

## Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament

**Provided free foodgrains to 80 cr people; no one went hungry during pandemic: FM**

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 1:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget for 2023-24 in Parliament today. She said that Indian economic is on the right track and is heading towards a bright future, despite challenging times. Ms Sitharaman said the economic growth in the current year is estimated to be at 7 per cent. Stating that this is the first budget in Amrit Kaal, the Finance Minister said, the vision for the Amrit Kaal includes technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances, and a robust financial sector. The budget hopes to build on the foundation laid in the previous budget and blueprint drawn for India@100.

The Finance Minister announced that the Capital investment outlay will be increased by 33 per cent to 10 lakh crore rupees, which would be 3.3 per cent of GDP.

To spur investment in infrastructure, Ms Sitharaman

said, the government has decided to continue the 50-year interest-free loan to state governments for one more year to incentivize them for complementary policy actions, with a significantly enhanced outlay of 1.3 lakh crore rupees.

Focussing on the Agriculture Sector, Ms Sitharaman said an Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas. The Fund will aim at bringing innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers. The Finance Minister also announced that the agriculture credit target will be increased to 20 lakh crore rupees, with focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.

Ms Sitharaman said, a plan will be implemented to set up massive decentralised storage capacity to help farmers store their produce and realize remunerative prices through sale at appropriate times. The year 2023 has been declared as the international year of millets. The Finance Minister said, 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 in order to make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna'.

Continuing with the commitment to ensure food and nutritional for the poor, Ms Sitharaman said the government will bear an expenditure of about 2 lakh crore rupees

to supply free food grain to all Antyodaya and priority households for the next one year under PM GaribKalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The scheme is being implemented from 1st January 2023.

Stating that traditional artisans and craftpeople have brought India renowned for centuries, the Finance Minister said that for the time, a package of assistance under PM V I S H W A K A R M A

KAUSHAL SAMMAN has been conceptualized for them. The aim is to enable them to improve the quality, scale and reach of their products, integrating them with the MSME value chain.

In a further push for the government's objective of housing for all, the Finance Minister said, an outlay for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana will be enhanced by 66 per cent to over 79,000 crore ru-

pees.

With an aim to improve socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Finance Minister announced that Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission will be launched. An amount of 15,000 crore rupees has been earmarked for the implementation of the mission in the next three years.

Announcing relief for poor persons who are in prison and unable to afford the penalty or the bail amount, the Finance Minister announced that required financial support will be provided to them.

The Finance Minister announced that a central assistance of 5,300 crore rupees will be given to Upper Bhadra Project in "drought-prone" central region of Karnataka, to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.

The Finance Minister has announced major concessions for individual taxpayers. The rebate limit has been hiked from existing 5 lakh ru-

pees per annum to 7 lakh rupees in the new tax regime. Thus, persons in the new tax regime, with income up to 7 lakh rupees will not have to pay any tax.

The government has also reduced the number of tax slabs to 5 and increased the tax exemption limit to 3 lakh rupees. This will provide major relief to all taxpayers in the new regime. An individual with an annual income of 9 lakh rupees will be required to pay only 45 thousand as income tax which is only 5 per cent of his or her income. Similarly, an individual with an income of 15 lakh rupees will be required to pay only 1.5 lakh rupees or 10 per cent of his or her income.

Government has extended the benefit of standard deduction for the salaried class and the pensioners including family pensioners under the new tax regime. Each salaried person with an income of 5.5 lakh rupees or more will stand to benefit by 52 thousand 500 rupees.

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## JAC formed against the missing of VDF Premananda blocked NH 02 at Thoubal district

IT News  
Imphal, Feb 1:

JAC formed against the Missing of VDF Premananda, which has been demanding justice for the missing VDF personnel and his family members have started road blocked protest at National Highway 102 at Thoubal Okram area in Thoubal district today.

The whereabouts of VDF Premananda remain unknown till today after he was reported missing while on duty. He was missing since January 16 this year while carrying out duty to destroy poppy plantation at of Urantop Hill under Chakpikarong Police Station of Chandel District.

JAC against missing of VDF Personal Premananda expressing dismay on delayed in finding his whereabouts by the authority today blocked National Highway 102 (Imphal Moreh



road) at Thoubal Okram.

VDF personnel N. Premananda was in the team of police who chopped the poppy plantation at the surface of Urantop Hill on January 16 and his missing was reported to the family by the department on January 21. JAC of Missing N. Premananda VDF no. 706 Chingkhram Post Convenor

also gave an ultimatum to the government of Manipur to bring justice for the missing on or before January 31, and also warned if the authority and the department failed to their demands they will intensify the protest by collaborating with various clubs, organizations and Meira Paibi Lup. The protesters blocking

National Highway 2 of Imphal Moreh road, displayed placards with slogans "Government tolerates the missing of N. Premananda", "We condemn the government irresponsibility and voicelessness, when the missing happened, was 11 days over" and "Help and support in finding missing Personnel Premananda".

## Nagas have mandated NSCN-IM to negotiate with Govt: Q Tuccu

Agency  
Dimapur, Feb 1:

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) on Tuesday said Nagas have mandated the party to negotiate with Government of India (GoI) for bringing an "honourable solution" to the long-drawn peace talks.

NSCN-IM chairman Q Tuccu made the affirmation during a ceremony to observe the 44th NSCN Raising Day at its general headquarters in Camp Hebron here.

"NSCN is indeed mandated by the Naga people to negotiate with the Government of India for bringing an honourable solution to the long-drawn political problem. So far, we have not wavered in defending the 'sovereign' rights of the Naga nation," he said.

Tuccu said the firm stand of NSCN-IM is well reflected when it signed the historic framework agreement on August 3, 2015, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the past year was a challenging one for NSCN-IM as it was placed in an unpredictable situation as the central government "failed to respect the commitment to solve the Naga issue based on the Framework Agreement."

Talks with central government negotiators have stalled on two demands by NSCN-IM - that there should be a separate constitution and a flag for Nagaland.

"We shall hold the ground and never surrender our sovereign right, our land and our people," he asserted.

The NSCN-IM chairman said, "We cannot afford to di-

lute the sanctity of the Naga political issue under any pretext".

Stating that the Naga issue came into international focus when the framework pact was signed on the 3rd August, 2015, he lamented that the central government "is yet to fulfill its commitment to the Naga people, of which the world at large is the witness".

The NSCN-IM have stood the acid test of time and brought the issue thus far, he said. "NSCN is a principle-based organization. Our confrontation is principle-based; our negotiation is principle-based and solution will also be principle-based."

"Our stand on unity and reconciliation is also principle-based. Any move for solution or unity and reconciliation betraying the principle is treason," he said.

## Assam readies to host G20 meetings

IT Correspondent  
Guwahati, Feb 1:

Assam is all set to host first sustainable financial working group (SFWG) meeting and Youth 20 inception meeting as part of India's yearlong G20 presidency, where it is meticulously chalked out various tour programs that would help in promoting the State's rich biodiversity and socio-cultural heritage in international arena. The authorities have completed the preparation to welcome the foreign delegates to the State.

Guwahati is adorned with digital wall painting, thematic gates, flags of G 20 countries, LED cut-outs, standees, hoarding, etc as part of branding and beautification. The government has also completed the arrange-

ment for the visiting delegates to places of importance like Kaziranga National Park, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Garbhanga Reserve Forest, Brahmaputra Heritage Centre, etc.

The theme for G 20 is 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' with the motto of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The two-day SFWG meeting will kick start on 2 February at Hotel Radisson Blu in the city, where 94 delegates from the G20 member countries, guest countries, different international organizations and officials from the Union government will be present.

The first day's programs include yoga and three SFWG sessions. It will end with the river cruise, Ratri bhoj par samvad and a cultural event. Second

day's programs too contain a yoga session, three side event sessions, fourth SFWG session and concluding dinner at Brahmaputra Heritage Centre. The Youth 20 Inception meeting will be attended by 250 delegates on 7-8 February at Radisson Blu and IIT Guwahati.

Over 400 students from various local academic institutions will also participate in the meeting. This is the first of various meetings to be held on the five Youth 20 themes across India in a run-up to the final Y 20 summit in August. The Y 20 meeting will focus on various themes including peace building and reconciliation, future of work industry, climate change & disaster risk reduction, youth in democracy & governance, health wellbeing and sports.

## Air Marshal AP Singh assumes appointment of Vice Chief of the Air Staff

IT Correspondent  
Kohima, Feb 1:

Air Marshal AP Singh PVSM AVSM took over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) on today. On the occasion of taking over of the office of VCAS, he laid a wreath at the National War Memorial to honour those Armed Forces personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. Following this, he was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhavan).



An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College, the Air Marshal was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on 21 December

1984. The Air Officer is a Qualified Flying Instructor and an Experimental Test Pilot with more than 5000 hours of flying experience on a variety of fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

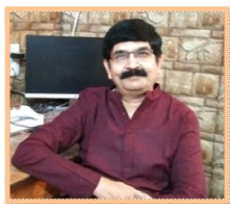
During his career, the officer has commanded an operational fighter squadron and a frontline air base. As a test pilot, he led the MiG-29 Upgrade Project Management Team at Moscow, Russia. He was also the Project Director (Flight Test) at National Flight Test Centre looking after the flight testing of the Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas). He has held

important staff appointments of Air Defence Commander at South Western Air Command and Senior Air Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command. Prior to assuming his current appointment, he was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Central Air Command.

The Air Marshal is a recipient of Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

He has succeeded Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, who retired on 31 January 2023 after more than thirty-nine years of illustrious service.

## Shoot tigers with a camera, not with the gun



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Don't we think Hunting and killing of animals has become a form of recreation. Murdering humans is considered a crime. But killing and wiping out an entire genre is hardly given consideration.

Our country is unique in having a significant number of tigers in the wild, in spite of growing population and resource extraction pressures on their habitat. Tigers are the heritage of our country, evoked in the vedas, puranas and many other literature for their unparalleled strength and aesthetic beauty. India is home to a third of the global tiger population and according to National Tiger Conservation Authority, there are an estimated 2967 tigers left in India in 2021. The tiger population is rapidly declining because of many reasons. Tiger deaths increased to 127 in 2021 from 106 in 2020. And this is the highest number of annual deaths recorded in a decade, beating the record of 2016 when 121 tiger deaths were recorded in the Indian forests. The number of tiger deaths in 2019 was 96.

The destruction of forest coverage by Maoists may be one of the reasons for this decrease. Wild animals deaths were also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. No doubt, the world wild life Fund is the international agency, which is doing commendable work in promoting the protection of wildlife and there are number of national agencies engaged in the conservation of wildlife. According to research, the average life span of the tigers in the wild is generally 10-12 years and in natural ecosystem, factors like old age, diseases, inter-caste fights, electrocution, snoring, drowning, road, rail hits, among others, and a very high infant mortality observed in big cats, including tigers, account for majority of the tiger deaths. Madhya Pradesh leads the states in tiger numbers and, per the 2018 figures, counted 526 of the big cats within its territory. Karnataka was a close second with 524 tigers while Uttarakhand had the third-highest population of 444 tigers.

We should know that we are not just animals, but that we belong to the same family tree as other mammals, that our physiology and bodily processes are just like theirs, and that our mental processes too are from the same general pattern. The protection of the national animal has been a significant achievement till now. Hope this continues and leads to a significant rise in the coming years. Among animals, some are fewer in number than the others. If proper care and security are extended to them, the rare animals would survive. Only the future can tell whether national animal will survive to maintain the much-needed ecological balance. If we delay now, it might be too late.

Tigers play a large role in sustaining the biodiversity of forests, in maintaining healthy ecology, habitat conservation and the livelihoods of rural communities. The tiger population has decreased in the states of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh. The destruction of forest coverage by Maoists may be one of the reasons for this decrease. Wild tiger deaths were also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. During the first six months of the year, 30 deaths were reported. The protection of the national animal has been a significant achievement till now. Hope this continues and leads to a significant rise in the coming years. Credit must also be given to Aircel for initiating "Save Tiger" campaign, along with New Delhi Television (NDTV), who played an active role in creating awareness among the people on dwindling tiger population in India. A new tiger commando force should be created to protect tigers from the poachers. Government must try to put in more efforts to improve the arrangements to conserve the national pride - the Tiger.

As per the definition of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), wetlands are areas where "water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season". Wetlands are some of the planet's most important ecosystem and play a crucial role in water security, a barrier against natural disasters such as flooding. They also help fight climate change and prevent soil erosion. They're a heaven for wildlife, they filter pollution and they're important stores of carbon and form one of the most important sinks for greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. But they're also one of the earth's most threatened habitats. Some 85% of wetland present in 1700 was lost by 2000, many drained to make way for development, farming or other productive uses, disappearing three times faster than forest, and their loss spells an existential threat for hundreds of thousands of animals and plant species. Healthy wetlands critical for climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and human health and prosperity-punch above their weight in terms of benefits, says Leticia Carvalho, Principal Coordinator for Marine and Freshwater at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Making sure that they continue to deliver vital ecosystem services to humanity requires their prioritization, protection, restoration, better management and monitoring.

Wetlands, which include marshes and peat lands, are the unsung heroes of the climate crisis. They store more carbon than any other ecosystem, with peat lands alone storing twice as much as the entire world's forest. Inland wetland ecosystems also absorb excess water and help prevent floods and drought, widely seen as critical to helping communities adapt to a changing climate. It's encouraging that there is increasing recognition of wetlands as an invaluable but overlooked nature-based

solution. Wetlands built by humans, such as reservoirs, also contribute to human well-being and have other benefits. One project in the Baltic, for instance, aims to improve water quality in lagoons polluted by fertilizer run-off using floating, vegetation-rich wetlands to remove nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Wetlands teeming with species are a key ally in our fight to stop biodiversity loss. Over 140,000 described species-including 55% of all fishes-rely on fresh water habitats for their survival. Freshwater species are important to local ecosystems, provide sources of food and income to humans and are key to flood and erosion control. Yet wetlands species are going extinct more rapidly than terrestrial or marine species, with almost a third of all freshwater biodiversity facing extinction due to invasive species, pollution, habitat loss and over-harvesting. The good news is that protection, sustainable management and restoration of wetlands works. Improving management of wetlands brings health, food and water security benefits-critical to the health and livelihood of 4 billion people reliant on wetlands services, says the Global Wetland Outlook. Under sustainable development Goal-6, Target-6, all countries are committed to protecting and restoring wetlands by 2030 and UNEP has special role in helping to monitor and achieve that target. The Okavango Delta in Botswana and Pantanal in Brazil are iconic examples of inland, vegetated wetlands teeming with wildlife. But wetlands come in many shapes and sizes and are uniquely under pressure from demographic and development forces, notably from agriculture.

The lack of conservation of wetlands can have harmful consequences in several aspects such as climate change mitigation, water and food security, disaster management and so on. Therefore, conservation of wetlands is crucial to prevent the biodiversity of the country. In 1971, Convention on Wetland

of International Importance also known as Ramsar Convention was held near the shores of the Caspian Sea in Ramsar in Iran. February 2, World wetland day is the United Nations International Day of Importance when the Convention on Wetland of International Importance was signed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1971 to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits. It was also aimed to make the World's population aware of conservation and wise use of wetlands. The day was founded as initially five nations signed the Convention but today over 170 nations are signatories to the Ramsar Convention and there are over 2400 listed Ramsar wetlands, including in India. Nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since 1700s, according to the official website dedicated to the day.

In the state of Manipur, there were about 500 lakes in the valley in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. They have been reduced fast in the past few years and as a result hardly 55 lakes were found existing in the state by 1950s. Loktak Lake is the most important fresh water lake not only in the state but also in the entire North-East India. But its fate is uncertain now as it's "Apple of Thesaurus" for political bigshots and for those who are pretending to save it. Other important existing lakes which are in the state of extreme danger are IKOP, WAITHOU, NGAKRAPAT and LOUSHIPAT. These lakes remain threatened due to artificial eutrophication and encroachment for cultivation and fish farming. Highly degraded lakes in Manipur are KHARUNGPAT, KHOIDUMPAT, PUMLEN PAT, SANAPAT, YARALPAT and POIROUPAT forgetting about LAMPHELPAT, POROMPAT and AKAMPAT which are no more a lake but still skeleton of being one time lake is seen. According to the recent survey conducted by the Remote Sensing Application Centre Government of Manipur there are 17 lakes and 2-ox-bow lakes in the

state of Manipur. Historically these wetlands have been emotionally relating to cultural and ritual activities, fortification and recreational activities since the beginning of Manipur culture. Therefore it is high time to avoid demolishing these wetlands and rejuvenate them to maintain the age-old socio-cultural relationship it bears.

The World Wetland Day (2nd February) is celebrated to raise awareness among all sections of society, including in India about the values and functions of wetlands, utilization of their resources and their environment importance. Each year, a global theme is adopted to focus attention and help raise public awareness about the value of wetland and raises awareness across the nation. The 2023 Theme is "It's Time For Wetlands Restoration," Which Highlights The Urgent Need To Prioritize Wetland Restoration, and it involves calls for urgent action for protection of wetlands, which in India is also the focus of this year's campaign. It's an appeal to invest financial, human and political capital to save the world's wetlands from disappearing and to restore those we have degraded, according to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India. Wetlands, such as coastal salt marshes, sea grass meadows, tidal mudflats, rivers and streams, lakes, bogs and floodplains, provide food and clean water for millions of people and habitat for a huge range of aquatic, terrestrial and amphibious species. Restoring these landscapes means reversing many of these services and benefits that have been lost or damaged in previous decades. The UN, meanwhile, says that it is urgent that people raise national and global awareness about wetlands in order to reverse their rapid loss and encourage actions to conserve and restore them. World's Wetland Day is the best occasion to enhance people's understanding of critically important ecosystems.

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## Outreach For Indianisation And Harmony



M.R. Lalu

of the Hindu society. His "why look for shivling in every mosque" was a rhetoric that had startled many Hindu groups and spiritual leaders. A discontent among the rank and file was silently brewing and social media was flooded with comments for and against his remark.

The Sangh has long been trying to bring the disgruntled minorities to the table for an ideological debate. The organisation feels dialogue between the adversaries can bring solutions and dispel disagreement. In its vivid perception about the minorities especially Christianity and Islam, the RSS has genetically developed an idea that both the religions are not Indian enough as they prefer to connect their civilisational lineage with the countries where they originated. The Sangh sees this as the prime reason behind the ideological tussle between the Indic religions and the Abrahamic religions. It keeps insisting them to return to their ancestral Indian heritage, which according to the Sangh is the common ancestry of all. It cherished this idea of Indianisation of the Indian branches of Abrahamic religions for long. One of its most prominent ideologues P. Parameswaran began this initial thought process in Kerala in the mid nineties. His focus was mainly on the incredible share of Christian population in the state, to which he

appealed to Indianise or to streamline their practices in tune with the spiritual climate of India.

Bhagawat says all Indians are Hindus as their cultural ancestry is Sanatan Dharma. This is a conflicting view for the Hindus as well as those who follow the Abrahamic traditions. You will see him criticise religious conversions in the same breath. Now the thickening question is, if all Indians are Hindus, then why should there be a pandemonium while Hindus are being converted to other religions. Debates on Hindu-Muslim unity began to gain momentum recently as the country witnessed outright aggression between the communities and the ruling BJP is blamed for its tapping dividends out of the ongoing colossal conflict. Amid various contentious issues such as the Gyanvapi mosque row and Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura, the Sangh is seen vehemently following its agenda of stitching a coalition with the minorities. An ideological togetherness is invariably difficult. Moreover, the wounds of partition had further deepened the crisis and many occasional conflicts continued post independence. There were many fenced issues between the two communities but the Ayodhya agitation and the Godhra riots had intensified the predicament. Therefore, it believes that it should focus on highlighting a common ancestry and help the country rise in response to its call for unity.

More than anybody the Sangh understands what it means to be in

a denial and disagreement with the twenty percent of the country's population. The organisation with its millions of members and a massive organisational network known as the Sangh Parivar is identified as the biggest stakeholder of Hindutva. With its towering support it has been able to establish the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which in a short duration rose to become the largest political party and now the country's ruling dispensation. A Sangh ideologue J.Nandakumar gives a vivid justification on its efforts of Indianisation of minorities. He calls India a Dharmic civilization and the multiple belief systems flourishing in India should be tantamount to the Dharmic traditions that it has been following from the ages of sages. He believes that India's civilisational core is based on its pluralistic existence and the post colonial thrust on secularism was an attempt to bury its ancestrally inherited belief of plurality. According to him, with its ability to circumscribe the variety into one essential unity, India had encapsulated an extremely purer form of coexistence and the confrontations, if there were any, were the result of a semiotic theological invasion that opposed the beauty of plurality. A Dharmic civilization recognizes religious practices as different ways and means of spiritual purity and the knowledge that they are able to garner would transform an ordinary society into an ideal conglomeration of universal acceptance.

The fact is that 'Unity in Diversity' or 'Hindu Universalism' propounds and prays for the wellbeing of the global humanity or treats the globe as a family for the multiplicity to flower and flourish. The ideological notion that India will be meaningfully propagating throughout its G20 presidency would be from the Vedic ethics and that should be seen as an effective synchronization of diverse thoughts into one logically formulated version of togetherness. With the Vedic adage "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or 'world is one family', India's diplomatic outreach is much more meaningful than any effort that would seek global unity. Since Dharma is believed to be at the core of India's civilization, extreme religious beliefs palpably proclaiming their hegemony over the rest would shake the amiability in societies. And the RSS for that matter is enduring to wipe out the mistrust among the minorities about its ideological weaponry. Trying to integrate the minorities into India's inherent Dharmic heritage needs intense dialogues.

The Sangh is probably trying to eradicate the misapprehension that it has been subjected to for decades. The latest interaction between the leaders of the saffron camp and the Muslim intellectuals is known to have shared concerns on the notion of the Muslims identifying a Hindu as Kafir and defaming him to be an unacceptable entity. There is a deliberate narra-

tive emanating from the hypocrisy of the Indian political spectrum that the Muslims in India are frequently persecuted by the majority under the blessings of a majoritarian government. Random skirmishes between the two communities can be quoted to justify this view. But such narratives are unimindful of the aggression of an exclusive mindset that takes weapons to slit innocent people's throats and terrorise the public through organised rioting. So India's deceptive past had occasions wherein violence between the two communities had been a reality. But such issues cannot be termed as the choreographed versions of majoritarian aggression alone. Almost every issue of hostility was an outcome of an ideological conflict that sprung up from a disagreeable insistence of one ideology on the other. A larger positive message through consistent dialogue is welcome. But to chisel out conflicting beliefs from both the sides needs honest groundwork. The BJP in its recent National Executive Meet made fresh appeal to its cadre for an open and honest approach to include the minorities. But the ruling party failed to elect a Muslim candidate to the parliament and the trust deficit between both sides is still evident. A fresh outreach shedding the thorny memories of the past should be of everyone's interest.

(Freelance Journalist/Author of "India @ 75-A Contemporary Approach")

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# Budget 2023: Oppn counters “Modi, Modi” slogans with “Bharat Jodo” during FM Sitharaman’s speech

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 1:

The Budget session started on a high note as rival slogans of “Modi, Modi” and “Jodo Jodo Bharat Jodo” echoed in Parliament on Wednesday during Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s Budget speech.

As Finance Minister Sitharaman began her Budget speech, slogans were raised from both sides in the Lok Sabha.

Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha members, who raised ‘Modi-Modi’ slogans were countered by Congress MPs who retorted with slogans of the recently concluded Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The episode was evidence of Congress’ clear intention which is believed to be coming well-prepared to counter the Central government during the Budget session.

This Budget session is expected to be stormy with the opposition parties seeking to raise several issues of their concern.

The multi-party meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday



ahead of the Budget session made it clear that the opposition parties will try to corner the government by raising issues including those related to Adani stocks and the BBC documentary.

During the meeting, the opposition parties asked the government to hold a discussion on the issue concerning Adani stocks saying it concerns the economy of the country and the people.

The parties that raised the issue included RJD, CPI-M,

CPI, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and National Conference.

“Why is no inquiry done? Where is CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation), ED (Directorate of Enforcement) or SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)? Why is it allowed to swindle funds belonging to the public? We have asked for a discussion on the floor of the house and if the government doesn’t bring it, we will again raise it in Parliament,” AAP leader Sanjay Singh told ANI.

The representatives from the Congress party didn’t turn up in the all-party meeting as they were busy with Bharat Jodo Yatra’s finale.

This year’s budget session is going to have 27 sittings till April 6 with a month-long recess to examine the budget papers. The first part of the session will conclude on February 13. Parliament will reconvene on March 12 for the second part of the Budget Session and conclude on April 6.

# Armed forces can take action against their officers for adulterous acts: SC

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 1:

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that armed forces can take action against their officers for adulterous acts, as it clarified the landmark 2018 judgement that decriminalised adultery.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said its 2018 judgement was not concerned with the provisions of the armed forces acts.

The top court, on a plea filed by NRI Joseph Shine, in

2018 had struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code dealing with the offence of adultery, holding it unconstitutional.

The Tuesday order by the bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and C T Ravikumar came after Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, appearing for the Centre, submitted a plea seeking clarification of the 2018 judgement.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had moved the apex court for an exemption to

armed forces from the September 27, 2018 judgement striking down adultery, saying it may hinder action against officers who indulge in such actions and can cause ‘instability’ within the services.

“In view of the aforesaid (2018) judgment, there will always be a concern in the minds of the army personnel who are operating far away from their families under challenging conditions about the family indulging in untoward activities,” the application said.

# YAI Sail India 2023 Regatta Held in Mumbai



A group photo of the winners of YAI Sail India 2023. (Photo credit: Defence PRO).

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 1:

The race for YAI Sail India 2023 (Ranking Event and Asian Games Selection Trials II) which began on January 24 was culminated at Girgaum Chowpatty in South Mumbai on January 31, Tuesday.

The competition was organised by the Army Yachting Node (AYN),

Mumbai in conjunction with the Yachting Association of India (YAI). The regatta comprised a single series of fleet racing for all classes.

The yachtsmen/women across the India participated in the event. The prizes were awarded to the winners in a function organised at the venue in the evening.

Final results in each class were: **ILCA 7-** Vishnu Sarvanan (AYN) - Gold Medal, 2. Mohit Saini (AYN) - Silver Medal, Gitesh (AYN) - Bronze Medal, **ILCA 6-** Nethra Kumanan (TNSA) - Gold Medal, Ritika Dangi (NSS) - Silver Medal, Sonal Goel (AYN) - Bronze Medal.

**ILCA 4 (Boys)-** Adhavait Menon (INWTC Mandovi) - Gold Medal, Shashank (NSS) - Silver Medal, K Nithin Naik (TSC) - Bronze Medal, **ILCA 4 (Girls)-** Neha Thakur (NSS) - Gold Medal, Pearl Colvalkar (CESC) - Silver Medal, Divyanshi Mishra (NSS) - Bronze Medal.

**RS:X (Men)-** Eabad Ali (AYN) - Gold Medal, V P Pathak (AYN) - Silver Medal, Mitesh Kumar (EMESA) - Bronze Medal. **RS:X (Women)-** Ishwarya Ganesh (TNSA) - Gold Medal, Vidyanshi Mishra (NSS Bhopal) - Silver Medal. **iQFoil (Men)-** Jerome Kumar (AYN) - Gold Medal, Dane Coelho (GYA) - Silver Medal, Saurabh Kumar (AYN) - Bronze Medal. **iQFoil (Women)-** Katya Coelho (GYA) - Gold Medal.

**49er-** KC Ganapathy/ Varun Thakur (TNSA) - Gold Medal, Prince Noble/ Manu Francis (AYN) - Silver Medal, Anand Thakur/ Satyamrangad (INWTC) -

Bronze Medal. **49erFX-** Harshita Tomar/Shital Verma (NSS Bhopal) - Gold Medal, **470 (Mixed)-** Shraddha Verma/ RK Sharma (INWTC Mbi) - Gold Medal, Kongara Preethi (YCH)/ Sudanshu Shekhar (INWTC Mbi) - Silver Medal, Uma Chauhan (NSS Bhopal)/ CHS Reddy (AYN) - Bronze Medal.

**Nacra 17 (Mixed)-** Doiphode/Ramya Saravanan (AYN) - Gold Medal, Ekta Yadav (NSS Bhopal)/ Karthik B (AYN) - Silver Medal, Lt Cdr Aman Vyas (INWTC)/ Aastha Senapati (INWTC) - Bronze Medal.

The Army Yachting Node was established in 2001 at Mumbai under HQ Maharashtra Gujarat & Goa Area and is co-located with the Naval Sailing Club at Colaba in South Mumbai. The yachtsmen of the AYN have been dominating in events at National level, by making a clean sweep of all the medals in most of the events. At present 60 sailors from all Arms and Services are training at AYN which is equipped with the state-of-the-art training facilities and highly qualified coaches.

This regatta is conducted every year to achieve the aim of attracting more youth across all genders and class into this sport and develop young talent and technical specialisation for the Army sailing for the future glory of the country. The championship also seeks to promote this ‘clean green’ sport amongst the youth of the country and make this a premier international sailing event in the country.

# FOC-in-C WNC Felicitates the Victorious Contingent of Maharashtra NCC

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, Feb 1:

The victorious contingent of NCC Maharashtra Directorate were hosted by Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Western Naval Command (WNC) and Mrs Charu Singh, President Navy Wellness and Welfare Association (NWWA) Western Region, at Navy House in South Mumbai on Tuesday.

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh interacted with the cadets who won the presti-

gious PM’s banner and overall championship trophy at the recently concluded Republic Day Camp 2023.

He encouraged the cadets to continue doing their best for the nation and hoped many would join the Armed Forces. Major General YPKhanduri, Additional Director General (ADG) of Maharashtra NCC and senior Naval officers along with ladies were also present for the event.

The NCC contingent of Maharashtra Directorate brought laurels to the State by winning the Prime Minister’s banner at the Republic Day

Camp (RDC 2023) event, recently.

Maharashtra’s NCC contingent comprising 111 cadets, including 16 from Nagpur, won the Champions Trophy and the Prime Minister’s banner at the RDC 2023 for standing first overall in addition to winning a rich haul of trophies and medals. Winning the overall championship trophy was a result of the year-round efforts of winning back-to-back all the Sainik camps and shooting competitions.

No 2 Maharashtra Naval NCC Unit was adjudged ‘The Most Enterprising Naval Unit

(MENU)’ and Cadet Astha Singh, adjudged the best Senior Wing Cadet (Navy), received the award at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Maharashtra Directorate team was also declared winner in the flag area competition. Cadet Vaibhavi Vyas was declared the best MC for the RDC events. Maharashtra also won the awards for best directorate in Air Wing competition and the best squadron in flying. The Directorate teams also achieved the first position in the Inter Directorate Sports Shooting Competition and the Thal Sainik Camp (Girls).

# Falling in love with Mathematics



By: Vijay GarG

Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes was so engrossed in analysing a geometrical diagram that he did not notice the invading Roman soldier who swiftly killed him. His grave was surrounded by a sphere and a cylinder that Archimedes had requested to showcase his love for Mathematics.

Twenty centuries later, in 1789, a 13-year-old French girl wondered what was it about Mathematics that captivated Archimedes fatally. Sophie Germain would fall so much in love with this subject that she would defy all social norms to pursue her mathematical studies alone. Sophie’s work on

Fermat’s Last Theorem would build a solid foundation for future mathematicians exploring number theory. And her courage to be the only woman in France to study mathematics, even if in the guise of a man, would inspire many more girls to do the same.

This love of numbers and this affinity for geometrical shapes is universal. There is no other country with a richer history and greater passion for mathematics than India. Indeed, it was in India that zero was first seen as a number. And from zero came everything else. Once zero was in place, ancient Indians quickly progressed to studying higher mathematics. Early research into the idea of negative numbers, arithmetic, algebra, calculus and trigonometry were all conducted by Indian mathematicians. In the seventh century, the astronomer Brahmagupta introduced rules for solving quadratic equations and for computing square roots, both of which are still taught in our schools. He was also the first to recognize the scientific phenomenon of gravity, describing it as

“gurutvākarcāGam”. Mathematics and science have always been correlated and interconnected.

**Limited knowledge of the basics**

Cut to today, there is a distinct and dire need for India to recommit to its love for mathematics. The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) concluded that the majority of Class VIII students can’t do basic math. More worryingly, another survey revealed that more than 80 per cent of Indian students in Classes VII to X are “fearful” of math. This self-doubt does not augur well for our future generations. Science and technology - the essential requirements to the future success of India - cannot thrive without a solid foundation in mathematics. To be clear, ‘math hesitancy’ is not an India-specific trend. A recently released comprehensive survey of school-going children in the United States reported an unprecedented 7-point decrease in math scores.

We need to counter the myth that mathematics is pursued for the sake of just Math-

ematics. Mathematics goes beyond the classroom to prepare a child for excelling in work and life. This ‘numerful’ subject hones the skills of developing hypotheses, identifying patterns, solving problems and thinking rationally. Framing an equation, identifying the knowns and unknowns, and taking systematic steps to solve the problem is not a mathematical skill. It is a life skill. Therefore, studying mathematics will not only produce more technologists to take India forward, but also nurture citizens who can think creatively and critically.  $2 + 2 = 4$ , no matter what else you want it to be.

The big question is - how can we make India fall in love with Mathematics? For one, solving this problem starts at home. Parents can be - and must be - math heroes for their kids. It is our duty, as parents, to inspire our children to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers joyously. Imagine the excitement of a six-year-old when you help her discover that  $(17+20) - 1$  is easier to calculate than  $17+19$ . Studies show that students perform better at

school when parents spend a short time every day doing math with their children. A household that solves math problems together is a household that produces future problem solvers for the country. We also need thousands of more math teachers who are not only motivated about what they do but also share their passion with their students. Involved parents + passionate teachers that is the formula to overcome math hesitancy.

We don’t just need more math teachers and math parents. We need more math major doctors, more math major CEOs, more math major artists and more math major Members of Parliament. Indeed, the passion for mathematics should be nurtured beyond the school curriculum so that the leaders of tomorrow can hope that every problem has a solution. The word mathematics comes from the Greek word *mathanein*, meaning ‘to learn.’ In that sense, every learner is a ‘math person’. And everything is mathematics.

# 'Few Good Things' To 'Drop In The Ocean For Middle Class': Congress Reacts To Union Budget

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 1:

The Congress seemed to have mixed feelings on the Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman even as she dubbed it as the blueprint for a prosperous India. While some leaders of the party acknowledged 'some good things' about the budget, few others called it 'a drop in the ocean' for the middle class.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said that there were some good things in the Budget, however, added that it also lacked to answer some fundamental questions on issues such as poor rural labour, employment and inflation.

Tharoor said, "There are some good things in #UnionBudget2023 but there was no mention of MNREGA, poor rural labour, employment & inflation. Some fundamental questions remained to be answered."

FM Sitharaman announced that in the new tax regime, the Personal Income Tax rebate limit would be increased to Rs 7 lakh, which was earlier Rs 5 lakh. Reacting to this mega announcement, Congress leader Karti Chidambaram said, "A major part of the budget is a repetition of the President's address and the Economic Survey report...any tax cut is welcome. Putting money in the hands of people is the best way to boost the economy." He further added, "I am a believer in a low tax regime. So, any tax cuts are welcome because giving more money into the hands of the people is the best way to boost the economy."

However, the tax rebate did not appeal a lot to Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi, who said, "No solution to price-rise, inflation, unemployment. Poor got just words & rhetoric. Budget benefits only the big industrialists. Tax rebate up to Rs 7 Lakhs is insignificant considering the inflation & price-rise, it's like drop in ocean for middle class."

Congress MP K Suresh alleged the Budget of being pro-corporate. He said, "It is a pro-corporate budget. All interests of Adani are fulfilled in this budget, but the common man has been ignored. This budget is for Adani, Ambani, and Gujarat."

Congress MP Manish Tewari has slammed the Budget announcements and said that the finance minister said nothing about the country's debt of Rupees 18 lakh crore. He said the Budget should not take the country into 'Bhootkaal'.

JD(U) MP Rajiv Ranjan said, "There is nothing in the Budget. It is like 'Sapno Ka Saudagar' - nothing comes true when you wake up after a dream. Also, nothing was mentioned about how to control inflation and unemployment."

Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti said that the

Budget is the same that had been coming for the last few years. She said, "Taxes increased, money not being spent on welfare schemes & subsidies. Tax is collected for some crony capitalists & big businessmen. The public should benefit from taxes but it's breaking their backs...Instead of benefitting them (common people), welfare schemes and subsidies are being scrapped. People who had risen above the poverty level have fallen below the poverty level again."

Budget 2023-24 is the final full Budget of the NDA-II government. This Budget holds much significance as the country is scheduled to have the next Lok Sabha elections in April-May 2024. Like the previous two Union Budgets, this one was also delivered in paperless form. The Cabinet has okayed the Union Budget 2023-24, the last full Budget of Modi 2.0 government.

# PM CARES Fund is a public charitable trust, not controlled by government, Centre tells Delhi HC

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 1:

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund has been established as a public charitable trust and is not created under the Constitution or parliamentary law, the Centre has told the Delhi High Court, *Bar and Bench* reported on Tuesday.

The PM CARES Fund was established in March 2020 as a "dedicated national fund" to deal with "any kind of emergency or distress situation" in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Centre filed an affidavit in response to a plea seeking to declare the PM CARES Fund as a "State" under Article 12 of the Constitution to ensure transparency in its functioning.

"There is no control of either the Central Government or

any State Government/s, either direct or indirect, in functioning of the Trust in any manner whatsoever," the affidavit stated.

The government also reiterated that the fund is not a "public authority" under the Right to Information Act, therefore exempting it from scrutiny.

It said that the fund only accepts voluntary donations from individuals and institutions. But senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the petitioner, functionaries of the government such as the vice president had requested the Rajya Sabha members to make donations.

"There are scores of constitutional functionaries...you are allowed a large amount of flexibility but there are constitutional fetters," he argued. "If you are not [State] then you can't have government symbols or a government website

so that the public thinks that you are 'state'. Either you are 'state' or you are not."

The petitioner has also argued that senior government functionaries were representing the fund set up and operated by the government.

It contended the fund uses government resources such as a "gov.in" domain name for its website, the national emblem and the words "Prime Minister" and its abbreviation in official and unofficial communications.

The plea contended that the office of the PM CARES Fund office was the prime minister's office.

The petition said that as a result of presenting the fund in such a manner, it received huge donations. The PM CARES Fund website showed that Rs 3,076.62 crore was collected merely within four days of its creation, the plea noted.

Contd. from Page 1

# Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman...

The Finance Minister has reduced the highest surcharge on personal income tax from 37 percent to 25 percent in the new tax regime. This will result in reduction of maximum tax rate to 39 percent.

The government has increased tax exemption limit on leave encashment on retirement of non-government salaried employees from existing 3 lakh rupees to 25 lakh rupees.

Finance Minister has exempted excise duty on GST-paid compressed bio gas to avoid cascading of taxes on blended compressed natural gas. To further provide impetus to green mobility, customs duty exemption has been extended to import of capital goods and machinery required for manufacturing of lithium-ion cells for batteries used in electric vehicles.

Government has provided relief in customs duty on import of certain parts and inputs like camera lens and continue the concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries for another year to give boost to manufacturing of Mobile phones in the country.

Similarly, to promote value addition in manufacture of televisions, the Finance Minister reduced the basic customs duty on parts of open cells of TV panels to 2.5 per cent.

The government has exempted basic customs duty on denatured ethyl alcohol to support the Ethanol Blending Programme and facilitate our endeavour for energy transition.

The Finance Minister has increased the import duty on silver, gold, bars and articles to align them with that on gold and platinum.

The basic customs duty rate on compounded rubber has been increased from 10 per cent to 25 per cent or 30 rupees per kg whichever is lower to curb circumvention of duty.

Government has hiked National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on specified cigarettes by about 16 per cent.

New co-operatives that commence manufacturing activities till 31st of March 2024 will get the benefit of a lower tax rate of 15 per cent, as is presently available to new manufacturing companies.

The move is aimed at realiz-

ing Prime Minister's goal of Sahkar se Samridhi, and his resolve to "connect the spirit of cooperation with the spirit of Amrit Kaal."

Government has hiked limit of 2 lakh per member for cash deposits to and loans in cash by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs). Similarly, a higher limit of 3 crore for TDS on cash withdrawal is being provided to co-operative societies.

The payment to be received by the Agniveers from the Agniveer Corpus Fund has been exempted from taxes. According to the new proposal, deduction in the computation of total income is proposed to be allowed to the Agniveer on the contribution made by him or the Central Government to his Seva Nidhi account.

The Finance Minister announced that a capital outlay of 2.40 lakh crore rupees has been

provided for the Railways, highest ever outlay about 9 times the outlay made in 2013-14.

She also announced that one hundred critical transport infrastructure projects to be taken up on priority with investment of 75,000 crore, including 15,000 crore from private sources for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors. Fifty additional airports, heliports, water aerodromes and advance landing grounds to be revived for improving regional air connectivity.

The Minister informed that "PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth" will be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers. 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under GOBARdhan scheme will be established for promoting circular economy.

# WHO says Covid-19 remains 'global health emergency'

Agency  
United Nations/Geneva, Feb 1:

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a "global health emergency" and the deadly virus will remain a "permanently established pathogen" in humans and animals for the foreseeable future, according to the World Health Organisation.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday that as the world enters the fourth year of the pandemic, there is no doubt that "we are in a far better situation now" than a year ago when the Omicron wave was at its peak. He said Covid-19 continues to be a health emergency.

"Three years ago today, I

declared a public health emergency of international concern over the global spread of COVID-19 the highest level of alarm under the International Health Regulations, and for the moment, the only level of alarm," Ghebreyesus said.

He said he has been advised by the Emergency Committee for coronavirus disease that "COVID-19 remains a global health emergency".

The Committee acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic may be approaching an "inflection point".

"Achieving higher levels of population immunity globally, either through infection and/or vaccination, may limit the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on morbidity and

mortality, but there is little doubt that this virus will remain a permanently established pathogen in humans and animals for the foreseeable future," it said.

It noted that while eliminating the virus from human and animal reservoirs is highly unlikely, mitigation of its devastating impact on morbidity and mortality is achievable and should continue to be a "prioritized goal".

Ghebreyesus cautioned that since the beginning of December, weekly reported deaths have been rising and in the past eight weeks, more than 170,000 people have lost their lives to COVID-19.

"We can't control the virus, but we can do more to address

the vulnerabilities in populations and health systems," he said, adding that this means vaccinating 100 per cent of the most at-risk groups.

It also means increasing access to testing and early antiviral use; taking context-specific measures when there is a surge in cases; and maintaining and expanding laboratory networks.

He also called for fighting misinformation relating to the virus and vaccinations. The novel coronavirus was first reported in Wuhan, China, on December 31, 2019. Globally, there have been more than 752.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6.8 million deaths till date, according to WHO.

## Sports

# India name Junior Women's Hockey team for tour of South Africa

Agency  
New Delhi, Feb 1:

Hockey India on Tuesday announced the Indian junior women's team for the South Africa tour, which is set to begin on February 14.

The Indian team led by Preeti as captain and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal as vice-captain will play a series of matches on the tour between February 17th and 25 against the South African junior women's hockey team and South Africa A team.

India's forward line includes Deepika Soreng, Deepika, Sunelita Toppo, Madugula Bhavani, Annu, and Taraneet Kaur. In the midfield, Jyoti Chhattri, Manju Chorsiya, Hina Banu, Nikita Toppo, Hritika Singh, Sakshi Rana, and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal have been given the opportunities.

Preeti, Jyoti Sing, Neelam, Mahima Tete, and Mamita Oram constitute Indian's defence line-up on the tour.



Apart from the 20 players, Aditi Maheshwari, Anjali Barwa, Edula Jyothi, and Bhumiaksha Sahu have been named as the four reserve players in the squad.

"The tour is a good opportunity for us to test our young batch of talented players and give them the right kind of exposure. It is important for us to ensure that we continue to

give ample playing opportunities to players who are showing signs of progress. We hope to achieve good results on the tour," said chief coach Janneke Schopman.

India squad:

Goalkeepers: Kurmapa Ramya, Madhuri Kindo  
Defenders: Preeti (Captain), Jyoti Singh, Neelam, Mahima Tete, Mamita Oram

Midfielders: Jyoti Chhattri, Manju Chorsiya, Hina Banu, Nikita Toppo, Hritika Singh, Sakshi Rana, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (Vice-Captain)

Forwards: Deepika Soreng, Deepika, Sunelita Toppo, Madugula Bhavani, Annu, Taraneet Kaur

Reserve Players: Aditi Maheshwari, Anjali Barwa, Edula Jyothi, Bhumiaksha Sahu.

## Documents Lost

I, the undersigned have lost my Wallet containing Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, ATM Card, Voter ID Card and Driving Licence etc. on the way from my residence Yairpok Bishnunaha to Thoubal Bazar on January 30, 2023.

Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned.

Sd/-  
Motilal Okram  
Yairpok Bishnunaha

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Samurailatpam Sarat Kumar Sharma do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Samurailatpam Sarat Kumar Sharma** as I have assumed my new name **Samurailatpam Sarat Kumar Sharma**.

Sd/-  
Samurailatpam Sarat Kumar Sharma  
Chingamakha Ningthoujam Leikai,  
Singamei, Imphal West

## Name Change

I, the undersigned, Samurailatpam Rolex Kumar Sharma do hereby declare that I have relinquished, renounced and abandoned the use of my old name **Samurailatpam Rolex Kumar Sharma** as I have assumed my new name **Samurailatpam Rolex Kumar Sharma**.

Sd/-  
Samurailatpam Rolex Kumar Sharma  
Chingamakha Ningthoujam Leikai,  
Singamei, Imphal West