataka on 28 January, 2023



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressing a huge "Vijay Sankalp Maharally" at Barjala, Tripura on 07 February, 2023

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@narendramodi

With the energy sector assuming great importance in this century, India is taking numerous initiatives with a focus on reforms, grassroots empowerment and boosting investment.

(6 February, 2023)



@JPNadda

Best wishes to the Indian Coast Guard personnel & their families on their Raising Day. Our Coast Guard and their dedication to the nation is an inspiration to us all. They secure our coasts and also are at the forefront of humanitarian efforts.

(1 February, 2023)



@AmitShah

The Congress and communists have done a great injustice to the tribal society during decades of their rule. PM Modi led BJP govt has provided them with toilets, gas, and pure drinking water and also gave the tribes their rights.

(6 February, 2023)



@rajnathsingh

The Union Budget 2023-24 has also announced that the revamped Credit Guarantee scheme for MSMEs which will take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs. 9,000 Crore in the corpus.

(1 February, 2023)



@Dr. K Laxman

Indian Navy created history, successful landing of Light Combat Aircraft on #INSVikrant. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the country is rapidly becoming #AtmaNirbhar by creating new records in the defence sector.

(8 February, 2023)



@B L Santhosh

All cities and towns to move towards 100% mechanical de-sludging of septic tanks & sewers. Big transition from manhole to machine hole mode. Incredible social reform . Thank You @nsitharaman @narendramodi

(1 February, 2023)



UNION BUDGET 2023-24
#AmritKaalBudget

FINANCIAL REFORMS FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY



- Central Data Processing Centre**
To expedite administrative work under the Companies Act
- Credit Guarantee scheme for MSMEs**
Expanded corpus for guaranteed credit of Rs 2 Lakh crore for MSMEs
- Savings Scheme Mahila Samman Bachat Patra**
To enable a small savings deposit of Rs 2 Lakh for 2 year period
- Maximum deposit limit enhanced from **Rs 15 to Rs 30 Lakh** under Senior citizen's saving scheme

National Financial Information Registry
To Enable efficient lending, Improve financial inclusion Enhance financial stability



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
MAHASHIVRATRI (18 FEBRUARY)
to all of its readers



A BUDGET FOR TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN, KNOWLEDGE-BASED 'AATMNI RBHAR ECONOMY'

The first budget of the 'Amrit Kaal' has reiterated the resolve of the nation to fulfil its aspirations for a developed and prosperous India in the next 25 years. As Budget 2023-24 lays the foundation for a glorious future, its inclusive approach to empowering and strengthening the poor, the deprived, farmers, laborers, the middle class, SC, ST, OBC, women, and youth has been widely appreciated and acknowledged. The Budget envisions a one-of-a-kind vision in which seven priorities are identified as "Saptarishi," with the goal of powering every sector of society and bringing the fruits of development to one and all. In prioritising inclusive development with the aim of reaching the last mile, boosting infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, and focusing on green growth, youth power, and the financial sector, the budget is set to facilitate ample opportunities for its citizens. The strong impetus on growth and job creation to fulfil the aspirations of the youth on the basis of strengthening macro-economic stability may lead to the desired growth in the economy. The budget aims to build an 'Aatmni rbhar economy' which is technology driven, knowledge-based, backed by strong public finances, and futuristic in its vision.

As Budget 2023-24 lays the foundation for a glorious future, its inclusive approach to empowering and strengthening the poor, the deprived, farmers, laborers, the middle class, SC, ST, OBC, women, and youth has been widely appreciated and acknowledged

Under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Indian economy has seen a turnaround, creating innumerable records on various fronts. The economy, which was suffering from double digit inflation, policy paralysis, and a receding rate of growth under the Congress led UPA regime, has now become a bright spot in the world. While the world today presents a gloomy picture as an aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India has not only recovered quickly but also registered the highest rate of economic growth among the major economies of the world. As the per capita income has doubled in the last nine years, India has also become the fifth largest economy in the world, up from the 10th position it held during the Congress led UPA regime. Not only this, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict, India has been able to reduce extreme poverty below 1% and lift more than 41.5 crore people out of poverty in the last one and a half decades, as per a UNDP report.

The expenditure in the social sector has more than doubled to Rs. 21.3 lakh crore, and the DBT has ensured that more than Rs. 27 lakh crore reach beneficiaries directly, eliminating the middlemen in the process. As the Indian economy underwent many structural and governance related reforms, its impact can be felt in various sectors, which are performing miraculously and enhancing the overall efficiency of the economy.

While the fundamentals of the economy are strong, the provisions of Budget 2023-24 promise to elevate the economic condition of the people further through various initiatives. As the middle class gets huge relief in income tax, the 33% hike in CAPEX is set to take the economy to a new level. The establishment of 157 new nursing colleges, an increase in the outlay of PM Awas Yojana by 66% to over Rs. 79,000 crore; 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under the Gobardhan scheme; facilitating one crore farmers to adopt natural farming in the next three years; establishing 30 Skill India International Centres; the highest ever capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore for railways; setting up the Agriculture Accelerator Fund; and enabling all cities and towns to undertake 100% mechanical de-sludging of septic tanks and sewers, a revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs, a target of producing 5 MMT of Green Hydrogen annually by 2030, and fifty year interest free loans to states are some of the provisions that take the economy forward with a futuristic vision. As India marches ahead under the strong and charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, should be congratulated for presenting such an all-inclusive, futuristic, and development oriented budget. ■



'BUDGET EN

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament on 01 February, 2023. While presenting the first Budget of the Amrit Kaal Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said in the 75th year of India's Independence, the World has recognized the Indian Economy as a 'bright star' as the Economic Growth is estimated at 7 per cent, which is the highest among all major economies, in spite of the massive global slowdown caused by COVID-19 and Russia-Ukraine War. She emphasized that Indian economy is on the right track, and despite a time of challenges, heading towards a bright future.

THE ECONOMIC AGENDA WOULD FOCUS ON THREE PRIORITIES:

1. Facilitating ample opportunities for citizens, especially the youth, to fulfil their aspirations;
2. Providing strong impetus to growth and job creation; and
3. Strengthening macro-economic stability

'SAPTARISHI'

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman listed seven priorities of the Union Budget and said that they complement each other and act as the 'Saptarishi' guiding us through the Amrit Kaal. They are as follows:

1. Inclusive Development
2. Reaching the Last Mile
3. Infrastructure and Investment
4. Unleashing the Potential
5. Green Growth
6. Youth Power
7. Financial Sector



VISAGES THE VISION OF AMRIT KAAL'

Huge relief for middle-class, no income tax upto Rs. 7 lakh

VISION FOR AMRIT KAAL – AN EMPOWERED AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

The Union Finance Minister highlighted that “Our vision for the ‘Amrit Kaal’ includes technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances and a robust financial sector”. To achieve this, ‘Jan Bhagidari’ through ‘Sabka Saath

Sabka Prayas’ is essential, she added.

Smt. Sitharaman further said this Budget hopes to build on the foundation laid in the previous Budget, and the blueprint drawn for India@100, which envisions a prosperous and inclusive India, where the fruits of development reach all regions and citizens, especially our youth, women,

farmers, OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

She said that India’s rising global profile is due to several accomplishments like unique World Class Digital Public Infrastructure namely, Aadhaar, Co-Win and UPI; COVID-19 vaccination drive in unparalleled scale and speed; proactive role in frontier areas such as achieving the climate related goals, mission LiFE, and National Hydrogen Mission.

She said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, Government ensured that no one goes to bed hungry, with a scheme to supply free food grains to over 80 Crore persons for 28 months. The Minister added that continuing with Centre’s commitment to ensure food and nutritional security, Government is implementing, from 1st January 2023, a scheme to supply free food grain to all Antyodaya and priority households for the next one year, under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The entire expenditure of about Rs 2 lakh crore will be borne by the Central Government.





'Budget strives to fulfill the dreams of aspirational society, poor, villages and middle class'

Following the presentation of Budget Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the Finance Minister and her team for a historic Budget and remarked that the first budget in the Amrit Kaal of India has established a strong base to fulfill the aspirations and resolutions of a developed India. He said that this budget gives priority to the deprived and strives to fulfill the dreams of the aspirational society, the poor, villages and the middle class.

Welfare of women

From women living in the cities to villages, employed to homemakers, the Prime Minister informed that the government has taken significant steps such as Jal Jeevan Mission, Ujjwala Yojna and PM Awas Yojana etc. that will further empower the welfare of women. He emphasized that miracles can be performed if Women Self Help Groups, which is a sector with extreme potential, is further strengthened. Underlining that a new dimension has been added to Women Self Help Groups in the new budget with the introduction of a new special savings scheme

for women, the Prime Minister said that it will strengthen women especially the homemaker from common families.

Development of rural economy

This Budget, Shri Modi said, will make cooperatives a fulcrum of the development of the rural economy. The government has made the world's largest food storage scheme in the co-operative sector. An ambitious scheme to form new primary co-operatives has also been announced in the budget. This will expand the area of milk and fish production along with farming, farmers, animal husbandry and fishermen will get better prices for their produce.

Emphasizing the need to replicate the success of digital payments in the agriculture sector, the Prime Minister said that this budget comes with a big plan for digital agriculture infrastructure.

Year of Millets

He informed that the world is celebrating the International Year of Millets and noted that there are many types of millets in India with multiple names. The Prime Minister said that special recognition of millets is necessary when it is reaching households all over the world.

Green growth

Shri Modi continued, this

budget will give an unprecedented expansion to Green Growth, Green Economy, Green Infrastructure, and Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future. "In the budget, we have laid a lot of emphasis on technology and the new economy. Aspirational India of today wants modern infrastructure in every field like road, rail, metro, port, and waterways. Compared to 2014, investment in infrastructure has increased by more than 400 percent", the Prime Minister said. He informed that these investments will create new employment opportunities for the youth, thereby providing new income opportunities to a large population.

"An additional loan guarantee of Rs 2 lakh crore has been arranged for MSMEs", the Prime Minister informed.

Empower the middle class

The Prime Minister underlined the potential of the middle class in realizing the dreams of 2047. The Prime Minister informed that in order to empower the middle class, the government has taken many significant decisions in the past years that have ensured Ease of Living. He highlighted the reduction in tax rates as well as the simplification, transparency and speeding up of the processes. "Our government that always stood with the middle class has given huge tax relief to them", Shri Modi said. ■

Indian economy is on right track and moving towards a bright future: JP Nadda



The BJP National President, Shri JP Nadda hailed the Union Budget 2023-24 calling it the first general budget of Amrit Kaal which will provide a strong impetus to growth and job creation. Speaking after the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget in Parliament on 01 February, 2023 Shri Nadda said that this is a budget to empower and enable the villages, poor, farmers, tribals, Dalits, backwards, economically backward and middle-class people.

Social Justice, Equality and Equal Opportunities

Shri Nadda said that this budget will provide social justice, equality, respect and equal opportunities to the citizens of the country.

Shri Nadda said it is going to emphasize the education of children, earnings of the middle class and the welfare of the elderly.

The BJP President said, the agenda of the General Budget will also provide a strong impetus to growth and job creation, and strengthen macroeconomic stability.

Shri Nadda said, "I also thank the Narendra Modi Government for its deep focus towards development and growth of dairy, animal husbandry and

fisheries sectors for which the target of providing loans has been increased to Rs 20 lakh crores. In the next three years over 1 crore farmers will be helped in natural farming. For this 10,000 bio input resource centres will be set up. All these are major initiatives that will spur growth and development of our agriculture sector".

National Hydrogen Mission

One of the major focuses of the General Budget 2023-24 is

Budget envisages India's growth and development of 100 years post-Independence. It outlines the roadmap for growth, development and progress of all sections of our country particularly farmers, women, middle class and businesses

'Green Growth'. The Narendra Modi Government has allocated Rs 19,700 crore for the National Hydrogen Mission. The Bharatiya Janata Party government has kept the target of producing 50 lakh tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030. Similarly Rs 35000 crores fund has been given for energy transition. All these steps are in the right direction towards achieving our goal of "Green Environment".

PM Awas Yojana

In the General Budget the corpus for the PM Awas Yojana has also been increased to Rs 69,000 crores. This shows the sensitivity of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards the poor and needy people.

He said despite the Corona pandemic and the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, India's budget size has risen to Rs 45 lakh crores which clearly reflects the fast growing economy of our country.

The BJP National President, Shri JP Nadda said this General Budget envisages India's growth and development of 100 years post-Independence. It outlines the roadmap for growth, development and progress of all sections of our country particularly farmers, women, middle class and businesses. The Indian economy is on the right track and is moving towards a bright future.

"I once again thank and congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for this public and social welfare -oriented Budget". ■



Budget focuses on growth and welfare: Rajnath Singh

The Union Budget for 2023-24 is focused on growth and welfare with a priority to provide support to farmers, women, marginalised sections and the middle class, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said on 01 February, 2023. Shri Singh said the Budget proposals will lead the country towards achieving its goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy and top three economies globally within a few years.

The Defence Minister said the Budget demonstrated the government's commitment towards supporting growth

and welfare oriented policies that will benefit all sections of society including small businesses owners, farmers, and professionals alike.

"The Union Budget for 2023-24 presented by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman under the guidance of PM Shri Narendra Modi is focused on growth and welfare, with a priority to provide support to farmers, women, marginalised sections and the middle class," he tweeted.

"By creating jobs through investments in infrastructure projects paired with increased spending on agriculture, housing, healthcare and manufacturing sectors will help create more opportunities for everyone and help in driving economic growth

further ahead!," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh said the Budget proposals will drive economic growth further. "The increase in Income Tax exemption limit to Rs. 7 lakhs and several other tax related reforms will provide a huge relief to the middle class including salaried individuals and retired people. I congratulate the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for taking this people's friendly decision.

"The Union Budget 2023-24 is expected to bring about positive changes in the country that will lead us towards achieving our goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy and 'Top Three' economies within a few years," he said in another tweet. ■

Smt. Sitharaman pointed out that the efficient implementation of many schemes, with universalisation of targeted benefits, has resulted in inclusive development and listed some of the schemes such as 11.7 crore household toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission, 9.6 crore LPG connections under Ujjwala, 220 crore Covid vaccinations of 102 crore persons, 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan Bank Accounts, Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, and Cash transfer of Rs 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.

The HIGHLIGHTS of the Budget are as follows:

PART-A

- Per capita income has more than doubled to Rs. 1.97 lakh in around nine years.
- Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world in the past nine years.

- EPFO membership has more than doubled to 27 crore.
- 7,400 crore digital payments of Rs.126 lakh crore has taken place through UPI in 2022.
- 11.7 crore household toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 9.6 crore LPG connections provided under Ujjwala.
- 220 crore Covid vaccination of 102 crore persons.
- 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts.
- Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana.
- Cash transfer of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program with an outlay of Rs. 2200 crore to be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.

EDUCATION AND SKILLING

- 157 new nursing colleges to be established in co-

Budget will give impetus to Modi govt's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision: Amit Shah



Describing the Budget- 2023-24 as all-inclusive and far-sighted, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

In a series of tweets, Shri Amit Shah said that the Budget-2023 brought by the Government will lay a strong foundation for Amrit Kaal. I am confident that, taking every section along, this all-inclusive and visionary budget will give further impetus to the resolve of the Government to make a Aatmanirbhar Bharat. I Congratulate the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman for this.

The Union Home Minister said that the target of increasing the capital expenditure by 33% to Rs 10 lakh crore and keeping the fiscal deficit at 5.9% is laudable. This reflects the foresight of the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to build a New

India with strong infrastructure and a strong economy.

Shri Amit Shah also thanked the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for giving huge tax relief to the middle and salaried class. "The increase in tax rebate from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh and the unprecedented change in tax slabs will provide a lot of relief to the middle class. Along with this, I also welcome the relief given to the Government employees", he said.

The Union Home Minister said that the foundation of the bright future of any country is its educated and skilled young generation. I heartily welcome the decision to set up a National Digital Library to provide quality books to the youth. This scheme will solve children's problems which they faced during the Corona period.

Shri Amit Shah said that agriculture credit has been increased to Rs 20 lakh crore in this Budget. Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be created to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs. Along with this, for

the next 3 years one crore farmers will be helped to do natural farming and 10,000 Bio Input resource centers will be set up.

Shri Shah also said that a Budget provision of Rs 2.4 lakh crore has been made for the Railways, which will help in connecting remote areas. Along with this, the decision to revive 50 airports, heliports, advanced landing grounds in the country will increase regional air connectivity, which will give a boost to tourism.

Shri Shah said that in this budget, it has been decided to start the PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana to make the country's traditional artisans and craftsmen self-reliant. This decision will make a big difference in the lives of Vishwakarma community by enabling them to enhance the quality and market reach of their products. ■

location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.

- Centre to recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklaya Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students over the next three years.
- District Institutes of Education and Training to be developed as vibrant institutes of excellence for Teachers' Training.
- A National Digital Library for Children and Adolescents to be set-up for facilitating availability of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels, and device

agnostic accessibility.

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0, to be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years covering new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.
- 30 Skill India International Centres to be set up across different States to skill youth for international opportunities.

RAILWAYS & URBAN INFRA

- Capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways, which is the highest



ever outlay and about nine times the outlay made in 2013-14.

- Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) will be established through use of priority Sector Lending shortfall, which will be managed by the national Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

AGRICULTURE

- Agriculture Accelerator Fund to be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.
- Rs. 20 lakh crore agricultural credit targeted at animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries
- A new sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana with targeted investment of Rs. 6,000 crore to be launched to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro & small enterprises, improve value chain efficiencies, and expand the market.
- Digital public infrastructure for agriculture to be built as an open source, open standard and inter

operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups.

- Computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with an investment of Rs. 2,516 crore initiated.
- Massive decentralised storage capacity to be set up to help farmers store their produce and realize remunerative prices through sale at appropriate times.
- Outlay for PM Awas Yojana is being enhanced by 66% to over Rs. 79,000 crore.
- 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme to be established for promoting circular economy at total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. 5 per cent compressed biogas mandate to be introduced for all organizations marketing natural and bio gas.
- Centre to facilitate one crore farmers to adopt natural farming over the next three years. For this, 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres to be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.

HEALTH

- Sickle Cell Anaemia elimination mission to be launched.
- Joint public and Private Medical research to be encouraged via select ICMR labs for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.
- New Programme to promote research in Pharmaceuticals to be launched.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Rs. 10 lakh crore capital investments, a steep increase of 33% for third year in a row, to enhance growth potential and job creation, crowd-in private investments, and provide a cushion against global headwinds.
- Aspirational Blocks Programme covering 500 blocks launched for saturation of essential government services across multiple domains such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- Rs. 15,000 crore for implementation of Pradhan

Mantri PVTG Development Mission over the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.

- Investment of Rs. 75,000 crore, including Rs. 15,000 crore from private sources, for one hundred critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors.
- New Infrastructure Finance Secretariat established to enhance opportunities for private investment in infrastructure.
- Rs. 5,300 crore to be given as central assistance to Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable

micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.

- 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of Centre to be Rs. 13.7 lakh crore.
- Continuation of 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize them for complementary policy actions.
- Encouragement to states and cities to undertake urban planning reforms and actions to transform our cities into 'sustainable cities of tomorrow'.
- 'Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions' to be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with

Here's how Indian Industrial leaders rated the Budget

SUBHRAKANT PANDA

(President, FICCI)

"FICCI congratulates the Hon'ble Finance Minister for delivering a balanced and progressive Union Budget which gives primacy to inclusive growth. The announcements made today capture the pulse of the economy while retaining credibility both in terms of projections as well as committing to the fiscal consolidation glide path..."

SANJIV BAJAJ

(President, CII)

"CII welcomes the budget for new India which addresses the growth imperatives without compromising on the fiscal prudence path. Through a slew of measures in forward-looking areas encompassing green growth, digital infra, urban rejuvenation among others, we are happy to note that the budget lays the roadmap for preparing India for the Amrit Kaal..."

SUMANT SINHA

(President, ASSOCHAM)

"The Union Budget for 2023-24 presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament is a roadmap of nation-building with a continued focus on massive public expenditure on infrastructure, sustainable economic growth, encouraging consumption demand while staying

on course of strict fiscal prudence..."

ANAND MAHINDRA

(Chairman, Mahindra Group)

"...I was gratified to see the higher capex. That's all about investing for higher growth. This budget has lived up to India's conservative tradition of financial discipline. In line with our conservatism, it was good to see us back on a trajectory towards a lower fiscal deficit."

DILIP OOMMEN

(President of Indian Steel Association)

A progressive 'Saptarshi' Budget – the first in Amrit Kaal – has hit the right notes to fuel growth across industries and propel India to become a global manufacturing hub. A significant 33% increase in capital expenditure will translate into robust domestic steel demand, thus spurring private investments and job creations.

RAJESH GOPINATHAN

(MD & CEO, Tata Consultancy Services)

The Union Budget 2023 by the Hon'ble Finance Minister further builds on the government's focus on enhancing India's digital infrastructure and enabling growth pathways for the Indian economy. Overall, it's a forward-looking budget that will fortify the digital spine of the country.



digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.

- iGOT Karmayogi, an integrated online training platform, launched to provide continuous learning opportunities for lakhs of government employees to upgrade their skills and facilitate people-centric approach.
- Three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence to be set-up in top educational institutions to realise the vision of "Make AI in India and Make AI work for India".
- National Data Governance Policy to be brought out to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- Transition from manhole to machine-hole mode by enabling all cities and towns to undertake 100 percent mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers.
- More than 39,000 compliances reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions decriminalized to enhance Ease of Doing Business.
- Jan Vishwas Bill to amend 42 Central Acts have been introduced to further trust-based governance.
- One stop solution for reconciliation and updation of identity and address of individuals

to be established using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.

- PAN will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies to bring in Ease of Doing Business.

MSME

- 95 per cent of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to MSME's by government and government undertakings in cases the MSME's failed to execute contracts during Covid period.
- Result Based Financing to better allocate scarce resources for competing development needs.
- R & D grant for Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) sector to encourage indigenous production of LGD seeds and machines and to reduce import dependency.
- Revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs to take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs 9,000 crore in the corpus. This scheme would enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs 2 lakh crore and also reduce the cost of the credit by about 1 per cent.
- Central Processing Centre to be setup for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.
- Entity DigiLocker to be setup for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts to store and share documents online securely.
- 100 labs to be setup for 5G services based application development to realize a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.

E-COURTS PROJECT

- Phase-3 of the E-Courts project to be launched with an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crore for efficient administration of justice.

GREEN GROWTH

- Annual production of 5 MMT under Green Hydrogen Mission to be targeted by 2030 to facilitate transition of the economy to low carbon intensity and to reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports.

- Rs. 35000 crore outlay for energy security, energy transition and net zero objectives.
- Battery energy storage systems to be promoted to steer the economy on the sustainable development path.
- 20,700 crore outlay provided for renewable energy grid integration and evacuation from Ladakh.
- “PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth” (PM-PRANAM) to be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- ‘Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes’, MISHTI, to be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.
- Green Credit Programme to be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act to incentivize and mobilize additional resources for environmentally sustainable and responsive actions.
- Amrit Dharohar scheme to be implemented over the next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.

DIGITAL PLATFORM

- A unified Skill India Digital platform to be launched for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
- Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme to be rolled out to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years.
- At least 50 tourist destinations to be selected through challenge mode; to be developed as a complete package for domestic and foreign tourists.
- Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development to be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ initiative.

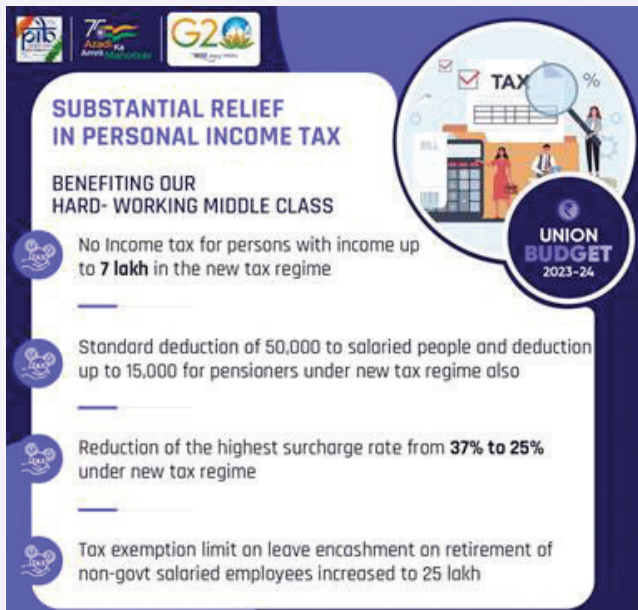
TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

- Tourism infrastructure and amenities to be facilitated in border villages through the Vibrant Villages Programme.
- States to be encouraged to set up a Unity Mall for promotion and sale of their own and also all others states’ ODOPs (One District, One Product), GI products and handicrafts.

BANKING & FINANCE

- National Financial Information Registry to be set





up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information for facilitating efficient flow of credit, promoting financial inclusion, and fostering financial stability. A new legislative framework to be designed in consultation with RBI to govern this credit public infrastructure.

- Financial sector regulators to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations in consultation with public and regulated entities. Time limits to decide the applications under various regulations would also be laid down.
- To enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, the following measures to be taken.
- Delegating powers under the SEZ Act to IFSCA to avoid dual regulation.
- Setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, RBI, SEBI and IRDAI.
- Permitting acquisition financing by IFSC Banking Units of foreign bank.
- Establishing a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade re-financing.
- Amending IFSCA Act for statutory provisions for arbitration, ancillary services, and avoiding dual regulation under SEZ Act

MAHILA SAMMAN SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

- Integrated IT portal to be established to enable investors to easily reclaim the unclaimed

shares and unpaid dividends from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority.

- To commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a one-time new small savings scheme, Mahila Samman Savings Certificate to be launched. It will offer deposit facility upto Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for tenure of 2 years (up to March 2025) at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.
- The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh for single account and from Rs 9 lakh to Rs 15 lakh for joint account.

SENIOR CITIZEN SAVINGS & PENSIONS

- The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.
- The expenditure to witness rise to about Rs.2.45 lakh crore in RE 2022-23 from Rs 2.07 lakh crore in BE 2022-23. The main reason behind this increase in RE 2022-23 is clearing the dues of OROP with respect to Defence Personnel.
- Pension payments are expected to be at Rs.2.34 lakh crore in BE 2023-24, representing 0.8 per cent of the estimated GDP.
- This includes a provision of about Rs.1.38 lakh crore for defence pensions.

FIFTY-YEAR INTEREST FREE LOAN TO STATES

- The entire fifty-year interest free loan to states to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24. Part of the loan is conditional on States increasing actual Capital expenditure and parts of outlay will be linked to States undertaking specific loans.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX

There are five major announcements relating to the personal income tax. The rebate limit in the new tax regime has been increased to Rs. 7 lakh, meaning that persons in the new tax regime with income upto Rs. 7 lakh will not have to pay any tax. The tax structure in the new personal tax regime has been changed by reducing number of slabs to five and increasing the tax exemption limit to Rs. 3 lakh. This will provide major relief to all tax payers in the new regime. ■

BJP GOVERNMENT FULLY COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A "UNNAT TRIPURA - SHRESTHA TRIPURA"

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda released the BJP "Sankalp Patra" for the upcoming Tripura Assembly Elections in Agartala on 09 February 2023.

Addressing on the occasion Shri Nadda said under the visionary leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the Bharatiya Janata Party and its Government is fully committed to the development of "Unnat Tripura - Shrestha Tripura".

He said the Communist and the Congress party governments in Tripura were infamous for bandhas, blockade and emergency. But today, under the Bharatiya Janata Party government the state is known for peace, prosperity and harmony.

Whatever we have promised, we have always delivered. Whatever we say and promise, we deliver. We do whatever is necessary for the overall welfare and well-being of the people of our country and our states Shri Nadda said.

Highlights of the "Sankalp Patra"

- ❖ Our government will give a bond of Rs 50,000 to every family with new born female child which will make them financially strong. Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Atmanirbhar yojna all college going girls will be given free scooty.
- ❖ Every year two free cooking gas cylinders will be given to all the beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojna.
- ❖ The Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District Council will open Eklavya Model schools in every development block. Our government will establish Maharaja Veer Vikram Manikya University. Over 400 government schools will be modernised and made smart. Over 50,000 meritorious college going students will be given smartphones.
- ❖ Our government will give all eligible landless citizens free land ownership. In the memory of Thakur Shri Anukul Chandra Ji our government will open Anukul Chandra canteens across the state which will provide meals three times a day at a very nominal price of Rs 5.



- ❖ Under the Tripura Janjatiya Vikas Yojna our government will provide monetary assistance of Rs 5000 per year to all the Tribal families.
- ❖ The honorary annual stipend of Rs 2000 given to samajpati in the state will be hiked to Rs 5000.
- ❖ Under the Jal Jeevan Mission of the Narendra Modi Government all households in the state will be provided water connection by 2024.
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna given by the Narendra Modi Government an annual stipend of Rs 6000 is given to all farmers of the state and our government will give an additional Rs 2000 per year.
- ❖ Under the Bhoomiheen Kisan Vikas Yojna our government will give an annual stipend of Rs 3000 to all landless farmers.
- ❖ Our government in Tripura will also raise the limit under the Ayushman Bharat Yojna to Rs 10 lakh for free treatment and will set up a Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Agartala.
- ❖ Under the proposed 125th Constitution amendment law our government will reconstitute TTAADC that will give more autonomy, financial freedom and powers and reconstitute administration in the state.
- ❖ In the next 5 years the Bharatiya Janata Party government will bring investments worth over Rs 50,000 crores. For faster economic development of the state and the entire Northeast region.
- ❖ Our government will also start religious tourism for senior citizens of the state. ■

TRIPURA IS NOW FREE FROM TERRORISM, EXTREMISM AND VIOLENCE: RAJNATH SINGH

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on 08 February, 2023 said the people of Tripura are now free from Extremism, Terrorism, and violence after the formation of the BJP government in 2018. The Union Minister along with the state Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha was addressing a poll campaign in Rajnagar, a bordering village situated in the South district of the poll-bound Tripura.

“The border of Bangladesh is very near Rajnagar. Now fencing has been erected and therefore, Bangladeshi can't enter illegally. During Congress and CPIM government fencing was not erected but the work started when BJP formed the government at the centre. During the Congress and CPIM government, the activity of militancy was at its peak. Nobody knew who would die and when, but the situation changed drastically after the BJP came to Tripura and formed the government. In the past, people suffered a lot from Extremism, Terrorism, and violence but they are now free from all these”, Shri Singh said.

He said in 2018, BJP raised the slogan ‘Chalo Paltai’ now everyone will say ‘Chalo Susashan Ko Majboot banaye’.



The Union Defence Minister said, “Our party is an India-level party not like CPIM, a small state party. For the last 20 years, I have been visiting Tripura and have seen the condition. From 2005 to 2018 it was the government of CPIM Tripura was known for its underdevelopment. After 2018 the real development took place in Tripura. It's a new Tripura now”.

Shri Rajnath Singh said give us five years more, we will make Tripura the number one state in the country. He said, “I believe BJP will bag more seats this time than the 2018 election”. ■

BJP APPOINTS D.R. THAPA AS NEW BJP PRESIDENT OF SIKKIM

The BJP National President, Shri JP Nadda on 04 February, 2023 appointed Shri DR Thapa as the New BJP President of Sikkim. The BJP National President also appointed Shri N K Subba as its Legislative Party Leader and made Shri DT Lepcha, MLA as a Special invitee to the National Executive Committee, a party statement said.

Following the appointment Shri DR Thapa said, “I would like to thank PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and all the leaders for giving me this big responsibility. They have trusted me and given me this responsibility. Sikkim is going through a bad phase, hence my priority will be the development of my Sikkimese people and state”. ■

Organisational Appointments For

Karnataka Assembly Polls

The BJP National President, Shri JP Nadda appointed Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan as the poll in-charge for the upcoming Karnataka Assembly Polls, a party statement said on 04 February, 2023. As per the statement, Tamil Nadu BJP President Shri K Annamalai will be the co -Incharge in Karnataka. ■

‘Gift of good governance was given by BJP to Tripura’

Union Home minister Shri Amit Shah on 06 February, 2023 said that the Bangladeshi infiltration into Tripura has had a severe impact on the proportion of population in tribal areas. Various political parties are using these infiltrators as vote banks but the BJP has taken a strong stand against the intrusion, he added.

Shri Amit Shah said TIPRA Motha had an invisible agreement with the Congress and the Left Front. Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarman's party is a secret accomplice in building a political force against the BJP. He said voting for TIPRA Motha means supporting CPIM and Congress.

Addressing a grand ‘Vijay Sankalp Janasabha’ in Santirbazar under South Tripura district, Shri Shah said the CPIM, Congress and TIPRA Motha are together. As a result, the CPIM will form the government if either TIPRA Motha or the Congress is voted out. He claimed that BJP should be brought back to power to maintain the trend of development because only BJP is responsible to the people.

On this occasion, the Union Home Minister drew a comparison of five years of BJP-IPFT coalition government with 25 years of Left Front government. He said the BJP-led coalition government has done a lot for women. Peace has been established in Tripura under the leadership of the Prime Minister. However, CPIM rule in Tripura has led to terrorism, Bangladeshi infiltrators, human trafficking, drug trafficking and atrocities on the people. After the change of government in Tripura, the situation has changed dramatically because BJP has remained in power, he said. ■



‘Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand is most corrupt’

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 04 February, 2023 said the Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand is the ‘most corrupt’ in the country.

Addressing a massive public meeting after laying the foundation of a Nano Urea Plant in Deoghar to be set up by IFFCO, the Home Minister said that the people who are watching his misdeeds are ready to throw him out in the 2024 elections.

Branding the Hemant Government as the most incompetent government, he said that he has done nothing for Santhal Pargana and been befooling the public all these years. “Not only that the Hemant government is indulging in changing the demography of the Santhal Pargana. The number of Adivasis has come down to 24 percent from 35 percent in Santhal Pargana. The number of OBCs has also come down. The Bangladeshis are usurping the tribal land.

The Home Minister said the tribal girls are being killed in Santhal Pargana and the Hemant government is doing nothing. He further said that Deoghar and Jamtara have become hubs of cybercrime,” The Government of India is ready to extend all sorts of help to reform the youths who have adopted it as their profession, but the Hemant Government is least concerned about it,” he pointed out.

Branding the Hemant government as indolent, he highlighted the BJP government's achievement in the Centre to gift, airport, AIIMS, a number of trains connecting Godda to various cities among others. ■



India to witness GDP growth of 6.0 Percent to 6.8 Percent in 2023-24

The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2022-23 in Parliament on 31 January 2023, which projects a baseline GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in real terms in FY24. The projection is broadly comparable to the estimates provided by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank, the IMF, and the ADB and by RBI, domestically. It says, growth is expected to be brisk in FY24 as a vigorous credit disbursal, and capital investment cycle is expected to unfold in India with the strengthening of the balance sheets of the corporate and banking sectors. Further support to economic growth will come from the expansion of public digital platforms and path-breaking measures such as PM GatiShakti, the National Logistics Policy, and the Production-Linked Incentive schemes to boost manufacturing output. The highlights of the Survey are as follows:

STATE OF THE ECONOMY 2022-23: RECOVERY COMPLETE

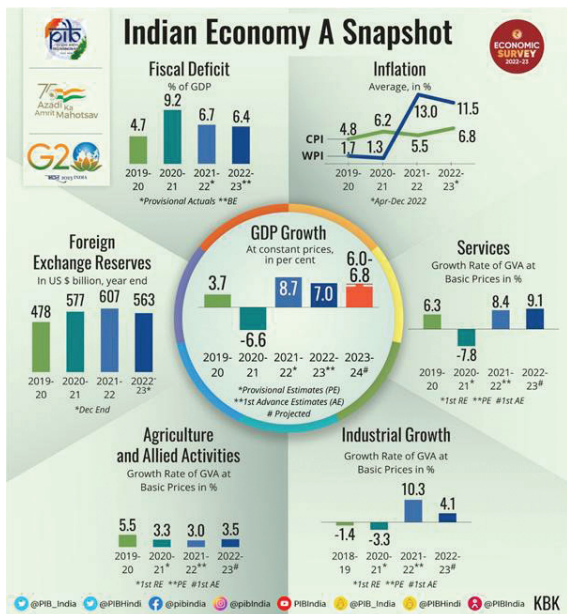
- Recovering from pandemic-induced contraction, Russian-Ukraine conflict and inflation, Indian economy is staging a broad based recovery across sectors, positioning to ascend to the pre-pandemic growth path in FY23.
- India's GDP growth is expected to remain robust in FY24. GDP forecast for FY24 to be in the range of 6-6.8 %.
- Private consumption in H1 is highest since FY15 and this has led to a boost to production activity resulting in enhanced capacity utilisation across sectors.

- With an underlying emphasis on improving the ease of living and doing business, the reforms after 2014 were based on the broad principles of creating public goods, adopting trust-based governance, co-partnering with the private sector for development, and improving agricultural productivity.

The period of 2014-2022 also witnessed balance sheet stress caused by the credit boom in the previous years and one-off global shocks, that adversely impacted the key macroeconomic variables such as credit growth, capital formation, and hence economic growth during this period.

This situation is analogous to the period 1998-2002 when transformative reforms undertaken by the

government had lagged growth returns due to temporary shocks in the economy. Once these shocks faded, the structural reforms paid growth dividends from 2003.



INDIA'S MEDIUM TERM GROWTH OUTLOOK: WITH OPTIMISM AND HOPE

- Indian economy underwent wide-ranging structural and governance reforms that strengthened the economy's fundamentals by enhancing its overall efficiency during 2014-2022.

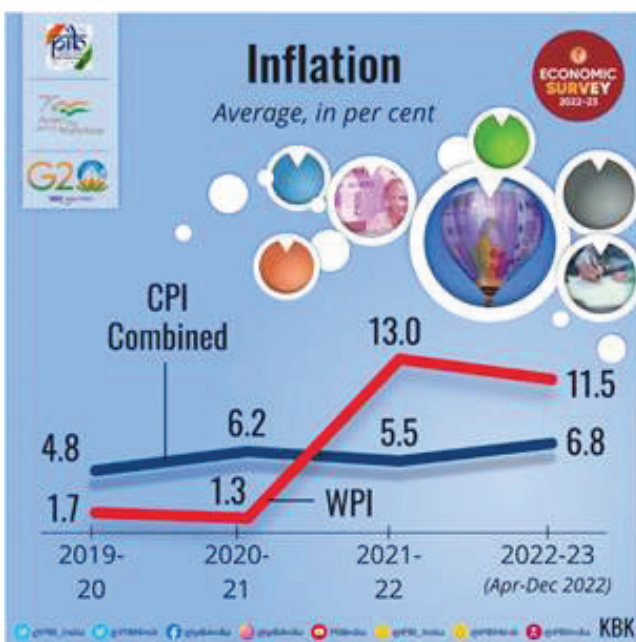
GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS: REVENUE RELISH

- The Union Government finances have shown a resilient performance during the year FY23, facilitated by the recovery in economic activity, buoyancy in revenues from direct taxes and GST, and realistic assumptions in the Budget.
- The Gross Tax Revenue registered a YoY growth of 15.5 per cent from April to November 2022, driven by robust growth in the direct taxes and Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- Growth in direct taxes during the first eight months of the year was much higher than their corresponding longer-term averages.
- GST has stabilised as a vital revenue source for central and state governments, with the gross GST collections increasing at 24.8 per cent on YoY basis from April to December 2022.
- Union Government's emphasis on capital expenditure (Capex) has continued despite higher revenue expenditure requirements during the year. The Centre's Capex has steadily increased from a long-term average of 1.7 per cent of GDP (FY09 to FY20) to 2.5 per cent of GDP in FY22 PA.

MONETARY MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION: A GOOD YEAR

- The RBI initiated its monetary tightening cycle in April 2022 and has since raised the repo rate by



225 bps, leading to moderation of surplus liquidity conditions.

- Cleaner balance sheets led to enhanced lending by financial institutions.
- The growth in credit offtake is expected to sustain, and combined with a pick-up in private capex, will usher in a virtuous investment cycle.
- Non-food credit offtake by scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) has been growing in double digits since April 2022.
- Credit disbursed by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) has also been on the rise.
- The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of SCBs has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.0.
- The Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) remains healthy at 16.0.
- The recovery rate for the SCBs through Insolvency and Bankruptcy (IBC) was highest in FY22 compared to other channels.

PRICES AND INFLATION: SUCCESSFUL TIGHT-ROPE WALKING

- While the year 2022 witnessed a return of high inflation in the advanced world after three to four decades, India caps the rise in prices.
- While India's retail inflation rate peaked at 7.8 per cent in April 2022, above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent, the overshoot of inflation above the upper end of the target range in India was however one of the lowest in the world.
- The government adopted a multi-pronged approach to tame the increase in price levels
 - o Phase wise reduction in export duty of petrol and diesel
 - o Import duty on major inputs were brought to zero while tax on export of iron ores and concentrates increased from 30 to 50 per cent
 - o Waived customs duty on cotton imports w.e.f 14 April 2022, until 30 September 2022
 - o Prohibition on the export of wheat products under HS Code 1101 and imposition of export duty on rice
 - o Reduction in basic duty on crude and refined palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil
- The RBI's anchoring of inflationary expectations through forward guidance and responsive monetary

Social Infrastructure And Employment: Big Tent

- Enhanced Govt expenditure for better quality of life
- Over 14,500 PM SHRI schools to be built between FY23 to FY27
- Rise in number of IITs, IIMs, IIITs
- Urban employment nearing pre-pandemic level
- EPFO based net payroll on the rise: 105.4 lakh in FY23 (till Nov)

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policy has helped guide the trajectory of inflation in the country.

- The one-year-ahead inflationary expectations by both businesses and households have moderated in the current financial year.
- Timely policy intervention by the government in housing sector, coupled with low home loan interest rates propped up demand and attracted buyers more readily in the affordable segment in FY23.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND EMPLOYMENT: BIG TENT

- Social Sector witnessed significant increase in government spending.
- Central and State Government's budgeted expenditure on health sector touched 2.1% of GDP in FY23 (BE) and 2.2% in FY22 (RE) against 1.6% in FY21.
- Social sector expenditure increases to Rs. 21.3 lakh crore in FY23 (BE) from Rs. 9.1 lakh crore in FY16.
- Survey highlights the findings of the 2022 report of the UNDP on Multidimensional Poverty Index which says that 41.5 crore people exit poverty in India between 2005-06 and 2019-20.
- The Aspirational Districts Programme has emerged as a template for good governance,

especially in remote and difficult areas.

- eShram portal developed for creating a National database of unorganised workers, which is verified with Aadhaar. As on 31 December 2022, a total of over 28.5 crore unorganised workers have been registered on eShram portal.
- JAM (Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile) trinity, combined with the power of DBT, has brought the marginalised sections of society into the formal financial system, revolutionising the path of transparent and accountable governance by empowering the people.
- Aadhaar played a vital role in developing the Co-WIN platform and in the transparent administration of over 2 billion vaccine doses.
- Labour markets have recovered beyond pre-Covid levels, in both urban and rural areas, with unemployment rates falling from 5.8 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.2 per cent in 2020-21.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT: PREPARING TO FACE THE FUTURE

- India declared the Net Zero Pledge to achieve net zero emissions goal by 2070.
- India achieved its target of 40 per cent installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels ahead of 2030.
- The likely installed capacity from non-fossil fuels to be more than 500 GW by 2030 resulting in decline of average emission rate by around 29% by 2029-30, compared to 2014-15.
- India to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels.
- About 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity to come from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- A mass movement LIFE– Life style for Environment launched.
- Sovereign Green Bond Framework (SGrBs) issued in November 2022.
- RBI auctions two tranches of Rs. 4,000 crore Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrB).
- National Green Hydrogen Mission to enable India to be energy independent by 2047.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD MANAGEMENT

- The performance of the agriculture and allied

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

sector has been buoyant over the past several years, much of which is on account of the measures taken by the government to augment crop and livestock productivity, ensure certainty of returns to the farmers through price support, promote crop diversification, improve market infrastructure through the impetus provided for the setting up of farmer-producer organisations and promotion of investment in infrastructure facilities through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

- Private investment in agriculture increases to 9.3% in 2020-21.
- MSP for all mandated crops fixed at 1.5 times of all India weighted average cost of production since 2018.
- Institutional Credit to the Agricultural Sector continued to grow to 18.6 lakh crore in 2021-22
- Foodgrains production in India saw sustained increase and stood at 315.7 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- Free foodgrains to about 81.4 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act for one year from January 1, 2023.
- About 11.3 crore farmers were covered under the Scheme in its April-July 2022-23 payment cycle.

INDUSTRY: STEADY RECOVERY

- Overall Gross Value Added (GVA) by the Industrial Sector (for the first half of FY 22-23) rose 3.7 per cent, which is higher than the average growth of 2.8 per cent achieved in the first half of the last decade.
- Robust growth in Private Final Consumption Expenditure, export stimulus during the first half of the year, increase in investment demand triggered by enhanced public capex and strengthened bank and corporate balance sheets have provided a demand stimulus to industrial growth.
- The supply response of the industry to the demand stimulus has been robust.
- PMI manufacturing has remained in the expansion zone for 18 months since July 2021, and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grows at a healthy pace.
- Credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has grown by an average of around 30% since January 2022 and credit to large industry has



been showing double-digit growth since October 2022.

- Electronics exports rise nearly threefold, from US \$4.4 billion in FY19 to US \$11.6 Billion in FY22.
- Igeneration of 3.0 lakh have been recorded due to PLI schemes.
- Over 39,000 compliances have been reduced and more than 3500 provisions decriminalized as of January 2023.

SERVICES: SOURCE OF STRENGTH

- The services sector is expected to grow at 9.1% in FY23, as against 8.4% (YoY) in FY22.
- Robust expansion in PMI services, indicative of service sector activity, observed since July 2022.
- India was among the top ten services exporting countries in 2021, with its share in world commercial services exports increasing from 3 per cent in 2015 to 4 per cent in 2021.
- India's services exports remained resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic and amid geopolitical uncertainties driven by higher demand for digital support, cloud services, and infrastructure modernization.
- Credit to services sector has grown by over 16% since July 2022.
- US\$ 7.1 billion FDI equity inflows in services sector in FY22. ■



India has a government which is stable, fearless, decisive and working with lofty ambitions: Droupadi Murmu

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu on 31st January addressed a joint session of parliament ahead of the Budget. President Smt. Droupadi Murmu while addressing the session, this 25-year period of Amritkal is the golden century of independence and the period of building a developed India. She added, "These 25 years are for all of us and for every citizen of the country to show the culmination of our duties we have to build such a nation by 2047, which is associated with the glory of the past and which has every golden chapter of modernity, she says. We have to make such an India which is self-reliant and which is also able to fulfill its humanitarian obligations. Such an India - in which there is no poverty, whose middle class is also full of glory.

The President outlined an idea for the country by 2047. She said, We have to create such an India - whose youth power and women power stand at the forefront to give direction to the society and the nation, whose youth walk two steps ahead of time.

World's outlook towards India has changed

She said, "In almost nine years of my government's term, the people of India have witnessed many positive changes for the first time. The biggest change is that



The President outlined an idea for the country by 2047. She said, We have to create such an India - whose youth power and women power stand at the forefront to give direction to the society and the nation, whose youth walk two steps ahead of time

today, every Indian's confidence is at its peak and the world's outlook towards India has changed. India which once looked at others for solutions to most of its problems, is today emerging as a provider of solutions for the issues faced by the world." Lord Basaveshwara had said - 'Kayakave Kailasa' which means Karma is worship and Shiva is in the Karma itself. Following this path, my government is actively

engaged in performing the duty of nation building. Today, India has a government which is stable, fearless, decisive and working with lofty ambitions. Today, India has a government which respects the honest. Today, India has a government working for permanent solution of the problems of the poor and their lasting empowerment. Today, India has a government working at an unprecedented speed and scale.



Today, India has a government that gives pre-eminence to public welfare by leveraging innovation and technology. Today, India has a government which is committed to removing every obstacle being faced by women. Today, there is a government in India which is committed to progress as well as the protection of nature. Today, India has a government that preserves heritage while also embracing modernity. Today, India has a government which is moving forward confidently to play its rightful role on the global stage.” In the last few years, the Benami Property Act was notified with a view to create a corruption-free ecosystem. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act was passed to confiscate the properties of criminals who absconded after committing economic offences. An effective system has also been put in place to end the practice of favouritism and corruption in government machinery. Today, there is a Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) system for tenders and government procurement, in which transactions worth more than Rupees 3 lakh crore have taken place so far.

“Today, special honor is being bestowed upon those making an honest contribution in nation building. Life of our countrymen has been made easier by doing away with the complexities of filing income tax returns. Promotion of faceless assessment has brought about transparency and

accountability in the system. Earlier, there was a long wait for tax refunds. Today, refunds are received within a few days of filing ITRs. Today, the GST regime has provided transparency, along with ensuring the dignity of taxpayers. From Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile trinity, which is weeding out fake beneficiaries to launching One Nation One Ration Card, we have undertaken major enduring reforms. Over the years, the country has developed a stable and transparent regime in the form of DBT and Digital India. Today, the monetary benefits of more

‘Poverty eradication’ is no longer just a slogan. Now my government is working towards empowering the poor by providing a permanent addressal to their concerns

than 300 schemes are directly reaching the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. So far, an amount of more than Rupees 27 lakh crore has reached crores of beneficiaries with complete transparency. The World Bank report acknowledges that it was only due to such schemes and mechanisms that India was able to prevent crores of people from falling below the poverty line during the Covid pandemic. Every taxpayer feels proud when corruption is reined in and every penny of tax is put to good use. Today, an honest taxpayer of the country wants the governments to desist from the politics of shortcuts. He wants plans that

encourage permanent solutions to problems and empower the common people. Therefore, my government has laid emphasis on the long lasting empowerment of the countrymen while dealing with the current challenges.”

Empowering the Poor

The President said, ‘Poverty eradication’ is no longer just a slogan. Now my government is working towards empowering the poor by providing a permanent addressal to their concerns. Smt. Murmu enumerated various people oriented government policies which are writing new story of the country’s overall growth.

While concluding her address she said, “In this Parliament, which is the heart of our democracy, it should be our endeavor to set goals that seem difficult and achieve them. We should try to accomplish today what is to be done tomorrow. What others are still thinking of doing, we Indians should accomplish before them..

Let’s enrich our democracy

Let’s enrich our democracy by living up to the dictum of Veda which says – “samgacchadhvam samvadadhvam sam vo manamsi jwvnatam”. That is, let us walk together step by step, understand each other’s mind and let there be a flow of unity in our resolutions. Let us fulfill the oath of the Constitution by walking on our Kartavya Path in this Mahayagna of nation building.” ■



'Entire world is looking towards India with eyes of hope'

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi replied to the motion of thanks on the President's address to Parliament in the Lok Sabha on 8 February, 2023. The Prime Minister said that the Hon'ble President gave direction to the nation in her visionary address to both Houses. He remarked that her address inspired the 'Nari Shakti' (women power) of India and gave a boost to the self-confidence of India's tribal communities while instilling a feeling of pride among them. "She gave a detailed blueprint of 'Sankalp se Siddhi' of the nation". Excerpts:

In his reply, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted that challenges might arise but with the determination of 140 crore Indians, the nation can overcome all the obstacles that come our way.

India has emerged as the 5th largest economy

The Prime Minister said that the handling of the country during once-in-a-century calamity and war has filled every Indian with confidence. Even in such a time of turmoil, India has emerged as the 5th largest economy in the world.



Positivity and hope towards India

He said that there is positivity and hope towards India at a global level. The Prime Minister credited this positivity to stability, India's global standing, the growing capability of India and new emerging possibilities in India.

Government is stable and decisive

Throwing light on the atmosphere of trust in the country, the Prime Minister said that India has a government that is stable and decisive. He underlined the belief that reforms are not carried out of compulsion but by conviction. "The world is seeing prosperity in

India's prosperity", he said.

2004 to 2014 were burdened with scams

Prime Minister Shri Modi drew attention to the decade before 2014 and said that the years between 2004 to 2014 were burdened with scams and at the same time there were terror attacks happening in every corner of the country.

This decade saw the decline of the Indian economy and the Indian voice grew very feeble on global fora. The era was marked by 'Mauke main musibat' - adversity in opportunity.

Entire world is looking towards India with eyes of hope and credited the stability and possibility of India. India under UPA was called the 'Lost Decade' while today, people are calling the present decade as 'India's Decade'

'India's Decade'

Noting that the country is full of self-confidence today and realising its dreams

and resolutions, the Prime Minister said that the entire world is looking towards India with eyes of hope and credited the stability and possibility of India. He observed that India under UPA was called the 'Lost Decade' while today, people are calling the present decade as 'India's Decade'.

India is the mother of democracy

Noting that India is the mother of democracy, the



Prime Minister underlined that constructive criticism is vital for a strong democracy and said that criticism is like a 'shuddhi yagya' (purification Yagya).

Prime Minister Shri Modi lamented that instead of constructive criticism, some people indulge in compulsive criticism. He observed that in the last 9 years, we have had compulsive critics who indulge in unsubstantiated allegations instead of constructive criticism. The Prime Minister said that such criticism will not pass muster with the people who are experiencing the basic facilities for the first time now.

He said instead of a dynasty, he is a member of the family of 140 crore Indians. "The blessings of 140 crore Indians is my 'Suraksha Kavach'", the Prime Minister remarked.

Biggest benefit gone to dalits, adivasis, women

The Prime Minister reiterated the commitment towards those who are deprived and neglected and

asserted that the biggest benefit of the government's scheme has gone to dalits, adivasis, women and vulnerable sections.

Nari Shakti of India

Throwing light on the Nari Shakti of India, the Prime Minister informed that no efforts have been spared to strengthen India's Nari Shakti. He remarked that when the mothers of India are strengthened, then the people are strengthened, and when the people are strengthened it strengthens the society which leads to a strengthening of the nation.

He also underlined that the government has addressed the aspirations of the middle class and honoured them for their honesty. Highlighting that the common citizens of India are full of positivity, the Prime Minister emphasised that even though the Indian society has the capability to deal with negativity, it never accepts this negativity. ■

'Vande Bharat is a reflection of India's speed and scale'

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 10th February flagged off two Vande Bharat trains at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai. The two trains are Mumbai-Solapur Vande Bharat and Mumbai-Sainagar Shirdi Vande Bharat. He also dedicated two road projects to the nation - the Santacruz Chembur Link Road and Kurar underpass project to ease road traffic congestion and streamline the movement of vehicles in Mumbai.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that it is a big day for Railways in India, especially for advanced connectivity in Maharashtra as this is the first time that two Vande Bharat trains have been flagged off on the same day. He underlined that these Vande Bharat trains will connect economic centers such as Mumbai and Pune to centers of faith, thereby benefiting those traveling for college, office,



business, pilgrimage and agricultural purposes. He said that traveling to sacred places like Shirdi, Nasik, Trimbakeshwar, and Panchvati will be made easier with the new Vande Bharat trains which will give a boost to tourism as well as pilgrimage, he said.

The Prime Minister said that the Vande Bharat train is a grand picture of modern India. "It is a reflection of India's speed and scale." Commenting on the speed of the launch of Vande Bharat Trains, the Prime Minister informed that so far, 10 Vande Bharat trains have started operating connecting 108 districts of 17 states of the country. The Prime Minister expressed happiness that many projects were launched today that will enhance the ease of living. He said that the elevated road will connect eastern and western suburban areas and the underpass, he said, is significant. ■



CO-OPS GET THEIR MOMENT IN THE SUN

The budget, the PM Shri Narendra Modi described as “historic” focuses on small and medium artisans, women, agriculture and green technology, among other things. For the first time the country has come up with many schemes as a tribute to the hard work of carpenters, goldsmiths, potters and other artisans, who are the nation’s creators



AMIT SHAH

The first budget of Amrit Kaal has laid a strong foundation to fulfil the aspiration of a developed India by shoring up capital expenditure in infrastructure, slashing taxes and maintaining macroeconomic stability through fiscal prudence. Formulated under the able and dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the budget will not only help India retain its place among the fastest-growing economies of the world but will also lift global mood.

The budget, the PM Shri Narendra Modi described as “historic” focuses on small and medium artisans, women, agriculture and green technology, among other things. For the first time the country has come up with many schemes as a tribute to the hard work of carpenters, goldsmiths, potters and other artisans, who are the nation’s creators and carriers

of our cultural heritage. The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman yojana is a long-deserved recognition of their contribution to the nation.

In a revolutionary move powering the cooperative sector, the backbone of India’s rural economy, PM Narendra Modi in 2021 established a ministry for cooperatives. I am fortunate to have been given its charge. The budget has provided a much-needed booster dose

To initiate corrective measures, the government is establishing a national database of cooperatives, and the work related to this is almost complete.

to the sector by announcing several favourable measures –such as the setting up of massive, decentralised storage capacity so that farmers can store their produce and realise remunerative prices by selling at an appropriate time. This will be the world’s largest grain storage facility.

Plus, to promote the growth of new cooperative manufacturing societies, the budget has announced a

concessional income tax rate of 15% for cooperatives that begin manufacturing before March 31, 2024, as is the case with new manufacturing companies in the country.

The budget has also increased to Rs 2 lakh per member, the limit of cash deposits to and loans in cash by primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACs) and primary cooperative agricultural and rural development banks. Cooperative societies have been given a higher limit of Rs 3 crore for tax deducted at source on cash withdrawals. For sugar cooperative mills, the claims for payment made to sugar farmers before the assessment year 2016-17 will now be considered an ‘expenditure’. This is expected to provide approximately Rs 10,000 crore in relief to the sugar cooperatives.

Though cooperatives have been playing a critical role in our economy for a long time, there are significant sectoral and geographical variations in their presence. To initiate corrective measures, the government is establishing a national database

of cooperatives, and the work related to this is almost complete.

Further, under the PM's leadership a committee has been constituted by the cooperation ministry to formulate a National Cooperative Policy, which will include stakeholders' recommendations and become a vital link to connect the masses with the country's financial system. The Modi government is working towards establishing a National Cooperative University to provide trained manpower to this sector.

The budget also announced that model bye-laws for PACS are being formulated, to enable them to become multipurpose cooperatives to meet the country's diverse needs and remain financially profitable. Recently an MoU has been signed among the cooperation ministry, the IT ministry, NABARD, and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited. This MoU will enable PACS to provide the services offered by the Common Service Centre. Computerisation of 63,000 agricultural cooperatives has already been started, at a cost of Rs 2,516 crore.

After many decades, the significant contributions of cooperative societies to national development are being acknowledged and respected. After all, these players continue to play a critical role in sustaining the viability of agrarian and non-agrarian occupations in a rural

economy by disbursing loans at low-interest rates with flexible repayment terms.

Cooperative societies help small-scale entrepreneurs procure raw materials at discounted rates and reduce production costs. They provide producers with a platform to sell their products directly to consumers by removing intermediaries, which helps cut the selling price and ensure higher sales and profits for producers. Their significant role in bridging the urban-rural divide and creating opportunities for income generation can hardly

Currently, more than half of India's population is linked to a cooperative in some way, with cooperatives covering 70% of the country's farmers through PACS. There are 33 state-level cooperative banks, 363 district-level cooperative banks and 63,000 PACS in the country

be discounted. They also act as drivers of the national economy by providing critical raw materials and intermediate goods to large industries, which is a significant contribution to India's growing export markets.

Cooperative societies also have many success stories to narrate. Dairy cooperatives have ushered in the milk revolution in the country, with Amul becoming a household name. Alongside Lijjat Papad. Similarly, institutions like IFFCO and KRIBHCO have been drivers of farm sector growth in the country.

Besides, many cooperatives at the state level – including urban cooperative banks, PACS, housing cooperatives and fisheries cooperatives – are making untiring efforts to improve the socio-economic condition of the people in rural areas.

Currently, more than half of India's population is linked to a cooperative in some way, with cooperatives covering 70% of the country's farmers through PACS. There are 33 state-level cooperative banks, 363 district-level cooperative banks and 63,000 PACS in the country. Moreover, today cooperatives carry out 19% of the country's agriculture finance, 35% fertiliser distribution, 30% fertiliser production, 40% sugar production, 13% wheat procurement and 20% paddy procurement. In addition, nearly 500 cooperatives have been registered in

the GeM portal, enabling them to make purchases from more than 40 lakh sellers.

I thank PM Modi and FM Sitharaman for giving much-needed boost to the cooperative sector in this budget. Given the way PM Modi, with the resolve of 'Sahakar Se Sammridhhi', has brought cooperatives to the forefront of the nation's economic discourse, I am confident that they will soon be one of the main drivers of India's growth engine. ■

(The writer is the Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Government of India)

PM interacts with students, teachers and parents at **PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA 2023**

'Cheating will never make you successful in life'

In the 6th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC), the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with students, teachers and parents on 27 January at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi. Pariksha Pe Charcha has been conceptualised by the Prime Minister wherein students, parents, and teachers interact with him on various topics related to life and exams. About 38.80 Lakh registrations have taken place this year from 155 countries in this year's edition of PPC

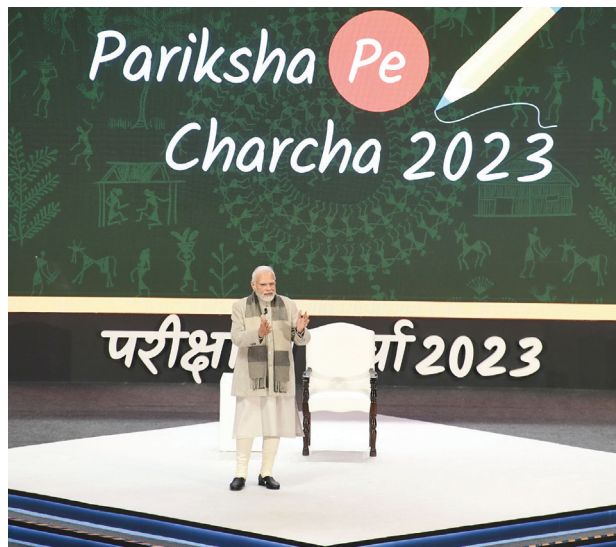
Throwing light on the importance of Pariksha Pe Charcha for the Prime Minister himself, he pointed out the millions of questions that are posed as part of the programme and said that it gives him insight into the minds of the young generations of India.

On handling disappointment

Addressing a question regarding family disappointment in the case of poor marks from student, the Prime Minister said that there is nothing wrong with family expectations. However if these expectations, he said, are due to social status-related expectations then it is concerning. Shri Modi also talked about ever-increasing standards of performance and growing expectations with every success. He said it is not good to be bogged down by the surrounding web of expectation and one should look inwards and link the expectation with one's own capabilities, needs, intentions and priorities. Giving the example of the game of cricket where the crowd keeps on rooting for fours and sixes, the Prime Minister said that a batsman who goes out to bat remains unperturbed even after so many people in the audience plead for a six or a four.

On preparation for exams

Addressing the questions about not knowing where to start the preparations for the exam and the stressful situation leading to forgetfulness the Prime Minister stressed the importance of time management in general



life with or without exams. He said work never tires, in fact not working tires a person. He asked students to note down the time allotment to various things that they do. He said that it is a general tendency that one devotes more time to the things that he likes. He said while allocating time to a subject, one should take up the least interesting or most difficult subject when the mind is fresh. Instead of forcing one's way through, students should tackle the complexities with a relaxed mindset.

On unfair means in exams and taking shortcuts

The Prime Minister expressed happiness that students had raised the topic of finding ways to deal with malpractices during the exam and pointed out the negative change in the morals where a student takes pride in fooling the supervisor while cheating in an exam. "This is a very dangerous trend", the Prime Minister said as he asked the society as a whole to ponder about it. He also noted that some schools or teachers who run tuition classes strive for unfair means so that their students excel in the exams. He also asked students to refrain from wasting time in finding ways and preparing cheating material and spend that time in learning.

On handling criticism

Class 12th students asked the Prime Minister about tackling the people who hold negative views and opinions towards them and how it affects

A FIVE-MEMBER DELEGATION OF RULING PARTY OF TANZANIA CALLS ON BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

A five-member delegation of the ruling party of Tanzania, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) visited India from 25th to 31st January, 2023. The delegation was invited as a part of 'Know BJP' initiative, which was launched by BJP National President Shri JP Nadda on the 42nd Foundation Day of the Party for the external outreach of BJP.

The delegation was led by Mr. Abdulrahman Omar Kinana, Vice-Chairperson of CCM, and comprised of Mr. Abdullah Mwinyi, MP and member of National Executive Committee Mr. Thadeo Burton Mboma, Head of IT Mr. Msafiri Wilbert Marwa, Private Secretary of the Vice Chairperson Mr. Salum Bakari Suma, Personal Assistant of the Vice Chairperson. The visit aimed to promote party-to-party interaction and make the delegation acquainted with the vision and functioning of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

On 31st January, the delegation called on BJP National President Shri JP Nadda. Shri Nadda explained various aspects of delivering the Party's message and programs to the booth-level party workers, and about the mechanism of informing people about the welfare schemes of Shri Narendra Modi-led government. They also discussed the different ways to boost the relationship between the two countries including cultural and People to people contacts.



The delegation met Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan .

During their visit to party headquarters, the delegation interacted with BJP National Vice President Shri Bajjayant Panda and In-charge of BJP Foreign Affairs Department Shri Vijay Chauthaiwale.

At the end of the visit, Mr. Kinana stated, "We have learnt a lot from the BJP in terms of ideology, organisation and in terms of communication with the public, but most importantly that BJP remains the party that is people-centered, that cares about the lives of Indian people and particularly the poor people". ■

them. The Prime Minister stressed that he believes in the principle that criticism is a purification yajna and the root condition of a prospering democracy. Emphasising the need for feedback, the Prime Minister gave examples of a programmer who puts up his code on open source for improvements, and companies that put up their products for sale in the market asking the customers to find the flaws in the products. He also pointed out that it is important to note who is being critical of your work. He said that parents these days have got into the habit of interrupting their kids instead of constructive criticism and urged them to break this habit as it will not mould the lives of the kids in a restrictive way.

On stress after exams

Addressing the questions about channelising the stress from not getting the desired results even after working hard the Prime Minister said that the main reason for stress after exams is not accepting the truth about if the exams went well. The Prime Minister also mentioned competition among students as a stress-inducing factor and suggested that students should live and learn from themselves and their surroundings while strengthening their inner capabilities. Shedding light on the outlook towards life, the Prime Minister remarked that one exam is not the end of life and overthinking about the results should not become a thing of everyday life. ■

BJP KISAN MORCHA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE HELD IN KARNATAKA

The two-day Executive meeting of BJP National Kisan Morcha was held on January 29-30 in Belagavi, Karnataka, under the chairmanship of Morcha National President Shri Rajkumar Chahar. Member of the BJP Parliamentary Board and former Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa and BJP National General Secretary Shri CT Ravi were present in the inaugural session of the meeting. The Executive meeting culminated with the inspiring address of BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri BL Santhosh. Morcha National Office Bearers, Morcha State Presidents, Morcha Executive Members, and other Office Bearers were present in the meeting.

Addressing the gathering Shri Rajkumar Chahar said today, India is creating new records



under the dynamic leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi. Now, India is the fifth-largest economy and emerging power in the world. He said Prime Minister Shri Modi has been increasing the agriculture budget since 2014 only for the welfare of the farmers and the farming community. By implementing the report of the Swaminathan Commission, the Modi government has increased the MSP, by one and a half times the cost of production and at the same time for the empowerment

of the farmers, implemented many welfare schemes like PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM- SYM), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card, e-Nam Mandi, PM-KUSUM, Kisan Rail, Krishi UDAN, etc.

The Kisan Morcha also took a resolution to organise a 'PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi beneficiary contact program' throughout the country on 24 February. ■

MLC ELECTION RESULTS-2023

BJP WINS 4 SEATS IN UP & 1 SEAT IN MAHARASHTRA

Counting on all the five seats in the Uttar Pradesh MLC election came to an end on 03 February, 2023. The Bharatiya Janata Party won four out of five seats, whereas an independent candidate won one. The Samajwadi Party faced defeat in all five seats. As far as BJP is concerned, it has won the Bareilly-Moradabad block graduate seat, Gorakhpur-Faizabad graduate seat, Kanpur-Unnao graduate block, and Jhansi-Allahabad teacher block seat in the elections. The independent candidate has won the Kanpur teacher's block seat.

Similarly in Maharashtra, the BJP won only one seat. In the Konkan teachers seat, BJP candidate Shri Dnyaneshwar Mhatre defeated MVA-backed nominee Balaram Pati while four of those five seats were won by the MVA. ■



Many Padma awardees are those friends among us, who always dedicate their lives to the principle of “Nation first”:PM

Talking about the Padma awards, he said that this time there has been a good representation of the tribal community and people associated with tribal life among the Padma awardees. He added, “Many great personalities who have worked on tribal languages like Toto, Ho, Kui, Kuvi and Manda have received Padma Awards. He added, People working with tribals like Siddhi, Jarawa and Onge have also been honoured this time. Such as...Hirabai Lobi, Ratan Chandra Kar and Ishwar Chandra Verma Ji. PM said, “This year the echoes of the Padma Awards are being heard even in those areas which used to be Naxal affected. Due to their efforts, those who show the right path to the misguided youth in Naxalite affected areas have been honoured with Padma awards.”

PM added “This time among the Padma awardees are those people who have expertise in spreading the melody of our traditional musical instruments like Santoor, Bamhum, Dwtara. Ghulam Mohammad Zaz, Moa Su-Pong, Ri-Singbor Kurka-Long, Muni-Venkatappa and Mangal Kanti Rai are just a few of the names that are being discussed all around.” He added, Many Padma awardees are those friends among us, who always kept the country paramount, dedicating their lives to the principle of “Nation first”.

The Mother of Democracy

The PM in this episode discussed about a book which he had received a few weeks ago, named ‘The Mother of Democracy’ comprises many excellent essays. He said “Democracy is in our



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 97th edition of his monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’, on 29th January

veins, it is in our culture - it has been an integral part of our work for centuries. By nature, we are a Democratic Society.”

International Yoga Day and International Year of Millets

The Prime Minister said, “In fact, the United Nations has taken the decision of both International Yoga Day and International Year of Millets after India’s proposal. Secondly, yoga is also related to health and millets also play an important role in health. The third thing is more important – a revolution is on the way because of public participation in both campaigns.

G-20

He expressed happiness that G-20 summit events are going on in every corner of India and he said wherever the G-20 summit is being held, nutritious and tasty dishes made from millets are included in it.

E-WASTE

“Today devices like Mobile Phone, Laptop, Tablet have become common in every household. Their number will be in Billions across the country. Today’s latest devices are also future’s E-Waste. Whenever someone buys a new device or replaces one’s old device, it becomes necessary to keep in mind whether it is discarded properly or not. If E-Waste

is not disposed of properly, it can also harm our environment. But, if done carefully, it can become a great force in the Circular Economy of Recycle and Reuse. It was mentioned in a United Nations report that 50 million tonnes of E-Waste is being thrown every year.

WETLAND SITES’

Speaking about the importance of wetland sites protected under the Ramsar Convention, he reminded about the importance of observing the World Wetlands Day on February 2. He said Ramsar sites are such wetlands which are of International Importance. ■

PM MODI IS WORLD'S MOST POPULAR LEADER: SURVEY

According to a survey conducted by the US-based consulting firm 'Morning Consult,' Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the world's most popular leader, with a 78% approval rating.

According to the ratings, Prime Minister Shri Modi outperforms other world leaders such as US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The poll surveyed 22 global leaders for the ratings.

The "Global Leader Approval" survey is based on data collected



from January 26-31 this year, said the Political Intelligence research firm which collated a seven-day moving average of adult residents in each country, with sample sizes varying by country.

PM Shri Modi garnered 78 per cent of approval ratings, way ahead of US President Joe Biden, who received 40 per cent ratings.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador came in second with 68 per cent ratings and Swiss President Alain Berset occupied the third position with 62 per cent approval rating. ■

Prime Minister Shri Modi outperforms other world leaders such as US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The poll surveyed 22 global leaders for the ratings



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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Awardees 2023, in New Delhi on January 24, 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the students, teachers and parents, during the 6th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023' in New Delhi on January 27, 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi briefing the media ahead of the Budget Session of the Parliament, in New Delhi on January 31, 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets with the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on January 25, 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying homage to the martyrs at the National War Memorial, on the occasion of 74th Republic Day 2023, in New Delhi on January 26, 2023



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GRAND VIEW OF THE 74TH REPUBLIC DAY PARADE IN NEW DELHI



PHOTOGRAPHER: AJAY KUMAR SINGH