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Charting India's Economic Course : Key Highlights of the Interim Union Budget 2024-25

A Vision for Inclusive Development

With the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas,' Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents a forward-looking Interim Union Budget 2024-25, reflecting a commitment to the nation's comprehensive progress.

Social Justice Takes Center Stage

Under the theme of 'Garib Kalyan, Desh ka Kalyan,' the Prime Minister aims to uplift the 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth), and 'Annadata' (Farmer). Key initiatives include PM-Jan Dhan accounts, PM-SVANidhi for street vendors, and PM-KISAN

SAMMAN Yojana for farmers. Empowering Nari Shakti and Education

The budget underscores the empowerment of women through initiatives like Mudra Yojana loans and increased female enrollment in higher education. In STEM courses, girls constitute 43% of enrollment, emphasizing the government's commitment to gender inclusivity.

Infrastructure and Employment Boost

Capital expenditure for infrastructure and employment sees an 11.1% increase, reaching Rs.11,11,111 crore, forming 3.4% of the GDP. Railway, aviation, and energy sectors witness major developmental strides, promoting efficiency and sustainability.

Green Energy and

Sustainability

The budget outlines a transformative approach to energy with plans for coal gasification, mandatory blending of compressed biogas, and incentives for green energy. The government aims to set up 1 crore households with free electricity through rooftop solarization, fostering sustainability.

Tourism and Global Investment Appeal

Encouraging states to develop iconic tourist centers and rating them based on quality, the budget seeks to boost the tourism sector. The announcement of Rs. 75,000 crore as a fifty-year interest-free loan aims to support reforms in states, fostering investment and development.

Fiscal Prudence and Economic Reforms

The fiscal deficit target for 2024-25 is set at 5.1% of the GDP, reflecting a commitment to fiscal consolidation. The budget outlines a scheme for a fifty-year interest-free loan for capital expenditure in states, promoting long-term economic reforms.

Tax Reforms and Direct Benefits

Retaining the same tax rates for direct taxes, the Finance Minister emphasizes improved taxpayer services. Noteworthy measures include withdrawing outstanding direct tax demands and extending tax benefits to Start-Ups and sovereign wealth funds until 2025.

GST Success Story and Indirect Tax Rationalization

The budget celebrates the success of GST, doubling the average monthly gross col-

lection and expanding the tax base. Indirect tax rates remain unchanged, and the GST-led supply chain optimization is highlighted, reducing compliance burdens and benefiting consumers.

Achievements in Taxpayer Services and Customs Reforms

Efficiency in taxpayer services is evident with reduced processing time for tax returns and the introduction of faceless assessment and appeal. Customs reforms have significantly reduced import release time, fostering a business-friendly environment.

Economic Transformation : Then and Now

The Finance Minister reflects on the economic journey since 2014, emphasizing



the government's commitment to attracting investments, implementing reforms, and instilling hope. A White Paper on the nation's economic transformation will be presented, showcasing the government's

dedication to transparency. Navigating Towards Economic Prosperity

The Interim Union Budget 2024-25 unfolds as a strategic roadmap, balancing social justice, sustainable develop-

ment, and economic reforms. With a focus on inclusive growth, fiscal prudence, and tax rationalization, the government charts a course towards a resilient and vibrant economic future for India.

UCCI Establishment Day: Excellence Awards Unveiled

Udaipur: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) celebrates its 59th Establishment Day on February 12, 2024, featuring the highlight "UCCI Excellence Awards." Nominations were sought from diverse enterprises across eight districts, recognizing contributions to job creation, social responsibility, and economic development. Selected winners will be honored during the event.

Book Launch: Dr. Prabhat's "New Revelations" Unveiled



In Kota on January 6, the memoir "नई बातें निकलकर आती हैं" (New Things Come Out) by Dr. Prabhat Kumar Singhal was launched at the Government Public Library's public auditorium. Chief guest Dr. M.L. Agrawal praised it as a societal compass, while literary figure Mr. Jitendra 'Nirmohi' drew parallels with his own creation. Keynote speaker Mr. Vijay Joshi highlighted the book's portrayal of societal struggles, and eminent guests emphasized its significance in contemporary literature. Dr. Singhal provided insights, and poetic compositions added artistic flair to the event.

Dabur Chyawanprash Launches 'Science in Action' Campaign for Ayurvedic Awareness in Udaipur



Udaipur: Dabur India Limited, a leading Ayurveda-focused company, has introduced the 'Science in Action' campaign to foster awareness of Ayurveda's benefits and promote a healthy lifestyle. The initiative involves seminars with Ayurvedic experts in

schools across 22 cities, enlightening children about the scientific facets of Ayurveda. A special program at Daksh Academy School focuses on fortifying children's immune systems against environmental challenges. The campaign, aiming to dispel Ayurveda myths, utilizes various media platforms to provide scientifically based information and highlight Dabur Chyawanprash's role in boosting immunity.

'Mr. and Miss Lake City' Beauty Pageant Shines in Udaipur

Udaipur: Udaipur witnessed the dazzling 'Mr. and Miss Lake City' Beauty Pageant organized by Creation and D.G.V.S at the Ashoka Green Maharaja Banquet Hall. Prithviraj Singh Devda and Riya Nagdev claimed the coveted titles of Mr. Lake City and Miss Lake City. Dr. Sweetie Chhabra, Director of N.A.I.S.E.C, Udaipur, graced the event as the chief guest and mentor. Renowned personalities added glamour, and the fashion show, featuring diverse age groups, showcased a blend of traditional and western attire across five captivating rounds. The event celebrated talent and style, with winners spanning different categories.

IAS Officer Shikhar Agrawal Appointed Chief Secretary of CM's Office

In a significant development, IAS officer Shikhar Agrawal from the 1993 batch has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of the Chief Minister's office, in addition to his role as Additional Chief Secretary of the Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Department. The move follows Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's directives, with the Rajasthan government issuing orders transferring two IAS officers and 10 RAS officers. The restructuring aims to enhance administrative efficiency and leverage officer expertise across various departments for effective governance.

Cabinet Minister Kharaadi Inaugurates Panchayat Building and Bridge in Poplati

Udaipur: Babulal Kharaadi, the Minister of Tribal Regional Development and Home Defense, visited the Poplati Gram Panchayat in the Udaipur rural constituency on Friday. During his visit, Minister Kharaadi inaugurated the newly constructed Gram Panchayat building and a bridge over the Alsihghad river. Additionally, he participated in the annual celebration of the Poplati Gram Panchayat.



The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Udaipur rural MLA Phoolsingh Meena, making it a festive day for the residents of Poplati. Minister Kharaadi, along with MLA Meena, inaugurated the new Gram Panchayat building, constructed at a cost of approximately 32 lakhs under the NREGA and Gram Panchayat funds. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kharaadi assured comprehensive development in areas such as healthcare, education, and employment for the residents of tribal regions. Furthermore, a bridge over the Alsihghad river, built at a cost of 20 lakhs, was also inaugurated by Minister Kharaadi and MLA Meena. This bridge was particularly significant as it brought relief to the residents of Bidara and Khadara Falaa, who had been facing difficulties due to the absence of a connecting bridge. Emphasizing the importance of hard work for success, Minister Kharaadi encouraged the locals to set goals and strive to achieve them diligently. The program also included the inauguration of the interlocking tile work at the school premises by Minister Kharaadi and MLA Meena. The event concluded with cultural performances by school students and the distribution of educational incentives to outstanding achievers. Overall, the visit and inauguration by Minister Kharaadi marked a significant step towards the development of the Poplati Gram Panchayat, addressing infrastructure needs and fostering a spirit of progress and unity among the residents.

Rajasthan Ratnakar's Grand Presentation of 'Hamare Ram' in New Delhi

Rajasthan Ratnakar, representing the Rajasthan diaspora in Delhi, hosted a spectacular event at the Kedar Nath Sahni Auditorium in Civic Center, New Delhi. The occasion marked the grand presentation of the play "Hamare Ram," featuring renowned artists Ashutosh Rana and Rahul Bhuchar, celebrating the unveiling of the new idol of Lord Shri Ram Lala in Ayodhya and commemorating the organization's 50th golden jubilee. The three-hour-long play, a blend of cultural richness and spiritual enlightenment, showcased impressive performances, captivating sets, and deep teachings of Sanatan Dharma, leaving a lasting impact on the audience.

Preparations for President's Visit to Beneshwar Dham Reviewed by ACS Abhay Kumar

In anticipation of the proposed visit by Her Excellency Madam President to Beneshwar Dham on February 14th, ACS Abhay Kumar from the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department conducted a video conference to assess preparations. Administrative and departmental officials from Banswara and Dungarpur districts participated. Divisional Commissioner Dr. Neeraj K. Pawan detailed the arrangements for the Lakhpatti Didi conference, including help pads, domes, stalls, and logistics for 10 thousand attendees. ACS Abhay Kumar instructed officials to ensure seamless coordination for the successful event, incorporating cultural displays and exhibitions showcasing local achievements.

Tripartite MoU Signed for East Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)



The much-anticipated East Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is set to become a reality following the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sunday at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi. The MoU was signed for the preparation of a joint Detailed Project Report (DPR) between the Central Government, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh governments.

Key Highlights

- Participants: The MoU signing ceremony took place in the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. Secretary of the Union Jal Shakti Ministry Smt. Debashree Mukherjee, Additional Chief Secretary of Water Resources Department of Rajasthan Shri Abhay Kumar, and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Rajesh Kumar Rajora, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, signed the MoU.
- ERCP Realization: The ERCP is considered an ambitious project for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, aiming to

provide irrigation water and drinking water in multiple districts. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's emphasis on the project and the collaborative efforts of the two state governments led to the signing of the MoU.

3. Modified Project: The ERCP is an evolved version of the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project. The modified project is expected to contribute to the all-round development of both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

4. Development Impact: The ERCP is projected to bring about comprehensive development in the eastern regions of Rajasthan, benefiting districts such as Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Dholpur, Bharatpur, Dausa, Alwar, Jaipur, Ajmer, and Tonk.

5. Water Availability: The project aims to provide drinking water in 13 districts, along with ensuring water availability for irrigation in a vast area covering 2,80,000 hectares. Approximately 25 lakh farmer families are expected to benefit from irrigation water, and around 40 percent of the state's population will have access to drinking water.

6. Economic Impact: The ERCP is anticipated to boost agricultural production, increase income for farmers, create employment opportunities, and address industrial water needs in the covered areas.

7. Previous Setbacks: The Chief Minister highlighted that the ERCP and other projects faced neglect from the previous state government, causing delays and depriving the people of the state of their benefits. He emphasized that the new project will address these setbacks and lead to positive outcomes for the state.

The ERCP is poised to play a crucial role in the economic and infrastructural development of both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, marking a historic milestone in the collaboration between the Central Government and the two states.

- Gopendra Bhatt

Farewell to Assistant Administrative Officer Veerlal Bunkar on Retirement

Udaipur (Dr. Munesh Arora): Assistant Administrative Officer, Veerlal Bunkar, bid farewell to his distinguished career as he retired on Wednesday from the Information and Public Relations Office in Udaipur. A simple ceremony was organized at the Information Center Auditorium, where Deputy Director of the department, Gaurikant Sharma, honored Bunkar by presenting him with a turban, shawl, and a token of appreciation. Sharma congratulated Bunkar on his dedicated service and wished him a bright future post-retirement. During the program, APRO Vinay Sompura and Senior Account Officer Dinkar Khamesara praised Bunkar's contributions and extended their congratulations. The event was also addressed by former Joint Director Pannalal Meghwal and senior journalist Munesh Aroda. Assistant Administrative Officer Laxman Singh Chauhan, and employees Raj Singh Sadana, Hiralal Sharma, and Omprakash Khatik, along with Bunkar's family, journalists, and well-wishers, attended the event. The program was hosted by Sunil Vyas.



Chief Minister Chairs Video Conference Emphasizing Swift Issue Resolution



Jaipur: Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma led a comprehensive video conference addressing public grievances, revenue disputes, Jal Jeevan Mission progress, and daily work reviews with state officials. Present were District Collector Arvind Poswal, Regional Commissioner Rajendra Bhatt,

IG Ajaypal Lamba, and other departmental officers. Chief Minister Sharma stressed the need for noticeable change in public perception, scheduling specific time slots for public hearings, and resolving issues at the source level. Daily public hearings at various administrative levels were mandated, with Chief Secretary Sudhanshu Pant urging officers to diligently follow directives for prompt issue resolution and efficient workflow.

Swachh Bharat Mission Coordinator Urges Action to Protect Rajasthan's Tourism

KK Gupta, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) coordinator in Rajasthan, raises concerns over the impact of uncleanliness on tourism. Gupta emphasizes the link between cleanliness, public health, and tourism, urging the government to take strict action against violations.

Despite a surge in tourists, filth in cities like Jaipur hampers tourism. Gupta highlights Shekhawati's decline, calls for heritage site preservation, and commends Dungarpur's waste management model. He urges transparent fund usage, condemns corruption, and calls on Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma to safeguard Rajasthan's heritage tourism through effective Swachh Bharat Mission implementation.