

BUDGET

REACTION 2022

The FM Nirmala Sitharaman presented Union Budget for fiscal year 2022-23 on Feb 1. This budget is going to play an essential role in reviving the MSME sector, assisting economic recovery, and creating jobs amid the Covid crisis, some reactions...

EDUCATORS SPEAK



MEGHNA KULKARNI,
Former teacher, DAV International School, Mulund

DIGITISATION OF EDUCATION

Budget 2022 places a strong emphasis on digitisation of education, proposing to establish a Digital University and launch new e-learning platforms for rural areas. The incorporation of regional languages in e-vidya schemes and an emphasis on the need of organic farming courses in agricultural universities are also positive steps. These proposals make the budget promising and we can expect them to be implemented prudently.



GINNI NANDA
Teacher, Podar International School, Sangli

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

The budget aims to lay the economic blueprint for the next 25 years. With the use of new technology, it will enhance the startup culture while also pushing technological innovation with introduction of E-passport. The proposals will increase the amount of credit available for digital infrastructure and clean energy. Overall, the budget appears to be inclusive and should return the economy to pre-pandemic levels.

STUDENTS SPEAK

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

According to the FM, the government has revamped the Ministry of Women and Child Development's programs and 2 lakh anganwadis would be upgraded with better amenities. She also stated that the PM development initiatives for the North East will also be implemented for the North Eastern Council. This, with the National Tele Mental Health Program, make the 'Amrit Kal' of India appear promising.

Disha Hegde, SYBA, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Sion

NATIONAL DIGITAL MENTAL HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

The FM has put forth a proposal for a National Tele Mental Healthcare programme in collaboration with NIMHANS and IIIT Bangalore. This initiative will definitely help in dispersing the stigma around mental health and help cope with the stress. It is a very welcome step as it will also help in initiating important conversations about how mental health is as important as physical health.

Aarya Bhanushali, class XI, Thakur College of Science and Commerce

GO DIGITAL

While Dalal Street cheered the Union Budget, the salaried class looked a little glum since there's no relief in income slab tax rates. However, clarification of tax on digital assets can be read as the government's nod to blockchain technology which augurs well for the crypto ecosystem in India. RBI issued digital currency will open a new front in currency management. This budget will be instrumental in strengthening the country's infrastructure which will boost productivity. Additionally, the commitment to develop SEZs will accelerate foreign investment.

Tejashree Sonawane, FYBA, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that Rs 48,000 crore has been allotted for the PM Awas Yojana, which will see 80 lakh residences built for identified beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas. This is a significant step in providing affordable and secure homes for economically disadvantaged people.

Anjali Yadav, class X, K.V.K Ghatkopar Sarvajanic School and Jr College

GROWTH ORIENTED BUDGET

Budget 2022 is growth oriented. A strong growth in nominal GDP and projected tax income which will help compress the fiscal deficit by 0.5% of the GDP, has been predicted. The capital outlay has been increased by a healthy rate of 35%, which augurs well for the economy. Vital sectors such as Start-ups, agriculture and education will get a major boost this year.

Urvi Dhonde, student

LACK OF TAX CUT FOR MIDDLECLASS TAXPAYERS

I seem to have mixed feelings regarding the budget for 2022-23. Several changes, such as urban planning and stepping up on digital currency, were maintained with the pandemic in mind, though middle-class taxpayers appear to be in a bind because no variable changes were made even with fewer jobs, leading me to believe that while the budget is good, it could have been better.

Noyonika Sharma, class XI, Apeejay School, Nerul

PEOPLE FRIENDLY BUDGET

It appears that the budget for 2022 places a strong emphasis on infrastructure development, and the national mental health initiatives also appear to be positive. In all, it's a people-friendly budget.

Ritika Mukherjee, Former star correspondent and ex-student of New Horizons Scholars School, Thane

ALL FOR PROMOTING STARTUPS

The FM has projected a fiscal deficit of 6.4% for the year 2022/23. The capital expenditure; which is the money used by the government to build roads repair bridges make hospitals, etc was increased. Sadly, there was neither an income tax relief nor increase in standard deductions mentioned in the budget. Although the budget did mention digital initiatives such as RBI launching its own digital currency and the taxation of crypto currency at 30%. It also mentioned that the funding threshold of start-ups is increased.

Dhiti Wadhwa, class XI, PACE Jr. Science College

HONOURING LITERARY EXCELLENCE

The National Jarul Book Awards announced 'The Germ Academy', written by Rea Malhotra Mukhtyar and illustrated by Shahena Zaveri, as the 2022 winner. In its fifth year, the National Jarul Book Awards is supported by librarians around the country, with Heeru Bhojwani, the American School of Bombay's (ASB) Secondary School Librarian taking the lead to bring the Awards to children across India. A student jury reviewed the shortlisted books and selected three finalists. After collecting votes from over 4,000 children across India, the winner was chosen.

"Winning the National Jarul Book Awards was so unexpected," Mukhtyar exclaimed at the event after being announced as this year's recipient. "The picture book space needs more representation in the Indian market, and it is so much more special when we are recognised by the students. We are who we choose to be. Thank you for choosing to be a reader. Thank you for taking the time out to build your imagination and your creativity. It is going to hold you in good stead for the years to come."

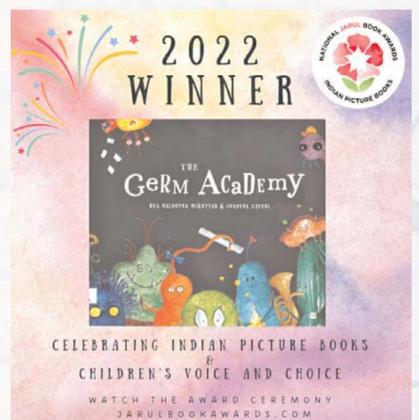
"We created the book with a lot of love and enthusiasm. The whole process was an absolute joy," added Zaveri. Over 200 students and adults from more than 20 schools in India joined the live event today, Friday, January 28, to celebrate Indian picture books and children's voice and choice. Students from ASB's Elementary and Middle School hosted the event and provided the keynote speeches, making this a truly children-led event.

Opening the awards ceremony, Grade 7 student from ASB, Rishi, kicked off the event noting that as children, "we all deserve a voice and make a choice about what we believe in".

"The Jarul book awards is all about children's choices," keynote speaker and Grade 6 student, Katelyn, noted. "It's all about your choice, and what you choose can change the outcome. The choice of your favorite book will create a winner to celebrate Indian children Picture Books."

Now, it is your time to think about all that is important to you, and to take action. Stand up for what you believe. You don't have to wait to become an adult to change the world."

Grade 6 student, Arhaan, also spoke passionately about children. "If you feel strongly about something you should always take action. Don't be afraid!" I began writing down about social injustices, and the more I wrote



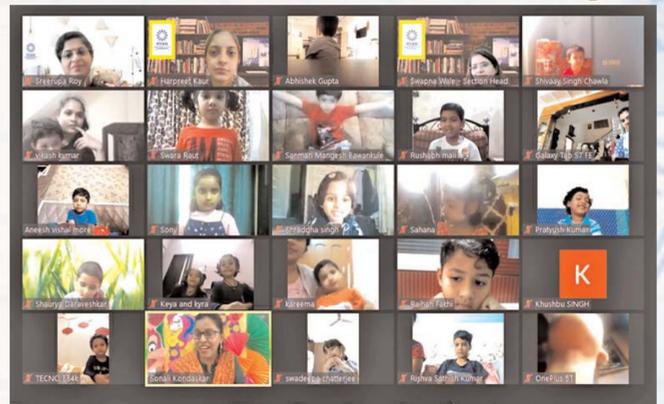
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the more I felt empowered. My advice to anyone starting out is to try your best and learn new facts to support human rights. Even though we are young, we understand the world around us and deserve a chance to make a positive difference in the world."

Both Mukhtyar and Zaveri attended the event, and shared their experiences about collaborating on the winning title. "This book has been created entirely in lockdown," Mukhtyar said. "Shahena and I did not meet at all during the process." Mukhtyar went on to ask the students in the audience to share their ideas about what they learn at school. Students from all over the country were quick to share their ideas. "We learn qualities like sportsmanship and being kind," said one student. "We learn to help each other," said another. With answers like these, it is no wonder the organisers of the National Jarul Book Awards are keen to promote student voices!

Honorable mentions go to the two other finalists. 'Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon', by Simran Jeet Singh illustrated by Baljinder Kaur, and published by Penguin House Publishers, and 'Pickle Mania' by Srividya Venkat and illustrated by Shailaja Jain Chougule, published by Tota Publishers. The Germ Academy is published by Harper Collins.

Learn to tell a story



A Virtual Story Telling Session was organised at Ryan International School, Kharghar for the newly admitted students and parents of Montessori Section and Std 1 on 15.1.2022 through Zoom Platform. Students and parents were in for a special visual treat and

watched the various characters in the story 'Honey Bunny' come alive as the session unfolded.

Story Telling was followed by Dance and Freeze game time. The fun filled and engaging session was attended by 38 students -parents and was well received.

Global Warming

Global Warming is a major atmospheric issue all over the world. Earth's surface becoming hot day by day by trapping the sun's heat and rise in the level of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The bad effects of it increasing day by day and causing major problems to the living human being. It has become one of the subjects of big social issue which needs social awareness to great level. People know its meaning, causes effects and solution to solve it immediately. People should come fourth together and try to solve it and save lives on earth.

Inaya Mansoori, class IV, Rahul International School, Mira Road



Makar Sankranti celebrations

As a part of an effort to inculcate respect for India's rich culture and diversity and to reinforce national pride the tiny tots of the Montessori and the primary section students from Ryan International School, Kandivali celebrated Makar Sankranti with great zest.

The session started with a virtual assembly emphasizing the importance of the festival. The students were briefed

about the significance of this day as this festival signifies the harvest time of rabi crops and marks the end of cold winter months.

Keeping in mind the vision of chairman Dr A.F.Pinto the school organizes many value-based activities and competitions.

Students creatively designed their own kites with a message written for their loving parents with their family photographs.

Students participated in making til gud laddoos with their parents and marked the festival adorned with colourful kites.



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