

OPINION 6 THE UNFULFILLED PROMISE OF RAM RAJYA

WORLD 9 BANGLADESH CRAWLS BACK TO NORMALCY

MONEY 10 STOCK MARKETS FALL FOR 4TH DAY

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INDIA Bloc protests over Budget 'bias'

No State ignored in Budget, Opposition trying to mislead, claims Sitharaman

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

Opposition parties resorted to vehement protest in and out of Parliament on Wednesday over the alleged discrimination against Opposition-ruled States in the Union Budget.



INDIA Bloc MPs stage a protest in Parliament premises over alleged discrimination in the Union Budget 2024, during the Monsoon Session, in New Delhi, on Wednesday PTI

State and section has been taken care of by the Modi Government. No State ignored in Budget, Opposition trying to mislead, said Sitharaman.

Jail or jahannum for terrorists, says Nityanand in Parliament

(terrorists) will not succeed in their design," Rai said in Parliament.



Security personnel stand guard during an encounter with terrorists in Trimukha area of Sopore in North Kashmir, on Wednesday PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU/NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday sent a stern message that terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir region will either land in jail or be sent to 'jahannum' (hell).

on Wednesday. The braveheart has been identified as Naik (GNR) Dilwar Khan. This is the third incident of terrorist violence in the last three days in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the latest Rajouri incident, in the ensuing firefight, one terrorist was eliminated and a soldier received injuries who later succumbed to his injuries.

SC proposes panel for talks with farmers at Shambhu border

PTI NEW DELHI

Observing that there is a trust deficit between farmers and the Central Government, the Supreme Court on Wednesday proposed the constitution of an independent committee comprising eminent persons to reach out to the protesters at Shambhu border and address their demands.



trust deficit," the bench also comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan said. "Let appropriate instructions be taken within a week. Till then let parties maintain status quo at the site to prevent flaring up of the situation at the Shambhu border," the bench said while posting the matter after a week.



Rescue operations are underway at the site of a plane crash at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Wednesday PTI

Eighteen killed in Nepal plane crash

PTI KATHMANDU

A Nepalese private plane crashed and caught fire shortly after taking off from the Tribhuvan International Airport here on Wednesday, killing 18 people aboard, including a child, and seriously injuring the pilot.

Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. It said rescue operations were initiated immediately and fire was brought under control. "One injured person (Captain Manish Ratna Shakya) was rescued and taken to the hospital, and 18 People were found dead," it added.

GNSS toll collection to make NH driving hassle-free

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

To provide seamless and barrier-free tolling experience on National Highways and Expressways, the Road and Transport Ministry has decided to initially implement global navigation satellite system (GNSS)-based toll collection system on pilot basis as an added facility along with FASTag.



Representative Image

organised on June 25, 2024 and global expression of interest (EOI) was invited for wider industrial consultation on June 7, 2024 with last date of submission as July 22, 2024.

said the master plan for National Highways to improve the logistics with provision of expressway/high speed highways has been prepared by the Road Ministry under PM Gatishakti Framework using transportation model with

analysis of data of e-way bills (GST), toll and traffic survey. Responding to another question, the Minister said among all the National Highway projects that started about 10 years ago, 697 projects have gone beyond their original completion schedule.



India's archers aim to strike Gold in Paris

PTI PARIS

A different year and another Olympics, but for Indian archers, the target will be the same - fetching their first ever medal at the Games.

For the first time after London 2012, India will have a full six-member squad after both the men's and women's teams qualified on the basis of rankings. This means they will compete in all the five events.

Each archer will shoot 72 arrows and the scores in the qualification round of 128 athletes from 53 countries will decide the seeds for the main knockout competition beginning with the women's team finals on Sunday.

In Choudwar 2 students drown in dam; 1 rescued

PNS CUTTACK

Two students drowned in the Damdamani dam under the Choudwar police station in Cuttack district on Wednesday. Another student was rescued by locals.

According to reports, five students from the Stewart College in Cuttack had gone to the Damdamani Dam for a picnic. While they were taking a bath in the dam, three students accidentally slipped into deep waters. One of the student was rescued by some locals.

Odisha's economy expected to grow at 8.5%

- Per capita income stands at Rs 1,61,437 State Budget 2024-25 to be presented today

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's economy is estimated to grow at 8.5% in 2023-24 as per advance estimate in comparison to 7.9% growth in 2022-23, as per the Economic Survey 2023-24 report released on Wednesday.

Odisha is Rs 1,61,437 in 2023-24, which is 12.4% less than India's per capita income of Rs 1,84,205. According to the NITI Aayog, the multidimensional poverty headcount ratio in Odisha has declined from 29.3% in 2015-16 to 15.7% in 2019-21. Over 62 lakh people escaped multidimensional poverty during the period.

States with high incidence of poverty headcount, the report informed. The agriculture and allied sectors are estimated to grow by 3.5% in 2023-24 which contributed 20.4% to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA).

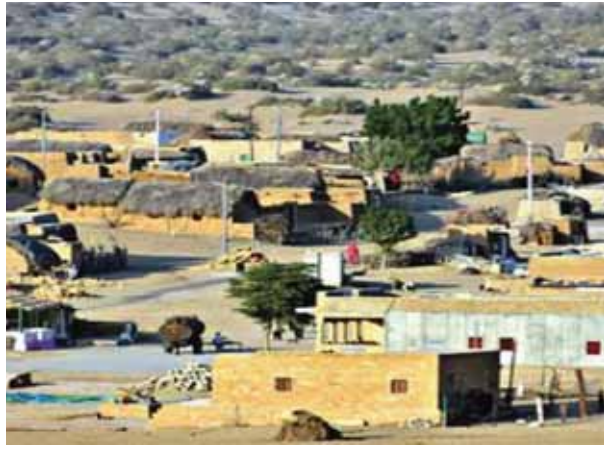
Odisha is concentrated mainly in basic metal and mineral-based industries. It needs to put more concerted effort to diversify from mineral-based industries to other value-added industries.

ITeS companies to operate in the State, thereby increasing IT/software exports from Odisha. Odisha Tourism has immense potential. However, post pandemic, the State is yet to recover in terms of tourist footfall.

Border villages get ₹1,050 cr to curb migration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Government continues its thrust on comprehensive development of villages located remote areas along the border with China, the Union Budget has allocated Rs 1,050 crore for the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) that will benefit select villages in 19 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. The Government approved the VVP as a centrally-sponsored scheme on February 15, 2023, with an outlay of Rs 4,800 crore for 2022-23 to 2025-26 for development of these villages in 46 blocks abutting the northern border. The Budget, presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday, has earmarked Rs 1,050 crore for the VVP for 2024-25. The objective of the programme is comprehensive development of these villages to improve the quality of life



of people and thereby reversing out-migration, officials said. The VVP, which is being implemented by the Union Home Ministry, envisages focused areas of interventions for creation of opportunities for livelihood generation through promotion of agriculture, horticulture, tourism and cultural heritage, skill development and entrepreneurship,

development of co-operative societies for managing livelihood opportunities including agriculture, horticulture, cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs, road connectivity, housing and village infrastructure, energy including renewable energy, television and telecom connectivity and financial inclusion. One of the sectors identified for development is promotion

of tourism and culture by augmenting various tourism-related infrastructure, promoting community managed home stays, organising local fairs and festivals, promoting ecotourism, agro-tourism, wellness, wildlife, spiritual and adventure tourism and local cuisines. The VVP was conceived as an outcome-oriented programme with outcome indicators at three levels—village, household and individual beneficiary. Under the VVP, so far 136 border villages are being provided connectivity through 113 all-weather road projects at a cost of Rs 2,420 crore. Mobile 4G connectivity is being worked on rapidly in these areas and by December, all villages under the VVP will be covered by the 4G network, officials said. Showing its focussed attention, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, after assuming charge in the Modi

3.0 Government, had reviewed the implementation of the VVP at a high-level meeting here on July 13. He had stressed the need to provide employment opportunities to the residents of border villages and increase connectivity to prevent migration from such remote areas. Shah had directed authorities to continue the efforts being made by Senior Ministers and officials to better understand the issues of border villages under the special initiative taken by the Central Government. He said the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Army deployed around the border villages should encourage purchase of local agricultural and handicraft products through cooperatives. The Home Minister said the healthcare facilities of the Army and CAPFs should be regularly made available to benefit the residents of nearby villages.

BJP asks Rahul to apologise after SC's verdict on NEET

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The BJP on Wednesday accused Rahul Gandhi of fuelling lack of trust in India's examination system following the NEET-UG paper leak at a few places, and asked if he will apologise after the Supreme Court's verdict on the issue. The court on Tuesday dismissed the pleas seeking cancellation and re-test of the examination, holding that there was no evidence on record to conclude that it was "vitiated" on account of "systemic breach" of its sanctity. The court said the leak occurred in a couple of cities. BJP leader and former union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad hit out at the opposition, especially Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, following the verdict, accusing him of defaming India's examination globally with his strong words. His choice of words was

violative of Parliament's dignity and the dignity of the office of the Leader of Opposition, a position Gandhi holds, Prasad said. He also dismissed Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the budget as a "kursi bachao budget", saying it was not the BJP's fault if people have repeatedly rejected him and his party in the elections. Defending the government's action on the NEET row, the BJP leader said the probe in the matter was handed over to the CBI and the candidature of 155 examinees was cancelled. He highlighted the enormity of the examination, noting that over 23.5 lakh students took it at 4,750 centres across 571 cities. Rahul Gandhi was using words like "fraud" to attack the entire examination and now the court has made it clear that there was no systemic breach in the sanctity of the test, he said. "Will Rahul Gandhi apologise..." he asked, claiming that paper leaks were rife during the governments led by the Congress.

First Advanced Frigate launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first of two Advanced Frigates under construction by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Navy, was launched on Tuesday, defence ministry said here on Wednesday. In keeping with maritime tradition, the ship was launched by Rita Sreedharan to the invocation from Atharva Veda, in the presence of Goa Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai. The ship has been named Tripud, after the mighty arrow, representing the indomitable spirit of Indian Navy and its ability to strike far and deep. The contract for building two Tripud class Advance Frigates was signed between Ministry of Defence and Goa Shipyard Limited in January, 2019. The ship is designed for combat operations against enemy surface ships, submarines and aircrafts. The Tripud class ships are 124.8 m long and 15.2 m wide, with a draught of 4.5 m. Their displacement is approximately



3,600 tons and speed a maximum of 28 knots. The ships are equipped with stealth features, advanced weapon and sensors and platform management systems. Being constructed at GSL, the Tripud class of ships are follow on ships of the Teg and Talwar class ships acquired from Russia. These frigates are being constructed for the first time indigenously by an Indian

shipyard. In line with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, a large percentage of the equipment fit, including weapons and sensors is of indigenous origin, thereby ensuring that large scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units, generating employment and capability enhancement within the country.

UK Foreign Secretary visits India for talks on FTA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Wednesday began a two-day visit to India to galvanise support for an ambitious Free Trade Agreement and reset the overall bilateral partnership in crucial areas such as clean energy, new technologies and security. As he embarked on the high-profile trip, Lammy described the negotiations for the trade deal as the floor and not the ceiling of the ambitions to unlock shared potential and deliver growth. The British Foreign Secretary's visit to New Delhi is the first high-level engagement between India and the UK after Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Government came to power on July 5. India is the emerging superpower of the 21st century, the largest country in the world with 1.4 billion people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world," Lammy said. "Our Free Trade Agreement negotiations is the floor not the ceiling of our ambitions to unlock our shared potential and deliver growth, from Bengaluru to Birmingham," he said. A British Government readout said, Lammy will push for a "reset" of the UK-India partnership, including through reinforcing London's commitment to securing a



free trade agreement that will benefit both economies. It said the Foreign Secretary will also galvanise support for accelerated action on the climate crisis with India as an "indispensable partner", driving forward the clean energy transition and creating opportunities for British and Indian businesses. He will discuss partnering on Indian-led global initiatives to build clean power access, climate resilience in the global south and small island states, it said. "We have shared interests on the green transition, new technologies, economic security and global security," Lammy was quoted as saying in the readout. "I am travelling to India in my first month as Foreign Secretary because resetting our relationship with the Global South is a key part of how this Government will reconnect Britain for our security and prosperity at

issues such as import duties on automobiles and scotch whisky and visas for business people. The British readout said Lammy will highlight the importance of a new partnership with India that focuses on economic, domestic and global security. Economic, domestic and global security will be at the heart of the Foreign Secretary's first visit to India as he travels to New Delhi to unlock the full potential of the UK-India partnership. He will tell his Indian counterpart that he wants to drive forward greater growth for both countries, it said. The Foreign Secretary will underscore the importance of the "living bridge" between the UK and India. It represents the 1.7 million people with Indian heritage that have made their home in the UK and make an exceptional contribution to British life, the readout released by the UK high commission in New Delhi said. "In a visit to India's third largest technology company, the Foreign Secretary will meet business leaders to highlight how the UK and India are working together on shared ambitions such as cutting-edge science to encourage innovation, boost trade, and improve the livelihoods of working people in both countries," it said.



People walk past as sea waves crash against the promenade during high tide, at Marine drive, in Mumbai, on Wednesday PTI

Over 12K plaints filed through PMO grievance portal pending, LS told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 12,000 complaints related to the central government departments filed through a public grievance portal of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) are pending, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday. In a written reply, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said <https://www.pmindia.gov.in> is a centralised portal for registering public grievances related to central ministries or departments and also for state and Union territories. He said the status of the grievances filed using the portal can be tracked with a unique registration ID generated at the time of filing of the complaint. The grievances received are redressed by the ministries, departments, states and Union territories concerned in a decentralised manner, the Minister said, adding that a majority of these are redressed in less than 30 days. According to data he shared, as many as 58,612 complaints were received between

January and June. In addition to that, 34,659 complaints were brought forward from the previous year. Of these, 80,513 were redressed and 12,758 are pending, the data showed. In 2023, 1,84,227 such complaints were received (in addition to 19,705 brought forward from the previous year). Of these, 1,69,273 were redressed and 34,659 were pending. The Minister also shared data on pending complaints related to the state governments and Union territories. As many as 46,696 complaints (excluding 25,724 brought forward from the previous year) about states and UTs were received during January and June. Of these, 46,219 were redressed and 26,201 were pending. During 2023, 91,973 complaints were raised against state governments and UTs. Of these, 2,58,633 complaints were redressed (redressal was also done from 1,92,384 complaints brought forward from the previous year) and 25,724 were pending, according to the data.

Maratha-Dhangar quota: Cong urges Govt to start negotiations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Congress MP from Maharashtra on Wednesday made a demand in Lok Sabha that the government should start negotiations with Manoj Jarange-Patil to find a solution to the Maratha-Dhangar reservation issue at the earliest. Raising the issue of reservation for Maratha and Dhangar communities in Lok Sabha, Congress' Praniti Shinde also made a strong demand for conducting a caste census to ensure reservation to women. Shinde, the Lok Sabha member from Solapur, said Jarange-Patil is sitting on a fast and the Dhangar community also wants to be included in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. "The government is adding to the existing tensions in Maharashtra. The BJP is in the government in Maharashtra and at the Centre? Why can't there be a negotiation to find a solution to it? Why is there a delay? It is my demand that the government enter into talks on the Maratha-Dhangar reservation issue and find a solution to the problem," Shinde said. Shinde also demanded that a caste census be conducted at



the earliest so that women and Maratha and Dhangar communities get reservation due to them. BJP MP from Palghar, Hemant Savara, demanded setting up of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Thane district of Maharashtra. Savara said he was educated in a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in Palghar, which was a part of Thane district. He said Thane district ceased to have a JNV after Palghar district was carved out of it in 2014. Congress member from Idukki, Dean Kuriakose, wanted the government to reintroduce the vermin list under the Wildlife Protection Act to allow culling of "cruel animals" entering farm land and destroying the crop. Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi raised the issue of over 12 lakh elementary teachers who lost their jobs after the Supreme Court

scrapped the 18-month diploma course in elementary education. He said the Centre should issue a gazette notification recognising the 18-month diploma course. Gogoi said such a move would do justice to the diploma holders who lost their jobs after the Supreme Court ruling. SP member Mohibullah demanded that the Centre set up an AIIMS-like hospital in his Rampur Lok Sabha constituency in western Uttar Pradesh. BJP member Anil Firojiya wanted the government to make Right to Education mandatory till graduation. Ladakh MP Mohammad Haneefa wanted the government to turn Ladakh into a Union Territory with legislature and also bring it under the sixth schedule of the Constitution to safeguard the interests of the local population.



India, Russia review defence ties in key meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Russia reviewed the entire gamut of their defence ties in Working Sub Group on Planning of Military Cooperation of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) here on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was the third meeting, defence Ministry said. Giving details, officials said the discussions focused on strengthening the ongoing defence engagements between the two sides, pondering over new initiatives under the ambit of the existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism. The Working Sub Group Meeting is a forum established to carry forward defence cooperation between the countries through regular talks at the operational level between Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) and the Main Directorate of International Military Cooperation of the Ministry of Defence, Russian Federation.

SC rejects plea to include tribunals in e-courts project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea seeking to include tribunals in the e-courts project aimed at upgrading the digital infrastructure of courts across the country. The public interest litigation said quasi-judicial panels like the Armed Forces Tribunal and the National Green Tribunal should be made part of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). The NJDG falls under the e-courts project that pertains to the formulation of a national policy on the computerisation of the country's judiciary. It is monitored and funded by the Department of Justice of the Law Ministry. The NJDG portal is a national



repository of data relating to cases instituted, pending, and disposed of by the courts across the country. "You may approach the Department of Justice regarding this. The NJDG is part of the e-courts project. It

looks at district courts, the high courts and the Supreme Court and this does not look at tribunals at all," the CJJ said. The bench made clear that it cannot "impinge" the contours of the project. The bench said, "Rs 7,000

crore was allocated for the courts and not for the tribunals. The moment we say the tribunals will be brought under it then the funds will be spent on tribunals as well." "Today there is no administrative sanction for the tribunals under the e-courts project. So, the tribunals cannot come under it now." The plea to bring tribunals under the NJDG cannot be accepted since it is a project under the e-courts project. The petitioner can avail other remedies it has under law and can approach the Government as well," it ordered. The bench, however, permitted the PIL petitioner to approach the Central Government seeking the computerisation of tribunals.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Balancing growth with populism

Though the budget 2024 is growth-centric, it has populist overtones and addresses concerns of NDA allies

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the first Union Budget for Modi 3.0 government on July 23, 2024, aiming to bolster India's economic growth while addressing social equity and the interests of the NDA allies. This budget is an exercise in balancing economic growth with political dividends. This budget outlines allocations for infrastructure, green energy initiatives, and the digital economy, reflecting a comprehensive approach to development. The Union Budget 2024-25 focuses on macro-economic growth and fiscal stability but offers limited welfare for the poor, relying on effective policy implementation for success. While the fiscal deficit has improved to 4.9% of GDP, significant disparities persist, with increased capital expenditure intended to boost private investment but widening rural-urban and income divides. The budget maintains a similar outlay as the interim budget, prioritising agriculture, rural development, housing, and MSMEs to create jobs. New measures include direct payments for first-time employees and incentives for employers to increase hiring. The budget does not adequately address rising inflation, which stands at 5.08%. To support manufacturing, the government has introduced initiatives like the Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs and increased Mudra Loan limits, along with developing industrial parks enhancing agricultural practices through Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and increasing support for natural farming. Despite these efforts, the success of the budget depends on effective implementation and addressing broader economic challenges.



The Union Budget 2024 outlines a comprehensive plan to deal with the rising unemployment by increasing the skill set of the youth. It plans to provide skills to 20 lakh youth over five years. As part of this initiative, 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes will be upgraded into hub and spoke arrangements with a focus on outcome orientation. The course content and design will be aligned with the skill needs of the industry. The budget's positives include the significant investment in infrastructure, expected to create jobs and stimulate economic growth. However, the budget also presents challenges. The ambitious spending plans may widen the fiscal deficit, posing challenges to macroeconomic stability and inflation control. Effective implementation of the proposed schemes and projects remains a critical concern, given historical delays and inefficiencies. The 2024 budget reflects a populist approach, aimed at addressing the concerns of its allies — Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu and has generously allocated funds for their states. The BJP has learned from its performance in the recent Lok Sabha elections, where it faced criticism for not adequately addressing issues like rural distress, job creation, and social equity. By focusing on infrastructure development, rural welfare, and social sector spending, the budget seeks to win back the support of these crucial demographics.

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PICTALK



Pigeons fly past the new sculpture 'Natyashastra' installed at Mandi House, New Delhi

RANJAN DIMRI

Indian education system: Building a vibrant nation

By integrating knowledge and skill development with modern practices, we can nurture youth who are proficient and emotionally and physically resilient

Bharat's educational policies are geared towards fostering a balanced approach that integrates learning with modern skills, reduces unnecessary burdens, and nurtures the unique potential of every child. These efforts are crucial for building a future-ready youth capable of seizing new opportunities in a rapidly evolving world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a vocal advocate for educational reforms and skill development. One of the landmark steps taken by the government is the introduction of the New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, established after almost four decades. The introduction of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has started giving positive dividends. Being a transformative policy, it formalises skill training by integrating it into the education system from Class VI onwards. This policy underpins the importance of combining schooling with skill training, and teaching-learning materials for classes III rd onwards are also being made available now. The government's plan to incorporate emerging and



acted with students, teachers, and parents, emphasizing the need to create an educational ecosystem where each child's unique individuality is encouraged and fully expressed. The government has been making concerted efforts to achieve this goal, recognizing that cultural and societal expectations often add undue pressure on students. Modi advocates for healthy competition, reminding us that "Teachers are not in a job role but they shoulder the responsibility of grooming the lives of students." With the rapid pace of technological advancements, its adoption in the process of learning is very crucial and technology should be harnessed as a tool for learning, reminding us that "one cannot run away from technology," as the Prime Minister remarked. Reforms are necessary as they can lead Bharat to a higher stage of advancement. The holistic approach involves aligning educational practices with principles that promote mindfulness and resilience. Education should encompass a broad spectrum of human

development, not just intellectual growth. Proper methodologies should be used to assess and nurture various aspects of a child's development. The new education system is all set to enhance individual potential and it also contributes to the nation's economic growth. It is widely admitted that a well-educated population is better equipped to drive economic progress and social mobility, reducing disparities and fostering a more equitable society. Moreover, education contributes to better health, increased civic engagement, and enhanced personal satisfaction. Bharat's examination system needs further reforms. Hence, going forward, the nation is bound to have a more fair, transparent, stress-free, flexible and robust examination system. The holes are being plugged on an urgent basis at all levels. Bharat is on the right path to building a stronger, more vibrant nation where talent, knowledge, and skills thrive.

(The author is the BJP Councillor from Narayana, New Delhi; views are personal)



UMANG BAJAJ

development, not just intellectual growth. Proper methodologies should be used to assess and nurture various aspects of a child's development. The new education system is all set to enhance individual potential and it also contributes to the nation's economic growth. It is widely admitted that a well-educated population is better equipped to drive economic progress and social mobility, reducing disparities and fostering a more equitable society. Moreover, education contributes to better health, increased civic engagement, and enhanced personal satisfaction. Bharat's examination system needs further reforms. Hence, going forward, the nation is bound to have a more fair, transparent, stress-free, flexible and robust examination system. The holes are being plugged on an urgent basis at all levels. Bharat is on the right path to building a stronger, more vibrant nation where talent, knowledge, and skills thrive.

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The unfulfilled promise of Ram Rajya

The BJP's electoral setback in Ayodhya and UP, despite the grand Ram Temple inauguration, necessitates introspection on the foundations of cultural nationalism



SIDHARTH MISHRA

Covenanted for deity, indifferent to the movement Sidharth Mishra In Hindu tradition, Lord Shiva is the symbol of faith, always speaks the truth, and is Trikaladarshi (knows the past, present and future). In Goswami Tulsidas' Ramcharitramanas, there is a reference to Shiva telling his wife Sati, "Hohi Soi Jo Ram Rachi Rakha," meaning what happens has been designed by Ram himself. Shiva explains to his wife that Ram is Param Brahma (ultimate creator), and writes the fate of a person based on his or her deeds. To the followers of Ram, this couplet forms the essence of Ram's divinity and majesty. The starting lines of the couplet are followed by Tulsidas saying, "Ko Kari Tark Badhave Sakha" that is why disputes his decision with inane discussions and then completes the couplet saying "As Kahi Lage Japan Harinama; Gai Sati Jahan Prabhu Sukhdhama," the essence of this being that in seeking refuge in Ram one attains solace as did Sati, Shiva's wife.

Though Tulsidas demands faith in Ram nowhere he mentions that a human being's own 'karma' (deeds) would not have a bearing on Ram's 'rachna' (creation). To those for whom Ram is the symbol of the revival of cultural nationalism, it's time to retrospect on their 'karma' which led to Ram's 'rachna' of the setback that they received in the just concluded Lok Sabha polls. Defeat in Ayodhya is indeed the symbol of the setback, which is spread across Ram's territory of Awadh and beyond it. Ramjanambhoomi movement played an important role in the revival and strengthening of the concept of cultural nationalism. The consecration of the statue of Lord Ram at the much-awaited temple should have proved to be the culmination of people's faith in Ram and its natural expression in the electoral gains for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). It did not happen. Celebrated English poet TS Eliot writes in his epochal poem, Hollow Men, "This is the way the world



ends/Not with a bang but with a whimper." Earlier in the same poem, Eliot writes, "Between the conception/ And the creation/ Between the emotion/ And the response/ Falls the Shadow." The question is why the Ramjanambhoomi movement culminated electorally the way it did, not with a bang but with a whimper. The inauguration of the Ram temple in January this year was the event of the century. The fluttering flags bearing Ram symbols across the states, and the cultural build-up through popular Bollywood renditions had even the sceptics once believed in the movement bearing the soul of our culture and nature. It was complete with immaculate camera coverage, with itinerary being unveiled with clockwise precision, weather at its shining best in generally a gloomy climate and a massive build-up of expectation of dawning of Ram Rajya (the rule of Ram, the ideal form of governance). The event, however, surprisingly did not bring good electoral tidings for the BJP. The party strategists were left befuddled at the morally demoralising electoral setback. For the pontiffs of cultural nationalism, the reason for 'shadows between the con-



TO THOSE FOR WHOM RAM IS THE SYMBOL OF THE REVIVAL OF CULTURAL NATIONALISM, IT'S TIME TO RETROSPECT ON THEIR 'KARMA' WHICH LED TO RAM'S 'RACHNA' OF THE SETBACK THAT THEY RECEIVED IN THE JUST CONCLUDED LOK SABHA POLLS

ception and creation, between the emotion and the response' will not be known until they decide to come out of the echo chamber of the 'VIP route' and have a 'darshan' of Ram Lalla by joining the milieu of the masses. Rama Rajya has been defined as the ideal state of society as intended by Lord Ram, comprising perfect harmony, justice, dharma and prosperity, where people live in peace and happiness. Gandhi took the interpretation forward, saying that true Ram Rajya would be to ensure equal rights to both prince and pauper. Ask the Ram Bhakts standing in the line of the paupers, for the darshan of Ram Lalla, if an ideal state had dawned. The management of the whole 'darshan' process at the Ramjanambhoomi temple today is a prototype of how it's a case study of not being the Ram Rajya model. The uncarpeted red sandstone floor of the pathway from the temple entry to the sanctum sanctorum in the heat of the summer leaves the Bhakts with blisters, cursing the temple management for their scorn. Providing carpets to cover the hot stone floor, functional air coolers on the pathway to beat the sultry weather or water coolers to quench the

thirst from standing in a queue is something that should not be beyond the command of 'caring' temple management. But then that care is lacking. The whole environment at the temple grapples with the attitude of Suraksha (security) rather than sewa (service). The teeming throng of untrained private security guards stands out as a sore thumb. The curt replies by these guards to the simple queries of the devout worshipper are all adding to the dwindling goodwill about the temple movement, though not for the temple deity. Ram lives in all humans, as notable lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi penned (*mere rom rom mein basne wale ram*) for Bollywood super hit Neel Kamal. This song over the years has become the anthem for all the Ram worshippers. If the attitude of disdain at the Ram temple is not replaced with that of service, Ram Bhakts would continue to vow for their deity albeit without much goodwill for those associated with the temple movement. (Sidharth Mishra is the author and President of, Centre for Reforms, Development & Justice; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BUDGET REACTIONS

Madam — It is not unusual for mixed opinions to arise on budgets presented by Central or State Governments. While ruling parties typically praise the budget, opposition parties are quick to criticize it. Congress leader Pawan Khera claims that the job-related schemes are merely copied from the Nyay Patra. If this is true, Congress might feel validated for having their scheme adopted. However, this could simply be Khera's personal view. What the opposition says often has little impact on the central government. Opposition parties have labeled the budget as specific to Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. It is natural for the opposition to be disappointed with the budget, especially since it does not upset the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. They had hoped that by denying special status to these states, discontent would grow, possibly leading to a withdrawal of support from Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu. The budget allocates Rs. 15,000 crore for the development of Andhra Pradesh's capital and grants for its backward regions. Bihar receives Rs. 26,000 crore for various road projects and Rs. 21,000 crore for power. An industrial center is planned for Gaya, and there is a welcome initiative to revive Nalanda University. On the fiscal front, the current budget lacks encouragement for savings. The government seems to believe people have no choice but to deposit their money in nationalized banks, thus avoiding tax deductions for savings. It would have been fair if the Finance Minister had emphasized savings as well. KV Seetharamaiah|Bengaluru

AN HORRIFIC INCIDENT

Madam — A horrifying incident in Rewa (Madhya Pradesh). I am deeply concerned about the recent incident in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh, where Mamta Pandey and Asha Pandey were partially buried while protesting against

Kamala is the right choice



This would seem to have come about a little late, a mere four months before the decisive election. For Democrats there are two options. One, go for Kamala by nomination, thereby making her a very probable scape goat in lieu of Biden, given Trump's stamped and vivid image of a clenched fist, post the shooting, or stage a grand show where their candi-

dates at the upcoming convention mount the podium and vigorously debate as to how they intend to run the nation rather than run for office. The party convention must set exemplary tenor and substance by navigating through issues on hand than throwing mud on a Teflon coated Trump, on whom nothing will stick. Under extreme pressure and for want of time on its hands, the party could find great sense in gathering both its wits and resolve to have Kamala as their candidate. Kamala is one person who is most suited to take on Trump. Remember Trump carries a heavy baggage of his own and the recent episode can but blur some of his glaring negatives, not all. R.Narayanan| Mumbai

road construction on private land. This inhumane action raises serious questions about women's safety under the current government. On one hand, we hear slogans like "Nari Shakti" and "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao," but on the other hand, women are being harassed and buried alive. Is this what we call women's safety, freedom, and security? How long will such incidents continue to occur? The nation cannot tolerate such atrocities. Authorities must address this matter urgently and find a solution to prevent such incidents from happening again. I urge the government to prioritize women's safety and take immediate action to address this issue. Masood Ahmad |Barabanki

A BOOST TO THE GDP

Madam — This refers to the front page article, "India's GDP to surge 6.5 - 7% in 2024-25: Economic Survey", (July 23) this is my response. The economic survey of the year 2024 revealed the positive growth figures of India's GDP

surge of 6.5 to 7 % in the year 2024-25. The evangelist numbers are welcoming for speeding up the growth trajectory of India, to make it a 5 trillion dollar economy as soon as possible. Although the inflation figures are stressing, as it burdened the pockets of the locals. But the growth figures are surely welcoming for each one of us. This will also help India to target 'Vikshit Bharat' vision, and help ensure balanced regional development for all together. Sectoral growth with equality from agriculture to export will power boost India to practically visualize these figures in real life. There are provisions in the budget which will definitely lead to the spurt in economic activity, especially the push for employment and skill development is likely to create more jobs and give boost to manufacturing sector. However, it will all depend upon the execution of these schemes. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



GOURAV VALLABH

UNION BUDGET 2024: POINT COUNTER POINT



PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

Transformative changes for the middle class

The budget skips pressing issues



The middle class in India has long been the backbone of the nation, driving consumption, innovation, and overall economic growth. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has witnessed transformative changes that have significantly impacted this demographic. In the last decade, we have moved from a Low Growth, High Inflation Nation to a High Growth, Low Inflation Nation. Currently, we are the only large economy in the world to have High Growth and Low Inflation. The GDP growth rate consistently outpaced other major economies, with 8.2% growth in FY 2023-24 compared to 7.0% in FY 2022-23. These economic improvements have directly benefited the middle class. Primarily, what the middle class expects from a Budget is more disposable income in hand, Quality jobs for the next generation, and an improved quality of life.

More Disposable Income in Hand Generally, the government tries to increase the middle class's disposable income by controlling inflation or by giving tax relief to the personal income tax category. This budget and government fiscal policies provide relief by both instruments. Inflation management has been crucial, with the Modi government adopting an inflation-targeting regime in 2016.

This approach stabilized and lowered inflation, which has averaged 5% since 2014, never breaching the 8% mark. In June 2024, retail inflation was 5.08%, with core inflation at its lowest in over 12 years, providing further relief to the middle class and enhancing their purchasing power.

In addition, the budget brings significant tax relief for the middle class. FM has rationalized slab rates under the new tax regime and allowed an additional standard deduction of Rs 25,000, effectively making the total standard deductions Rs 75,000 effective from AY 25-26. The new tax regime continues to be the default tax regime of taxation.

These changes increase disposable income in the hands of the middle class to the extent of Rs 17,500 per

annum. In other words, after these changes, there will be no tax till income from the Salary of Rs 7.75 Lakh under the new tax regime.

Empowering the Backbone of India

The Union Budget 2024-25, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, introduces a series of measures aimed at empowering the middle class and ensuring inclusive growth. This budget focuses on employment, skilling, MSMEs, and infrastructure, which are all pivotal for middle-class prosperity. The budget allocates Rs2 Lakh Crore for education, employment, and skilling, directly benefiting the middle class by facilitating job opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over five years. Schemes like the Employment Linked Incentive provide direct benefits to first-time employees, boosting job creation in the manufacturing sector.

Additionally, a new centrally sponsored skilling scheme will train 20 lakh youth, aligning their skills with industry needs and ensuring the middle class remains competitive in the job market. Under the PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0, the housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families will be addressed with an investment of Rs 10 lakh crore. This will include the central assistance of Rs2.2 lakh crore in the next 5 years.

A provision of interest subsidy to facilitate loans at affordable rates is also envisaged. For small business owners within the middle class, the budget introduces a comprehensive package for MSMEs, including a credit guarantee scheme for machinery and equipment purchases and support during stress periods.

A Brighter Future

The measures outlined in the budget are set to have profound implications for the middle class. Increased employment opportunities, enhanced skilling programs, and support for MSMEs ensure stable incomes and improved living standards.

Affordable housing initiatives make homeownership more accessible to the middle class, and the focus on infrastructure development creates a con-

ducive environment for businesses, fostering economic growth and stability. Let us understand this with the help of an example - The story of a middle-class family. Sachin is a middle-class professional living in Delhi. With the recent changes introduced in the budget, his yearly take-home salary has seen an increase of Rs17,500 due to the new tax benefits.

This increment has allowed Sachin to invest more in his children's education and save for the future. The constant control of inflation also eased his household expenses, making it more affordable for his family to maintain their standard of living. Sachin's son, Amit, recently graduated and was worried about finding a job.

However, with the government's focus on creating employment opportunities, Amit secured a position in a manufacturing firm that benefits from the Employment Linked Incentive scheme. This job provides Amit with a stable income and gives him the confidence to contribute to the family's finances. The government's commitment to skilling programs has also allowed Amit to enrol in a training course that enhances his skills, making him more competitive in the job market.

In addition, Sachin's wife, Priya, who runs a small business, has benefited from the support extended to MSMEs. The credit guarantee scheme has enabled her to purchase new machinery, increasing her business's productivity and profitability. The Union Budget 2024-25 is a testament to the government's commitment to fostering inclusive growth and empowering the middle class.

By addressing key areas such as employment, skilling, MSMEs, housing, and infrastructure, the budget paves the way for sustained economic growth and prosperity. As the middle class continues to thrive, it will undoubtedly propel India towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, realizing the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' in 2047.

(The writer is Professor of Finance, XLRI Xavier School of Management and BJP Leader; views are personal)

The Union Budget of the newly elected alliance government presented its first budget. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman as the Finance Minister of India presented her 7th budget, and a new record was made too. Considering a lot of promises were made to the people of India and lots of challenges they face - unemployment, price rise, stagnant income one would have hoped that BJP would, after its underperformance in the general election have learnt some lessons and course correct. However it was disappointing to see the same mistake of ignoring the Jann ki Baat, Madam Minister also like the Prime Minister delivered her Mann ki Baat speech.

This was to be the Union Budget but now can easily be titled PradhanMantri Sarkar Bachao Yojana announcement where huge financial packages have been earmarked for states that are run by their alliance partners and whose crucial support they need for their government to run uninterrupted- JDU in Bihar and TDP in Andhra Pradesh. While a package worth 59000 crores was announced for Bihar, it was 15000 crores for Andhra Pradesh.

However, their demand for special status has so far not been addressed. Making specific politically motivated state budget allocations over other states' interests sets a wrong precedent for future governments to follow. These funds aren't addressing the requirements but rather addressing their political commitments. Alliance-run Maharashtra, a state that pays the highest taxes to the centre got no specific allocation from the PMSBY (PradhanMantri Sarkar Bachao Yojana) besides many opposition-run states.

It is a shame that the centre has blatantly disregarded the principle of equality but chosen to discriminate between states. Maharashtra seeks new airports, a GIFT city like dedicated business/smart city, highways and roads but all of this was ignored. The real BJP hate for Maharashtra stands exposed yet again. The opposition-led state has now made their displeasure over this discrimination obvious by choosing to boycott an upcoming

NITI Ayog meeting to be chaired by the Prime Minister. In the budget, the Finance Minister introduced an apprenticeship program for youth between 20-30 years of age and committed 1 crore internship programmes for youth in the top 500 companies of India. That would mean every company will have to absorb 20000 interns at Rs 5000/pm stipend earmarked from their CSR. This also means that graduates/postgraduates who are part of the record 9.2% unemployment rate and looking for meaningful employment will have to be content with this program, what it doesn't address is creating jobs or entrepreneurial opportunities for the highly skilled youth.

This is the corporate Agniveer programme not meant to address the elephant in the room which is unemployment but rather mock the plight of the youth. Similarly, FinMin spoke of women-led development but fell short of offering anything that would help address the gender pay gap, bring them more jobs, incentivise savings through tax breaks or ease their burden of inflation in running family budgets. SAMBAL is an umbrella scheme that includes Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, One Stop Centre, Nari Adalat, Mahila Police Volunteer, Women's Helpline etc. In 2020-21, when these schemes were separate, the BE for just four of those included under SAMBAL was ₹640 crores, which is more than what has been allocated in the BE for 24-25 (₹629 crores).

The Finance Minister and the entire government have been patting themselves on the back for maintaining fiscal prudence and keeping fiscal deficit under check but it is a classic case of operation successful but patient dead with Aam Janta not having enough savings, enough money to invest and consumption growth amongst its weakest ever.

The fact that private final consumption growth was just 4% in 2023-24 against the overall GDP growth rate of more than 8% shows this clearly. The Government has once again managed to turn a deaf ear to the plight of farm-

ers. If shutting down internet services and using tear gas shells to stop the farmers from protesting was not enough, the Union Budget has no mention of a legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) for farmers or any support for farm loans through waivers or lower interest rates. With billionaires continuing to have thousands of crore weddings and stamped-like situations occurring over jobs by unemployed youth, the Union Budget has missed out on addressing wealth inequality at large. While packages for youth employment have been introduced, the Budget does not address reducing the gap between the poorest and the richest sections of the population. Despite the economic survey pointing out the disparity in income with the top 10% accounting for one-third of the income, measures to uplift farmers, and labourers or increase wealth taxes are absent. The Finance Minister's announcement of the reduction of tax on long-term capital gains (LTCG) is a bane in disguise. While seemingly, the tax on LTCG has reduced from 20% to 12.5%, the indexation benefits have been eliminated. This means that profits on sales of property, gold and other unlisted assets will not be adjusted to inflation and a higher amount would be taxable, thus effectively increasing the tax burden on investors, and making investments in property, gold and shares unprofitable. The PradhanMantri Sarkar Bachao Yojana caters to the BJP's essential allies.

The needs of the public, the opposition, and most states have been ignored. While ignoring the concerns of 90% of the nation is not new for this Government, it is disappointing to see it continue after the BJP's performance in the General Elections. One can, however, be hopeful that the increased representation and enthusiasm of the opposition members in Parliament can lead to fruitful deliberations and additions to the Union Budget this session. *(The writer is Rajya Sabha MP, Shiv Sena - Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, views are personal)*

ESG: The key to sustainable business in a post-pandemic world

Environmental, social, and governance considerations are crucial for sustainability in an era marked by environmental degradation

The interest in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations isn't merely a trend—it's a critical pivot towards sustainability in an era marked by environmental degradation and widening social gaps. At its core, ESG represents a comprehensive framework guiding businesses towards practices that not only ensure profitability but also address pressing global challenges.

As we advance in the post-pandemic landscape, collaboration and cooperation are more crucial than ever. For India, these priorities align with ambitious climate targets, a rapidly growing digital economy, and global trade aspirations. Amid climate change and environ-



PIYUSH NIRANJANA

mental degradation, there is growing recognition that businesses play a vital role in promoting sustainable development. Last year, Business 20(B20) was one of the most prominent Engagement Groups in India's presidency of G20. It has become an increasingly important forum for private sector leaders to deliberate on subjects such as the adoption of ESG standards. One of the

B20 Action Councils has focused on encouraging the rapid and broad implementation of ESG principles among businesses of all sizes and economic contexts.

Their primary suggestions include creating universally applicable ESG standards and ensuring transparent, comprehensive, inclusive, and equitable disclosures across all regions. ESG goals are typically a set of operational standards that require companies to adhere to better governance, ethical practices, environmentally friendly measures, and social responsibility. It emphasizes non-financial factors as a metric for guiding investment decisions in a world where only financial returns are no longer the sole goal for investors or

employees. ESG enables businesses to have a long-term vision instead of a myopic vision. The horizon of ESG has evolved significantly over the years. It is more than simply checking a box on the compliance checklist. Accelerating a shift to cleaner energy carriers and other efficient technologies can improve global standards of life while also contributing to long-term decarbonization goals. For instance, ESG can align with traditional medicine to forge an environmental path by promoting the use of natural, organic, and sustainable resources in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) practices, thus reducing the environmental footprint. To



promote greater adherence to ESG standards, businesses must be transparent about their practices and their impact on the environment and society. This can include initiatives such as reporting on greenhouse gas emissions, disclosing supply chain practices and engaging with stakeholders to address concerns about labour standards and human rights. The path to a universally embraced ESG

framework is fraught with challenges. Diverse and sometimes conflicting definitions and standards set by various entities have led to inefficiencies in reporting and general sluggishness in adopting responsible practices on a global scale. The solution lies in harmonizing ESG frameworks for disclosure, reporting, and rating. Such a unified approach would streamline efforts, making it easier for companies of all sizes to participate in the global movement towards sustainability. Companies that address ESG risks tend to experience fewer disruptions, gain more trust, and achieve consistent financial results, adhering to a triple-bottom-line strategy that combines financial

returns with environmental and social norms. Progressive ESG reporting standards, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and dialogue between businesses and civil society can address these challenges. Indian corporations are increasingly incorporating ESG considerations into their business decisions, with several asset management firms launching ESG funds. These ESG-indexed companies have outperformed non-ESG-indexed companies, as per data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE). [1] Investors in India are using novel tools to fund social and environmental initiatives. The Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, which is also listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange, issued India's first

green bond (BSE). The Corporation raised ₹150 crores in capital to help fund the water treatment plant and tertiary sewage. According to a survey conducted by Singapore-based bank DBS and Bloomberg Media Studios, 92% of Indian SMEs said ESG measures are a high priority for their business, compared to 83% of SMEs across Asia. The corporate world is aligning with climate science, with thousands of businesses adopting initiatives like the Science-Based Targets. *(The writer is member Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; views are personal)*

Zubin Bharucha helping us, Lankans should take advantage of Indian retirements: Jayasuriya

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Sri Lanka's interim head coach Sanath Jayasuriya on Wednesday revealed that IPL side Rajasthan Royals' high performance director Zubin Bharucha has helped his batters prepare for the upcoming T20 series against India where he expects them to take advantage of the recent retirements by stars like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.



Looking at their talent and the kind of cricket they have played we all know where they belong, along with Jadeja," Jayasuriya was quoted as saying by Associated Press during a press meet.

When asked about Sri Lanka's current state, Jayasuriya hoped the players are able to develop themselves. "It is up to the players, we have been doing all the work in terms of practice, we have got best coaches. I think Sri Lanka Cricket has provided most of the things and now it is up to the players," he said.

sometimes but be patient, give us time, we are working on it. It is really hard work on it with the players and they will do well. The 1996 World Cup winner said Sri Lanka have enough talent in ranks to come out of troubled times while acknowledging the frustration of the fans.

Senior player Deepti Sharma said India's mantra in the Women's T20 Asia Cup has been to take one game at a time as conditions haven't really changed from the last time the team played here.



Indian women team's mantra has been to take one game at a time: Deepti

PTI ■ DAMBULLA (SRI LANKA)

pretty confident about each (match) and every situation and the condition as well. We are looking forward to semi-finals as well," Deepti told the media after the match.

The right-arm off-spinner is topping the bowling charts with eight wickets in three matches and she credited her success to her readiness to bowl in all situations.

"I (am) always ready to bowl in any kind of situation. I like to take the challenges from the front. (It's) nothing, just (that) I'm enjoying each and every match, plan accordingly and what we discussed in the meeting, I just apply myself," she said.



Ollie Pope reckons England can make 600 Test runs in a day's play

PTI ■ LONDON

Ollie Pope reckons England can breach the 600-run mark inside a day's play in Test cricket while ruling out any let up to their ultra aggressive 'Bazball' approach with the bat.

Human excellence is often closely linked to human fortitude and Olympics is the prime example of it. The Paris Games, starting on Friday, will be a gathering of 10,500 athletes, 117 of them from India, competing for a mere 329 medals.

Mind Games: The psychological challenge of being Olympian

PTI ■ MUMBAI

For the next few weeks athletes will try to be at the peak of their form. To do that, they have trained physically and mentally but the medal winners will be those who are a tad more tenacious and focussed than the rest.



pressure to help do better, actually become stronger, (to) have more explosive movement, recognising that that's the body we are preparing, rather than clearing that kind of competition situation," she explains.

athletes have calmer minds, the first of its kind specialised medical team is accompanying the contingent, featuring wellness specialists, and a sleep scientist among the regular medical staff.

For TT great Sharath Kamal, running into Roger Federer tops favourite Olympic memories

PTI ■ PARIS

From lunching alongside tennis icon Roger Federer to taking a set off Chinese legend Ma Long, India's flag-bearer for Paris Olympics, Achanta Sharath Kamal, on Wednesday recalled the most memorable moments from his five appearances at the Games so far.

bank of memories from the Olympics having made his first appearance in 2004, Sharath recalled running into Federer at a dining hall in his debut Games.

New Zealand Olympic soccer team complains after Canadian team drone flown over its training session

AP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand says it has complained to the International Olympic Committee's integrity unit after a drone flown over a New Zealand women's soccer team training session was found to be operated by a member of the Canadian team's support staff.



and we are shocked and disappointed," the statement said. "We offer our heartfelt apologies to New Zealand Football, to all the players affected, and to the New Zealand Olympic Committee."

ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ନୂଆପଡ଼ା
(ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ)

ପତ୍ର ସଂଖ୍ୟା: ଗା.-

ବିଜ୍ଞାପନ

ଏବେ ଦ୍ଵାରା ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଅବଗତ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଜଣାଇ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି ଯେ, ନିମ୍ନ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣିତ ଶିଶୁର ଯଦି କେହି ଆଇନଗତ ଦାବିଦାର ଅଛନ୍ତି, ତେବେ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ର ସହ ଆଜିଠାରୁ ୩୦ ଦିନ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ନିମ୍ନ ଠିକଣାରେ ଲିଖିତ ଦାବି ଉପସ୍ଥାପନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ଶିଶୁର ବିବରଣୀ: ନୂଆପଡ଼ା ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଲଖନା ପୋଲିସ ଥାନା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ଛେଡ଼ି ବଜାର, ପୁରୁଣାପୁରୀ, ବେଳଗୁଣ୍ଡିଆପଡ଼ାକୁ ଲଖନା ପୋଲିସ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଗତ ୦୭.୧୪.୦୭.୨୦୨୪ ରିଶ (ସୋମବାର) ଦିନ ଶିଶୁ ପୁତ୍ର ଚିତ୍ତୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଶିଶୁକୁଲ୍ୟାଣ ସମିତି, ନୂଆପଡ଼ାଙ୍କ ଆବେଶ କ୍ରମେ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କନାହାଣ୍ଡି (ରବାନିପାଟଣା) ଛିଡ଼ ସ୍ଵତନ୍ତ୍ରତ୍ଵ ପୋଷ୍ୟ ସମାନ ଗୃହଣ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଠାରେ ସହ ଏବଂ ପୁରୁଣାରେ ଶିଶୁଟି ରହିଅଛି ।

କୌଣସି ଆଇନଗତ ଭିତ୍ତି ଦାବିଦାର ନ ମିଳିବା ଉପରେ ଉକ୍ତ ଶିଶୁପୁତ୍ରଚିତ୍ତୁ ନିଃସହାୟ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ପୁରୁଷ ପୋଷ୍ୟ ସମାନ ଗୃହଣ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଆଇନ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଛିଡ଼ାକୃତ କରାଯିବ ।

ଦାବି ଉପସ୍ଥାପନ ର ଠିକଣା

୧. ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଅଧିକାରୀ, କଲ୍ୟାଣ ସମିତି, ନୂଆପଡ଼ା
ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ, ନୂଆପଡ଼ା
ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ - ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ନୂତନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ନୂଆପଡ଼ା (ଓଡ଼ିଶା), ପିନ୍- ୭୬୭୧୦୫
ଯୋଗାଯୋଗନଂ: 9439361417

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