

leisure



AMANDA BYNES' PSYCHIATRIC HOLD LIKELY TO BE EXTENDED

Actress Amanda Bynes' psychiatric hold will be extended beyond the mandatory 72-hour period. The troubled actress -- who was released from a psychiatric hospital in April -- was intercepted by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers recently, reports *femalefirst.uk*.

FORD CAN'T STOP PRAISING 'MOGAMBO' AMRISH PURI

Veteran Actor Harrison Ford took a moment to remember his late co-star from the iconic film Indiana Jones Amrish Puri. Ford, who is set to reprise his role as Indiana Jones in an upcoming project fondly recalled Puri as a sophisticated and charming individual.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are enthusiastic about mixing with people today, and you will feel like combining business and leisure. You will be encouraged to take part in group activities as you have the ability to work and have fun at the same time.

TAURUS
Professionals in all spheres of work are due for a field day today. The day will be particularly outstanding for Administrators and executives are likely to get richer by the end of the day. Even if you are engaged in some other work, you will stand out and get noticed for your overall excellence.

GEMINI
Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine. Monetary gains can be expected either in the form of inheritance of ancestral property or as increment in your basic salary.

CANCER
You wish to display your social prestige and monetary clout in front of your relatives. But you have to pay a heavy price for that. Your past experience will teach you something, which will stand in good stead for future dealings.

LEO
You will see some change in your daily schedule today. It is a good day to start a new job or business activity. You will focus more attention on your personality today. You will try to improve yourself and bring your hidden talents to the fore. Make the most of this opportunity to implement your plans, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Ganesha says you realise the importance of family matters today. You have great skills when it comes to negotiations, and you will use them in settling disputes amicably. Ganesha says you have learned the lessons of life on staying level-headed, and that you keenly believe that opposition eventually leads to progress.

LIBRA
Ganesha says today you may be able to undertake travel for business or pleasure purposes. It may be a busy day for you work wise and you may not be able to completely focus on your family or family issues. Try your luck in the stock market today, as it may prove beneficial to you.

SCORPIO
Try to take a chill pill as you may be worried about petty issues today. Do not let them hinder your happiness and take a toll on your health. However, the day looks promising towards the end. Friends are just a phone call away, call them and set out for a destination unknown to distress and rejuvenate.

SAGITTARIUS
Work is likely to keep you on toes. At work place, you and your opinions will be in demand. Those who are associated with stock exchange and shares will be happy to gain profits during the afternoon. Wait and watch the end result in the evening.

CAPRICORN
Though you leave no stone unturned to identify the opportunities coming your way, you need to keep your guards on whenever you are a part of a legal matter. Financially, you're likely to bear some heavy losses, and if you're a dealer or a broker, the chances of suffering from them are even higher.

AQUARIUS
The game is set; you are put up against those who are holding a grudge against you and are waiting for an opportunity to pull you down. But, you are confident, skilful, and know your strengths very well. No matter how hard the opponents try, they will be no match to you, predicts Ganesha.

PISCES
You will find yourself in a philosophical state of mind today. You will be able to see things for what they really are, rather than what they appear to be. You are unlikely to try and swim against the flow today, given your mental state.

Deepika had a crush on Arjun

Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone is now a global name. From working with A-listers in Hindi film industry as well as Hollywood, she has also graced red carpets at Met Gala, Cannes and Oscars. However, the actress made it big in the Hindi film industry with the film *Om Shanti Om* along with Shah Rukh Khan and Arjun Rampal. Her 'ek chutki sindoor' dialogue is still quite famous among the audience. One of the fan pages 'deepikaforlife' shared an old video on Instagram, where a young Deepika could be seen getting asked by an interviewer whether it was difficult or challenging to shoot those violent scenes in *Om Shanti Om* with Arjun

Rampal. To that, the actress shared, "I couldn't quite digest the fact that Arjun was doing this to me because he is one of the most good-looking men I have ever seen. And I have had this huge crush on him, so more than anything but during shooting, I would just keep looking at him." Deepika was last seen in *Pathaan* and will be seen next in *Project K* and *Fighter*.



What made Radhika quit TV

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Madan explained her comment on why she took an exit from TV and switched to films. The Kuttey actress in an interview said, "It is so heartbreaking. I was asked, 'Why did I quit television?' and so I told the truth. I stand by my words and will always share what led to the transition. I have no idea why this time around it created such a stir! About the U-turn, I will praise TV for all the good it did for me. It made me who I am. It is the best acting school that you can ask for. If you have done television, you can do anything in the world." She added, "Shooting for a TV builds your endurance, whereas shooting for movies

feels like a luxury. I require time to do a lot of prep and I need a certain amount of time for rest and recovery. So, I just prefer the other medium (films/OTT). That doesn't mean one is better than the other. I hope people respect my choice. If I am not judging anybody's opinion, I don't expect to be judged either." Radhika made her acting debut with *Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi* and worked on the small screen for four years before switching to movies with *Pataahaa* and recently featured in a web show *-Saas Bahu Aur Flamingo*.

Mumbai: Actress-filmmaker Pooja Bhatt in the latest episode of *Bigg Boss OTT 2* opened up about her private life including her divorce with Manish Makhija, with whom she parted ways in 2014 after over a decade of marriage. Talking about her private life and relationships in the show, the

Sadak actress said, "I was married for almost 11 years. Then we decided that something is not right so why

Pooja bares her private life



to live a lie." Calling her former spouse a good man, she added, "He was not an actor, but he belonged to the media business, and he was a good man." Pooja, daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, revealed that they took their own separate ways with "dignity". "I didn't want to have kids though I love kids. But then, I didn't want to have kids and I couldn't lie... Whatever it was, it was good. We maintained dignity and parted ways," she says. *Bigg Boss OTT 2* streams on JioCinema.

PEANUTS



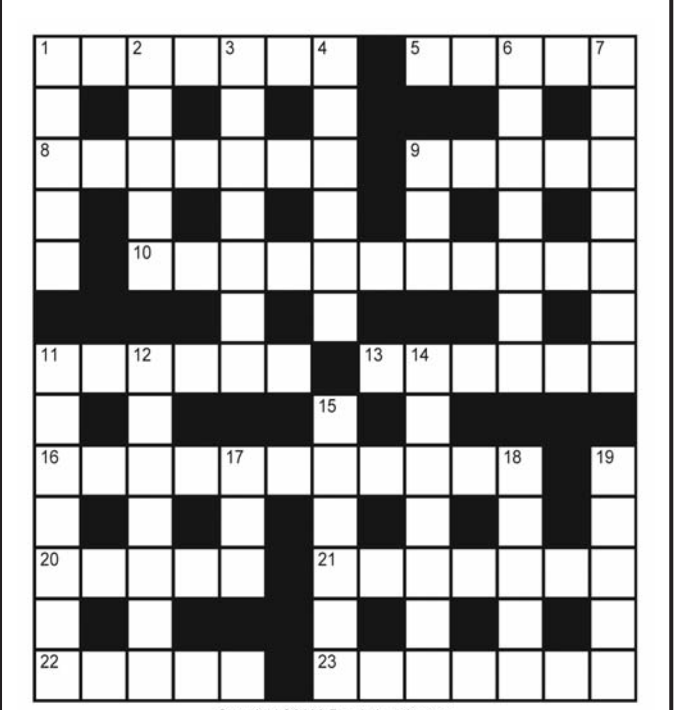
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



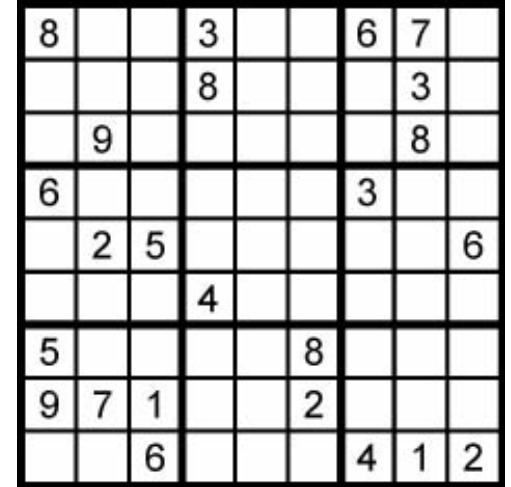
FUN post CROSSWORD



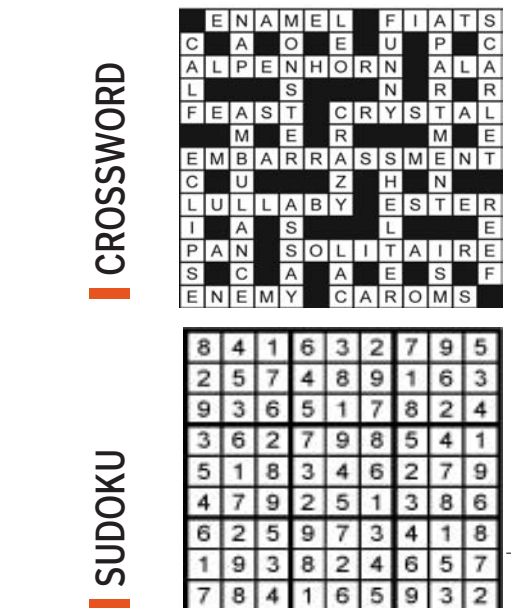
- Across**
- 1 Hair cleaning product
 - 5 Kingdom
 - 8 Receiving device
 - 9 Man's man
 - 10 Like some swords (6-5)
 - 11 Immature
 - 13 Calfskin drum
 - 16 Some jewel thieves (3,8)
 - 20 Belgian Congo, previously
 - 21 Most organised
 - 22 Important question
 - 23 Deer toppers
 - 4 Soothsayer
 - 6 Brisk, in music
 - 7 Bullfighter
 - 9 Compete
 - 11 Whirlpool
 - 12 Protective seawalls
 - 14 Inflexible
 - 15 To-do list
 - 17 Consume
 - 18 It won't hold water
 - 19 Toys with tails

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



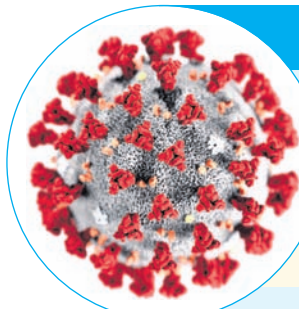
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



IN SYNC

Girls perform during a cultural programme at Gundicha Temple in Chandini Chowk area of Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	69,00,68,151	66,24,96,191	68,89,432
India	4,49,92,293	4,44,57,720	5,31,886
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Gajapati gets new Collector

Bhubaneswar: In a minor IAS reshuffle, the state government Thursday appointed Smruti Ranjan Pradhan as the Collector of Gajapati. Lingraj Panda, the outgoing Gajapati Collector, was appointed as the Social Welfare, Women and Child Development director.

Home guards' duty call-up allowance

Bhubaneswar: The state government has enhanced the duty call-up allowance of home guards to ₹533 from ₹423 per day, an official said Thursday. The enhancement in the duty call-up allowance of home guards was made as per the Supreme Court judgment March 17 this year, said a notification issued by the Home department. The enhancement will come into force retrospectively from April 1, 2023, it added.

Crorepati ex-DSWO under Vig scanner

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Thursday carried out simultaneous raids at 11 places related to Bhadrak's former District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Jayanti Behera on allegations of possessing disproportionate assets (DA). Although Behera was relieved from the DCPO post June 4, she is yet to hand over the charges. The anti-corruption sleuths carried out searches at a double-storey and two triple-storey buildings, office chamber of Behera's son and houses of her associates in Balasore, rented accommodation and office chamber of Behera in Bhadrak, and two flats in Bhubaneswar. The Vigilance officials claimed to have found three buildings in Balasore, two flats in Bhubaneswar, eight plots in Balasore, postal and insurance deposits of ₹1.61 crore, ₹2.79 lakh in cash, gold jewellery and household articles worth over ₹7.39 lakh and a four-wheeler in the name of Behera.

CM NOD TO ₹2.49CR FOR BAHANAGA SCHOOL REBUILDING

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday sanctioned Rs 2.49 crore for reconstruction of Bahanaga High School, a portion of which has so far been demolished after being used as a morgue to keep bodies of people killed in the Balasore triple train crash. The funds were sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), said a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). The decision to raze the building was taken after the school managing committee (SMC) stated that the building was old and not safe, and that kids were reluctant to attend classes in the school where bodies were kept, officials said.

Guardians had also demanded the demolition of the building as photos of bodies being ferried to the school for identification by their families had been imprinted in the minds of children. Based on the SMC's decision and request by guardians and locals, Patnaik held a meeting with senior government officials, including Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, and sanctioned the reconstruction of the institution, officials said. The school reopened after summer vacations Wednesday, and classes were being held in the remaining portion of the school complex, they said. A total of 287 bodies of people killed in the June 2 train accident were kept

STARTING AFRESH

The decision to raze the building was taken after the school managing committee stated that the building was old and unsafe, and that kids were reluctant to attend classes in the school where bodies were kept after the June 2 tragedy

Based on the SMC's decision and request by guardians and locals, the CM held a meeting with senior officials and sanctioned the school reconstruction

Besides, in recognition of the extraordinary services provided by the teachers and locals during the train accident, the CM directed to include Bahanaga High School in the state's flagship 5T initiative for school transformation

The school reopened after summer vacations Wednesday, and classes were being held in the remaining portion of the school complex

at the school, they added. The state government has also decided to make it a model school with facilities such as a library, science laboratory and digital classrooms. In recognition of the extraordinary services provided by the teachers and locals during the train accident, Patnaik directed to include Bahanaga High School in the state's flagship 5T initiative for school transformation.

The 65-year-old school is barely half-a kilometre from the site of the train accident. It has 565 students, and of them, 112 attended classes on the first day of its reopening Wednesday, officials said.

Deities at 'Adapa Mandapa'; ASI inspects Srimandir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, June 22: Lord Jagannath and His siblings – Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra – were brought to the 'Adapa Mandapa' at Gundicha Temple here amid chanting of slokas, completing the first part of Ratha Jatra, Thursday.

With the deities away from the 12th-century shrine for the festivities, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) began inspection for repair and renovation works at the main temple.

Officials of ASI, the core committee of the temple, and technical experts visited the shrine to study the cracks on 'Garuda Stambha', sanctum sanctorum and 'Nata Mandap'.

"If necessary, repair works would be carried out as per the recommendation of the team," an official said. A hole in the



SAFETY FIRST: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials at Srimandir to inspect the sanctum sanctorum of the 12th century shrine in Puri, Thursday

sanctum sanctorum, created by mice, will be covered with iron

nets, he said. Meanwhile, the work for covering the doors at

Lions' Gate of the shrine with silver also started, Thursday.

JTF for Similipal protection soon: CS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Expressing concern over the murder of two Forest officials in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) within a month, Chief Secretary PK Jena Thursday said that a Joint Task Force (JTF), led by STR field director and comprising Forest as well as police personnel, will be formed for ensuring safety at the tiger reserve.

Chairing a meeting, Jena asked the police to ensure those involved in the killing of the forester are behind the bars at the earliest. It was decided at the meeting that regular combing operations will be carried out

by the Mayurbhanj district police in the surrounding villages of STR to seize illegal arms besides taking urgent measures for like invoking relevant provisions of the laws.

JTF, comprising both forest and police personnel with one company of armed police force, will be set up under the chairmanship of the field director for protection of STR.

The detailed composition and strength of different categories of personnel will be proposed by the field director in consultation with Balasore IGP.

Till the establishment of JTF,

one company of force (three platoons) will be deployed with the field director of STR or Mayurbhanj SP exclusively for the protection of

the on duty officials, officials said.

Similarly, regular training will be given to the Forest personnel on use of firearms.

Obsolete firearms like double barrel guns available with STR officials will be replaced with modern arms in consultation with the district police, said Jena.

Jena emphasised on community participation, including ac-

tive involvement of PRI members, for protection of STR through regular awareness programmes in consultation with the district administration.

He also directed officials to expedite the recruitment process for filling up the posts in Forest department. Till the recruitment, the Forest department has been asked to deploy personnel from its other wings for further strengthening the protection measures in and around STR.

Notably, armed poachers killed forester Mathi Hansda in the sanctuary June 16. On May 22, Bimal Kumar Jena, a 35-year-old forest guard, was shot dead by a group of poachers at STR.



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JANIBILI MEGA DRINKING WATER PROJECT

No water even after 5 yrs of inauguration

POST NEWS NETWORK



The implementing authorities got the incomplete project hurriedly inaugurated by the Chief Minister in March 2019 just ahead of last general elections

It has been four and half years since its inauguration but the project is yet to function even as another general election is round the corner

Berhampur, June 22: The Janibili mega drinking water project, billed as the biggest integrated water supply project in state and being built at a cost of ₹500 crore here in Ganjam district, has remained a non-starter and yet to become operational even long years after its inception, a report said Thursday.

The state government launched this project to resolve the severe water scarcity plaguing the residents in Silk City for long. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for this project, November 30, 2016.

As per the plan, the project was to be completed by November 30, 2018 following which water would have been drawn in pipes from Janibili aicut in Dharakote block and supplied to the residents in Silk City after filtering at a water treatment plant at Jagdalpur in Kukudakhandi block.

Addressing a mega rally at Ankushpur, the Chief Minister after laying the foundation stone had announced that the project will help residents in the city get round the clock clean tap water supply. Moreover, this facility will also be available to the inhabitants of 53 villages in 16 panchayats in between Janibili and Berhampur.

Works took off on the project with funds sanctioned by the

state Urban Development department and a prominent consultancy agency was given the charge of its construction. The agency brought large number of pipes and dumped it around the city. However, it failed to complete even one-fourth of the project work by the target period of November 30, 2018.

The implementing authorities got the incomplete project hurriedly inaugurated by the Chief Minister in March 2019 just ahead of the general elections. It has been four and half years since its launching and another general election is round the corner.

However, pipe laying works are still continuing in Berhampur and the residents are yet to get round the clock drinking water not to speak of the 53 villages on

the outskirts. The fate of the project has been pushed into uncertainty and no one knows when it will get completed.

The consultancy agency has been alleged of whimsically implementing the project without caring for any government authorities or public representatives allegedly due to its strong contacts in the power corridors.

The agency has dug up several roads for pipe laying works making it difficult for people to negotiate the roads. It has also dug up a new road laid by the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

As a result, commuting in the city has become a risky proposition for bikers, motorists and pedestrians alike, especially during power cuts during the night and rains. Accidents on these

roads have become a usual occurrence. The agency is also not clearing the excavated soil and rubble from these roads which flows down the drains blocking the flow of rain water.

The state government led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik completed the fourth year of its fifth tenure, May 29. The same day the Cabinet announced a plan outlay of 1,509.91 crore for implementation of a rural water supply project in Ganjam district.

It was announced that over 9 lakh people residing in 720 villages in 228 panchayats of 12 blocks will regularly get safe drinking water in their households under this project.

However, what is surprising is that the agency which has failed to complete the Janibili project in time has again been awarded a contract for this new water supply project. A memorandum of understanding was recently signed between the state government and the agency in this regard.

Moreover, the state government is yet to take any legal action against the agency which is responsible for the inordinate delay in completion of Janibili project. Chatters have been abuzz as to why the agency is being shown undue favour in awarding further contracts despite failure in implementing the Janibili mega drinking water supply project.

NADDA REACHES JHARSUGUDA ON 2-DAY STATE VISIT

PNN & AGENCIES

Jharsuguda, June 22: BJP president JP Nadda Thursday arrived in Jharsuguda on a two-day visit to Odisha.

Nadda was welcomed at the Veer Surendra Sai Airport here by BJP state president Manmohan Samal and Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari, among other leaders of the party.

He inaugurated the party's newly-constructed district office and interacted with leaders and workers of the Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency. He will spend the night at the MCL Guesthouse in Burla.

On Friday, Nadda will visit Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district, and offer prayers at the Maa Manikeswari temple. He will then address a rally at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium.

He is also scheduled to meet prominent persons of the Kalahandi Lok Sabha seat at Bhawanipatna.

Pujari said party workers were encouraged by Nadda's visit. He had last visited the state in December last year, and addressed public meetings at Tumudibandha in Kandhamal district and Chilika in Khurda district.

BJD vice president Prasanna Acharya said it is natural that the BJP workers are encouraged by Nadda's visit. "But, it will make no difference to the BJD's popularity." Congress leader Jaydev Jena said that visit will have no impact as people are angry over inflation and unemployment.

In-laws murder woman for dowry; husband arrested



PNN & AGENCIES

Nayagarh, June 22: A woman was allegedly murdered by her husband and in-laws over dowry at Jagannath Sahi under Itamati police limits in Nayagarh district, police said Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Phina Pradhan (32), daughter of Panchu Pradhan of Rajahuda Sahi under Itamati police limits in the district.

Phina married Rocky Pradhan (39), son of Dhoba Pradhan at Jagannath Sahi village in 2015. They have a six-year-old child. Since the marriage, Rocky and his family members were physically and mentally torturing Phina for

dowry, alleged the deceased's father Panchu Pradhan.

The father alleged that Rocky and his family members have killed his daughter as she is unable to pay them ₹2 lakh.

"Upon getting information, I reached her in-law's house and fainted after seeing her body. When I regained my senses, I found her final rites had already been performed," he alleged.

Phina's father said, "Marriage of Rocky's younger brother was held recently and his wife brought more dowry than Phina. So, they started demanding an additional ₹2 lakh from us. But we are unable to fulfil their demand. So, they killed my daughter."

A police official said that she was killed June 19 night; and without informing them, her in-laws took her to the cremation ground and performed the last rites in haste with an intention to destroy evidence.

Acting on a complaint lodged by the victim's father; a case was registered at Itamati police station and the deceased's husband Rocky Pradhan arrested, said the police official.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, June 22: A youth escaped death by a whisker and lost one of his hands and both legs after being hit by a train while crossing the railway tracks at Ramachandrapur under Bhawanipatna Sadar police limits in Kalahandi district, Wednesday night.

The victim identified as Sudam Bhoi, a native of Ramachandrapur village,



was knocked down by a Junagarh-bound Ratha Jatra special train from Puri. The freak mishap has sent shockwaves in the area.

Government Railway Police (GRP) rescued him in critical condition and admitted him to the district headquarters hospital at Bhawanipatna.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Support Services Division. Quotation Call Notice No. 08/2023-24. Details of work items and costs.

Office of the Panchayat Samiti, Laxmipur. Notice regarding public works and tenders.

EAST COAST RAILWAY. Mandatory Testing and Certification of Lifting Machines, Cranes, Pressure Vessels etc.

Chola. Symbolic Possession Notice Under Rule 8(1). Details of property and terms of possession.

Man hacked to death on suspicion of witchcraft

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, June 22: The blot of 'black magic' is not leaving Sundargarh district's trail as black magic related crimes are reported from various places from the district in regular intervals.

In the latest development, one Gurucharan Mund (35) of Banki village under Lahunipara, nearly 70 km away from here, hacked a septuagenarian Sarang Munda to death over doubts that the latter was practicing black magic on his family.

Gurucharan, who married ten years ago is still issueless. And he believed that it was the result of his deceased neighbour Sarang's sorcery. On several occasions, they had fought over this al-

legation. The place is one of the remotest areas of the district and nearly inaccessible.

Both came front to front Wednesday and Gurucharan started abusing Sarang with foul language. When the latter objected to this, he threatened him of dire consequences.

After Sarang challenged him, an enraged Gurucharan went inside his house and came back with his axe. Soon he attacked and hacked him to death.

Later he surrendered before the police. Bonai SDPO Swaraj K Pradhan, who had been to the spot with the scientific team from Rourkela, said, "We have visited the place and have taken pieces of evidence from there and the accused has surrendered before us."

Bolangir bandh hits normal life

Bolangir: Normal life was severely hit due to a dawn-to-dusk bandh call given by Paschim Odisha Mahila Sangathan in Bolangir town demanding CBI probe into the sensational Snehalata Chhatra rape and murder case, Thursday. All vehicles stayed off the roads, all government offices and business establishments remained closed during the bandh period.

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. S.O. 6151(E). Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH16 in the stretch of Land from Km. 180 to Km. 199.141 (At/Post-Srikrushnapur, PS- Remuna, Dist-Balasore) in the district of BALASORE in the state of ODISHA.

FOCUS ECONOMY

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT



The idea that the social sector must take center stage in our public policy in lieu of competitive populism should not be postponed further

Banerji (2015) in a study of six developing economies like Honduras and the Philippines finds that there is no sign of a reduction in labour supply due to government cash transfers. This issue has assumed salience, the way the poll promises made by Congress like ₹2000 monthly assistance to women heads of all families, 200 units of power, and 10 kg of rice has gained political bonanza for the party. Earlier the Rythu Bandhu cash transfers to farmers had reaped huge electoral gains to KCR in Telangana. Naveen Patnaik has the Kalia scheme to woo marginal and small farmers. Not to be outwitted Modi also has also been transferring ₹6,000 per year to about 8.69 crore farmers under the PM Kissan Scheme. These can be called quasi UBI schemes.

However, such cash transfers do not lead to improvement in agricultural productivity but work as a palliative to garner votes. The long-term solution lies in improving quality of school education, healthcare at affordable cost, and proper sanitation and nutrition to children. Prof Musgrave called them merit goods, as they benefit society more than the benefit to the individual.

Even a hardcore advocate of the free market Milton Friedman in a report in 1955 to CD Deshmukh, the FM, had advised that India must widen the opportunity for education and training as a basic requirement of economic development. The idea that the social sector must take center stage in our public policy in lieu of competitive populism should not be postponed further.

The writer teaches Macro Economics. Views are personal.

On 24 July 1991 when Dr Manmohan Singh was presenting the Budget, he was cognizant of the plethora of economic ills that plagued India; inflation hovering around 14%, cost of interest to total central government expenditure touching 36%, foreign exchange reserves adequate for only a fortnight's import bill, adverse balance of payment & PSUs (Nehru's temples of modern India) performing very poorly. Unveiling a paradigm shift in fiscal policy from Fabian socialism to a free-market economy Dr. Singh quoted Victor Hugo: "No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come." The idea that was espoused was that India will emerge as a major economic power by liberalising, globalising & encouraging the private sector to be the new temple of a liberal India. The role of the government was that of an enabler rather than a controller of economic activities.

The idea of India being non-aligned, secular, democratic & socialistic was singularly shepherded by Nehru. The first salvo to his economic philosophy was fired by Jagdish Bhagwati and TN Srinivasan in a seminal article in 1955 when they argued in favour of free markets and export promotion in lieu of import substitution so that GDP grows at a fast clip. Pitambar Pant, an intellectual ally of PC Mahalanobis in the Second Plan argued in favour of 7% growth, which will eliminate poverty in 15 years.

Mahbub ul Haq, who inspired Amartya Sen in his formulation of the Human Development Index, on the other hand, strongly pitched for distributive justice and sharing the growth pie instead of obsessing about increasing the size of

the growth cake. It required the political astuteness of then PM Narasimha Rao and economic foresight of Dr. Singh to turn Nehru's idea of socialism on its head. Be it Manmohan or Modi, the idea of a free-market economy has struck deep roots in India, transcending political schism.

While in most growth parameters, economic liberalisation has been a boon, our overall performance in development matters like infant and maternal mortality, mean years of schooling, and malnutrition among children and adolescent girls have been disappointing.

An interesting idea spawned by Arvind Subramanian as CEA in 2016-17 was to have a Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme, which will usher in both social justice and a productive economy. Interestingly this idea is embraced both by left-leaning writ-

ers like Pranab Bardhan and Abhijit Banerjee and right-wingers like Vijay Joshi. It was Thomas Moore, who in his Utopia (1516) had suggested that some means of livelihood should be given to every individual "to avoid the poor from becoming first a thief and then a corpse."

However, the present CEA V Anantha Nageswaran in a strong riposte observed recently that UBI will create ground for perverse incentives for people and dissuade them from seeking income-generating opportunities.

The Economic Survey (2016-17) provides a counterpoint to major criticisms that UBI will lead to spending on temptation goods like alcohol and spurring moral hazards like opting out of labour market. Evans & Popova in a meta analysis bring out how temptation goods constitute a small share in overall consumption. Further Abhijit



Satya Narayan Misra

BE IT MANMOHAN OR MODI, THE IDEA OF A FREE-MARKET ECONOMY HAS STRUCK DEEP ROOTS IN INDIA, TRANSCENDING POLITICAL SCHISM



Slavoj Žižek

Assange has taught us to acknowledge not only the plank in our own eye but also the hidden connections between it and the sawdust in our enemies' eyes. His approach allows us to see anew many of the big struggles that consume our media and politics

Detachment is the beginning of mastery.
SRI AUROBINDO



Whistleblowers

Earlier this month, CNN reported that a British court has denied Wikileaks founder Julian Assange "permission to appeal an order to extradite him to the United States, where he faces criminal charges under the Espionage Act." Although Assange's legal team will continue to explore its options, the snare around his neck is clearly tightening. Time is not on his side. The US and British authorities who are pursuing him can afford to wait for any remaining public interest in his case to dwindle in the face of wars, climate change, anxiety about artificial intelligence, and other global issues.

But if we want to manage such challenges, we will need people like Assange. Who else will expose all the abuses and inconvenient truths that those in power want to keep secret - be it war crimes or social-media companies' internal findings about what their platforms are doing to teen girls?

The recent small-scale drone attack on the Kremlin is a case in point. While the Ukrainian government denied any involvement (attributing it to the Russian opposition forces), Russian President Vladimir Putin promptly denounced it as a "terrorist act," and some Western observers complained that the Ukrainians were pushing the war too far. But what actually happened? The fact that we do not know means that events are playing out under a dangerous fog of war.

But one is also reminded of the last lines in Bertold Brecht's The Threepenny Opera: "And some are in the darkness / And the others in the light / But you only see those in the light / Those in the darkness you don't see." How better to describe today's media age? While mainstream media are full of news about Ukraine, notes journalist Anjan Sundaram, "enormous wars" in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and elsewhere receive almost no attention.

This asymmetry does not mean we should offer anything less than full support for Ukraine. But it does oblige us to think about how we frame that support. We should reject the idea that Ukraine merits assistance mainly because "such things should not happen in Europe," or because we are "defending Western civilisation." After all, Western civilisation not only ignores the horrors occurring outside its borders; it is often complicit in them.

Instead, Europeans and other Westerners should recognise that, with the invasion of Ukraine, we have gotten a taste of what has been playing out elsewhere all along - just beyond our scope of concern. The war forces us to consider what we do not know, what we do not want to know, and what we know but do not want to care about. We need people like Assange to force such reckonings - to make us see "those in the darkness."

Of course, one can criticise Assange for focusing exclusively on the liberal West and ignoring even greater injustices in Russia and China. But those injustices are already highly visible in our media. We read about them all the time. If Assange is guilty of applying a double standard, so, too, are Westerners who condemn Iran while turning a blind eye to Saudi Arabia.

As Matthew 7:3 asks: "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" Assange has taught us to acknowledge not only the plank in our own eye but also the hidden connections between it and the sawdust in our enemies' eyes. His approach allows us to see anew many of the big struggles that consume our media and politics.

Consider the conflict between the new populist right and the woke left. In late May, the Davis School District in Utah removed the Bible from its elementary and middle schools after a parent complained that it "has 'no serious values for minors' because it's pornographic by our new definition" under a book-ban law passed last year. Is this just a case of Mormons waging a culture war against Christians? On the contrary, the district has since received a request also to review the Book of Mormon for possible violations of the law.

So, who is behind these demands? Is it the woke left seeking revenge for bans on material about race and LGBT+ issues? Is it the radicalised right applying strict family-values criteria to its own cherished texts? Ultimately, it does not matter, because both the new right and the woke left have embraced the same logic of intolerance. For all their ideological animosity, they mirror each other. While the woke left wants to dismantle its own political foundation (the European emancipatory tradition), the right may finally have mustered the courage to question the obscenity contained in its own foundational texts.

In a cruel irony, the Western democratic tradition of self-criticism has descended into absurdity, sowing the seeds of its own destruction. What issues are languishing in the darkness while this process hogs all the light? The biggest threat to Western democracies is not Assange and the transparency that he represents, but rather the nihilism and self-indulgence that have come to characterise their politics.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies. - DESMOND TUTU
- It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. - HARRY S TRUMAN
- You drown not by falling into a river, but by staying submerged in it. - PAULO COELHO

WORDSWORTH

Kitty

The most frequent usage of kitty is that of some fund of money for communal use made up of individual contributions. You might, for example, go to the pub with a group of friends and have a whip round for contributions to a kitty to pay for the first rounds of drinks. Or a club might pay for the tea and biscuits at meetings by arranging to have a kitty. This sense is first recorded in the 1880s. Though it had close associations with poker games in its earliest recorded examples, it wasn't (and isn't) the name for the prize pot itself, but instead for a sum taken out of the pot to pay for the expenses of the game, such as buying drinks or a house percentage. For example, in 1935, Alvin Pollock wrote in a book called The Underworld Speaks that the kitty was the "money taken from virtually every gambling pot for purpose of profits or expenses". Going back in time half a century, we know that kitty was a term in various northern English dialects for a prison or house of correction. It's a modified form of kidcote, once known from English counties such as Yorkshire and Lincolnshire - prisons of this name once existed in Wakefield, York, Lincoln and Gainsborough.

SPECTRUM NATION

Making strides in financial inclusion



Moin Qazi

FINANCIAL INCLUSION WILL REMAIN MEANINGFUL SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT END WITH JUST OPENING ACCOUNTS

India has recently witnessed profound changes in its financial inclusion ecosystem. While financial inclusion is a point of entry to lift people out of poverty, the higher use of the full range of financial services can alone serve as a path to prosperity. Financial institutions are now engaged in a vigorous battle to enlist low-income households as their clients, not just for their business but also to open a window for the poor which allows global development winds to touch their lives. This movement to bring the unbanked into the folds of formal finance is popularly known as financial inclusion.

Financial inclusion, in its broader market conceptualisation is the belief that all people, including the poor and marginalised, should gain access to and be able to regularly use financial services; an idea that the World Bank promotes as part of building "inclusive economies."

India's flagship financial inclusion programme - Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) - launched in 2015 with a mission to provide a basic account to every adult - has significantly changed the demographics. The Aadhaar biometric identification system and the JAM (Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar

and Mobile number) trinity is re-shaping the financial landscape and has enabled India surge to new heights. The take-off of digital financial services has largely driven this strong growth. It has also enabled one of the biggest pieces of reform ever attempted in India - direct subsidy transfers. Several state governments have adopted the default savings options by mandatorily delivering all wages to participants of government schemes and programmes through formal saving accounts.

However, financial inclusion will remain meaningful so long as it does not end with just opening accounts. The customer must make the account his financial diary and conduct transactions to build a financial history. Or else all these accounts would remain a drag on financial institutions. Further, by becoming account holders, people are more likely to utilise other financial services like credit, investment and insurance, which can improve the overall quality of their lives. Operating an account or using credit can also deepen consumers' financial skills. Thus the mantra for financial inclusion should be: access counts, but usage matters.

Accounts should basically serve as stepping stones to sav-

ings or credit. If there is little forward movement in them the entire efforts are a waste. What needs to be done is getting the customers increasing the frequency of transactions, slowly getting into the habit of saving, moving further to using formal channels for the remittance of money and then finally using them for niche products like insurance and pension. The state diktats which foist targets for opening accounts are big eyewash.

As part of government fiat, banks are forced to meet humongous targets for opening accounts to bring the unbanked population into the fold of the financial system.

There is always promise that they would become a source of revenue. However, when many of them remain dormant, they inevitably become an economic deadweight. The banks cannot afford to lose money servicing them. Services are sustainable so long as intuitions can cover the cost of their delivery. There has to be a business case for every financial service to remain sustainable.

Financial services should be provided on the simple principle of a physician: diagnose the ailment and prescribe the appropriate medicine. We must know what customers need, and then

suggest the products that would help them. Lack of a proper understanding can lead to a person borrowing money while all that she needs may be an insurance product or a savings account. This can set off a vicious cycle of indebtedness.

In his book *The Paradox of Choice*, sociology professor Barry Schwartz talks about how excessive choice contributes to consumer misery. Too many similar-looking options actually confuse consumers making them adopt status quo rather than taking any proactive decision.

The challenge of financial inclusion is to understand what is best about all the different ways of reaching underserved customers. It is about understanding what works and building on it.

The rapid spread of mobile phones is the game changer that can make the economic benefits of digital finance possible. Fortunately, mobile phone penetration is growing far more quickly than access to financial services.

The writer is member of NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women.

Audacious & arrogant

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sir, The statement by AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a rally at Sriganaganagar in Rajasthan that nobody has the guts to dethrone the party in Delhi and Punjab for the next 50 years is simply audacious. Voters are the real king-makers. They have enthroned and dethroned many an empires and establishments in the past. Arrogance and ego are the worst enemies of mankind. We have ample examples from Ramayana and Mahabharata. Many others of their ilk have been thrown into the dustbin of history. History is replete with plenty of such anecdotes and Kejriwal is no exception. We have seen the rise and the rise of Jyoti Basu in West Bengal and Pawan Chawling in Sikkim and their subsequent defeat and decimation. Who remembers them now? Being ambitious is good but too much of it is too bad. So Kejriwal ought to be careful while using words, else history will bound to repeat itself.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

Advertising genius

Sir, The passing away of advertising czar Sylvester daCunha, who was behind the iconic creation of the 'Amul Girl' with the tagline "Utterly Butterly Delicious," is a huge loss to the advertising industry. For close to six decades, the Amul Girl's charismatic appeal has made it into hoardings and the front pages of newspapers to stay in the hearts of millions of Indians. It was Dr. Kurien, the late Chairman of Amul, who suggested a mischievous little girl as a mascot for the product, and the rest is history. Thanks to Sylvester daCunha, the 77-year-old brand which is synonymous with butter and has made its way into the kitchen of every Indian house has a lot to do with the blue-haired girl with long lashes, in a polka-dotted dress. A brand doesn't stay relevant just by its logo or a celebrity endorsing it. It needs to consistently cater to the audience in a unique way, and the concept of 'Amul Girl', linked with current topics, has caught the eye of the Indians powerfully, and still does so.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Rice row: Sidda meets Shah

SIDDARAMAIAH AND HIS MINISTERS HAVE BEEN ACCUSING THE CENTRE OF CONSPIRING TO 'FAIL' THE CONGRESS ADMINISTRATION'S POLL GUARANTEE BY ENSURING THAT THE STATE DOESN'T GET THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF RICE FROM FCI



Besides the rice issue, the chief minister also demanded the Union Home Minister sanction two battalions of the Indian Reserve Police to the state.

According to the Chief Minister's office, Siddaramaiah told Shah that the Centre's policy was causing obstacles in supply of food for the poor. Shah said he will discuss the issue with Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal.

Siddaramaiah opined that "the Centre's new policy is against the Food Security Act, it will directly affect two times meals of the poor, hence it will be good if the policy of not supplying food-grains to the states is changed," according to the CMO statement.

Siddaramaiah and his ministers have been accusing the BJP-led government at the Centre of conspiring to 'fail' the Congress administration's poll guarantee by ensuring that the state doesn't get the required amount of rice from Food Corporation of India (FCI), for rolling out the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme, from July 1, as promised.

Siddaramaiah met Shah Wednesday night and took up the issue of rice supply to the state for its scheme, which provides additional 5 kg of rice for each member of BPL families.

"I have brought to his (Shah) notice that FCI had agreed to supply rice to the state and even issued a letter. However, the same

was denied the next day. It looks like the issue was politicised. I have said that we should not indulge in the politics of enmity," Siddaramaiah told reporters here before leaving for Bangalore.

Shah has assured that he will discuss the issue with the ministry concerned and get back to him, he added.

EGGS BACK IN MENU FOR K'TAKA SCHOOL STUDENTS

The BJP-JD(S) coalition government headed by HD Kumaraswamy had rolled back its project of distributing eggs to school children in 2007 succumbing to pressure from religious groups

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, June 22: The Congress government in Karnataka has issued an order Wednesday to provide school children studying from Class 1 to 8 with either eggs or bananas.

The circular in this regard has been signed and released by Shubh Kalyan Director of PM Poshan, School Education department and directed the staff of the aided and unaided school across the state to provide boiled eggs to students as nutrition supplement. For those who are not eating eggs, bananas or



chikki (a sweet dish made of groundnut and jaggery) would be provided.

The supplements would be given along with midday meals to eradicate malnutrition and anaemia. The egg or banana would be given once in a week from August 20 till the further government orders in the first phase.

The schools are directed to procure eggs/bananas/chikki at ₹8 per piece.

Earlier, the Karnataka government's decision had triggered a controversy in the state. The decision had angered a section of the society who demanded that eggs shouldn't be distributed in school premises as it encourages discrimination among

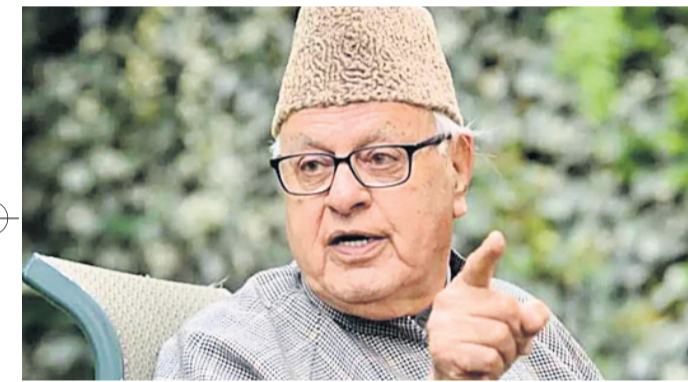
school going children.

Another section supporting egg supplement to school children claimed that this project shouldn't stop as protein supplement is badly needed by students. They maintained children who have better access to better nutrition have better education outcomes.

The BJP-JD (S) coalition government headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy had rolled back its project of distributing eggs to school children in 2007 succumbing to pressure from religious groups. However, the previous BJP government implemented the scheme.

Then Education Minister BC Nagesh had stated that the project has been implemented amid people opposing and vouching for it. "There is no substitution for egg as such. There is soybean, but children won't eat it. The project has been implemented with an intention to address malnutrition among children," he had stated.

Hope Amarnath pilgrims return with message of love: Farooq



Who takes care of the yatris here? It is the local Muslims. This has been happening for ages. There is no hatred

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

"Who takes care of the yatris here? It is the local Muslims. This has been happening for ages. There is no hatred," he said

The NC president said he was thankful to the government for making good arrangements for the pilgrims.

"The arrangements are very good. There is a good small hospital here. The only drawback is the lack of nursing staff. Rather than getting nurses from the hospital here, we can give temporary employment to trained nurses for two months."

"That way, they will get employment, and the yatris will also get the care. We will surely write to the government on this issue," he added.

told reporters after reviewing the arrangements for this year's Amarnath yatra at the south Kashmir resort town, 100 km from Srinagar.

"We are all equal and there are no differences. This is what our Constitution has proved," he said. Abdullah, who is Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, was accompanied by south Kashmir MP Hasnain Masoodi.

The leader said Muslims have been taking care of the Amarnath pilgrims ever since the yatra began.



TIGHT SECURITY: Security personnel check a vehicle on a border road in Mendhar as security has been beefed up ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu And Kashmir, in Poonch, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Students in NEET topper's village await school building



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 22: Children dressed in blue checkered uniforms play outside a tin shed that stands on the roadside in Chewa Kalan village in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama.

These are the students of the primary and upper primary schools of the village, the native place of Jammu and Kashmir's NEET topper Abdul Basit, and the tin shed is where their classes are held. The shed also houses a kitchen where the students' mid-day meals are prepared.

Inside the shed, classrooms have been created using thigh-high tin sheets and their walls are dotted with whiteboards, maps and various charts. Teachers' lessons from different classes overlap.

Due to the metal sheets, the students and teachers sweat profusely in the summer and shiver in the winter.

On some days, when the heat gets unbearable, teachers prefer to take classes under the shade of a tree. With the village shooting into the limelight due to Basit's achievement, the students hope that the authorities will soon take steps to construct a school building.

A student, Munazah Nisar,

told PTI that the heat becomes so unbearable at times that children find it hard to even talk.

"I hope the school building is constructed expeditiously," she said.

Another student, Toiba Jan, said "Our school does not have a building. There is no water facility or even a toilet. We study inside a tin shed which was built by our teachers." It is due to the teachers' efforts that the students are able to study, she said, adding, "We appeal to the government to construct a school building for us at the earliest."

Jammu and Kashmir Civil Society chairman Mohammad Altaf said the condition of the school was brought to his notice by locals when he visited the village to facilitate Basit.

"Two schools have been clubbed and are housed in a tin shed. The teachers also suffer as other classes have to be stopped when one class is in session," Altaf said. He appealed to the administration to address the issue on priority.

While Pulwama's Chief Education Officer (CEO) Abdul Qayoom refused to comment on the matter, Deputy Commissioner Basharat Qayoom said he has sought a report from the CEO and will comment only after receiving it.

Art 370 was temporary but lasted for 70 yrs: VP

AGENCIES

Jammu, June 22: Asserting that people are happy since the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated in Jammu and Kashmir, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Thursday said the Article was temporary but still lasted for 70 long years.

He also said BR Ambedkar had refused to draft Article 370 while drafting the other articles of the Constitution.

"I had been advocating for it for 20 years. It was an aberration. Go to the text of the Constitution and see that this article was put as a temporary article. It lasted for the last 70 years," Dhankhar said while addressing convocation of the University of Jammu here.

He said Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, declined to draft Article 370. "Now, we

are happy that it is not there (in Jammu and Kashmir)," he said.

Remembering the words of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee - "ek mulk mein do nishan, do pradhan nahi challenge" (a country cannot have two symbols and two leaders), Dhankhar said that is no longer the case now.

He said there is a harmonious atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir now since the provisions of Article 370 have been abrogated and added that it is the greatest tribute to Mukherjee, who laid down his life for a strong and united India.

"Tomorrow (on June 23) is his martyrdom day. He died as a detainee in the Srinagar jail on this day. He died within days after his arrest," the vice president said.

Lauding the work done by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, he said massive development is taking place in the Union Territory

after the abrogation of Article 370.

The erstwhile state's integration with the Union has paved the way for investments and a boom in tourism, Dhankhar said while pointing out that Jammu and Kashmir has all the top institutions of the country now, including an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and "even an AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences)".

"Jammu will be an education hub," he added.

Talking about India's growth in the global market, Dhankhar said the country has 70 crore internet users, much more than in the United States or in China.

Asserting that democracy is flourishing in India, he said Indians feel proud about it.

He also credited the success of a G20 meeting in Srinagar to the LG.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presents a degree to a student during the special convocation ceremony of the University of Jammu, at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium in Jammu, Thursday. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is also seen.

PTI PHOTO

90-yr-old woman gets ₹1L power bill



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Koppal (Karnataka), June 22: Girijamma, a 90-year-old woman living in a tiny shed at Bhagyanagar in Koppal city, got the shock of her life when she got an electricity bill ₹1 lakh.

The aged woman used to pay ₹70 to ₹80 every month as power tariff.

Girijamma, struggling to earn her livelihood, was in tears and made an appeal to the media to bail her out of the situation.

After the media raised the question to the Minister for Power, K.J. George Thursday, he said, "She got the bill that mentioned the wrong amount due to a glitch in the metre. She need not pay the bill."

Following the statement of the minister, the staff of Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) rushed

to her shed.

The executive engineer, Rajesh inspected the power meter and maintained that it was a technical glitch. The inflated bill was generated because of the error of the staff and bill collector. He informed the woman that she need not pay the bill. The relieved old woman joined both her hands and thanked the officer and media.

The incident resulted in public outrage as the people across the state are unhappy about the hiked tariff rates and inflated bills.

The Congress government, which promised 200 units of free power for all households under the Griha Laxmi scheme, has been making all efforts to subdue the bitter feelings. The industrial bodies have also given a bandh call to protest against the increase in power tariff.



A racegoers poses for photographers during Ladies Day of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting in England



Commuters waded through a waterlogged road following rainfall in Nadia, West Bengal



Britain's King Charles III speaks with Baroness Dame Floella Benjamin following a service at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, England, for young people, to recognise and celebrate the Windrush 75th Anniversary



Locals protest against the removal of a portion of a temple in Mandawali area of New Delhi



People participate in a camel race organised on World Camel Day at ICAR-National Research Centre on Camel in Bikaner, Rajasthan



Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva as the cash-strapped country makes a last-ditch effort to get a much-needed loan from the global lender



Indian Coast Guard personnel display around 1,137 kgs of banned raw sea cucumber, that was dumped in the sea near Mandapam, after recovering it during an operation

international

of the day quote

We need immediate de-escalation and new elections in the north with participation of Kosovo Serbs. This is paramount for the region and (the) EU

At the moment, there is clear evidence Maori, Pacific, rural and low-income communities have been discriminated against by the health system

Pakistan has enough problems of its own and does not want the added headache of a new Cold War between China and the United States

SHORT TAKES

Four killed
Matador (Texas): A line of severe storms produced what a meteorologist called a rare combination of multiple tornadoes, hurricane-force winds and softball-sized hail in northwest Texas, killing at least four people and causing significant damage around the town of Matador. A supercell developed about 8 pm Wednesday near Amarillo before striking Matador, killing four people, injuring nine and causing widespread damage, said senior forecaster Matt Ziebell with the National Weather Service in Lubbock.

1 dead, 9 missing
Manila: The Philippine Coast Guard said rescuers retrieved a body and a search operation was underway for nine people who went missing after a fishing boat capsized off the Davao Oriental province Thursday. The coast guard said the boat, Genesis 2, which carried at least 24 people, "half submerged" at around 1 a.m. after encountering rough seas in the waters off Banganga town, reports Xinhua news agency.

Ghulam quits PTI
Islamabad: Ghulam Sarwar Khan Thursday became the latest senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party member who parted ways with Imran Khan over the May 9 violent protests, saying he strongly condemns the policy of confrontation with the state institutions. The former federal aviation minister in a video statement also demanded punishment for rioters who attacked military and civilian installations across the country following PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest in the Al-Qadir trust case on May 9, also known as the "Black Day" in the history of the creation of Pakistan.

Court quashes Navalny's lawsuit
Moscow: Russia's Supreme Court Thursday rejected a lawsuit by imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny contesting prison regulations that allow prison officials to deprive him of stationery and pens. Navalny is serving a nine-year sentence for fraud and contempt of court in a maximum security penal colony in Melekhovo 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of Moscow. This week, another trial against the Kremlin's archfoe began right there in the penal colony on charges of extremism. If convicted, Navalny will remain behind bars for at least two more decades. In the lawsuit, Navalny complained that prison officials in the restricted housing unit, where he is held in isolation, no longer gave him a pen and paper.

INDIA, US MUST WORK TOGETHER: BIDEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 22: President Joe Biden Thursday said India and the US should work and lead together given the challenges and opportunities facing the world, as he accorded Prime Minister Narendra Modi a grand welcome at the White House, with the two countries set to sign a raft of mega defence, trade and space cooperation agreements. "Welcome back to the White House," Biden told Modi, as he arrived at the official residence of the US President on his maiden pomp-filled state visit amid rapturous cheers of 'Modi, Modi' from the crowd gathered on the South Lawn. "The challenges and opportunities facing the world in this century require that India and the United States work and lead together... Two great nations, two great friends, two great powers that can define the course of the 21st century," he said, describing the ties between the two countries as "one of the most defining" relationships in the 21st century. As the Biden administration rolled out the red carpet to Modi with the camaraderie between

the US President and the Indian prime minister on full display, Modi in his response said India and the US are committed to working together for global good and peace, stability and prosperity.

After the ceremonial welcome and ahead of the delegation-level parleys, Modi held one-on-one talks with Biden at the Oval Office to discuss a wide range of issues of mutual and global interests, aimed at further boosting the Indo-US strategic relations in areas like defence, space, clean energy and critical technologies. In his initial remarks, Modi told Biden that the President's commitment to the ties between the two countries has prompted India to take "bold and audacious" measures. He also described strong people-to-people ties as the real engine of India-US relationship and referred to the energetic diaspora crowd in the White House to assert that a "roar" was heard about this connect. "Today India and the US are walking shoulder-to-shoulder from the depths of the ocean to heights of the sky, from ancient culture to artificial intelligence," Modi said.

HELD A ONE-ON-ONE MEETING WITH BIDEN IN THE OVAL OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE BEFORE HOLDING DELEGATION-LEVEL TALKS

PRESIDENT BIDEN DESCRIBED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND INDIA AS ONE OF THE MOST DEFINING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden and other US ministers and officials during the State Arrival Ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House, in Washington DC

Moscow court rejects US journalist's appeal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, June 22: A Moscow court Thursday rejected an appeal by Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and upheld an earlier ruling that he should remain in jail on espionage charges until late August. The 31-year-old US citizen was arrested in late March while on a reporting trip. A Moscow court agreed last month to keep him in custody until August 30. Defence lawyers had challenged the decision. Gershkovich, wearing a black T-shirt and light blue jeans, looked tense and paced around inside a glass defendant's



cage while waiting for the hearing to begin at the Moscow City Court. Before the hearing began, other journalists in the courtroom were asked to leave and the proceedings took place behind closed doors. Gershkovich's parents and US ambassador to Russia Lynne Tracy attended the hearing. Speaking to reporters afterward, Tracy said that "Evan continues to show remarkable strength and resilience in these very difficult circumstances." Gershkovich and his employer have denied he spied in Russia. The US government has declared him to be wrongfully detained and demanded his immediate release.

Ukraine strikes bridge to Crimea: Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, June 22: An explosion damaged a bridge that is one of the few links between Crimea and Ukraine's mainland, Russia-backed officials said Thursday, as the early stages of a Ukrainian counteroffensive unfold. Russia-backed officials say an explosion Thursday damaged a bridge that is one of the few links between Crimea and the Ukrainian mainland. Russian forces in Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, use the Chongar bridge to reach southern Ukraine's Kherson province. Russia and Ukraine control different sides of the province, which is a focus of fighting and



attacks as Ukrainian troops try to reclaim Russian-occupied territory. Ukrainian authorities have said that for the country's nearly 16-month war to end, Moscow must withdraw its forces from Crimea as well as from areas they seized during the full-scale invasion that started last year. The damage to the bridge was not severe and likely will be repaired within several days, Vladimir Konstantinov, chairman of the parliament of Crimea, said. Vladimir Saldo, the Russia-appointed head of the occupied parts of Kherson province, said the explosion appeared to have been caused by a type of long-range cruise missile that both France and the UK have given to Ukraine's military. The claim could not be inde-

THE BRIDGE IS ONE OF JUST A FEW ACCESS ROUTES TO CRIMEA
RUSSIAN-INSTALLED OFFICIALS VOW TO RESTORE TRAFFIC
BRIDGE IS BEYOND RANGE OF KYIV'S MAIN BATTLEFIELD ROCKETS

pendently verified. Ukrainian authorities did not immediately comment on the bridge and typically do not confirm specific attacks. However, numerous military analysts have said recent Ukrainian actions in the country's south and east indicated that Kyiv's troops were in the early stages of a long-anticipated counteroffensive. Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti cited an unnamed representative of Russia's Investigative Committee as saying Thursday that preliminary information indicates there were four missiles fired and the remains of one of them showed markings of being French-made.



Berlin wants constructive relations with China because the country plays a key role in solving global problems such as food security, climate change and poverty

OLAF SCHOLZ | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

BEIJING RECORDS HOTTEST JUNE DAY IN 60 YEARS

Beijing has recorded its hottest June day in more than 60 years with the mercury touching 41.1 degrees Celsius, a media outlet reported, quoting Chinese weather authorities



FESTIVE MOOD: Competitors take part in the annual dragon boat race to celebrate the Tuen Ng festival in Hong Kong, Thursday

Pak to withdraw objection to Holi celebration at university

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, June 22: Salman Sufi, who heads the Pakistan Prime Ministers Strategic Reforms Unit, said Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain had asked the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to withdraw a notification in which it took exception to the Hindu festival of Holi being celebrated at a university. "Have spoken to Rana Tanveer sahib, and he has taken stern notice of the notification by the HEC on discouraging religious festivals and has asked them to withdraw it," tweeted Sufi after the media reported about the notification, Dawn reported. The notification was sent by HEC Executive Director Shaista Sohail to vice chancellors and heads of institutions. In its



letter, the HEC claimed the "widely reported/ publicised" event of the celebration of Holi by the platform of a university had "caused concern and disadvantageously affected the country's image". "Unfortunately, it is sad to witness activities that portray a complete disconnect from our socio-cultural values and an erosion of the country's Islamic identity. One such instance that

has caused concern was the fervour exhibited in marking (the) Hindu festival of Holi, Dawn reported. While the HEC letter did not name the varsity in question, it comes after Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad gained attention on social media for hosting an event for Holi, which took place on March 8. In one of the videos circulating on social media, it can be seen dancing and throwing colours in the air as loud music plays in the background. The letter advised HEIs to "prudently distance" themselves from all such activities "obviously incompatible with the country's identity and societal values". The HEC's letter drew the ire of netizens online, Dawn reported.

22 Indian fishermen held for poaching

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, June 22: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 22 Indian fishermen on board four trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters northwest of Delft Island, Jaffna, officials said Thursday. "The Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian trawlers engaged in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters late on Wednesday", a statement by Lanka Navy said. The fishermen from Tamil Nadu, reportedly hailing from Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Nagapattinam districts, were picked up from near Neduntheevu late on Wednesday, and four boats were also seized, it said. They were later taken to Kankesanthurai harbour and handed over to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for further legal action. The Navy conducts regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing trawlers. Dr S Ramadoss, founder of the political party Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) in Tamil Nadu, has slammed the arrest of the fishermen from the state by the Sri Lankan Navy. In a tweet, he said an Indo-Lanka joint panel formed to discuss various matters, including the fishermen issue, should be convened immediately to find a lasting solution to the apprehension of Indian fishers. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with the Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lanka's territorial waters.

SEARCH CONTINUES

Dog who helped find children in jungle missing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bogota, June 22: With his powerful snout and his pointy ears, Wilson became a national hero in Colombia when he helped the military find four Indigenous children who survived a plane crash and were lost in the Amazon jungle for 40 days. Pawprints from the military-trained search dog led trackers to the children earlier this month. But the Belgian Shepherd went missing during the search and is now himself the target of a sophisticated rescue operation that started soon after the four young survivors were flown on a helicopter to Bogota. The Colombian military says it has left 70 soldiers in the dense swath of jungle around the crash site to look for its beloved search dog. And commanders have vowed not to leave the remote



area until soldiers return home with the star pup. It's been a month since Wilson got lost in the rainforest, and it's hard to know if the two-year-old dog is still alive. But the sniffer dog's rescue would lift the spirits of many Colombians, and add a heartwarming exclamation point to a survival story that already has captivated the world. "For us it was an honor that our canine helped to find those children" said Sgt. Luis Fernando Seña, the commander of the canine school where Wilson was trained for 14 months in Bogota. "It would be great news for the country, and for our children if

he can be found," Seña said. Wilson graduated from the canine academy in February, and was taken to the Tolemaida air force base, where he joined Colombia's Special Forces. Wilson and four more sniffer dogs, were taken to the rainforest in May, to find the single engine Cessna plane that had crashed into the rainforest, carrying the four children and three adults who later were found dead. When the small plane was found, and the search party realized that the children could

still be alive, Wilson's handler gave him some clothes to sniff, to track down the kids. The sniffer dog got separated from the search party on May 18, after he sped off into the forest following a scent. Ten days later, the military found footprints of the children next to his pawprints. Those clues helped them to get closer to the area where the children were found on June 9, said Gen. Pedro Sanchez, who led the rescue effort. "The children spoke to us, and confirmed that the dog was with them for two or three days" Sanchez, told Colombia's W radio. The children are still recovering in hospital and have not spoken to the press. But recently, 13-year-old Lesly Mucutuy, who is the oldest child in the group, drew a picture of the rainforest that included a black and coffee colored dog, which looks like Wilson.

The Colombian military says it has left 70 soldiers in the dense swath of jungle around the crash site to look for its beloved search dog

