

Actor Deepika Padukone, in a throwback interview, shares how she had a huge crush on Arjun Rampal LEISURE



BRIDGE SUFFERS DAMAGE

An explosion damages a bridge which is one of the few links between Crimea and Ukraine's mainland, Russian officials say

INTERNATIONAL P10



PRANNOY IN QUARTERS

HS Prannoy sails into Taipei Open quarterfinals after an emphatic win over Indonesia's **Tommy Sugiarto**

SPORTS P12

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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY JUNE 23 | 2023

SHORT TAKES

Centre honours 2 Odisha nurses

Bhubaneswar: Sebati Sahoo and Manjulata Maharana of Odisha were conferred Thursday with the national 'Florence Nightingale' award by President Droupadi Murmu for the years 2022 and 2023, respectively at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The award was instituted by the Centre in 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society. Sebati is currently working as a nursing officer at the district headquarters hospital in Nabarangpui and has 18 years of experience. Manjulata on the other hand is working as an ANM at the in Sahaspur health sub-centre in Puri district.

Road mishap claims 10 lives in U'khand

Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand): Ten people on their way to a temple were killed Thursday after their car fell into a 600-metre deep gorge in Munsiyari, an official here said. Among the dead was the driver also. All the bodies have been retrieved. Pithoragarh district disaster management officer Bhupendra Singh Mahar said and added that there were no survivors. The pilgrims were on their way to Kokila Devi temple in Hokra, when the accident occurred around 7.30am, locals said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, Guinness Book doesn't keep records for keeping quiet or being absent during every crisis

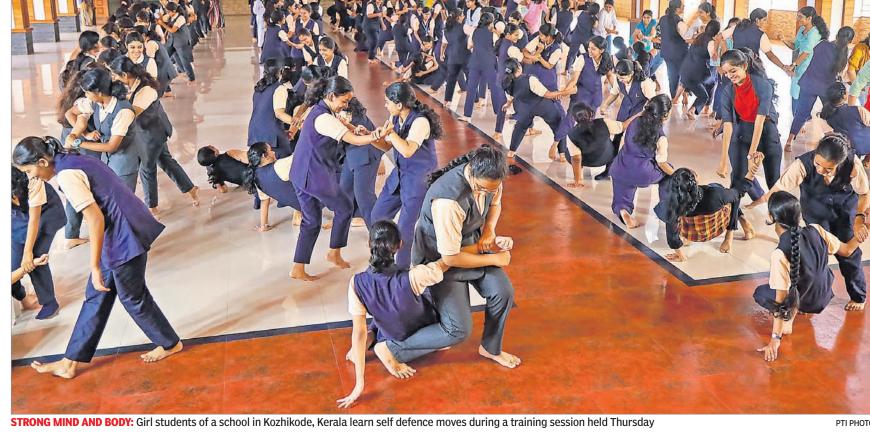
MARKET WATCH						
INDEX VARIATION						
BOURSES	SENSEX	63238.89	•	284.26		
	NIFTY	18771.25	•	85.60		
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	82.04	•	₹0.10		
CURR	EURO	89.77	•	₹0.24		
NOI	GOLD	₹58,264	•	₹450		
BULLION	SILVER	₹ 68,290	•	₹957		

WEATH				
	BHUB	СТК	101	
MAX	35.8℃	36.2°C		
≝ MIN	28.6°C	28.5℃	Forecast	
Humidity	77%	77%	HEAT	
Rainfall C	26mm 1	64mm	WAVE	

Patna, June 22: Even before Opposition parties kicks off parties laying down demands. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal meeting unless the Congress

Meanwhile, Trinamool

be sorted out," Banerjee said.



Mayawati (BSP),

Naveen Patnaik

. Chandrashekar

Jagan Mohan

Congress) not

AAP, TMC lays

for Congress

down conditions

ahead of meeting

Reddy (YSR

invited

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

(AAP), Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin

(DMK), Jharkhand CM Hemant

Soren (JMM), SP supremo

Akhilesh Yadav, Maharashtra's

former CM Uddhav Thackeray

(Shiv Sena-UBT), Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) chief

Mehbooba Mufti, CPI(M) gen-

eral secretary Sitaram Yechury

and NCP president Sharad Pawar

are among the leaders expected

Banerjee was asked what will

happen at Friday's meeting out-

side Tejashwi's residence, "I can-

not say anything now. We have

come here as we will fight to-

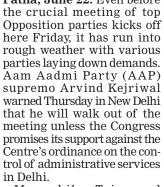
gether, one to one (against the

to attend the meeting.

(BJD), K

Fissures before 31 killed in China hotel blast **Oppn meeting**

As political analysts and the BIP watch, leaders of 15 parties set out on mission to form anti-BJP front



Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee who arrived here Thursday, a day before the meeting, asserted that the Congress will have to make its stand clear on supporting the Left parties in West Bengal. "Congress should not expect that it will continue its association with the Left parties and then bank on TMC's support at the national level. This should not happen. Even though we will fight like a family to take on the BJP-led NDA, these issues should

The 'Mission 2024' meeting.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee upon her arrival in Patna, Thursday

which is being hosted by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, will in all probability be attended by leaders of 15 parties including half-a-dozen chief ministers. Sources said the parties would look to avoid the prickly leadership question as of now and emphasise on building a common ground.

The Samajwadi Party would be the only party from Uttar Pradesh (BJP's bastion) attending the meeting with BSP supremo Mayawati not being invited and RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary set to skip the conclave due to a family programme.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi,

Beijing, June 22: At least 31 people were killed and seven others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

injured when a massive cooking gas explosion ripped through a barbecue restaurant in northwestern China on the eve of the 'Dragon Boat' festival, official media reported Thursday. The blast happened at around 8.40pm Wednesday on a busy street in the Xingqing District of Yinchuan, due to a leakage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the operating area of the restaurant. Nine people, including the owner of the hotel have been detained and their assets frozen.

The explosion resulted in 38 casualties, with 31 people confirmed dead, while seven individuals are currently receiving medical treatment, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Regional Committee of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) said.

Gas blasts in restaurants and apartment buildings have been common in recent years in China. The country has also seen a number of fatal incidents this year, which included a mining accident in February in the Inner Mongolia region killing 53 people. It was followed by fire at a hospital here in April that left 29 people dead.

Monsoon in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The southwest monsoon arrived Thursday in Odisha and will cover the entire state in the next two days, the regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here said.

The monsoon has covered most parts of Malkangiri and some parts of Koraput and Gajapati districts. Conditions are favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon over the remaining parts of Odisha in the next two days, the IMD added.

Last year, the southwest monsoon arrived June 16 in Odisha. This year it was delayed nearly by a week as the monsoon arrived in Kerala late due to the effect of Cyclone 'Biparjoy', sources said. In 2019, monsoon was delayed also as it arrived in the state June 19. Meanwhile, pre-monsoon rain-

fall lashed the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack and some parts of coastal Odisha Thursday afternoon.

In view of advancement of southwest monsoon and current meteorological situations, widespread rainfall/thundershowers with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall and light-



ning would occur across the state during the next four to five days, the IMD said.

The Met department also informed that a cyclonic circulation over west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts lies between 3.1km and 5.8km above mean sea-level tilting southwards.

More sops for transgenders

■ *Hostel accommodation* expenses to be provided by Odisha government, entrepreneurship encouraged

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: The Odisha government announced Thursday that an investment of ₹10 lakh will be considered for registered transgender persons interested in individual entrepreneurship in sectors including production, marketing and setting up of service centres that will generate employment.

This decision has been taken by the Odisha government's Social Security and Empowerment of

Monkey menace hits two Indian cities

Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department as it works for the security and welfare of the transgender community.

SSEPD Minister Ashok Chandra Panda stated Thursday the government recognises that transgender persons are valuable human resource for the society. So it seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and meaningful participation in society. He pointed out that the 'Sweekruti' scheme for the welfare of transgenders is now strengthened with various provisions.

Panda informed that the government will provide financial assistance for hostel facilities to the transgender students under the 'Sweekruti' scheme.

The Odisha government will

PATNAIK SANCTIONS ₹20 CRORE FOR AAHAR

Rhuhaneswar: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik sanctioned Thursday ₹20 crore from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to the state level Aahar-committee. The state government had sanctioned ₹228.76 crore for implementation of Aahar programme from 2015-16 to 2021-22. Aahar centres are operating in various hospitals, bus stands and in other crowded places in urban areas to provide healthy and balanced food to poor people at only ₹5 per meal.

provide ₹15,000/per inmate for purchase of furniture and furnishings. Students pursuing education and staying in hostels will be given stipend of ₹3,000/per month, Panda said.

Debris found near Titanic, hopes fade for survivors

Boston, June 22: The US Coast Guard said Thursday that an underwater vessel has located a debris field near the 'Titanic' in the search for a missing submersible with five people aboard. However. the Coast Guard's post on Twitter gave no details, such as whether officials believe the debris is connected to the 'Titan', which was on an expedition to view the wreckage of the Titanic. The search passed the critical 96-hour mark Thursday when breathable air could have run out.

Five people are on board the Titan', a submersible vessel that has gone missing in the North Atlantic. The group includes Hamish Harding, founder of the 'Action Group' and an avid adventurer. The 58-yearold holds three Guiness World Records, including the longest time spent traversing the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean the 'Mariana Trench'.

Others on the vessel are Stockton Rush, the founder of 'OceanGate Expeditions' which organised the trip to the 'Titanic'. Influential Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman are also part of the expedition. The Titan was being piloted by Frenchman Paul Henry Nargeolet. With the deadline for breathing air, ending Thursday, the survival chances of the five now appear very dim.

THE ONE CAUGHT IN MP'S RAJGARH HAD FORCED THE AUTHORITIES TO DECLARE A BOUNTY ON ITS HEAD AGENCIES

Bhopal, June 22: Monkey menace has hit two Indian cities leading to sleepless nights for Forest department officials as well as the residents. While the one creating mayhem in Rajgarh town of Madhya Pradesh has been finally tranquilised and caught, the grey langur at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala continues to remain elusive.

Such was the terror created for two weeks by the monkey in Rajgarh that the MP Forest department announced a bounty of ₹21,000 on its head. It was finally caught Wednesday evening, but not before it had attacked and injured 20 people.

BJP)," she said.

A rescue squad called from Ujjain teamed up with local officials and residents to catch the ferocious monkey on the prowl. However, before that a drone had to be used to locate the monkey. The team then managed to tranquilise it using darts and then put it in a cage.

There were dramatic scenes when the monkey was being taken to a cage by Forest officials. Chants of 'Jai Bajrang Bali' were repeatedly heard. The monkey however, had scant respect for its captors. The moment the monkey got back its senses, it started gnashing its teeth.

Among the 20-odd people the



monkey attacked in the past fortnight, eight were children. The monkey, officials said, would perch on roofs and window sills and suddenly pounce on people. Many of those injured suffered deep gashes that required multiple stitches.

'The municipality did not have the means to catch the monkey. We reached out to the district col-

lector and with his help, called in a rescue team of the Forest department from Ujjain. The municipality staff and local residents helped them, but it still took four hours to catch the animal," Rajgarh municipal corporation's chairman Vinod Sahu said Thursday.

However, the grey langur in Thiruvananthapuram continues to keep everybody on their toes in the Kerala capital. It appears in one spot and then suddenly resurfaces back at another at least 3-4 kilometres from the place it was first seen.

Despite round-the clock surveillance by a dedicated zoo team and their extensive searches. the monkey had been missing for some hours since Wednesday. However, it was found Thursday morning atop a tall tamarind tree near the state-run Mascot Hotel. Then efforts were made to bring it down by luring it with a female monkey. However, that also failed. Known as 'Hanuman kurangu'

among local people, the whitehaired monkey, with a black face and ears, was brought to the Zoological Park in Thiruvananthapuram. However, it gave a slip to the zoo staffers and ran out of its enclosure 10 days back. Luckily however, it has not yet attacked anybody, but is keepingeveryone on tenterhooks with its disappearing act.







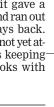














eisure



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.





accuracy • reliability • trust

You are enthusiastic about mixing with people today, and you will feel like com-

bining business and leisure. You will be encouraged to take part in group activi ties as you have the ability to work and

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

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 mone-tary 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 a good day to start a new job or business activity. You will focus more attention on your personality today. your hidden talents to the fore. Make the most of this opportunity to implement

■ VIRGO

Ganesha says you realise the importance of family matters today. You have great skills when it comes to negotia tions, 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

LIBRA Ganesha says today you

may be able to undertake travel for business or pleas ure 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 destress 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 quards 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, pre-

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 vour mental state.



Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone is now a global name. From working with A-lister actors in Hindi film industry as well as Hollywood, she had 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 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.





Artistes perform on the last evening of the event

Music and Yoga Day celebra-

Bhubaneswar: A two-day World

tion, organised by City-based Dhrupad Music Foundation, came to an end here at GKCM Odissi Research Centre, Thursday. On the second and concluding day, Padma Shri Gundecha Brothers of Madhya

Pradesh was conferred with Dhrupad Ratna Jyoti Award-2023 while Arnav Chaghanti (Hyderabad), Shreyaanshi Pahwa(Punjab), and Vini Gupta(MP) received Little Dhrupad Singers Award-2023. Surya Narayan Pani from Odisha was felicitated with Dhrupad

Sadak actress said,

"I was married

for almost 11

vears. Then we

decided that

something is

not right so

Music Foundation Scholarship Award-2023. Luminaries present on the occasion included MLA Soumya Ranjan Pattnaik, Padma Shri Shyamamani Devi, eminent vocalist and Prof (Dr.) Saroj Kumar Das Majumdar, Dept. of Radiation, Oncology, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

What made Radhika quit TV

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Madan explained her comment on why she took an exit from TV and switched

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 fo 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 *Patakhaa* and recently featured in a web show -Saas Bahu Aur

FUN

AGENCIES

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.

relationships



Pooja bares her private life

> 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 Pooja, daughter of film-

live a

maker 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

> Bigg Boss OTT 2 streams

good. We main-

tained dignity

and parted

on JioCinema.

PEANUTS



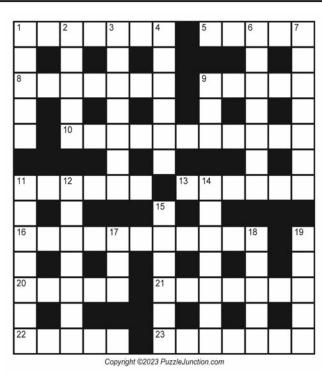
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



Across

- 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)

Down

- 1 Muffler
- 3 Short-legged
- 2 Took steps

20 Belgian Congo,

previously

22 Important

question

23 Deer toppers

21 Most organised

- flightless bird
- - 17 Consume 18 It won't hold
 - water

4 Soothsayer

7 Bullfighter

9 Compete

11 Whirlpool

12 Protective

14 Inflexible

15 To-do list

seawalls

6 Brisk, in music

19 Toys with tails

SUDOKU

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.

8			3			6	7	
			8				3	
	9						8	
6						3		
	2	5	3					6
			4	3				
5				54	8			
9	7	1			2			
		6				4	1	2

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

8 9 1 6 3 5 1 7 8 2 4 3 4 6 4 7 9 2 5 1 3 8 6 9 7 3 6 2 5 4 1 8 1 9 3 8 2 4 6 5 7

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



downtown



IN SYNC

Orissa POST			****	COV	/ID-19	TRACK	ER
FRIDAY JUNE 23 2023 BHUBANESWAR	ଗ୍ରୀ ଓ ଗନ୍ୱାଥ ମନ୍ତି । କନ୍ୟ ସମିଷ୍	IN SYNC Girls perform during a		World	INFECTED 69,00,68,151	RECOVERED 66,24,96,191	DEAD 68,89,432
downtown		cultural programme at Gundicha Temple in		India	4,49,92,293	4,44,57,720	5,31,886
GO VVI ICO VVI I	, oce - ssale	Chandini Chowk area of Cuttack, Thursday		Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204
				пппп			

Gajapati gets new Collector

Bhubaneswar: In a minor IAS reshuffle. the state government Thursday appoint ed 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 triplestorey 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 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 like invoking relevant

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.

provisions of the laws.

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 Mayurbhani SP exclusively for the protection of

> the on duty officials, officials said. Similarly, regular training will be given to the Forest

personnel on use

firearms.

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

Jena emphasised on community participation, including ac-

said Jena.

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-yearold forest guard, was shot dead by a group of poachers at STR.









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Projects worth ₹833.21cr approved for all 115 ULBs

Adhering to the 5T mantra, Housing & Urban Development department has approved a total of 10,945 projects across all ULBs for FY 2023-24



Bhubaneswar, June 22: Taking forward the state's vision of creating inclusive cities and enhancing the liveability of all sections across the urban Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently approved the action plan for each ward under the Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) for the

Adhering to the 5T mantra, a total of 10,945 projects with an investment of Rs. 833.21 crore are to be implemented across 115 urban local bodies (ULBs) of the state this financial year. In this connection, Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) department has issued sanction orders to the ULBs indicating

the specific number of projects along with the approved budget.

These projects will be executed through Community Partnership to be led by the Mission Shakti SHGs (MSGs) and Slum Dwellers Associations (SDAs). "Now, the time has come to gear up for successful implementation of all the approved projects by December 2023", said Sarada Prasad Panda, Director of State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) cum State Nodal

Officer for MUKTA. According to Panda, for the effective implementation of the approved projects, it is important to build the knowledge, skills and capacities of the MSGs that are partnering for the implementation of MUKTA. Community partner's capacity

building will not only build their project management skills, but will also minimize the community's dependence on outside experts for knowledge and resources to solve community issues and will empower them to lead from the front and find solutions by themselves.

With a vision to empower the community partners, under the guidance of the Principal Secretary, G Mathi Vathanan, the department has made extensive planning to roll out a massive state-wide capacity building training (CBT) programme, which will also capacitate the implementing municipal officers and professionals associated with the execution of

"A meticulously planned CBT encompassing training of MSG/SDA leaders and the officials is being rolled out from 22nd June onwards with the technical support from Urban Management Centre (UMC). Professionals of UMC and the professionals of SUDA will jointly impart the training and closely handhold and mentor the MSGs for effective implementation of the MUKTA projects on the ground." informed

International Yoga Day observed at Esplanade



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: On the occasion of International Yoga Day, Nexus Esplanade Mall organised a yoga workshop in collaboration with Art of Living foundation- a humanitarian organisation devoted for betterment of society.

The air was filled with tranquility and a sense of unity as participants gathered to celebrate the event.

Various asanas were done under the guidance of professional trainers who also explained the benefits of yoga. With more than 60 participants, the event embraced the spirit of holistic well-being and brought the community together in a unique way. As part of employee engagement initiatives, the session was attended by the staff and retail partners. They also had the privilege to welcome a few customers as part of the event.

Launch of MIS & GIS web-based application under OIIPCRA

The application seeks to promote improved crop productivity, farmers' adoption of resilient agricultural practices and technologies, diversification of crops and adaptation to climate change among other things

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 22: A Management Information System (MIS) and GIS web-based application for real time monitoring of the activities under the Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture (OIIPCRA) was launched Thursday

Water Resources Development Commissioner Anu Garg kickstarted the application in a programme organised in the conference hall of Department of Water Resources (DoWR), Bhubaneswar. Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Principal Secretary Arabind Kumar Padhee, Agriculture and Food Production Director Prem Chandra Choudhary and other officers from OIIPCRA, Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries were present in the

OIIPCRA aims at demonstrating climate smart agriculture in irrigation command of 538 selected Minor Irrigation Projects (MIPs) of 15 districts in Odisha. It seeks to promote improved crop productivity, farmers' adoption of resilient agricultural practices and technologies, diversification of



To implement and assess the integrated outcome, a comprehensive MIS and GIS based application has been developed. It involves and produces spatial data sets, geo-tagging, integrating data from various scales, organising data structures and establishing GIS database. It is an interactive querybased system for department for users. The application seeks to have the benefit of introducing a mechanism for assessing the water availability and identifying gaps in optimising utilisation of water in the command area. This works as a decision support system for identifying issues in civil works, agricultural, fisheries, and horticulture activities and deciding on the solutions and monitoring in real time the progress in physical and financial activities of the project. This application has also a grievance redressal mechanism for the stakeholders of the project.

officials and a mobile application panchayats, fisheries co-operative societies and agro-entre-

INTEGRATE WITH GLOBAL **VALUE CHAINS: PANDA**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) president and Indian Metals & Ferro Allovs Limited (IMFA) managing director Subhrakant Panda attended the 13th World Chamber Congress in Geneva organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Addressing the session on 'Goals for Growth: Raw Materials & Inclusive International Trade', Panda highlighted the importance of international trade in economic growth and prosperity. He said, "It is important for countries with natural resources to integrate with global value chains to

Odia girl Kalpana shines in Berlin

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, June 22: Promising cyclist from Odisha, Kalpana Jena bagged a silver medal in 2 km time trial event in the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2023 being held at Berlin, Germany. While Kalpana clocked 5:42.42, Shivani from India clocked 5:22.41 to bag the gold and Ana Zumbado of Costa Rica bagged the bronze by clocking 5:46.63. Kalpana hails from

an economically weaker family from Regedapada village in Athagarh block. father Gadadhar Jena and mother Gitanjali Jena work as agricultural farm labour-

ers. Kalpana has received MMRBT) in Athagarh since early 2019. Her cycling skills were

Kalpana has received sports training in various disciplines like badminton, athletics and floorball in **early 2019**

Mohanty before being selected

Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment and Fisheries & ARD Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain presented her with a racing cycle for practice before embarking on her journey which has borne fruit. She also met and received good wishes from the legendary 9 times National Cycling Champion and Arjuna Awardee, Minati Mohapatra during the send off ceremony held at KIIT June 6.

Congratulatory messages have poured in for Kalpana from all parts of the state. Special Olympics Bharat (SOB), Odisha President Kasturi Mohapatra, Bharati Rath Memorial Academy of Special Human Abilities (BRM-ASHA) Vice President Pradipta Rath, SOB state programme coordinator Arpita Mohapatra,

International Cricketer with Visual Impairment Md. Jafar Igbal, KIIT University Director General (Sports) Gaganendu Dash and SOB Area Director Prakash Rath sent congratulatory messages to Kalpana.

JSW scholarships for 104 students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, June 22: As a part of its community welfare programme, the JSW Foundation awarded 'Udaan Fellowship' to 104 meritorious students of Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts in Odisha to encourage them to pursue higher studies.

The fellowships were handed over to the students by Padma awardee and social activist Tulasi Munda during a programme held at Jajag office Wednesday. Congratulating the students, she said that the scholarship programme is a catalyst for the students to continue their studies sincerely and contribute to the society in a positive manner.

Scholarship winners thanked the company for executing the initiative. "This scholarship helped me to cover my study expenses," said Ranjit Barik from Rugudi, Another student, Tushar Sekhar Mahanta, who pursues MBA (HR) in PMIR said, "Such initiative in this area would encourage student like me to go for higher studies. Scholarship is big boost for me."

Rs 26 lakh were disbursed to the students, who come under the Direct Impact Zone (DIZ) of the mines of JSW group. The stu-

dents were selected through the

criteria of having scored mini-

mum 50 per cent marks in the an-

nual examination conducted by

their respective academic institutions. They are provided scholarships across the courses It is also renewed every year and around 22 students received

the renewal amount this year. JSW Foundation has collaborated with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to ensure transparency and scrutiny in deposition of the fellowship. it added.

A foundation official said that the scholarships will boost the confidence of the students to set higher goals and persevere to achieve them.

AFFIDAVIT

Consequent upon an affidavit duly sworn by me NIRAD PANI, S/o-BARAJ PANI, Rayagada (Gpt). I have changed the name of my daughter as NIRJHARA PANI instead of NABABANDI NIRJHARA PANI. Henceforth my daughter will known as NIRJHARA PANI for all official purposes. Sd./- NIRAD PANI Rayagada, Gajapati

Consequent upon an affidavit duly sworn by me Manoranjani Limma wife of late Edmohan Limma, Gaiba, Gajapati. I have changed the name of my daughter as Jhilima Limma instead of Muni Limma. Henceforth my daughter will be known as Jhilima Limma for all official purposes Sd./- Manoranjani Limma Gaiba, Gajapati

reap rewards; however, there must also be a move towards value addition as studies show many advantages accruing from a diversified export basket which includes value added goods.'

He also underlined India's aproach to digital infrastructure as a public good which connects and empowers people. Panda said, "It is not just innovative ideas but the scale at which they are being implemented in India which is attracting the world's

vidence is growing about

the many ways that trav-

elling in the micrograv-

ity environment of space tamp-

ers with the human body, with

new research showing how it

dials down the activity of genes

in white blood cells crucial to

A study involving 14 astro-

nauts who spent 4-1/2 to 6-1/2

months aboard the International

Space Station found that gene

expression in these cells, also

called leukocytes, quickly de-

creased when they reached space

and then returned to normal

not long after returning to Earth,

The findings offer insight into

why astronauts are more sus-

ceptible to infections during

flights, showing how the body's

system for fighting off pathogens

"A weaker immunity increases

the risk of infectious diseases

limiting astronauts' ability to

perform their very demanding

is weakened in space.

researchers said Thursday.

the immune system.

sports training in various disciplines like badminton, athletics and floorball at Braja Vihari Mohanty Memorial Mental Retardation Benefit Trust (BVM-

work in space. If an infection

or an immune-related condition

was to evolve to a severe state re-

quiring medical care, astronauts

while in space would have lim-

ited access to care and medica-

tion," said molecular biologist

Odette Laneuville of the

University of Ottawa in Canada,

lead author of the research pub-

lished in the journal Frontiers

Leukocytes are produced in

the bone marrow and travel

through the bloodstream and

tissues. Once they detect bodily

invaders like a virus or bac-

terium, they produce antibody

proteins to attack the pathogen.

Specific genes govern the re-

leukocytes isolated in blood

drawn from astronauts - 11 men

and three women - from the

Canadian Space Agency and U.S.

space agency NASA, once be-

fore the flight, four times aboard

the space station and five times

The researchers examined

lease of such proteins.

in Immunology

honed under, Satbir Singh Sahota, multiple times National Cycling Champion of India from Jharkhand. She practiced under the district coach, Bibekananda

he findings offer insight he researchers found that gene expression in cells, into why called leukocytes, astronauts are more susceptible quickly decreased to infections during when astronauts flights, showing reached space and how the body's system for fighting off pathogens is weakened in space then returned to normal not long after returning to

Space travel may weaken astronauts' immune system

after returning to Earth. Gene expression in 247 genes in leukocytes was at about one third the normal levels while in space, the study found. This occurred within the first few days in space, but then remained at a stable level. The genes typically returned to normal behaviour tronaut's return to Earth.

'White blood cells are very space. They trade their specialized immune functions to take care of cell maintenance or housekeeping roles. Before this paper, we knew of immune dysfunction but not of the mechanisms," said study co-author

Guy Trudel, an Ottawa Hospital rehabilitation medicine spe-

Discovering altered gene behaviour in leukocytes is "a significant step toward understanding human immune dysregulation in space," Trudel added.

This altered behaviour, the researchers said, may result from a phenomenon called "fluid shift" in which blood in the absence of Earth's gravitational pull is redistributed from the lower to the upper part of the body. It is unlikely that greater solar radiation exposure in space was the culprit, they added.

"New and specific countermeasures will be needed," Trudel

Scientists previously documented astronauts experiencing immune dysfunction in space. This has included reactivation of latent viruses such as: Epstein-Barr, responsible for infectious mononucleosis; varicella-zoster,

responsible for shingles; and herpes simplex 1, responsible for cold sores.

It also has been shown that astronauts in space shed more viral particles in their biological fluids - saliva and urine - increasing the risk of spreading pathogens to other astronauts whose own immune systems may be weakened.

The study, funded by the Canadian Space Agency, follows NASA-funded research published on June 8 that detailed brain changes in astronauts - expansion of spaces in the brain containing fluid that cushions it to protect against sudden impact and remove waste products.

Other documented effects of space travel include bone and muscle atrophy, cardiovascular changes, issues with the balance system in the inner ear and a syndrome involving the eyes. Cancer risk from greater radiation exposure is another concern.

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JANIBILI MEGA DRINKING WATER PROJECT

No water even after 5 yrs of inauguration

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 nonstarter 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 anicut in Dharakote block and supplied to the residents in Silk City after filtering at a water treatment plant at Jagdalpur in Kukudakhandi

Addressing a mega rally at Ankushpur, the Chief Minister after laving 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



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

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

Panchu Pradhan.

currence. 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

NADDA REACHES JHARSUGUDA ON 2-DAY STATE VISIT

जिस्ट्री सं. डी. एल.-33004/99

acquire such land.

State : ODISHA

Number

Village: Baunshamuhan-243

Village: Banaparia-190

SI. Survey/Plot

Taluk: Remuna

2 468/630

4 471/618

2 902/1133

3 902/1134

4 902/1135

5 902/1136

6 902/1137

9 908/1059

7 903

8 904

2 14

3 19

1 1141

2 1177

3 1178

Village: Biruan-211

3 469

section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

district of BALASORE in the state of ODISHA.

Government River

Government Patita

Government Danda

Government River

Government

Private

Government Gochara

Government Gochara

Private

Private

Private

Private

Private

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

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EXTRAORDINARY भाग ॥ - खण्ड ३ - उप-खण्ड (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022/PAUSHA 9, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 29th December, 2022

section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied

that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given

in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with

paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of 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, hereby declares its intention to

from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette

object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority

namely, Tahasildar, Remuna in writing and shall set out the grounds

thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity

of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after

hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any

as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) o

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their

notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at

SCHEDULE

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

Gharabadi

Gharabadi

Gharabadi

Gharabadi

Gharabadi

Sarad-II

Gharabadi

Kalakarkhana

Government Gramya jungle 0.1000000(Acre) 0.0404695

Government Gramya jungle 0.0900000(Acre) 0.0364225

District : BALASORE

Area Area
(in Local Unit) (in Hectare

0.0500000(Acre) 0.0202347

0.1000000(Acre) 0.0404695

0.0300000(Acre) 0.0121408

0.0500000(Acre) 0.0202347

0.0400000(Acre) 0.0161878

0.0100000(Acre) 0.0040469

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0.0800000(Acre) 0.0323756

0.0300000(Acre) 0.0121408

0.1100000(Acre) 0.0445164

0.0200000(Acre) 0.0080939

0.0299999(Acre) 0.0121408

0.0400000(Acre) 0.0161878

0.1700000(Acre) 0.0687981

0.0500000(Acre) 0.0202347

S.O. 6151(E). - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of

REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99

PNN & AGENCIES

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

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 newlyconstructed 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

sition for bikers, motorists and pedestrians alike, especially during power cuts during the night and rains. Accidents on these

As a result, commuting in the

city has become a risky propo-

since its inauguration but the

project is yet to function even

as another general election is

the outskirts. The fate of the

project has been pushed into un-

certainty and no one knows

The consultancy agency has

been alleged of whimsically im-

plementing the project without

caring for any government au-

thorities or public representatives

allegedly due to its strong con-

The agency has dug up sev-

eral 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

tacts in the power corridors.

when it will get completed.

round the corner

Berhampur

Corporation (BeMC).

dowry; husband arrested dowry, alleged the deceased's father

> daughter as she is unable to pay them "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

The father alleged that Rocky and

his family members have killed his

performed." he alleged. Phina's father said, "Marriage of Rocky's younger brother was held reunable 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

Acting on a complaint lodged by the victim's father, a case was registered

In-laws murder woman for Youth loses limbs in train accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Municipal

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,

No.i-185:

Letter No.1326/2023



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.

cently and his wife brought more dowry Nayagarh, June 22: A woman was althan Phina. So, they started demanding an additional ₹2 lakh from us. But we are legedly murdered by her husband and in-laws over dowry at Jagannath Sahi

destroy evidence.

year-old child. Since the marriage, Rocky at Itamati police station and the deand his family members were physicaeased's husband Rocky Pradhan arcally and mentally torturing Phina for rested, said the police official.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Support Services Division 2nd Floor, Dam Safety Building, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar - 751001 E-mail:eessdivision@gmail.com

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE NO.08/2023-24

No.A-260:Sealed quotations are invited in the prescribed format from the interested reputed Travel Agents Tour Operators or private individual having valid & upto date Registration under GST Act for providing vehicles with driver, which shall confirm to the specifications and terms and conditions mentioned in the quotation format which will be available in the O/o Executive Engineer, Support Services Division, Bhubaneswar from 10.00 AM of 23.06.2023 to 02.00 PM of 29.06.2023 on payment of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One Hundred) only

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SI.	Name of Work	Number of	Paper Cost	Quotation Call
No.		vehicle	(Non Refund- able)	Notice No
1	Hiring of Private Vehicle for Director, SPMU, DRIP O/o the Chief	1 No.	Rs. 100.00	08(1)/2022-23
	Engineer, Dam Safety, Odisha, Bhubaneswar under DRIP			
2	Hiring of Private Vehicle for Addl. Director, DS (Central) O/o	1 No.	Rs. 100.00	08{2}/2022-23
	Chief Engineer, Dam Safety, Odisha, Bhubaneswar under DRIP			
3	Hiring of Private Vehicle for Ass. to Chief Engineer, Dam Safety O/o Chief Engineer, Dam Safety, Odisha, Bhubaneswar under DRIP	1 No.	Rs. 100.00	08(3)/2022-23

Support Services Division, Bhubaneswa OIPR-32465/11/0008/2324

paper (Rs.)

Man hacked to death on suspicion of witchcraft

under Itamati police limits in Nayagarh

The deceased has been identified as

Phina Pradhan (32), daughter of Panchu

Pradhan of Rajahuda Sahi under Itamati

Phina married Rocky Pradhan (39).

son of Dhoba Pradhan at Jagannath

Sahi village in 2015. They have a six

district, police said Thursday.

police limits in the district

POST NEWS NETWORK

PNN & AGENCIES

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, Gurucharan Mund (35) of Banki village under Lahunipara, nearly 70 km away from here. hacked a septuagenar-

ian 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 allegation. 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 Swarai 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 Chhatria rape and murder case, Thursday. All vehi cles stayed off the roads, all government offices and business establishments remained closed during the bandh period. Meanwhile, the much-hyped Snehalata Chhatria rape and murder case at Sargipali village under Khaprakhol block in the district completed eight years, Monday. The agitators also gave the bandh call over Nirupama Nanda and Mamita Meher murder cases. The protesters led by the outfit's president Sabita Nanda, advisors Lily Patel, Nutan Das, Lalita Deep alleged that eight years have passed after the rape and murder of Snehalata Chhatria but police are yet to nab the culprits. The state Crime Branch, which took up the probe later, is yet to submit its chargesheet in the court. Locals have been demanding for CBI probe into the case but their pleas are yet to be addressed

EAST COAST RAILWAY ame of Work: MANDATORY TESTING

AND CERTIFICATION OF LIFTING MACHINES, LIFTING TACKLES CRANES, PRESSURE VESSELS ETC BY COMPETENT AGENCY/PERSON AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹10,37,910.30 MD:₹20,800/-

Completion Period: 36 Months Tender closing Date and time: At 12.00hrs. on 08.07.2023 No manual offers sent by

manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summaril without any consideration. Complete information including e tender documents is available

accepted against such e-Tenders ever

if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such

website: http://www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. CME (Production

PR-286/O/23-24 CRW/Mancheswar

400 meters of Goudaguda GF Const, of BT Road from Main Road (NH 326) to Ambaliambaguda of ent Office Block Development Officer, Laxmipur BDO-Online Tender 02/2023-24

* Further details can be seen from the website http://tende OIPR-19158/11/0003/2324

SYMBOLIC



Date : 23.06.2023 Place : Khurda, Odisha

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No. 2, N. S. C. Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001 Regional Office: 55 & 55/1, Chowringhee Road, 5th Floor, Chowringhee Court Opp. Nehru Chindren's Museum in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata - 700 071, W.B. Branch Address: 2nd Floor, Plot No. 394, Bomikhal, Near Santoshi Maa Temple Cuttack Road, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751 010

POSSESSION **NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(1)**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned the account calling upon the respective Borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taker **Symbolic Possession** of the Property mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the date mentioned against the account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The Borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned against the account along with Interest and other

SI. No.	a) Loan Account Number b) Name and Address of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of the Immovable Property	a) Date of Demand Notice b) Outstanding Amount c) Date of Symbolic Possessio	
1.	a) Loan Account Nos.: X0HEBHU00002901642 & X0HEBHU00002951694 b) 1. Bidyaraj Jena (Applicant) 2. M/s. Meena Bastralaya (Co-Applicant) 3. Sumita Jena (Co-Applicant) 4. Laxmidhar Jena (Co-Applicant) 5. Smita Mohanty (Co-Applicant) 6. Susama Jena (Co-Applicant) 7. Debraj Jena (Co-Applicant) All are at: Plot No. 31/A, Near BDA Park, BJB Nagar, Near Biem School, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin - 751 014.	District - Khurda, Tahasil-Bhubaneswar, under uhe Jurisdiction of office of the District Sub-Registrar, Khurda (BBSR), P.S New Capital, P.S. No. 52, Mouza - Bhubaneswar Sahara, Univo. 30, Laxmisagar-1, Mutation Khata No. 1593/1005, Shtitiban Plot No. 2534, Area Ac. 0.096 Decs, Kisam-Gharabari-1 which corresponding to Khata No. 1927, Plot No. 2534 which further corresponding to G.A. Plot No. A/32, Drawing No. C/3654, measuring an extent dimension and Area (55 X 80) Ac. 0.096 decimals approximately. Bounded by : North - Conservancy Lane, South - Road, East - Plot No. A/31, West - Plot No. A/33.	a) 10.04.2023 b) Rs. 2,62,08,103.00 as on 06.04.2023 and interest thereon. c) 21.06.2023 (Symbolic Possession)	

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Authorised Officer **RAJESH GUPTA, Director**





Slavoj Žižek

Assange has taught

us to acknowledge

between it and the

enemies' eyes. His

approach allows us

to see anew many

of the big struggles

that consume our

media and politics

our own eye but

also the hidden

sawdust in our

connections

not only the plank in

Whistleblowers

arlier 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

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' eves. 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

WISDOM CORNER

If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your DESMOND TUTU

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

You drown not by falling into a river, but by staying submerged in it.

WORDS**WORTH**

■ 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.

FOCUS ECONOMY

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT



Satya Narayan Misra

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

n 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 nonaligned, secular, democratic & socialistic was singularly shepherded by Nehru. The first salvo to his economic philosophy was fired by Jagdish Bhagawati and TN Srinivan 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 Mahalnobis 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 idea that the social sector must take center stage in our public policy in lieu of competitive populism should not be postponed further

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

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 writers like Pranab Bardhan and Abhijit Banerjee and rightwingers 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

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 trans fers 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.

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

profound changes in its fi-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 build-

ing "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

ndia has recently witnessed and Mobile number) trinity is reshaping the financial landscape nancial inclusion ecosystem. 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 fiats, 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.

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST (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

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

Audacious & arrogant

Sir, The statement by AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a rally at Sriganganagar 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 Chamling 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 polkadotted 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



TWOSTATES





FRIDAY | JUNE 23 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

EGGS BACK IN MENU FOR K'TAKA SCHOOL STUDENTS **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 REOUIRED AMOUNT OF RICE FROM FC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has given an assurance that he will take up with the ministry of food the issue of providing rice to Karnataka for its 'Anna Bhagya' scheme, state Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Thursday.



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 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

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 foodgrains to the states is changed,' according to the CMO statement.

Siddaramaiah and his ministers have been accusing the BJPled 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.

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

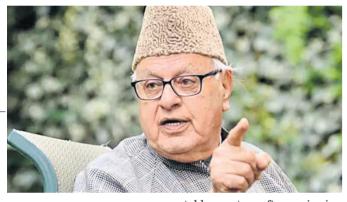
school going children.

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 soyabean, 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



AGENCIES

Pahalgam, June 22: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah Thursday gave his wishes to the Amarnath yatris and exhorted them to return to their native places with a message of love from Kashmir.

"The yatris should come here and return with the message of love. They should take the message that this country belongs to all-the Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs, the Christians, the Buddhists, everyone," Abdullah

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.

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

"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.



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

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 thighhigh 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,

so unbearable at times that children find it hard to even talk. "I hope the school building is constructed expeditiously," she

told PTI that the heat becomes

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 receiv-

Art 370 was temporary 90-yr-old woman but lasted for 70 yrs: VP gets ₹1L power bill

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

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 detenue 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

after the abrogation of Article

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



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.



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

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



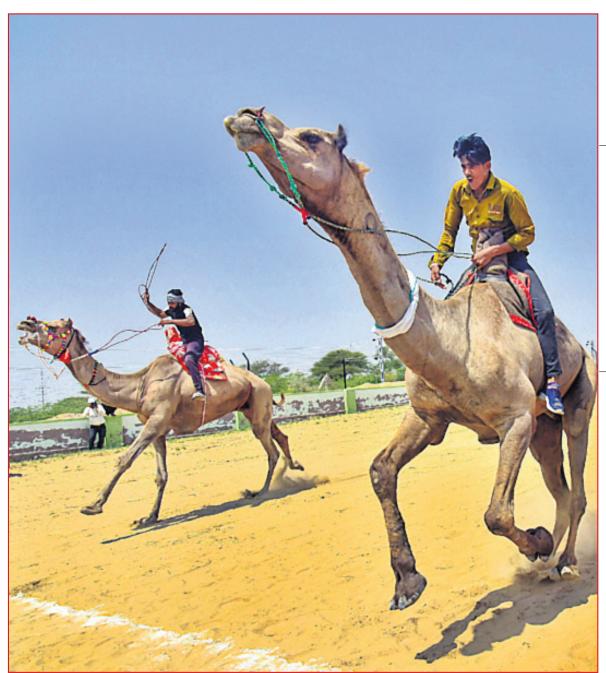
 $Commuters\ wade\ through\ a\ waterlogged\ road\ following\ rainfall\ in\ Nadia,\ West\ Bengal$



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

national



Many doubts were created about development at the time of Telangana formation in 2014, including that the state would plunge into darkness due to power shortage

K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

2 HELD OVER INVOLVEMENT IN COWIN DATA 'LEAK' CASE

A man from Bihar was arrested and his juvenile brother was apprehended in connection with the alleged data leak from the CoWIN portal, officials said





country need to be divided on the basis of religion and caste? The country needs to be saved and for that

there is need for unity. Why should the elections to the state of Jammu and Kashmir be opposed? FAROOQ ABDULLAH

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

The G20 countries have agreed upon role of education as human dignity and

globally. The countries agreed upon the need to work together for resilient, equitable, inclusive and sustainable future through

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

Congress has more faith in Hinduism than the BJP. There are many in the saffron party who have no connection with the Hindu religion at all. They have become Hindus just to do politics over building Ram temple. Slowly, their secrets are being revealed

ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

Woman, her relative thrown out of train

Bhopal: A 30-year-old woman, who was travelling to Surat in Gujarat from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, was allegedly thrown out of the moving train in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior by a group of men. As per police, the accused, who were in the same compartment (Sleeper), misbehaved with the woman and when she resisted their advances, they threw the woman and her male relative out of train. The incident occurred June 19 in Gwalior district. The matter came to light after the victim lodged a complaint at Bilaua police station.

Woman sets two daughters on fire

Patna: A woman set her two minor daughters on fire in Bihar's Nawada district, an official said Thursday. The incident occurred at Dudheli village under Nemdarganj police station in the district Wednesday evening. "We learnt that two minor girls aged 2 and 8 years were charred to death in Dudheli village. When we reached the spot with police force, we found the completely charred bodies of the girls on the bed,' said Pankaj Kumar, SDPO of Rajauli range.

Fire engulfs showroom

Rajkot: At least 50 workers were evacuated after a major fire broke out in a three-storey furniture showroom in Rajkot city of Gujarat Thursday morning, officials said. Nobody was injured in the blaze that erupted in the showroom located in Mavdi area, they said. "After being alerted, fire tenders were rushed to the spot from the Mavdi fire station. The blaze was so strong that flames rose up to the top floor of the threestorey building," Rajkot's chief fire officer I V Kher said.

Assam CM apologises

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Thursday apologised to a person on Twitter after the latter complained of receiving inflated electricity bill. A Twitter user tagged the Chief Minister and posted, "We have received a staggering bill of ₹44.000 from @apdclsocial despite 1 KW load in June." The consumer has been named as Golap Borah, a resident of Gohpur area in the state.

Sexual harassment case against WFI chief transferred to MP, MLA court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, June 22: A Delhi court Thursday transferred the alleged sexual harassment case against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM).

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) of Rouse Avenue Courts put up the matter before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Harjeet Singh Jaspal, who deals with cases of MPs and MLAS.



The matter has now been listed for June 27. Last week, the Delhi Police had filed in court its charge sheet running over 1,000 pages against federation's chief and former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar.

Police filed the charge sheet before CMM Mahima Rai for the offences under Sections 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (making sexually coloured remarks), 354D (stalking) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) against accused Brij

Flood situation grim in Assam

THE INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED AN 'ORANGE ALERT' AND PREDICTED 'VERY HEAVY TO 'EXTREMELY HEAVY' RAINFALL ACROSS SEVERAL DISTRICTS OF ASSAM OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS

AGENCIES

Guwahati, June 22: The flood situation in Assam deteriorated drastically Thursday with one person losing his life and nearly five lakh people reeling under the deluge across 12 districts, an official bulletin said.

According to the daily flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person died due to flooding in Tamulpur of Udalguri district. This is the first official record of death on account of flood this year, an ASDMA official said.

The report said over 4,95,700 people are hit due to the floods in Baksa, Barpeta, Chirang, Darrang, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Udalguri

Barpeta is the worst hit with over 3,25,600 people suffering, followed by Nalbari with more than 77,700 people and Lakhimpur with around 25,700 people suffering, it added. Till Wednesday, nearly 1.2 lakh people were suffering from floods across 10 districts of the state.

The administration has been operating 83 relief camps in seven districts, where 14,035 persons have taken shelter, and running 79 relief distribution centres in eight districts. Paramilitary forces, NDRF, SDRF, Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES), civil administrations,



NGOs and locals have rescued 561 persons from different places. At present, 1,366 villages are under water and 14,091.90 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an 'orange alert' and predicted 'very heavy' to 'extremely heavy rainfall across several districts of Assam over the next few days.

IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Guwahati has issued the warning for 24 hours from Wednesday, followed by a 'yellow' alert for Thursday and Friday. 'Orange' alerts imply to be prepared for action and 'yel low' alert stands for watch and be updated. According to a flood report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 1,19,800 people are affected by the deluge in Baksa, Barpeta, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Udalguri districts.

The administration has been operating 14 relief camps in five districts, where 2,091 people have taken shelter, and running 17 relief distribution centres in five districts

Army, paramilitary forces, National Disaster Response Force, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), civil administrations, NGOs and locals have rescued 1,280 people from different places

At present, 780 villages are under water and 10,591.85 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA bulletin said. Massive erosions have been witnessed in Baksa, Barpeta, Sonitpur, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, South Salmara and Udalguri, it said. Incidents of landslides due to heavy rainfall were reported

Landslides cut surface contact

Itanagar: Landslides triggered by heavy rain have disrupted surface communication in several Arunachal Pradesh districts, officials said Thursday Blockades have been reported at numerous points along the Aalo-Pangin Road in West Siang district, PWD (Highway) Assistant Engineer Gemar Padu said. Roads have also been blocked at four places near Lokpeng in Siang district, he said. The Pangin-Pasighat road has been hit by landslides, too, resulting in blockades, officials said. Pasighat Highways Division Executive Engineer Dabe Perme, however, informed that disruptions on roads under its purview have been cleared. The northeastern state has been receiving heavy rainfall in many places since the last few days.

from places in Dima Hasao and Kamrup Metropolitan.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in Baksa, Nalbari, Barpeta, Sonitpur, Bongaigaon, Darrang, Chirang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Udalguri, Dhemaji and

Urban areas were inundated at many places across Barpeta, Darrang, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kokrajhar and Nalbari districts.

ISRO, NASA agree on joint mission to ISS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, June 22: India has decided to join the Artemis Accords, which brings likeminded countries together on civil space exploration, and NASA and ISRO have agreed to a joint mission to the International Space Station in 2024, the White House said Thursday.





"On space, we will be able to announce that India is signing the Artemis Accords, which advance a common vision for space exploration for the benefit of all humankind,' a senior administration official said hours before the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in the Oval Office.

Grounded in the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (OST), the Artemis Accords are a non-binding set of principles designed to guide civil space exploration and use in the 21st century.

It is an American-led effort to return humans to the moon by 2025, with the ultimate goal of expanding space exploration to Mars and beyond.

The official said that NASA and the ISRO are developing a strategic framework for human spaceflight coopera-



Consciousness (ISKON) in Nagpur, Maharashtra

Two J&K docs dismissed for fabricating evidence

Srinagar, June 22: Fourteen years after a CBI probe unearthed the conspiracy behind the 2009 "Shopian rape-murder" case, the Jammu and Kashmir administration Thursday terminated services of two doctors for allegedly 'actively working" with Pakistan-based groups and fabricating evidence, according to officials.

Two women, Asiya Jan and Neelofar, were found dead in a stream in Shopian May 30, 2009, leading to allegations that they were raped and murdered by se-

curity personnel

Four policemen

were arrested in connection with RAPE-MURDER' CASE that the two women were It also led to the unceremoni-

ous exit of top police brass including the then special director general of police Ashok Bhan and the then inspector general (Kashmir) B Srinivasan.

The incident sparked protests in the Kashmir valley and

brought it to a near standstill for 42 days. Later, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

took over the 2009 'SHOPIAN probe and found never raped or murdered.

The two doctors, Dr Bilal Ahmad Dalal and Dr Nighat Shaheen Chilloo, stand dismissed from service for "actively working" with Pakistan and hatching a conspiracy with its assets within Kashmir to falsify the post-mortem report of Asiya

Jan and Neelofar of Shopian, who had unfortunately died due to accidental drowning May 29, 2009, the officials said.

The ultimate aim of the two doctors was to create disaffection against the Indian state by falsely accusing the security forces of rape and murder, they said.

The two doctors have been dismissed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha under Article 311 of the Constitution. Under this provision, government officers can be dismissed summarily without

MANIPUR ALL-PARTY MEET

Cong questions Modi's absence

The Opposition party targeted the PM for what it called his "masterly inaction and eloquent silence" on the situation in Manipur, where nearly 120 people have lost their lives and more than 3,000 have been injured in ethnic violence since early May

AGENCIES

New Delhi, June 22: The Congress Thursday described an all-party meeting called by the Centre on the Manipur situation as "too little, too late" and wondered what is the point of conducting such an exercise in Delhi and in the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A host of Congress leaders, including former party chief Rahul Gandhi, criticised the move to convene an all-party meeting in Delhi and at this juncture.

The party has not yet made its stand clear on attending the meeting, called by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi June 24.

Rahul Gandhi said it is clear that the all-party meeting is not important for the prime minis-



vened meeting should have been held in Manipur itself. After days of death and destruction in Manipur, he said, "Home Minister Amit Shah's call for an all-party meeting is too

tion expects a serious interven-

tion from the Union government

and at least a Prime Minister-con-

little, too late" Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said it has been 51 days that the agony, "the distress, the pain and anguish of Manipur continues. The prime minister is in the United States now, but he has not said a word on Manipur. He has kept quiet and mum. Not only that, he has refused to meet MLAs, political leaders including his own party

colleagues from Manipur.'

BALASORE ACCIDENT Railways transfers top officers of SER, calls it routine

Though the railways called these "routine" transfers, the action was being seen as a fallout of the worst train tragedy in nearly three decades in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: The railways Thursday shunted out five top officials of the South Eastern Railway, including those responsible for operations, signalling and safety, weeks after a triple train accident killed more than 280 people in Balasore district in Odisha.

Though the railways called these "routine" transfers, the action was being seen as a fallout of the worst train tragedy in nearly three decades in the

In separate orders Thursday, the Railway Board transferred Kharagpur Divisional Railway Manager Shujat Hashmi and the South Eastern Railway (SER) zone's Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer P M Sikdar, Principal Chief Safety Officer Chandan Adhikary, Principal Chief Security Commissioner D B



Kasar, and Principal Chief Commercial Manager Md Owais. Earlier, nearly a fortnight after the train accident, the additional

general manager of the zone, Atulva Sinha, was transferred. in what was now being seen as the first major action following the tragedy.

The railways had then called the transfer "routine". On Thursday too, railway spokesperson Amitabh Sharma said all these transfers were "routine"

According to the Railway Board order, Kharagpur DRM Hashmi was replaced by K R Chaudhari, chairman of the Railway Recruitment Board, Ajmer. Sikdar has been transferred to North Central Railway as an officer on special duty, Adhikary has been sent to the Northeast Frontier Railway.

Principal Chief Security Commissioner Kasar, who is the security custodian of all railway assets and structures, including track and fixtures, rolling stock, signalling gears and railway buildings and establishments, has also been transferred.

Md Owais has been transferred to Northeast Frontier Railway and posted as Chief Administrative Officer. Among

the zone's top officials, General Manager Archana Joshi continues in her post. She is due to retire soon, an official said.

The crash involving Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train occurred around 7 PM June 2 near the Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore. The section comes under Kharagpur division of the South Eastern Railway. More than 280 people were killed and around 1,000 injured in the ac-

An interference with the interlocking system, which is an automated signalling system, isbeing seen as the major cause of the incident.



international M



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





immediate deescalation and new elections in the participation of Kosovo Serbs. This is paramount for the region and (the) EU

JOSEP BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

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

CHRIS HIPKINS | NEW ZEALAND PM



problems of its own and does not want the added headache of a new Cold War between

China and the United States HINA RABBANI KHAR MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Four killed

Matador (Texas): A line of severe storms produced what a meteorologist calls 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" 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-Oadir 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 MODI defence, trade and space cooperation

agreements. Welcome back to the White House," Biden told Modi, as he

arrived at the of- PRESIDENT BIDEN DESCRIBED THE space, clean enficial residence RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US ergy and critical of the US AND INDIA AS ONE OF THE President on his MOST DEFINING

maiden pomp-filled state visit amid rap-21ST CENTURY turous 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

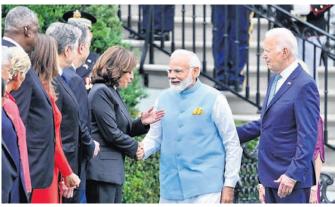
wide range of issues of HELD A ONE-ONmutual and global in-ONE MEETING WITH terests, aimed at fur-**BIDEN IN THE OVAL OFFICE** ther boosting the OF THE WHITE HOUSE BEFORE

Indo-US strategic HOLDING DELEGATION-LEVEL relations in areas like defence, technologies. In his initial re-

marks, Modi told RELATIONSHIPS IN THE 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,'



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

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.

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, students 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.

Indian fishermen on board four trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters northwest of Delft Island, While the HEC letter did not Jaffna, officials said Thursday. "The Sri Lanka Navv con-

Neduntheevu late on Wednesday, and four boats were also seized, 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

> eign 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

22 Indian fishermen

held for poaching

Colombo, June 22: The Sri

Lankan Navy has arrested 22

ducted a special operation to

chase away Indian trawlers en-

gaged in illegal fishing in Sri

Lankan waters late on

Wednesday", a statement by

Lanka Navy said. The fisher-

men from Tamil Nadu, report-

hailing

Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai

and Nagapattinam districts,

were picked up from near

in Sri Lankan waters to curb il-

legal fishing practices of for-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Lankan's territorial waters

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 Gerhskovich 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

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 hear-

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, Russiabacked 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,

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 Vladimir Konstantinov, chair-

Vladimir Saldo, the Russiaappointed head of the occupied parts of Kherson province, said the explosion appeared to have been caused by a type of longrange cruise missile that both France and the UK have given to

man of the parliament of Crimea,

Ukraine's military.

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-anticinated 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.

The claim could not be inde-

Dog who helped find children in jungle missing

SEARCH CONTINUES

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 militarytrained 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



with the star pup.

It's been a month since Wilson got lost in the rainforest, and its hard to know if the two-yearold 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 Colombian sniffer dogs, were taken military says it has

to the rainleft 70 soldiers in the forest in dense swath of jungle May, to find the around the crash single ensite to look for its gine Cessna beloved search

plane that had crashed into the rainforest, carrying the four children and three adults who later were found

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 yearold 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.

business



only half done, having brought inflation within the target band. Our fight against inflation is not yet over SHAKTIKANTA DAS GOVERNOR, RBI

AUS WARNS TWITTER OVER RISING HATE

Australia's cyber regulator Thursday issued a legal notice to Elon Musk-run Twitter, seeking information about what the social media giant is doing to tackle online hate on the platform. If Twitter fails to respond to the notice within 28 days, the company could face maximum financial penalties of nearly \$700,000 a day for continuing breaches





More than 185 gigawatt of capacity has been added transforming the country from a power deficit to a



RK SINGH POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE

Regulations are the biggest barrier to market access in the pharma sector globally, and exhorted local companies to focus on quality



S APARNA UNION PHARMA SECRETARY

We are accelerating our drive to bring top-end vehicles priced above ₹1 crore to India, with demand even from non-metros growing at an accelerated pace

SANTOSH IYER | MD & CEO, MERCEDES-BENZ

SHORT **TAKES**

Sony-Zee merger to go through

Bangalore: The merger

between ZEE Entertainment and the Indian unit of Japan's Sony will go through, "whether or not" he is the CEO of the merged company, Punit Goenka said in an interview. The India markets regulator has imposed a one-year ban on Zee Entertainment's Chairman Subhash Chandra and CEO Goenka for being actively involved in diverting company funds to the group's related entities, raising questions on the future of the Zee-Sony merger. Goenka was set to become the merged entity's managing director and CEO, leading a \$10 billion TV enterprise.

Unrest grips Byju's

Bangalore: Three board members of Indian startup Byju's have stepped down amid the edtech company's disagreement with lenders, sources said Thursday. Peak XV Partners' GV Ravishankar, and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative's Vivian Wu have resigned. These exits couldn't have come at a worse time for the Bangalore-based edtech which finds itself engulfed by court cases, loan defaults, and a much-delayed filing of its financial results for the year ending March 31, 2022. The Byju's board now comprises the founder family - chief executive Byju Raveendran, his wife Divya Gokulnath, and brother Riju Raveendran. Audit firm Deloitte has resigned as auditors of Byju's citing a delay in submission of financial statements.

BoE hikes rates

London: The Bank of England raised interest rates by a bigger-than-expected half a percentage point Thursday after it said there had been "significant" news suggesting British inflation would take longer to fall. The BoE's **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC) voted 7-2 to raise its main interest rate to 5% from 4.5%, its highest since 2008 and its largest rate increase since February, following stickier inflation and wage growth since its policymakers

US FTC sues Amazon

met last in Mav.

Washington: The US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has sued e-commerce giant Amazon over alleged 'deceptive' tactics to sign up customers for its Prime service. The complaint, filed in the federal court in the US city of Seattle, said that for years, Amazon has "knowingly duped millions of consumers into unknowingly enrolling in its Amazon Prime service". FTC has been probing Prime's sign-up and cancellation processes since 2021.



FIRST Micron to set up \$2.75bn chip plant

The chip maker's investment in India is a big milestone in the country's roadmap as a semiconductor nation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Computer storage chip maker Micron will set up its semiconductor assembly and test plant in Gujarat entailing a total investment of \$2.75 billion (around ₹22,540 crore), the company said Thursday its first factory in the country.

The total cost of the plant comprises \$825 million (around ₹6,760 crore) from Micron and the rest from the government in two phases, according to a company statement.

The company said that the new assembly and test location in India will enable it to expand its global manufacturing base and better serve customers in India and around the world.

Micron's plant has been approved under the government's "Modified Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) Scheme'

Under the scheme, Micron will receive 50 per cent fiscal support for the total project cost from the Indian central government and incentives representing 20 per cent of the total project cost from the state of Gujarat.

"Phased construction of the



ROM TOTAL INVESTMENT OF \$2.75 BILLION, 50% WILL COME FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND 20% FROM THE STATE OF GUJARAT

EW FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN 2023 AND THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN LATE 2024

new assembly and test facility in Gujarat is expected to begin in 2023. Phase 1, which will include 500,000 square feet of planned clean room space, will become operational in late 2024," Micron said in a statement.

Micron said that the plant will create up to 5,000 new direct jobs and 15,000 community jobs over the next several years.

"The combined investment by Micron and the two government entities over the course of both phases will be up to \$2.75 billion. Government support will help fund the project and facilitate access to essential semiconductor infrastructure and resources to drive innovation and enhance local talent development," the statement said.

Micron will ramp capacity gradually over time in line with global demand trends. Micron said that it expects Phase 2 of the project, which would include the construction of a facility similar in scale to Phase 1, to start towards the second half of the decade.

"Micron's new facility will

We are excited about the steps India is taking to develop the local semiconductor ecosystem

SANJAY MEHROTRA PRESIDENT AND CEO, MICRON

enable assembly and test manufacturing for both DRAM and NAND products and address demand from domestic and international markets," the statement said.

Union Minister for IT and Telecom Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Micron's investment to set up assembly and test manufacturing in India will fundamentally transform India's semiconductor landscape and generate tens of thousands of high-tech and construction jobs.

This investment will be a crucial building block in the country's blossoming semiconductor ecosystem, Vaishnaw said.

The Indian semiconductor market was valued at \$27.2 billion in 2021. It is seen growing at a healthy CAGR of nearly 19 per cent to touch \$64 billion in 2026. India, however, has not manufactured any chips locally so far.

GE CLINCHES JET DEAL

General Electric's aerospace unit said Thursday it has signed an dagreement with India's state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to make fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force. The development comes at a time when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on an official state visit to the United States. The agreement includes the potential joint production of GE Aerospace's F414 engines in India and the engines will be used to power Teias fighter jets. GE said. Washington is working to deepen ties with the world's largest democracy and sees deeper military-to-military and technology ties with India as a key counterweight to China's dominance in the region. Hindustan Aeronautics previously said it planned to use the engine for a second generation of light combat aircraft and it was in talks over domestic production of the engines. GE first began working with Hindustan Aeronautics and the Aeronautical Development Agency in 1986 to support the development of India's light combat aircraft with F404 engines.

Sensex, Nifty retreat from record levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, June 22: Benchmark BSE Sensex retreated from record levels and closed lower by 284 points in a volatile trade Thursday due to profit-taking in financials, IT and oil shares after a two-day rally and negative trends in the US and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 284.26 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 63,238.89 as 20 of its components declined.

The barometer touched a record intra-day peak of 63,601.71 in initial deals. However, the index faced volatile trends and declined 322.52 points or 0.50 per cent to a low of 63,200.63 during the day. The NSE Nifty closed lower by

85.60 points or 0.45 per cent to end at 18,771.25, snapping its two days of gains. The index closed at its all time high of 18,856.85 Wednesday.

From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Asian Paints, Power Grid, NTPC, Infosys, Nestle, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement were the biggest laggards. Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, HDFC, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the major gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth

ONE OF THE HIGHEST GLOBALLY

Fitch ups growth forecast to 6.3%

THE AGENCY HAS REVISED UPWARDS THE GROWTH FORECAST FROM 6% PROJECTED IN MARCH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: The Indian economy is expected to clock a higher growth of 6.3 per cent -one of the highest in the world -- in current fiscal year aided by sustained momentum in manufacturing output and infrastructure spending, Fitch Ratings said Thursday.

The economy also continues to benefit from high bank credit growth and infrastructure spending (with more to come from the latter), Fitch added.

'The stronger outturn in 1Q23 (March quarter) and near-term momentum have prompted us to upgrade our FY23-24 growth forecast to 6.3 per cent – revised up from 6 per cent in March – one of the highest growth rates in the world," said the June update to Fitch's Global Economic Outlook.

RBI projects India's GDP to grow 6.5 per cent in current fiscal year. Growth in March quarter was higher than expected at 6.1 per cent. GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent, lower than 9.1 per cent in 2021-22.

Fitch said the numbers showed a recovery in manufacturing, a boost from construction and an increase in farm output. In expenditure terms, GDP growth was driven by domestic demand



and a boost from net trade.

Recent high-frequency data point to sustained near-term momentum as highlighted by rising PMI indices, higher car sales and increased power consumption, it added.

Fitch said while inflation has eased, there are near-term upward risks in the second half of current fiscal, given the monsoon outlook and the potential impact of El Nino.

'With growth expected to moderate further, and inflationary pressures easing, we expect RBI to pause its rate cycle for the time being before cutting early next year-- a change from our previous call of one more 25 bps increase to 6.75 per cent," Fitch said.

The consumer price index based retail inflation dropped to over 2-year low of 4.25 per cent in May on account of softening prices of food and fuel items.

RBI's monetary policy committee will meet again August 8-10 to decide on interest rates. The central bank has been tasked to keep inflation within the band of 2-6 per cent.

"Slowing inflation should also

start to help consumers over time and households have now turned more optimistic about future earnings and employment." Fitch said.

It said consumers have experienced a drop in purchasing power as inflation increased sharply in 2022 and household balance sheets have also been weakened through the pandemic. At the same time, the government's push on increased capital expenditure, moderation in commodity prices and robust credit growth are expected to support investment.

'India's economy will be affected to an extent by slowing global trade," Fitch added.

For 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscals, Fitch estimated GDP growth of 6.5 per cent each.

Earlier in May, Fitch had affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', with a stable outlook, citing robust growth and resilient external finances.

With world activity holding up better than expected, Fitch has raised its forecast for global GDP growth in 2023 to 2.4 per cent, from 2 per cent estimated

Indians' funds in Swiss banks dip 11% 2,002 million) as 'other amounts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through India-based branches and other financial institutions, declined by 11 per cent in 2022 to 3.42 billion Swiss francs (nearly ₹30,000 crore), annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday.

The decline in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks, from a 14-year-high of CHF 3.83 billion in 2021, follows two consecutive years of increase and was largely driven by a sharp plunge of nearly 34 per cent in customer deposit accounts from a seven-year high.

These are official figures reported by banks to the SNB and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that



Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities.

The total amount of CHF 3.424 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients at the end of 2022, included CHF 394 million in customer deposits (down from CHF 602 million at 2021-end), CHF 1,110 million held via other banks (down from 1.225 million), CHF 24 million (up from CHF 3 million) through fiduciaries or trusts, and the highest component of CHF 1.896 million (down from

due to customers in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments.

The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2021, as per the Swiss National Bank (SNB) data. While the UK topped the

charts for foreign clients' money in Swiss banks at CHF 309 billion, it was followed by the US (CHF 133 billion) at the second spot -- the only two countries_ with 100-billion-plus client funds.

India was placed at 46th place, down from 44th a year ago, ahead of countries like South Korea, Sweden, Argentina, Bahrain, Oman, New Zealand and Mauritius and Pakistan, which also saw a sharp dip to CHF 427 million (from CHF 712

BIZ BUZZ

Jindal Stainless distributes battery-powered vehicles

Bhubaneswar: In a bid to help pilgrims, two batterypowered vehicles have been handed over to the authorities of Puri Railway Division from Jindal Stainless Limited, Kalinganagar. These battery-powered vehicles can help transport elderly, disabled and sick pilgrims free of charge. Sukant Kumar Rath, Head of Social Welfare Department of Jindal Stainless Limited, Kalinganagar, Arvind Dwivedi of Logistics Department, and Sanjay Kumar Mohanty of Social Welfare Department handed over the vehicles to Puri Railway Division SK Padhi, Senior Chief Depot Officer



(Mechanical) and Manoj Barhat Singh - Assistant Commercial Manager on the auspicious occasion of Ratha Jatra. On this occasion, Sukant Kumar Rath, Head of CSR, expressed that this effort of the company will help hundreds of passengers to travel without any hindrance. He announced that this vehicle will be run entirely under the direct supervision of the Puri Railway Department and its maintenance will be free for the next 5 years.

Battle of billionaires: Musk's Starlink eyes India, Ambani resists

MUSK'S STARLINK IS AT ODDS WITH AMBANI'S RELIANCE OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S DISTRIBUTION OF SATELLITE BROADBAND SPECTRUM, SETTING THE STAGE FOR A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST MEN FOR SATELLITE SERVICES IN THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION

REUTERS

New Delhi, June 22: Elon Musk is eager to bring his Starlink satellite broadband to India, but the world's richest man faces strong resistance from Mukesh Ambani, Asia's wealthiest, who runs Indian telecom giant Reliance Jio.

Following a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US Tuesday, Musk said he was keen to launch Starlink in India which "can be incredibly helpful" in remote villages that have no internet or lack high-speed services.

Starlink is lobbying India to not auction the spectrum but just assign licences in line with a global trend, saying it is a natural resource that should be shared

by companies. An auction may impose geographical restrictions that will raise costs, it said in company letters made public by the Indian government this month. Reliance disagrees and has

called for an auction in a public submission to the government. saving foreign satellite service providers could offer voice and data services and compete with traditional telecom players, and so there must be an auction to achieve a level playing field.

In signs of deepening rivalry, an industry source with direct knowledge said Reliance will continue nudging the Indian government to auction satellite spectrum, and not agree to the demands of foreign companies.

The stakes are high for Musk.

His push comes after a 2021 attempt to launch Starlink in India ran afoul of local regulators for taking bookings without a license, and just as he is in talks with India to set up a Tesla factory

For Ambani, keeping foreign



Ambani wants auction India yet to reach a decision on how it will dole out spectrum

Satellite broadband set to emerge as battle of billionaires

competition at bay in satellite broadband will be another shot in the arm - his Reliance Jio already has 439 million telecom users, making it the market leader, and 8 million wired broad-

band connections, a 25% market

Starlink's view on auctions is shared by Amazon's satellite internet initiative, Project Kuiper, and the British governmentbacked OneWeb.

AUCTION VS LICENSING

Of the 64 responses from companies, industry groups and others to India's public consultation on satellite spectrum, 48 favoured licensing, 12 voted for an auction, with the rest neutral, according to India's Koan Advisory.

A second industry source said Reliance believes opening the floodgates to established foreign players like Starlink without an auction will allow them "runaway success" just like Amazon, which will hurt Indian firms and create an uneven playing field. Ambani's Reliance Retail has locked horns with Amazon, but lags the US rival in market

share in the e-commerce space. Deloitte says India's satellite broadband service market will grow 36% a year to reach \$1.9 bil-

lion by 2030. Starlink says it is already authorised in 84 administrations around the world and has 1.5 million active users of its lowlatency broadband services. Amazon plans to launch its first

set of satellites in 2024. Foreign satellite internet firms are concerned an auction by India will raise the likelihood of other nations following suit, increasing costs and investments, said one of thesources, an Indian adviser to











Sunil Chhetri (No.11) was congratulated by teammates following a goal against Pakistan, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, June 22: A huge banner tied across the West Block Blues Stand read: 'Immortal No.11'. It was a heartfelt tribute to Sunil Chhetri by the fans, who cheered every move the Indian captain made on the field.

Some of them invaded the turf multiple times trying to get close to Chhetri even as he was leading India's 4-0 buccaneering against Pakistan during the SAFF Championship match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

What makes Chhetri a crowdpuller, then? He is 38, a stage when players generally think of pursuing less stressful options than playing football and follow rigid fitness plans.

But his performance on the field still does not have any reflection of his age. Last Saturday, India conquered Lebanon, a team that stands higher on FIFA Rankings, 2-0 in the Intercontinental Cup final in Bhubaneswar, and it was Chhetri who put the team on the track to

win with the first goal. The situation was no different on a rain-blanched Wednesday here. Crowd that filled the stadium to the rafters did not want anything less than a win, and Chhetri could not have missed that vibe.

The whole India vs Pakistan narrative that has been running for decades now too might have fuelled Chhetri's desire to own the grand stage. He had offered us a peek at that feeling inside of him.

"Before the Pakistan match, whenever we met the boys, it was all hunky dory. Even when I was in Pakistan once or twice... we were all fine and friendly. They speak Punjabi and we speak

Stimac doesn't regret his action against Pak

BANGALORE: India head coach Igor Stimac Thursday defended his actions during the team's 4-0 win over Pakistan, saying he "will do it again" to protect his players against "unjustified decisions". Stimac was shown a red card for interrupting with the actions of an opposition player deliberately. "Football is all about passion, especially when you defend the colours of your country. You can hate or love me for my actions yesterday, but I am a warrior and I will do it again when needed to protect our boys on the pitch against unjustified decisions," Stimac tweeted. The rain-drenched first half was meandering to its conclusion with the home side leading 2-0. But a moment of indiscretion from Stimac suddenly enlivened the proceedings. Stimac chose to interfere when Pakistan player Abdullah Iqbal was ready to make a throw-in. Stimac tried to pull back the ball from the player, sparking wild reactions from some visiting players as well as some coaching staff. The referee Prajwal Chhetri and other match officials had to intervene to separate the intensely sparring individuals. As the scuffle was brought under control referee Chhetri showed red card to Stimac, as per the football rules, for interrupting with the actions of an opposition player deliberately.

Punjabi, the moment the whistle blows I don't know what happens," Chettri had said in an ISL video. "It's by default, just the sense of anyone but them. Maybe it's ingrained in our upbringing as Indians and I'm pretty sure they will say the same thing. The hostility, the fact that we don't want to lose against them comes in," he added.

Chhetri is an apex predator with a natural sense for the goal. His 90 goals from 138 matches for India will vouch for that, and the striker is now fourth on the all time highest international goalscorer list behind Cristiano Ronaldo (123), Ali Daei (109) and Lionel Messi (103).

That instinct was on full view when he scored the first goal against Pakistan Wednesday night. Pakistan player Abullah Iqbal pushed the ball back to goalkeeper Saqib Hanif and Chhetri followed that pass like a cheetah hunting a deer in those Kruger videos.

38 became a mere number for Chhetri at that moment and for many of us too who still adores a 20 something man who made

his India debut against the same opponent in Quetta. Perturbed by Chhetri's burst towards him Hanif erred in clearing the ball and the Indian needed no second invitation to capitalise on the chance gifted to him. The two ensuing penalty kicks

might have been a canter for someone with Chhetri's skills. Thousands of mobile cameras opened their eyes in the stands to freeze that Chhetri moment, and for some time to come that frame will be seen on several lock-screen and home screen backgrounds.

But he did not sound cocky espite hammering in a hattrick. There was no hyperbole but he assessed the whole scenario rather logically. Perhaps, it was the only time his age showed on the night.

At 38, how long Chhetri can place himself on that rigorous road? A time will come when Chhetri will have to walk into the inevitable sunset that awaits all sportspersons. But that topic can wait. For now, let's enjoy this dreamy wayfaring with

Medvedev toils hard to reach quarterfinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halle, June 22: Daniil Medvedev continued building momentum after recent setbacks as he moved into the quarterfinals of the Halle Open, beating Laslo Djere 6-3, 6-7(5-7), 6-3 at the grass-court

Medvedev could have wrapped up the second-round match in straight sets when he took a 4-1 lead in the second-set tie-breaker but lost the next four points as Djere took control.

Medvedev is coming off firstround losses at the French Open and last week at the Libema Open, his first grass event of the season. The third-ranked Russian is preparing to return to Wimbledon next month for the first time since 2021 after the grass-court Grand Slam barred players from Russia and Belarus last year over the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev next faces Roberto Bautista Agut after the eighthseeded Spanish player beat American Brandon Nakashima 7-5, 7-6(7-2) in their second-round

Chilean player Nicolas Jarry upset the second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6(9-7), 7-5 to set up a quarterfinal match against home favorite Alexander Zverev. The ninth-seeded German beat Denis Shapovalov 6-2, 6-4. Also, Stuttgart finalist Jan-Lennard Struff defeated Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin 6-1, 7-6(7-4) in their firstround match.

Tiafoe suffer loss

Frances Tiafoe's winning run on grass was ended by Sebastian Korda in an all-American secondround match at the Queen's Club Championships. Korda won 7-

6(7-2), 6-3 to end the fourth-seeded Tiafoe's bid to follow up his title in Stuttgart last week with another grass-court trophy ahead of Wimbledon.

Tiafoe arrived in west London in a career-high spot of No.10 but was beaten by a compatriot 22 places lower in the rankings, with Korda's big serve coming to the fore on Centre Court.

That was especially the case when serving for the match as the 22-year-old Korda sent down three aces — including one on match point — to get past the second round of a tournament for the first time since reaching the Australian Open quarterfinals in January. Korda will next play British No.1 and fifth-seeded Cameron Norrie, who rallied to beat Jordan Thompson of Australia 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Holger Rune of Denmark is warming to grass, picking up his second straight win on the surface by dispatching Britain's Ryan Peniston 6-3, 6-4. The second-seeded Rune had never won on grass as a professional before this week, having lost in the first round three times last year — including at Wimbledon.

Sixth-seeded Lorenzo Musetti of Italy was a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 winner over Ben Shelton, another Australian Open quarterfinalist and the 2022 NCAA champion from Florida. Musetti and Rune will meet in the quarter-

SHUAI SHOWN DOOR

A finalist at the Birmingham Classic last year, Zhang Shuai of China was eliminated in the first round of the grass-court tournament as one of four seeded

players to go out. The seventh-seeded Zhang was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by 150th-ranked Emina Bektas of the United States in a little more than an hour in a big surprise at the WTA event. Zhang reached the 2022 final, only to retire because of injury in the first set to hand

Beatriz Haddad Maia the title. In second-round play, thirdseeded Magda Linette of Poland was beaten 6-3, 6-0 by Zhu Lin of China, fifth-seeded Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to Britain's Harriet Dart, and sixth-seeded Bernarda Pera of the United States was ousted by Linda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 7-6(7-3).

Playing a delayed first-round match, top-seeded Barbora Krejcikova beat Cristina Bucsa

SHORT TAKES

MUMBAI: The Wankhede Stadium

will soon get a facelift with new

set of LED floodlights set to be

installed along with refurbished

2023 ODI World Cup, scheduled in

Along with one India game, there

Wankhede Stadium is among five

hospitality boxes ahead of the

October-November this year.

is a semifinal also slated to be

held at the iconic ground. The

venues shortlisted by the BCCI

that are earmarked to undergo

renovation and upgrade work

ahead of the World Cup, which is

a little over three months away

now. While the Indian board is

yet to start the work, the idea

behind inviting tenders to change

the floodlights is to ensure that

completed with ease and are not

such big initiatives are

left for a tighter deadline.

New floodlights

at Wankhede

Prannoy advances to quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Taipei, June 22: Ace Indian shuttler HS Prannoy waltzed into the quarterfinal of the Taipei Open after recording a comfortable straight-game win over Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto here Thursday.

Prannoy, the country's topranked men's singles player, took 36 minutes to dispatch former world championship bronze medallist Sugiarto 21-9, 21-17 in the BWF World Tour Super 300 tournament. The World No.9 will play Hong Kong's fifth seed Angus Ng Ka Long in the last eight stage.

Prannoy, who claimed the Malaysia Masters Super 300 title last month, has enjoyed a good run recently. Last week, he put up an impressive display at the Indonesia Open, a Super 1000 tournament, making it to the semifinals, where he lost to World No.1 and eventual winner Viktor Axelsen of Denmark.

Prannoy is the lone Indian remaining in the competition. Former Commonwealth Games medallist Parupalli Kashyap went down 16-21, 17-21 to local favourite Su Li Yang

It was also the end of the road for the mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor as well. The Indian duo was handed a 13-21, 18-21 defeat by Taipei's Chiu Hsiang Chieh and



TAIPEI OPEN (Quarterfinals) HS Prannoy vs **Angus Ng Ka Long** *Time:* 01:40 pm Telecast: Sports 18 channel & Jio Cinema app

Lin Xiao Min. Tanya Kamath also didn't pose any real threat as she went down 11-21, 6-21 to

Olympic silver medallist Tai

The BWF World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, Super 1000, Super 750, Super 500, and Super 300 in order. One other category of tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points. Each of these tournaments offers different ranking points and prize money.

Gremio expecting Suraez retirement

teammates at Gremio and the

SAO PAULO: Luis Suarez's

Brazilian club's president expressed concern after media speculation that the striker is on the verge of retirement because of persistent knee pain. The 36vear-old has not commented on Brazilian media reports this week, but Gremio president Alberto Guerra, defender Reinaldo and midfielder Joao Paulo Bitello have spoken publicly about the veteran player's difficulties in training and matches. His right knee is main injury concern. "(He needs) a lot of injections, a lot of medicine," Guerra told reporters during an event at the club's stadium. "It is reaching a limit. But we don't know where that limit is, when is his last (match). Guerra said Suarez could even need knee replacement surgery at some stage. Despite the speculation, the Uruguay striker is expected to play for Gremio against America in the Brazilian league game on Thursday.

INDIAN TEAM NAMED FOR **ASIAN ATHLETICS C'SHIPS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 22: India Thursday named a 54-member team headlined by star long iumper Murali Sreeshankar. Asian record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor and new decathlon champion Tejaswin Shankar for the Asian Athletics Championships, to be held in Bangkok from July 12 to 16.

The team, which has 26 women in it, was picked by the selection committee of the Athletics

Federation of India (AFI), which had set qualifying marks for the Asian Championships, after taking into account the performance of the athletes in the var-

ious competitions this season. A preliminary team for the continental meet was already picked after the Federation Cup in Ranchi in May. The National Inter-State Championships in Bhubaneswar was used as the "confirmatory" event for those who have not participated in the Federation Cup.

THE TEAM

WOMEN: Jyothi Yarraji (200m/100m Hurdles), Nithya Ramraj (100m Hurdles), Aishwarya Mishra (400m/4x400m Relay/4x400m Mixed Relay), Chanda and Lavika Sharma (800m), Lili Das (1500m), Ankita (5000m), Parul Chaudhary (5000m/3000m Steeplechase), Sanjivani Jadhav (10000m), Priti (3000m Steeplechase), Pooja and Rubina Yaday (High Jump), Baranica Elangovan (Pole Vault), Shaili Singh and Ancy Sojan (Long Jump), Abha Khatua and Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put), Annu Rani (Javelin Throw), Swapna Barman (Heptathlon), Privanka and Bhawna Jat (20km Race Walk) Rezoana Mallick Heena and Jyothika Sri Dandi (4x400m Relay/4x400m Mixed Relay), Aniali Devi, Jisna Mathew and Subha Venkatesan (4x400).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, June 22: Former captain Geoffrey Boycott has lashed out at Ben Stokes and Co. for getting "carried away with Bazball" and not making winning a priority, adding that England are in danger of reducing the Ashes to an exhibition series. England, playing an aggressive

brand of cricket under coach Brendon McCullum and skipper Stokes, were on the wrong side of the result as they suffered a two-wicket loss in the Ashes opener in Edgbaston earlier this week.

"England are in danger of reducing the Ashes to an exhibition," Boycott wrote in his scathing column for 'The Telegraph'. "England have got carried away with Bazball and seem to think entertaining is more important than winning. But England supporters want one thing more than anything else – to win the Ashes.

The legendary cricketer said winning is more important than entertaining. "Scoring fast runs, whacking lots of fours and sixes is lovely. It is great. But only if England do not lose sight of the big prize which is to beat Australia. If at the end of the se-



ries Australia go home with the Ashes we will feel sick, regardless of how much we have been entertained.

Boycott claimed that the muchanticipated Ashes series between the two rivals would lose its importance if England don't play

to win. "If England are not playing to

win then these Ashes Tests are not that important. They are only exhibition matches. They have got it back to front. It is not about entertaining and then winning. It is about winning

"By all means entertain but cricket is like chess. There are moments when you need to defend. Sometimes you need to be patient and accept it.

"Do not just attack, attack, attack. England need a bit of common sense and pragmatism. That is all that is required. They do not have to change being positive because they are a better side than Australia and will win if they just show that common sense," he added.

The former opener felt England were guilty of not capitalising on their chances despite dominating the match. "They are in danger of letting hubris be their downfall. It would be sad if playing exciting cricket for a year is going to their heads. They gave Australia a get out of iail free card. I find that silly.'

Robinson trolled Legendary Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden has called England pacer Ollie Robinson a "forgettable cricketer", while wicket-keeping great Ian Healy

Boycott slams Stokes & Co for 'Bazball' approach has dismissed the 29-year-old quick, saying "Who, Ollie?"

Robinson was trolled for his expletive-laden sendoff of Usman Khawaja after he dismissed the Australian opener for 141 in the first innings of the Ashes opener at Edgbaston. However in the second essay, he could not break the match-winning partnership between tail-enders Pat Cummins and Nathan Lvon.

Hayden said, Robinson had shown Australia the way to combat England. "That's how you combat England as well. As soon as Pat Cummins started coming at Joe Root and hit a couple of sixes... Then the other bloke (Robinson), he's a forgettable cricketer," Hayden said on 'Sen Radio' Wednesday.

"A fast bowler that is bowling 124 (kmph) and he's got a mouth from the south," said Hayden about Robinson, who refused to apologise for his foul-mouthed send-off of Khawaja.

Former Australian wicketkeeper Healy even refused to acknowledge Robinson's existence, saying, "Who, Ollie Robinson?" "Someone like him, you can just go, 'Brother, I'm coming at ya'. Davey Warner can do that, right. He can just say, 'You're bowling 120km'," added Hayden.

MEN: Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammed Ajmal (400m/4x400m Relay/4x400m Mixed Relay), Amoj Jacob (4x400m Relay/4x400m Mixed Relay). Nihal Joel William. Miio Chacko Kurian and Muhammed Anas Yahiya (4x400m Relay), Krishan Kumar and Mohammed Afsal (800m), Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson (1500m), Gulveer Singh (5000m/10000m), Abhishek Pal (5000m/10000m), Mohammed Nurhasan and Bal Kishan (3000m Steeplechase), Yashas Palaksha and Santhosh Kumar (400m hurdles). Teiaswin Shankar (Decathlon), Sarvesh Anil Kushare (High Jump), Jeswin Aldrin and Murali Sreeshankar (Long Jump), Prayeen Chithrayel and Abdulla Aboobacker (Triple Jump), Taiinderpal Singh Toor and Karanyeer Singh (Shot Put), Rohit Yaday and D.P. Manu (Javelin Throw), Akshdeep Singh and Vikash Singh (20km Race Walk).

Lebanon kick off campaign with win

BANGALORE: Strong contenders Lebanon opened their SAFF Championship campaign with a nervy 2-0 win over former champions Bangladesh at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here Thursday. Hassan Maatouk netted the all-important goal in the 74th minute for Lebanon while Khalil Bader added a second in the injury time. But before those decisive moments, both the teams traded blows in equal measures to keep the match in balance. Despite the massive gulf between the teams in the FIFA Rankings - Lebanon are 99th and Bangladesh stand at 192 - there was no dearth of excitement in the match.