

## PM Modi's 'life threat gimmick' aimed at 'toppling democratically' elected Punjab government: Channi

TANDA (HOSIARPUR)(KCN): Facing flak from the BJP over the "security lapse" during the prime minister's Punjab visit, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Thursday alleged that Narendra Modi's "life threat gimmick" was aimed at "toppling a democratically elected government" in the state.

Channi further said the prime minister is a respected leader of the nation but it does not behove a leader of his stature to indulge in "such cheap theatricals".

He was addressing a gathering here after lay-

The chief minister asked how could the prime minister's life be threatened if the protestors were more than a kilometre away from him. He said that the place where Modi's cavalcade stopped not even a slogan was raised, then how could his life have been threatened.

Channi reminded Modi that Punjabis have sacrificed their lives for unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country and added that they could never pose any danger to the life and security of the prime minister.

"The thin presence of public in the rally has exposed the poor position of the BJP in the state which is not going down well with its entire leadership," he claimed.

Citing a comparison, Channi said the weather was poor on Wednesday and on Thursday as well but there were very few takers for BJP's rally on Wednesday,

whereas the Congress's rally was swelling with people across the state.

"Yesterday's gimmick by the prime minister and his coterie is aimed at imposing the President rule in the state," he claimed.

Channi reminded the prime minister that Punjab can be won only with love and not by pressure.

He said Punjabis will vehemently oppose any move to destabilise democracy in the state.

The chief minister urged Modi to "stop defaming the state and its people for vested political interests".

Channi reminded him that Punjabis have played a key role in socio-economic development of the country, besides

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ing the foundation stone for development works worth Rs 18 crore at the New Grain Market, an official statement said.

The chief minister claimed there was no threat to Modi's life as he cancelled his programme on Wednesday because of less number of people in the BJP's rally at Ferozepur.

He said because of the empty chairs at the rally venue, the prime minister went back to the national capital citing the "frivolous reason of security threat".

Channi alleged that the "false pretext" on which the PM cancelled his visit was part of a "larger conspiracy to defame Punjab and murder democracy in the state on lines of what was done earlier in Jammu and Kashmir".

## Drink from Tap ; CM

Cuttack(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday in-

Cuttack Municipal Corporation area and it will be extended to

drinking water is important for the good health of the people,"

initiative won the 'Award of Excellence in the 18th CSI SIG



augurated 'Sujal-Drink From Tap Mission' for 24 hour potable water supply to the residents of Cuttack.

Instead of groundwater, water from the Mahanadi river will be treated and supplied to the people of Cuttack, the Chief Minister said. The facility, built at a cost of Rs 790 crore, will benefit 1.4 lakh households.

The 24x7 water supply will now be available to people in two zones under the

entire city by December 2023.

Inaugurating the project via video-conferencing, Patnaik said all families in 60 towns of the state have been provided with pure drinking water.

The facility will soon be extended to all 114 towns.

The Chief Minister said the 'Drink From Tap' mission is not only being emulated in India, but several developing countries. "Our effort to ensure availability of pure

he said.

Mr.Patnaik also inaugurated three water treatment plants, constructed at a cost of Rs 430 crore, under the jurisdiction of Cuttack Development Authority (CDA), Pratap Nagari, and Jagatpur respectively.

In February last year, the Odisha government's 'Drink From Tap Mission' under the 5T (Teamwork, transparency, technology, timely completion leading to transformation) ini-

e-Governance Award 2020 for smart water management in Puri city among 178 nominations received from across the country.

The CEO of United Kingdom-based Water Aids, Tim Wainwright had also lauded the Odisha government for its initiative, launched on October 13, 2021, to ensure quality tapped drinking water for over 1.5 million people in more than 15 urban areas.

## BJP leaders pray for PM Modi's long life



NEW DELHI(KCN): BJP leaders offered prayers at temples in different parts of the country on Thursday for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's long life, a day after the party accused the Congress of trying to physically harm him during his visit to Punjab.

The leaders of the saffron party also posted their wishes and religious prayers for Modi on Twitter, using the hashtag "LongLivePMModi".

In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan undertook a "mahamrityunjay jaap", a puja offered for someone's long life, while Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) vice president Bajjayant Jay Panda offered prayers at the Jhandewalan temple in Delhi.

Party general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam also offered "mahamrityunjay" prayers at a temple in the national capital.

The BJP has sought to corner the Congress over the breach in Modi's security during his visit to Punjab on Wednesday. The Congress is in power in Punjab.

In a "major security lapse", the prime minister's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur on Wednesday. He returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a

rally. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has denied any security lapse or political motive behind the incident and said his government is ready for an inquiry.

The Punjab government constituted a two-member high-level committee on Thursday to conduct a "thorough probe" into lapses during Modi's visit to Ferozepur, an official spokesperson said.

## Offices to run with 50%

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amid the rapid rise in Covid cases, all State Government offices function with 50 per cent of staff from January 7 to January 31.

The General Administration & Public Grievance Department has issued an order in this regard on Thursday. "It has been decided that all the Departments



of the State Government and Subordinate offices in the State shall function with 50% strength of employees (officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above who shall attend office daily) during

January 7 to 31, 2022," read the order. The Departments and Head

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## SUMUM Turns Medicare Destination

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A 38-year-old Iraqi national, suffering from a rare skull base disease, underwent successful surgery at the SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) here recently providing a push to medical tourism in Odisha as a destination for efficient medical care.

Jasim Kareem Faran Chnani, after recovering from Covid-19, had developed a swelling on his forehead and left eye which was accompanied by headache for one month. Diagnosis conducted in Iraq suggested that he was afflicted by Pott's Puffy Tumor with Invasive Fungal Frontal Sinusitis and Orbital involvement.

Jasim's family looked around for dependable treatment of the disease which was not available in Iraq. Then they decided to fly to India to meet Dr. Radhamadhab Sahu, Senior Consultant and Head of ENT and Skull Base Surgery at SUM Ultimate Medicare here.

Incidentally, Dr. Sahu had successfully treated another Iraqi Hasoon Owaid Oglah al-Shadawi (77), who suffered from Central Skull Base Osteomyelitis, also a rare skull base dis-



ease, little more than a month ago. Jasim and his family members were received at the Bhubaneswar airport by the hospital team and admitted for

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# No Covid screening in Barbil railway platform would endanger people RTPCR Test Mandatory; BMC



Barbil(KCN): Odisha has also witnessed a surge in positive cases. It seems a new wave of Covid-19 has begun in Odisha. The fear of the Omicron is set to engulf the rest of the world. Recently, a Omicron affected returnee from Dubai came in contact with people of Barbil in the district of Keonjhar, and the number of Omicron patients in Barbil rose to 6 in a single day and highest in a day. The local administration got more vigilance to

the situation .They fore frontedly took a massive drive to implement Covid protocol like mask wearing and social distancing and issue an order to close all shops except essential shops from 6.00pm to 6.00am to control over crowds in the market area .With daily Covid positive cases surging more new Omicron cases, the Odisha government issued new guidelines to tackle .But this guidelines would be a plain paper and might

derail from its objective unless some crucial areas are covered .Barbil being a mining area ,a large number of population come every day for business and job. One train 'Janasatabdhi' comes from West Bengal carrying thousands of passengers on daily basis .Being West Bengal a Covid prone area would endanger to Barbil and the state as a whole .There is no screening at railway platform to tackle the issue .Many passengers are

allowed to move freely without mask .No social distancing is maintained any where in the station area. It is surprised to note that neither the railway department nor the local administration shown any interest to the issue said one passenger. Administration has to take precaution measure before the outbreak of Omicron through this path else the Covid guide line would stand as a farce said one intellectual.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amid rapid increase in Covid cases in the State and especially capital city Bhubaneswar, RTPCR test has been made mandatory for all travelers debarking at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA). Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued an order on Thursday. All the air travellers debarking at Bhubaneswar except those in transit will have to undergo RTPCR test at the testing facility provided by BMC, as per the order. This new order will come into effect from January 7, 2022 until further order. The air travellers who have already been fully vaccinated or in possession of RT-

PCR negative report will also have to be tested at the airport in the testing facility. The BMC has decided to install RTPCR testing facility at the airport for the passengers. The travellers whose destination is Bhubaneswar will have to isolate himself/ herself at home till the result is com-

municated by the BMC. In case positive cases are found from among the travelers, the usual protocol for positive cases will be followed. The Director of BPIA will have to ensure strict adherence of the above guideline. After the detection of multiple cases of Covid-19, the Mu-

nicipal Corporation has declared several areas in the city as containment zones. The Containment Zones are Qtr No-4RF-20 in Unit-9; Plot No-7, Behind Gurudwar in Unit-3; Plot No-1147, Near Apollo Pharmacy on Tankapani Road; Flat No-209 in Annapurna Apartment on Tankapani Road; and Flat No-A/94 in Utkal Royal Residency at Goutam Nagar. The BMC has directed that no public shall be allowed to move into the containment zones and the inhabitant within the containment zone will not move out. The BMC will supply essentials and ensure the medical requirements for the inhabitants in the containment zones.



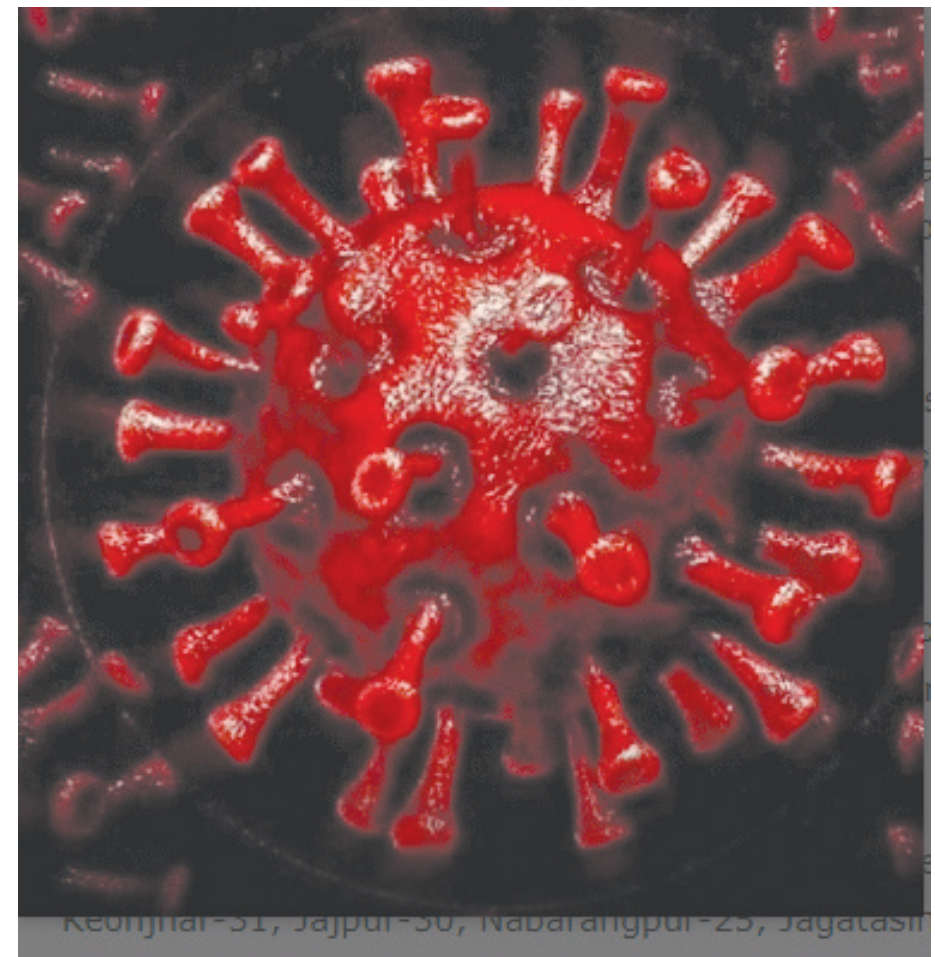
## Omicron on rapid spread

Bhubaneswar(KCN): It seems that third wave of Covid-19 pandemic has already been started in Odisha. The daily cases has been increasing since past few days. The State has reported 1897 fresh cases on Thursday. Out of 1897 fresh cases including 258 of 0-18 years, 1106 cases were reported from the quarantine centres while 791 as local contact cases. The Covid-19 infection has now been spread to all 30 districts of Odisha. Khordha district has recorded the highest number of 669 cases followed by Sundargarh (262), Cuttack (148), Sambalpur (125) and Balasore (100). These five districts together accounted for 68.7 per cent of the total new cases. Among other districts, Jharsuguda reported 66 cases, Puri - 54, Mayurbhanj-40, Ganjam - 34, Keonjhar-31, Jajpur-30, Nabarangpur-25, Jagatasinghpur-19, Bargarh - 16, Deogarh - 16, Koraput - 15, Nayagarh - 14, Kalahandi - 14, Sonepur - 13, Nuapada - 12, Rayagada - 7, Bhaadrak - 7, Bolangir - 6, Dhankanal - 4, Angul - 3, Boudh-3,

Gajapati - 2, Kendrapara - 2, Kandhamal - 1 and Malkangiri - 1. Under green zone. "The Covid cases have been rising in Odisha and others

States too. However, the severity has remained low till now. The State government has well prepared to tackle the situation, if severity cases will be increased," said Director Health Services Bijaya Mohapatra. The Omicron cases have also spread to almost all the districts in the State, he said. As the presence of Omicron has been detected in all districts, there is a need for vaccination, surveillance, and an increase in the number of treatment facilities, he added.

The Director appealed all people to strictly follow the Covid-19 protocols and instructions issued by the State Government. State nodal officer for Covid-19 vaccination, Bijay Panigrahi said on Wednesday 80,972 persons in the age group of 15 to 18 years were vaccinated in the State in 1125 centres. So far, 2,64,690 doses were administered to the teenagers in Odisha, he said. Still, about 27 lakh eligible people in the State have not taken the first dose of the Covid vaccine, said Dr. Panigrahi.



## Tata Starbucks enters six new cities in India including Goa and Bhubaneswar, crosses 250-mark

NEW DELHI(KCN): Tata Starbucks on Thursday announced entry into six new markets as part of its expansion into smaller

Siliguri, Nashik, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram, Goa and Bhubaneswar -- a company statement said. With a growing

said. "Tata Starbucks is grounded in growing with its partners and customers together and thus expanding our footprint in India is

sumer and Starbucks Corporation, said this is the largest store expansion in a year. "The stores are a fusion of the signature Starbucks warm and welcoming de-



cities in India. With these new additions, the company now operates 252 Starbucks stores in 26 cities. It is entering into --

base of coffee enthusiasts across the country, the brand makes its first appearance in the states of Assam, Goa and Odisha, it

a matter of great pride for us," Tata Starbucks CEO Sushant Dash said. Tata Starbucks, a 50:50 joint venture between Tata Con-

sign and the city's local culture and craftsmanship, serving as an extension of the neighbourhoods we serve," it added.

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# Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal



**CHENNAI (KCN):** Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career.

Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2".

"I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's

new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera".

"My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy even today," she said.

Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity."

On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil remake of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

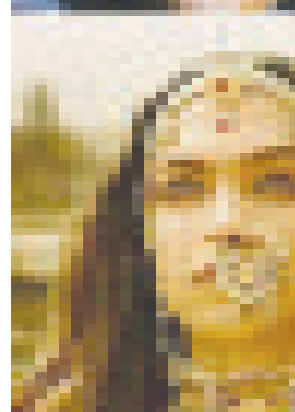
"Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019.

"When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

# From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.



of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm. According to IMDb, here's the list of ten movies that performed well in the box office last year.

1. 2.0: It won't be an exaggeration to call 2.0 as India's 'Superhero' movie. True to that, Kollywood and Bollywood superheroes Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar played the lead roles in the movie. The movie has so far earned over Rs 700 crore worldwide already and is still running successfully in theatres. Directed by Shankar, who's known to make magnificent movies, 2.0 comes with a social message for people on why one should reduce the use of mobile phones. Also, it is the first Tamil film to enter the 700 crore club. If you haven't watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!

2. Sanju: Sanjay Dutt's biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the box office and was

declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3:

'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was

ceived hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain

but it leaves you with a thought to ponder. 9. Rangasthalam:

With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.

10. Raazi:

An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore.

It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

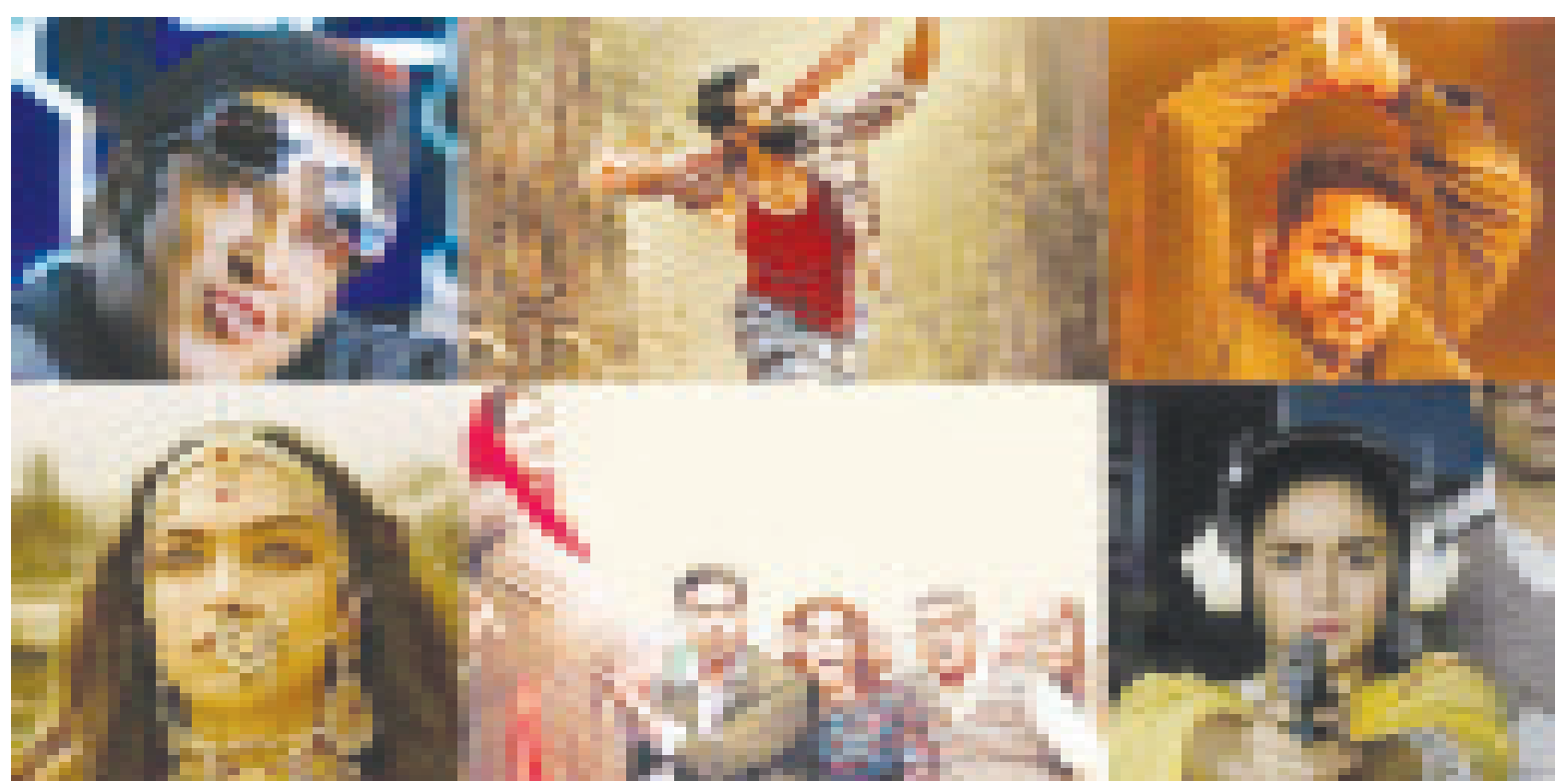
## Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

**MUMBAI (KCN):** Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon

Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister, saying it has become the habit to exclude women from the decision making process.



actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouth-piece 'Panchjanya.' However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus.

### 3. Padmaavat:

Initially scheduled to be released in 2017, the movie was caught in a row of controversies and finally got released early this year in January. Set in medieval Rajasthan, the story revolves around the life of Queen Padmavathi, which drew the flak from right-wing groups. Unlike the claims by the religious fanatics, the movie actually portrayed queen Padmavati in the best light. However, the film's team was asked to remove a few scenes from the movie before its release. Despite the fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earn-

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3: 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

### 5. Sarkar:

Sarkar's plot is about a successful businessman from the USA coming to India to cast his vote on election day. To his shock, he finds out that his vote has already been cast by someone else. So he decides to take up a political battle against the miscreants and how he survives the race makes the rest of the story. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the movie got into a huge row and was criticised by the ruling Tamil Nadu government for allegedly misrepresenting AIADMK's late leader J Jayalithaa

later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box office. 6. Baaghi 2:

This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part 'Baaghi 3,' which will be out on March 6, 2020.

### 7. Thugs of Hindostan:

The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film re-

## From Nayagarh with Sweet Love, Chhena Poda, our Desi Cheesecake

The role of food is not just limited to pacify hunger, but it has a broader significance and plays a vital role in almost every aspect of human life, be it family, social relations, festivals or sacred rituals. Traditional food is wholesome for maintaining and protecting health and providing optimum nutrition to the people of that region. Odia people are known to be big-time foodies since the beginning of written documented history. The supreme lord of the land, Lord Jagannath was being offered with a sum total of fiftysix items each day and is and famously called as Chhapan Bhog is very well known to one and all. Govardhan mutt in Puri established by Sri Adi Shankaracharya is among four mutts on the four corners of India. While establishing this mutts his holiness Adi Shankaracharya had famously declared that the land is to be considered as the dining place of Lord Vishnu. This shows the value and importance of food beyond the basic diet in the tradition and cultures of Odisha. Our "Luxurious Eating God", Lord Jagannath loves all dishes of dairy and the gods share a beautiful bond with their sweet tooth. For ages the Jagannath temple has played a tremendous role in nurturing the local cuisines and keeping the local culinary culture alive. One such old ritual is practised during world famous festival, Rath Yatra, when Goddess of Mausima temple offered the three deities namely Lord Balabhadra, Ma Subhadra and Lord Jagannath a sweet dish on their way home to Sri Mandira on the day of Bahuda yatra. This dish is the most favourite sweet dish of Lord Jagannath and is called Chhena Poda.



Chhena Poda, literally means roasted (Poda) cottage cheese (chhena) and is a native Odiya dessert that is said to be a product of an accident. As per legends, it originated in late 1940's in Nayagarh district of Odisha. It is said, that on one evening, Sri Sudarshan Sahu, a confectioner par excellence left sweet chhena on hot flame and forgot about it for a while. Naturally, the chhena was slightly charred at the bottom, he tasted the chhena and was quite impressed. He further worked on the dessert and thus chhena poda was born. The inventor of Odisha's unique sweet dessert Chhena Poda, Sri Sudarshan Sahu passed away at the age of 86 on 23rd November 2016. He came to Nayagarh

in 1947 and set up a hotel in Daspalla. There he invented

**Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra**

Chhena Poda, his invention brought him a lot of fame, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Biju Patnaik everyone liked his Chhena Poda and praised him for his invention. The original chhena poda of Nayagarh is a non-fuss recipe that only combines chhena, sooji or semolina, sugar and cardamom. You may find many modern versions with nuts and spices with distinct characteristics attributed to the area specific traditional method of preparation and ingredients used. It is usually available in the sweetmeat shops across the state and is often made at home during traditional festivals. Traditionally, chhena poda was made in aluminium vessels also called pateela in most part of the country. The mashed chhena-mix was added to these vessels and they were placed atop burning coal. The vessel was covered with a lid, on top of which rested some more hot coal. It was also a common practice back in the day, to line the vessel with sal leaves. Not only did they protect the chhena from getting too burnt, it also lent a fragrant, earthy quality to the cheesecake in making.

Public health status is largely dependent upon their dietary behaviours. Traditional food culture has gradually evolved along with the development of the human race. It is based on the geographical situation, climatic condition, seasonal changes, cultures and various other socio-economic factors of the region. The technologies used to produce traditional food products have been employed for generations to preserve food for consumption at a later date and hence improves food security. Traditional food products are found to be an important source of income and employment for millions of people around the world particularly the vulnerable and marginalized ones. These foods being rich sources of almost all nutrients help in improving the nutritional status of people to a larger extent. The processing and preparation of ethnic foods not only validate the creativity and treasure of food heritage of the local population but also their incredible mastery in maintaining the existence of the ecosystem as a whole. Odisha's food culture is the way forward to adopt eco-friendly practices and utilize available natural resources to enrich our daily diet. If we take in to consideration all these factors then our Chhena Poda is an excellent traditional food. Further more in Indian context foods are believed to contain 'hot' and 'cold' properties. They are also classified as Tamasic, Sattivika and

Rajasic foods. According to Bhagwad Gita, "Sattivika"

foods are savoury, nutritive and agreeable, conducive to serenity and spirituality. Examples of these foods are milk and milk products. Chhena Poda is an excellent Sattivika food and is being loved by vegans and particularly by spiritual minded people as a special dessert.

In the name of globalization, adopting food patterns that are foreign to the region is unscientific and could be harmful for health. The shift from traditional to the western dietary pattern has become the leading cause of the growing burden of non-communicable or lifestyle-related diseases and in the year 2015, the Global Burden of Disease study identified unhealthy diet as the leading cause of early mortality worldwide. Every traditional food culture carries a long history and is the safest food. In the last few decades, in both developed and developing countries people have become more health conscious which has led to an increased demand for traditional foods. Further traditional foods which undergoes processing, adding value to conventional and innovative basic forms through various permutations and combinations of providing protection, preservation, packaging, convenience, transportation and disposability, is better accepted by the consumer. In India, traditional dairy products have started entering into the market in a new 'avatar' now. With long shelf-life and new packing techniques, the gulab jamun, Srikhand, jalebi, Pedha etc have adorned the shopping malls today. This marketing trend is being well adopted by the famous confectioner from Salepur, Cuttack, the founder of "Kar and Brothers". They are known for popularizing the raogola famously named "Bikali Kar Rasogola" and is now being sold all over Odisha and abroad. The same marketing strategy, with presentable packaging and long shelf life can be adopted for our Chhena Poda.

Chhena poda is unique traditional dairy product in many aspect. The nutty, smoky burnt aroma is the first thing that differentiates it from all other dairy products. The darkish brown outer cover with its chewy texture with the flavour of burnt sal leaves is an added advantage of this product giving it a natural and close to nature or organic look we can say in modern day terminology. The mouth watering roasted paneer inside is too creamy and delicious. With these impressive repertoire chhena

poda has got all the potential to get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The Government of Odisha is in the process of finishing all the paper work and other formalities to have a GI tag for this product and very soon we will have it. Even getting a GI tag will not do proper justice to this unique and noble product. This dessert still has a very limited reach in the national and international market. Food lovers have experimented with different variations of the chhena poda. In fact, you can even find chhena poda with chocolate flavour, dash vanilla essence and even with racotta in multi cuisine restaurants of big cities. The organizations like OMFED and Milk Mantra have put some effort to popularise this product by marketing this product in packaged forms with increased shelf life. There is still a long way to go for chhena poda to achieve the status similar as other Indian desserts like Rasogulla or Jalebi which enjoy global recognition.

There is a huge opportunity to get creative and popularise chhena poda not only in India but also abroad. Marketing of traditional dairy products requires recipe modification particularly with respect to reduction of fat, sugar, microbial content and other parameters related to health and well being. In this regard the recipe of chhena poda should be modified as per the acceptance of the consumer and the health standards. It's export to abroad can be promoted by the orientation of more Indian restaurants in important cities of western countries. The entire world is inescapably caught in the web of globalization. The vast market potential abroad has to be improved. Attractive packaging and display increased shelf-life, better microbiological safety will go a long way in enhancing the popularity of chhena poda. The nutritional importance of Chhena Poda needs to be recognized and popularized. Traditional food products are socially, culturally, and economically important. It is essential that the knowledge of their production is not lost. The wealth of knowledge on traditional products like chhena poda needs to be further expanded in collaboration with small-scale food processors. With brands such as The Bombay Sweet Shop, Arq, and Khoya reinventing Indian desserts, maybe it is time that chhena poda has its moment. That would be one way of making sure that our rich food culture, its stories live on and get the appreciation and recognition it deserves.

M.V.Sc. (Veterinary & A.H. Extension), Block Veterinary Officer, (OVS-I), Veterinary Dispensary, Satyabadi, Puri.

## India's development pathway in this decade will be much more critical than its distant net-zero target. :Abhas Jha Practice Manager, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, World Bank South Asia Region

As COP26 ended with a much-debated final Glasgow Climate Pact, the discussions on progress and implementation are underway. The United Kingdom Government and the city of Glasgow deserve enormous appreciation for successfully pulling off such a critical yet challenging event, in the middle of a global pandemic. The world did make significant progress in many important areas including an agreement by 130 countries to work together to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, a pledge by major automakers and 30 national governments to phase out internal combustion engines by 2040 worldwide, and approximately 100 countries signing a global pledge to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

As we roll out the implementation of the World Bank Group's South Asia Climate Roadmap, here is a quick analysis of four big takeaways from COP26 for South Asia:

1. India's net zero+ announcements are significant, but a lot of work lies ahead: India announced not just a 2070 net-zero target but also, perhaps even more significantly, nearer-term targets of 500 GW non-fossil fuel energy, 50 percent of the country's installed capacity through renewables, 45 percent reduction in the carbon intensity of its economy, and a reduction of 1 billion tonnes carbon emissions by 2030. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) landmark India Energy Outlook 2021 projects India to experience the most significant increase in energy demand of any country worldwide over the next 20 years. India has less than half of the world's average per capita emissions. India's development pathway in this decade will be much more critical than its distant net-zero target. This pathway will need to include sectoral green transition strategies for energy, transport, agriculture, water, and urban development with detailed investment plans to be implemented in the next decade. Taking a 'whole-of-government' approach to climate change will be essential so that every government agency and ministry acts on and "owns" the risks and opportunities from climate change.

**India's development pathway in this decade will be much more critical than its distant net-zero target.**

**Abhas Jha**

A worker tends to the paddy field. Droughts threaten rice harvests and, in turn, food security in Sri Lanka. A worker tends to the paddy field. Droughts threaten rice harvests and, in turn, food security in Sri Lanka. Photo: iStock

2. Progress was made on coal and fossil fuel subsidies: The final Glasgow Climate Pact calls to accel-



erate the "phase-down" of unabated coal power from plants that don't use carbon-capture technology. While this is a positive development, it still caused disappointment to those who wanted a commitment to entirely phase-out coal. If the world is to have any chance of keeping overall warming to below 1.5 degrees, then all major power producers must phase out old, high-capacity power plants with lower efficiency and higher emissions and stop any new unabated coal capacity. On the positive side, we must recognize that for the first time in the 27 years of COP discussions a phase-down of coal and a phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies have been mentioned and agreed by all 200 countries. Both Pakistan and Bangladesh have canceled all coal plants not currently under construction. Pakistan's ambitious new

NDC unveiled at Glasgow, the preparation of which was supported

by the World Bank, reiterates its commitment to build no new coal power plants and bans the use of imported coal for energy generation. At the same time, many developing countries continue relying on coal as a cheap and the only secure resource they have in abundance for their critical energy needs. Coal generates millions of jobs and significant revenues for governments. Reducing dependency on coal will need significant financing, patience, and a

phased approach to ensure a just transition for the poor and vulnerable whose livelihood depends directly or indirectly on coal. It is, therefore, significant that India, along with Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Africa, signed up as the first recipients of a multibillion-dollar pilot program aimed at accelerating their transition from coal power to clean energy through the Accelerating Coal Transition program of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

**Reducing dependency on coal will need significant financing, patience, and a phased approach to ensure a just transition for the poor and vulnerable whose livelihood depends directly or indirectly on coal.**

3. The Rules for Carbon Trading That Were Final-

ized Will be Positive for South Asian Countries: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement allows parties to lower abatement costs by working together in cooperative approaches that create internationally transferred mitigation outcomes. Negotiators finalized the rule for a global carbon finance market that would avoid loopholes and double counting and limited the number of prior credits brought under this framework. Carbon finance will play a critical catalytic role in leveraging private sector finance for flourishing regional power trade between the so-called BBIN countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal. The World Bank is working with the Royal Government of Bhutan to set up the Bhutan Climate Fund to monetize the carbon credits generated from the export of hydropower to India. Bangladesh and Pakistan have been selected to participate in the Partnership for Market Implementation. A potential area of support from the World Bank could be to help countries develop robust GHG inventories and registries.

4. There was no grand bargain on climate finance and this issue is likely to become prominent in COP27 and beyond: Climate commitments by developing countries have been made in the absence of a grand bargain on concessional climate finance, including but not limited to the \$100 billion that was promised at Copenhagen 12 years ago. There were some promising signs, however, The Glasgow Pact promises to double adaptation finance by 2025 and launches a two-year "Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh" work program on the global goal on adaptation. The US signed a statement agreeing to "increase resources" for loss and damage. The UNFCCC's Adaptation Fund on November 8 raised a record US\$ 356 million in new support from contributing national and regional governments. While this number is minimal relative to the needs, the renewed interest from development partners is encouraging. A critical \$8.5 billion deal was agreed with South Africa to phase out coal power plants that could be a model for other large coal-consuming countries. The "India Green Guarantee" announced at Glasgow uses a UK government guarantee to create more World Bank lending space for India to finance its climate transitions. Other major development partners may consider similar approaches.

Practice Manager, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, South Asia Region

### Court allows Sudha Bharadwaj, out on bail, to shift to Thane



MUMBAI: A special court here on Thursday allowed activist Sudha Bharadwaj, recently released on bail in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, to live in the neighbouring Thane district instead of Mumbai. Bharadwaj was granted bail by the Bombay High Court in December 2021, three

years after her arrest. The special court for National Investigation Agency (NIA) cases, while passing the release order, had said that she shall not leave Mumbai without permission. The activist later filed an application seeking permission to live in her friend's house in Thane, stating that finding accommoda-

tion in Mumbai was expensive. Special Judge D E Kothalikar on Thursday granted the plea. The court also took on record the address where she would be living, and directed her to report to the Vartak Nagar police station in Thane city every fortnight. "The investigating officer is at liberty to

verify the correctness of the address and inform the senior police inspector of Vartak Nagar police station," the court said. Bharadwaj and several other Left-leaning activists and writers were arrested for alleged links to Maoists following the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune in December 2017.

### Vaishnav Offers Puja for PM



Bhubaneswar: Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister Railways, Electronics & IT and Communications Thursday offered 'Puja' and 'Deep' at Shree Lingaraj Temple here seeking long life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He offered prayers for the Supreme Leader, a day after his convoy was stopped by a demonstration in Punjab which was seen as a security breach. He was accompanied by State BJP President Samir Mohanty and other leaders.

Mr. Vaishnav reached the 11th century Lord Shiv shrine and performed puja. He was seen chanting "Maha Mrunjay Mantra". Minister Railways also posted a video clip of him performing the "aarti" in the media while performing puja in front of

Shree Lingaraj Temple. "Modiji Jiyo Hazaro Saal", Mr. Vaishnav said in the twitter post. "It was a clear case of conspiracy. We prayed before the Lord seeking the divine blessings for the long life of the Prime Minister," Mr. Vaishnav told Media Men here. Earlier, the Women wing of the BJP, performed "Deep Daan" in different temples across the state seeking long life of the Prime Minister. BJP Youth Wing Members held torch and candle processions for long life of PM.

### SC reserves order on plea regarding EWS quota in NEET-PG admissions

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on a plea re-

bench said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the apex court that he would

peared in the court on behalf of some of the candidates. Senior advocate P Wilson

due to them. The NEET-PG candidates, who have challenged a July 29, 2021 notification for the implementation of the OBC and the EWS quotas from the 2021-22 academic year, opposed the government's justification of applying the Rs 8 lakh income criterion, saying no study has been conducted on it.



lated to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota in connection with the NEET-PG admissions. A bench of justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna asked the parties to file their written submissions for consideration. "We have been hearing this matter for two days, we must start counselling in national interest," the

like to dispel the confusion that there is a change in the rules of the game midway. "Firstly, there is no change in the rules of the game. The regime which is the subject matter of this challenge is already implemented since 2019 except in the All India Quota," he submitted. Senior advocates Arvind Datar and Shyam Divan ap-

peared for the Tamil Nadu government. The Centre had told the apex court on Wednesday that it would not accept a position whereby those falling in the OBC or the EWS category, whether before or after the exercise of revisiting the criterion of Rs 8 lakh annual income, are deprived of something that is legitimately

### Indigenous jet trainer demonstrates capability to carry out six turn spins

BENGALURU: The Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT), designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for stage "II training of IAF pilots, has successfully demonstrated the capability to carry out six turn spins to the left hand and right hand sides. The IJT, conceived by HAL as a replacement to the ageing Kirans of IAF fleet, had completed demonstration of its capabilities in terms of altitude and speed envelope, load factor, satisfactory stall characteristics and limited armament capability as required by IAF, much earlier, an HAL statement said on Thursday. The only pending task was spin testing. During the course of spin testing, in 2016, the aircraft departed from controlled flight which brought the programme to a temporary halt, it said. However, HAL decided to proceed further to complete the spin testing. The capability to enter and recover from spin is

a necessity for a trainer aircraft in order to familiarise the trainee pilot to recognise departure from controlled flight and the actions re-

unpredictable and flight testing is the only way to assess the acceptability or otherwise of its characteristics. Subsequent to the

streaming of the parachutes were demonstrated in September 2020. HAL could commence the stall and spin testing of the IJT



quired to recover from such situations, the statement noted. "Achieving satisfactory characteristics during spin and an assured recovery from spin form a part of very crucial flight tests due to its unpredictability", it said. The spin flight testing is inherently a high risk manoeuvre and therefore progresses incrementally turn by turn. Due to the complex interplay of aerodynamic and inertia forces, the motion of the aircraft in spin is

temporary halting of flight tests in 2016, HAL undertook major modifications like shifting the vertical tail aft on the airframe and increasing the rudder area and flight testing resumed in April 2019. These modifications entailed the use of a new Anti-Spin Parachute system (ASPS) which is mandated for the safety of the aircraft and test crew during spin flight testing. The new ASPS was integrated into the aircraft in July 2020 and the successful

in its new modified configuration in November 2020, it was stated. HAL's Director (Engineering and R&D), Arup Chatterjee said that by demonstrating its capability to have six turn spins on both sides the IJT has achieved a major milestone. He hoped that with the completion of spin certification of HTT-40 and the progress achieved in IJT, HAL will soon have state-of-the-art trainers for stage I and II training of IAF pilots.



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**PM security breach: BJP leaders meet Governor, demands sacking of Punjab Home Minister, DGP**

CHANDIGARH: A delegation of Punjab BJP leaders met Governor Banwarilal Purohit here on Thursday and demanded the dismissal of the state's home minister and police chief over the security breach during the prime minister's visit to Punjab.

The BJP delegation demanded the ouster of the two, accusing the government of plotting the conspiracy to hold up the PM's convoy in Ferozepur in collusion with police and expressing a lack of confidence in the likely outcome of the probe into the matter by a high-level committee.

"We reject this committee. The chief minister is the conspirator of this conspiracy. What will this committee set up by his government do?" Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma told reporters in a press conference after leading the party delegation to Governor Purohit.

The Punjab government has set up a two-member committee for a "thorough probe" into lapses during the PM's Wednesday trip to

security.

"The entire incident smacks of conspiracy and it appears everything was pre-planned," he alleged.

"The Prime Minister was visiting, but why was Chief Minister Channi not present in Ferozepur? Why two deputy chief ministers were not present? Why the DGP and chief secretary were not present?" he asked.

"Besides, there are other questions like who leaked the information that the Prime Minister's cavalcade was to pass through the route," he said.

"This means this government through police department hatched the conspiracy to bring the Prime Minister's cavalcade to a halt and this needs to be probed," Sharma alleged.

Asked if the state BJP has demanded Governor's rule in the state, he said people have already rejected the Congress government and they will be shown the door in the forthcoming polls.



Punjab.

Demanding the ouster of state Home Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and DGP Siddharth Chattopadhyaya, Sharma said, it was DGP Chattopadhyaya and Chief Secretary Anirudh Tewari who gave clearance to the PM's convoy to take the road after the weather turned inclement in Bathinda where the PM had landed. Addressing the press conference, Sharma termed the Wednesday incident worse than those during the 1980s militancy in the state and alleged that the state police was instructed not to allow party workers from reaching the rally site.

The state government deliberately prevented the Prime Minister from inaugurating the developmental projects worth thousands of crores, as it feared the BJP will gain public support, he alleged.

"Yesterday's incident was worse than those during terrorism days in Punjab. Even during those days, political leaders and parties could address rallies and programmes," Sharma said. "Congress is a danger for Punjab. They have stooped to this level. They played with fire during the Emergency and now they are doing the same," Sharma asserted.

"Congress, which earlier pushed the state into dark days of militancy, should stop doing conspiracy to burn Punjab again to grind their political axe," he said.

They want to run Punjab in an autocratic manner, he further alleged, adding if Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi "has any morality left, he should resign immediately".

Junking the Congress claims that not many people had turned up for the BJP's Ferozepur rally, Sharma alleged that the state police was instructed not to allow party workers from reaching the rally site.

"Congress leaders say that chairs were empty at Ferozepur rally, but thousands of our workers reached the venue despite obstacles.

You should question the government why were our buses stopped at several places?" asked Sharma. The PM's convoy was held up on a flyover in Ferozepur, around 30 km from its destination, National Martyrs Museum in Hussainiwala, due to a blockade by protesters on Wednesday.

He returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event or a rally.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs, in a statement on Wednesday, had said the PM was earlier scheduled to go Hussainiwala from Bathinda in a helicopter.

Sharma said the lapses show how the Punjab government was "non-serious" about the PM's

Sharma alleged a large number of buses and other vehicles carrying BJP workers were prevented from reaching the rally site.

At the press conference, BJP leaders played out videos claiming that hundreds of buses carrying party workers were prevented from reaching Ferozepur and these were stopped at various places including those in Amritsar, Moga, Ludhiana, Sangrur, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur districts.

Sharma said small groups of people were "made to sit and protest" at some places and they had the "government's backing".

Sharma alleged that at some places police vehicles were parked in the middle of the road to hamper the movement of the buses carrying workers.

On Modi's cavalcade getting stuck on a flyover for 15-20 minutes due to a blockade by some protesters, Sharma said Chief Minister Channi has double standards.

On the one hand, the Channi government makes lathi-charge on protesting employees and teachers but the CM says he could not have used force to remove those blocking the road on which Prime Minister was travelling, said Sharma.

"As a political party, doesn't BJP have the right to hold rallies?" he asked adding: "Democracy is in danger today in Punjab."

Sharma said in Dina Nagar, even food items of workers headed for the Ferozepur rally were snatched by some miscreants.

On the Ferozepur- Jalalabad road, a police vehicle blocked the road, hampering the movement of buses of BJP workers.

Same scenes were witnessed on many other routes, he alleged that at some places, BJP workers were also beaten up.

On the Amritsar-Tarn Taran road, hundreds of buses were stranded, he further said.

"Buses coming from Pathankot, Gurdaspur were stopped by erecting police barricades on Kathunangal road. In Ludhiana too, buses were stopped. They had deployed entire police to stop the BJP workers from reaching the venue," he alleged.

The Union Home Ministry has sought an immediate explanation from the state government on the PM's security breach, saying it did not ensure the requisite deployment.

Home Minister Amit Shah too has warned that such dereliction of the security procedure during the prime minister's visit is totally unacceptable and the accountability will be fixed. Chief Minister Channi has denied any security lapse or political motive behind it and said his government is ready for an inquiry.

**Minister flags off Jerk free Rail**

Bhubaneswar: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off the Puri-Hatia-Puri Tapaswini Express with upgraded LHB Rake on Thursday from Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

In a bid to provide better comfort and jerk free journey to the passengers, Indian Railway has decided to run 18452/18451 Puri-Hatia-Puri Tapaswini Express with modern Linke-Hofmann-Busch (LHB) coaches by replacing conventional coaches running at present. This facility will enhance safety with better ride experience and lesser noise.

Ministers Padmanabha Behera and Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, MLAs Suresh Kumar Routray, Ananta Narayan Jena and Susant Kumar Rout graced the occasion as Guests of Honour at Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

The Minister will also lay the foundation for development of the second entry of Cuttack Railway Station. He will inspect the Cuttack Railway Station and review the development and amenities there. The second entry will have facilities like Parking for Two/Three/Four Wheelers, Pickup and Drop Point, Parking for

of the second entry of Cuttack Railway Sta-

Ambulance, VIP Vehicles etc., including

Mr. Vaishnaw will also flag off the ex-



tension of Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar Train up to Balasore at Balasore Railway Station; and will lay foundation and inaugurate various developmental works at Basta, Nilagiri and Jaleswar Railway Stations.

a wider approach road. Minister Padmanabha Behera, Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahatab, MLAs Mohammed Moquim and Souvic Biswal will grace the occasion as Guests of Honour at Cuttack Railway Station.

publicly funded but editorially independent national broadcaster. The rules governing its operations are set out in a royal charter that requires the corporation to be impartial, act in the

**Ex-NBC executive Turness named CEO for BBC news, current affairs**

LONDON: The BBC announced Thursday that it has appointed Deborah Turness as its new chief executive for news and current affairs, bringing to the broadcaster a vastly experienced journalist

a greater need for the BBC's powerful brand of impartial, trusted journalism," Turness said in a statement.

"It is a great privilege to be asked to lead and grow BBC

sionate advocate for the power of impartial journalism and a great believer in the BBC and the role we play, in the U.K. and globally."

When she begins her new job, Turness will

publicly funded but editorially independent national broadcaster. The rules governing its operations are set out in a royal charter that requires the corporation to be impartial, act in the



rienced journalist who previously held senior leadership positions at the news division of American TV network NBC.

Turness, 54, comes to the BBC from British media company ITN, where she is currently CEO. The native of England will replace Fran Unsworth, who is leaving at the end of January.

"In the U.K. and around the world there has never been

News at a time of accelerated digital growth and innovation when its content is reaching more global consumers on more platforms than ever before," she added.

BBC Director-General Tim Davie said Turness "brings a wealth of experience, insight, first-class editorial judgment and a strong track record of delivery" to her new role.

He called her "a pas-

have responsibility for a team of around 6,000 that delivers broadcasts in more than 40 languages to almost half a billion people around the world, the BBC said. Turness joined NBC News in 2013, becoming the first female president of an American network news division, and later served as president of the network's global arm.

The BBC, founded in 1922, is Britain's

public interest and be open, transparent and accountable.

The broadcaster has come under pressure from some members of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party who accuse it of having a liberal bias. It also faced strong criticism last year about its integrity following a scathing report on its explosive 1995 interview with Princess Diana.

## Spending on essentials rises in December, dips on non-essentials: Report

NEW DELHI: Spending on essentials in the last five months is recorded in for a booster dose, something which has across 36 states. Overall household



tials like personal care and household items has grown 33% in December - the highest across five months, according to a report released on Thursday. This increase is majorly reflected in the Northern part of India, says Consumer data intelligence company Axis My India in its latest findings of the India Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI). On the other hand, lowest 'increased'

### Flavour of freedom: Kerala transwoman shares her journey of food entrepreneurship

KOCHI: The transgender community in India has been living in the shadows for too long. Several governmental and non-governmental initiatives have been trying to give them a helping hand over the last few years. Despite these efforts, many from the LGBTQ+ community is forced into unfair labour, prostitution and begging.

Amritha Joseph Mathew knew that her journey won't be easy. Wading through stigma with hard work, the 30-year-old food entrepreneur has been running her pickle and juice shop near Kakkannad collectorate civil station since 2017.

Raised in Kothamangalam, Amritha and her mother Mary shifted to Kakkannad in Ernakulam many years ago. Unlike other kids, Amritha had to do odd jobs since her school days to pay her fees. Her mother was a home nurse who earned negligible income. "At 20, I understood that I was a transwoman. I used to have a different notion about the trans community back then because I have only seen them on trains. People always speak of them with contempt.

Then, I saw a group of transgender cross-dressers performing in Harippad. They fascinated me. I have had a passion for dancing all my life too. Soon, I became a part of their troupe. That is where I learned more about the trans community, and how wrong the world is to ostracise

non-essential and discretionary products like AC, car, refrigerator etc. at 14%.

Pradeep Gupta, CMD, Axis My India, said, "While the new year brought along hope and optimism for a better 2022, consumers' pursestrings suggest otherwise. The lowest dip in non-essential spending is proof that consumers are curling back to apprehensions triggered by the new variant of the virus and also hoping

them," says Amritha. Amritha also runs a dance troupe named Sree Nataraja Kalasamidhi registered under the Kudumbasree project Pratyasha. They perform at temple festivals.

The homemade pickles and fresh juices are branded 'Amritha', but her mother Mary makes them. "My mother is a great cook. She once gave some of her pickles to our neighbour before they left for UAE. They ended up placing orders for a few batches. This is when we had the idea to start a venture," says Amritha.

Her lime, mango, chicken, fish, beef, and bitter gourd pickles are in high demand at Kudumbasree melas. She even put up a stall at the India Gate in Delhi. "I make a lot of revenue at Kudumbasree melas. But the pandemic has put a stop to it," she adds. Among the juices, the carrot, orange, beetroot, green chilly, lemon mixture — a sour and sweet combo named 'Kakkannad Neeli' — is one of her specialties.

Embracing her identity Amritha came out as a transwoman through a Malayalam television program. This was followed by neglect and abuse from her family and friends. Her mother had to bear the brunt too. "My mother found out through the show too. Though I had long hair and used to wear a saree, my mother thought I was dressing up for the performances. She found it hard to accept me in the beginning,

recently been announced by the Government." 'Folks... Chill': BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover dismisses 'verbal abuse' audio clip as fake Expenditure nevertheless remains the same for 78% of the families indicating the sentiment of people living in the southern part of India.

The survey is based on telephonic interviews with a sample size of 10563 people

but now she is welcoming of the trans community. We live with members of the community. She considers all of them her kids. My mother is my pillar of strength," says Amritha.

To date, Amritha faces discrimination from many. "I wish they would educate themselves rather than ridicule me. It is not right to categorise people based on their gen-

**Offices to run with 50%**

Continued from page-1

of offices may decide the manner of selection of employees who will attend office.

However, the essential offices and services such as SRC and OSDMA offices, Police, Fire Services, Health Services, Municipal services etc. Office of the State Election Commissioner and all offices connected with the conduct of elections to the three tier Panchayat bodies have been exempted from this order and can function in full strength.

Besides, offices of all recruiting institutions like Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC), Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission will function at 75 per cent of their strength of employees.

However, the officers of the rank of Under Secretary and above will attend office daily during the period.

The Government has asked the Departments to strictly follow all precautionary measures to prevent spread of COVID infection.

In case of detection of any COVID case among the office employees, the concerned office will follow the protocol issued by the Government in July, 2020.

It may be ensured that the officers / staff, who are not assigned duty on roster, will have to work from home with VPN provided to them for attending the regular & pending works.

They must be available on telephone at all times to attend office work of urgent nature, at short notice, it said.

The employees with disability and pregnant women employees are exempted from attending office and work from home. However, no employee can leave the headquarters without prior permission of the authority.

spending has also dipped by 3% in comparison to last month during December.

Consumption on health-related items more or less remains the same for 43% of the families, while a surge is witnessed among 40%.

Gauging concern regarding the new variant of the virus, the survey found out that 52% of households believe that the opening up of the economy will get affected by Omicron.

## 'Folks... Chill': BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover dismisses 'verbal abuse' audio clip as fake

NEW DELHI: BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover on Thursday said a viral audio clip claiming to be of him verbally abusing a bank employee for not getting share allotment in Nykaa's initial public offering (IPO) is "fake" and is an attempt for extorting money.



A tweet on Wednesday morning by an account named '@BabuBongo' said 'how rich founders

clip, which is about 4:29 minutes, includes an exchange between three people: two male and a female voice. Grover, on Thursday, tweeted: "Folks. Chill. It's a fake audio by some scamster trying to extort funds (USD 240,000 bitcoins). I refused to buckle. I've got more character. And, internet has got

### PM Modi's 'life threat gimmick' aimed at 'toppling democratically' elected Punjab government: Channi

Continued from page-1

safeguarding its borders.

"The slanderous campaign launched by the BJP is an insult to all the Punjabis and it is unwarranted and undesirable," he said.

At a separate event at Machhiwara in Ludhiana, Channi asked what were the intelligence officials around the prime minister doing if they had sensed a threat to his safety. Channi said the fact of the matter was that barely 700 people turned up at the BJP's rally but the blame was pinned on the Punjab government citing security threat to the prime minister.

"The truth is that five days before the PM's scheduled rally, the Special Protection Group (SPG) took over the landing spot, rally site and (went over) each security detail but later the prime minister's cavalcade suddenly took land route," Channi said, adding that the route was cleared by the SPG.

The chief minister reiterated that had there been any danger to the prime minister, every Punjabi was nationalist enough to face bullets as they had done before in the service of the nation.

Punjabis have never shied away from making sacrifices for the nation and are as patriotic a race as any other in the country, he said.

At Tanda in Hoshiarpur, Channi termed former chief minister Amarinder Singh a "political deadwood", saying it was evident from a rally on Wednesday where the royal scion of Patiala addressed empty chairs.

He said that everyone knew Amarinder Singh had "backstabbed" Punjab due to which no one wanted to listen to him.

"The day is not far when all the candidates of the Maharaja will lose their deposits in the polls," Channi claimed.

Assailing AAP national convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Channi described him as a "chronic liar", alleging that he was trying to "mislead the people of the state with his fake promises".

In a "major security lapse", Modi's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur on Wednesday after which he returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a scheduled rally.

The prime minister was scheduled to lay the foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs 42,750 crore, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway and a PGIMER satellite centre on Wednesday, besides addressing a rally.

treat poor bank employees' and included an audio clip. The

enough scamsters." He also shared screenshots of his e-

Grover and Shashvat Nakrani had co-founded BharatPe in 2018. BharatPe serves over 75 lakh merchants across 150 cities. The company has already facilitated the disbursement of loans totalling over Rs 3,000 crore to its merchants since its launch. BharatPe has raised over USD 650 million in equity and debt, till date. Its investors include Tiger Global, Dragoneer Investment Group, Steadfast Capital, Coatue Management, Ribbit Capital and others.

### SUMUM Turns Medicare Destination

Continued from page-1

treatment. Difficulty in the surgery notwithstanding, the team of doctors led by Dr. Sahu comprising neuro-anesthetist Dr. Prasant Behera and ENT specialist Dr. Pujja Lakhota, completed the procedure ensuring a smooth operative and post-operative recovery period for the patient.

The team led by Dr. Sahu opted for an endoscopy assisted minimally invasive supraorbital keyhole approach along with transnasal endoscopic approach to radically remove the problem. "This approach ensured cosmesis and avoided facial deformity which is a major drawback of other external approaches," he said.

Elaborating on the disease, Dr. Sahu said Pott's Puffy tumour was an infection of the marrow of the forehead bone, also known as the frontal bone, associated with subperiosteal abscess. "It is a rare clinical entity and is usually seen as a complication of chronic frontal sinusitis or trauma to the forehead," he said.

Dr. Sahu said more commonly the disease affected children and adolescents compared to adults. "Patients may present with redness of forehead skin along with soft, boggy, fluctuating swelling in the forehead or scalp or around the eye. This may be accompanied by headache or complaints like nasal blockage and discharge," he said.

Explaining the treatment, Dr. Sahu said nasal endoscopy in conjunction of CT scan and MRI aided in diagnosing the condition and planning the course of treatment which was both medical and surgical.

Medical management was done by antibiotics while the affected sinuses needed to be cleared and the abscess drained surgically. Disease clearance from the sinuses was done through the nose using an endoscope while a few options were available for disease clearance from the outside, he said.

Jasim, who is on the way to recovery, was impressed with the quality of treatment and the high-end facilities available at SUMUM. He thanked the team and staff involved in his surgery and said the care and affection he received were beyond his expectations. "I felt at home in this hospital. Every staff, even the housekeeping personnel, were involved and dedicated in their service and made me feel like I am amongst my family members. I was a human being here, not just a patient and definitely not a medical customer," he said.

Dr. Sahu said patients from Odisha had been known to travel to other states and countries in the past in search of medical care but the scenario was changing. SUMUM provides end-to-end patient care services for international patients travelling to the hospital for treatment with established protocols and plans in place for safe handling of patients.

"International patients travelling to SUMUM marks the dawn of medical tourism in Odisha and it also means that time has come for people of the state and other states to visit Bhubaneswar for dependable and superior treatment," he said.

## 2022 Women's World Cup: Jemimah Rodrigues, Shikha Pandey dropped from India squad

NEW DELHI: Top-order batter Jemimah Rodrigues and seasoned pacer Shikha Pandey were on Thursday dropped from India's 15-member squad for the Women's

consistent form. Another top-order batter Punam Raut, who was a part of the team in England and Australia, has also been dropped with the selectors including more

Shafali Verma are automatic selections in the squad. Richa Ghosh and Taniya Bhatia are the wicketkeeper in the squad with the latter being the back up.

The highest-scorer in the recent Challenger Trophy Sabbhineni Meghana, Ekta Bisht and Simran Dil Bahadur have been named as three stand-by players.

Speaking to PTI, former India captain Diana Edulji said a well-balanced side has been picked though she is a tad surprised by Shikha's omission. "Jemimah should take this exclusion in her stride and come back stronger while Shikha not being picked is a bit of surprise as she would have been other experienced pacer alongside Jhulan. I feel she will come back when Jhulan retires. Seniors have made way for youngsters. It shows that you can't take your place for granted," said Edulji.

She also expects teenage sensation Shafali, whose weakness against the short ball was exposed in Australia, to be more consistent. "I don't know what is causing her to back off against the pacers. She did not play like that when she came on to the scene. She must work on that as that contributed to her downfall in Australia," said Edulji adding that pace bowling all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar's role will be crucial in the mega event.

India will open their World Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on March 6 at the Bay Oval, Tauranga before facing hosts New Zealand on March 10 at Hamilton, followed by the West Indies (March 12, Hamilton), defending champions England

(March 16, Tauranga), Australia (March 19, Auckland), Bangladesh (March 22, Hamilton) and South Africa (March 27, Christchurch).

In a meeting held on Wednesday, the All India Women's Selection Committee also named a 16-member squad to be led by Harmanpreet Kaur for the lone T20 International against New Zealand to be played on February 9 before the ODIs.

The one-off T20 and the first ODI against New Zealand will be hosted by Napier, followed by remaining 50-over games in Nelson on February 14 and 16, and Queenstown on February 22 and 24.

The Squads:

ICC Women's World Cup 2022 & New Zealand ODIs: Mithali Raj (C), Harmanpreet Kaur (VC), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Sneha Rana, Jhulan Goswami, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh Thakur, Taniya Bhatia (WK), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav.

Standby Players: Sabbhineni Meghana, Ekta Bisht, Simran Dil Bahadur.

One-off T20I against New Zealand: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Sneha Rana, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh Thakur, Taniya Bhatia (WK), Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Sabbhineni Meghana, Simran Dil Bahadur.



ODI World Cup scheduled to be held in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3.

The selectors have rewarded performers of the Australia tour earlier this year with left-handed batter Yastika Bhatia making the cut alongside the pace duo of Meghna Singh and Renuka Singh. Rodrigues, who impressed in T20 leagues in England and Australia this year, was not consistent enough in international cricket.

Shikha too has been ignored due to her in-

power-hitters in the side.

Same squad has been named for the preceding five ODIs against hosts New Zealand beginning February 11 before the World Cup. Veteran batter Mithali Raj will lead the team which will aim to go all the way after finishing runners-up in the last edition in 2017.

Mithali is expected to retire after the World Cup. The likes of Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Jhulan Goswami and the young

## Manchester United appoints Richard Arnold as new Chief Executive Officer

LONDON: Manchester United appointed a new chief executive on Thursday in the latest step by the fallen English Premier League giant to regain its elite playing status and restore stability. Richard Arnold has been promoted from group managing director to CEO, the top leadership role below mem-

team opening a new phase in the club's evolution," co-chairman Joel Glazer said in a statement, "with ambitious plans for investment in Old Trafford, the strengthening of our engagement with fans, and continued drive towards our most important objective - winning on the pitch".

change, hasn't won any trophy since Jose Mourinho delivered the Europa League title in 2017.

His successor, Ole Gunnar Solskjær, was fired in December and Ralf Rangnick installed as interim manager until the end of the season. Halfway through the season, United is in seventh place - 22

PricewaterhouseCoopers where he met Woodward.

Arnold engineered with Woodward the growth of United's commercial operations that helped to cover the cost of the debt the club was burdened with after the 2005 takeover by the Glazers. They also oversaw a challeng-



bers of the owning Glazer family. Arnold assumes the responsibilities of Ed Woodward, who leaves on February 1 having initially announced his departure last April amid the furor over United's attempt to join the short-lived, ill-fated European Super League with five other English clubs.

"We are now looking forward to Richard and his leadership

Woodward had served as executive vice chairman since 2013 - the year United's decline began with the retirement of Alex Ferguson as manager after 26 years and the Premier League trophy being won for a 13th and final time by the Scot.

The record 20-time English champions haven't won the league since then. The club, listed on the New York Stock Ex-

points behind neighbor Manchester City. While City has won five Premier Leagues in a decade, United has been in decline on the pitch while continuing to be the Premier League's biggest moneymaker - last season generating 494.1 million pounds (then USD 681 million).

The 50-year-old Arnold has been at United since 2007 having previously worked at

ing period of squad rebuilding required after Ferguson and then-CEO David Gill stepped down in 2013.

More than \$1 billion has been spent since then on new players. A more structured decision-making process has been put in place recently with John Murtough as football director alongside former United midfielder Darren Fletcher as a technical director.




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