

### UK PM Rishi Sunak defends PM Modi over controversial BBC series

LONDON(KCN): Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has come out in defence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after a controversial BBC documentary claimed that the British government was aware of the Indian leader having an alleged role in the 2002 Gujarat riots.



During Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons on Wednesday, an Opposition Labour Party MP raised the claims made in the first part of 'India: The Modi Question' that UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

knew the "extent of Narendra Modi's involvement", then Gujarat chief minister, in the communal clashes that claimed hundreds of lives. Pakistani-origin Imran Hussain, member of Parliament for Bradford East, asked Sunak if he agreed with claims in the BBC programme that some UK Foreign Office diplomats believed that "Modi was directly responsible".

"The UK government's position on that is clear and long-standing, and it has not changed," Sunak responded. "Of course, we do not tolerate persecution anywhere, but I am not sure that I agree at all with the characterisation that the honourable gentleman has put forward," the British prime minister said.

The Indian government has, meanwhile, condemned the BBC Panorama programme, which has not been

### Air India flight plans worry for Odisha connectivity

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Even as Odisha government attempts expansion of air connectivity to the state, the Tata Sons-owned Air India's future plans may come as a worry. If



sources are to be believed, the flag carrier airline has already stopped bookings from February 13 onwards and is likely to suspend its flight services from that date. However, Air India officials neither denied nor confirmed the development.

Of around 42 flights handled by Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) a day, Air India operated three flights to major cities. It has

two flights to Delhi and one to Mumbai while one is routed through Delhi to Bengaluru.

Though viability and traffic are often cited as reasons for withdrawal by airlines, the reason behind Air India's plans for the city is unknown as the carrier now continues to operate with a load factor of more than 90 per cent (pc). The cumulative passenger traffic from Bhubaneswar for all airlines in November was 1.89 lakh. The passenger traffic was 93,033 to Delhi, 53,634 to Bengaluru and 43,108 to Mumbai. The traffic at BPIA has, in fact, crossed the pre-Covid era as it now handles on an average 11,5000 travellers (both arrival and departure) daily as against an average 40 flights with a passenger footfall of about 11,000 per day before the pandemic.

The New Indian Express made several attempts to contact Air

### PM Modi to distribute appointment letters to 71,000 people

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will



distribute about 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in different government departments and organisations and address them on Friday via video-conferencing. It is part of the

give jobs to 10 lakh people. The PMO said it is a step towards fulfilment of Modi's commitment to accord highest priority to employment generation. The 'Rozgar Mela' is expected to act as a catalyst in

further employment generation and provide meaningful op-

portunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in national development, it added. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join various positions under the central gov-

ernment like junior engineers, loco pilots, technicians, inspector, sub inspectors, constable, stenographer, junior accountant, grameen dak sevak, Income Tax inspectors, teachers, nurses, doctors, social security officers among others. The experience of newly inducted officials in learning from the 'Karmayogi Prarambh' module will also be shared during the programme. The module is an online orientation course for all new appointees in various government departments, it said.

### Interstate Cricket Match for the Visually Impaired Organised in Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel Mining.

-The initiative, organised with support from Tata Steel Foundation, is a part of SABAL programme

-Odisha 11 beats Jharkhand 11 by 157 runs in a thrilling match.

Kalinganagar (KCN, Sapan Kar) : Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML) in collaboration with Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) organised SABAL Interstate Cricket Cup for the Visually Impaired between Odisha-11 and Jharkhand-11 here on Wednesday. The 20-Over cricket match was played at the Stewart School ground inside the TSML's Sukinda Chromite Mine located in Sukinda Block of Jajpur district, in Odisha.

Locking their horns with impressive skills and unmatched talents, the visually challenged players of the Cricket Association for the Visually Impaired Odisha and the Cricket Association for the Blind in Jharkhand showcased some brilliant sporting actions that received huge rounds of applause from a jam-packed audience.

Attending the event, Sanyashi Behera, Un-

der Secretary, Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Odisha, ex-



pressed his happiness and praised the initiative taken by TSML and TSF.

Chairman, Tata Steel Mining Limited, D.B. Sundara Ramam presented

### BJP rejects Odisha govt's project execution claims

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As the state government is taking comfort under the latest report of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) for having the lowest unemployment rate in the country, the BJP on Wednesday said the latest Handbook of Statistics on Indian States published by the Reserve Bank of India gives a contrary picture.

According to the RBI report, the unemployment rate of rural India is 33 per 1,000 people while it is 50 per 1,000 population in Odisha. While the unemployment rate among the urban population of the country was 67 per 1,000 people, it was 78 per 1,000

people in Odisha. According to CMIE, Odisha registered the lowest unemployment rate of 0.9 per cent against 8.3 per cent at the national



level. Giving this statistics at a media conference here, BJP spokesperson Satyabrata Panda said the state government has been painting a rosy picture of the state's economy and claiming that Odisha will be the next in-

dustrial hub of the country in next five years.

Disputing the claim on the state's achievements on conversion of invest-

ment intents and employment generation by MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb recently, Panda said none of them are true. The minister said that the average conversion of investment intents received in the previous two Make in Odisha

ment intents and employment generation by MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb recently, Panda said none of them are true. The minister said that the average conversion of investment intents received in the previous two Make in Odisha

(MIO) conclaves in 2016 and 2018 was 32 per cent against the national average of 20 per cent.

The BJP leader said the state received investment intents worth Rs 6.26 lakh crore from the last two MIOs and the actual execution of projects so far is worth Rs 5,674 crore which is only one per cent of the investment promised. Of the 276 project proposals only 16 have been grounded which is only 5.6 per cent.

The state government had claimed that after implementation of the projects, employment will be generated for over 7.28 lakh people, but in reality 5,878 have got jobs. "Will this be termed as successful investments in the state as claimed by the BJD government," he wondered.

### BJP govt's policies 'create fear' among people, alleges Rahul Gandhi at Pathankot rally

PATHANKOT(KCN): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre, alleging that its policies "create fear" among the people. He also accused the BJP and the RSS of creating an atmosphere of hatred, violence and fear in the country.

The former Congress chief took on the Narendra Modi government over demonetisation, "faulty" Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme. Addressing a rally here on the last day of Bharat Jodo Yatra's Punjab-leg, Gandhi alleged that the BJP was making one religion fight against another, creating a wedge, pitting one caste against another and one language against another.

"They (BJP) create fear. All of their policies cause fear to one or the other," he alleged. Pointing towards the policies of the previous UPA government, Gandhi said it brought MGNREGA, waived farm loans, urban renewal mission, green revolution and white revolution.

"Whatever we do is to wipe out fear. And whatever they do they (BJP) do is to spread fear. Look at their policies -- farmers get up at 4

am in the morning and they toil hard daily and feed the nation. Farmers do not want anything in return, they only want respect," he said.

He targeted the Centre over the now-repealed three agri laws and said these created fear in the minds of farmers.

"But what did BJP do for them -- they brought 'black' farm laws. These laws created fear among farmers," he said.

Speaking about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Congress leader claimed that farmers were not getting compensation for their crop damage caused due to the vagaries of weather.

"Not even a single farmer told me that they got insurance compensation when they suffered crop loss due to natural calamities," he claimed.

He targeted the Centre over the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme, saying it has shattered the dreams of those aspiring to join the defence forces.

He said lakhs of youths aspire to join the armed forces and protect the nation.

"Has the Agniveer scheme lessened their fear or increased it?" Gandhi asked the gathering, and after their reply, said, "hasn't this scheme increased their fear".

## Prof. Panda Meets SOA Chief

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prof. Basanta Kumar Panda, Project Director of Centre of Excellence for Stud-



ies in Classical Odia of Government of India, called on Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Founder President of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) at his office

on Tuesday. Both academicians discussed several issues including rule of language in the

New Education Policy as also Bharatiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge System).

In another development the Siksha 'O'

Anusandhan Deemed to be University has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two private start-ups on Wednesday to generate and share knowledge in areas of Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Drone Technology.

One MoU was signed between SOA and SPK MAK Technologies Pvt. Ltd. for familiarisation with industrial exposure for industry ready problems, live training program for students and faculties and lab development. SPK MAK, on the other hand, would receive student and faculty support for various projects.

The other MoU was inked between SOA

and FxUAV Technologies Pvt. Ltd. with the objective of generating and sharing knowledge in the area of drone technology.

The signatories to the MoU was Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SOA and Mr. Subhajit Nayak and Mr. Dhruvidhar Behera who signed on behalf of SPK MAK Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Prof. Nanda also signed the other MoU while Mr. Parthasarathi Das, Mr. Subham Acharya and Mr. Ashutosh Mohanty were the signatories on behalf of FxUAV Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Incidentally, Mr. Ashutosh Mohanty is a 2019 graduate in mechanical engineering from SOA.

## People Plan on BSKY

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Shalini Pandit, Chief Of State Health Assurance Society has directed Biju Swasthya Kalyan

to ensure cent percent of the compliance to the feedback received from people through Mo Sarkar mechanism in

the hospitals as per BSKY performance figured in the meeting. Categories and criteria of ranking of the empanelled hos-

internet connectivity, OSWAS operationalisation, strengthening of human resource, and up-gradation of



Yojana (BSKY) Team to intensify IEC and awareness building activities at ground level with a people-centric action plan.

Secretary Health and Family Welfare and Chairperson State Health Assurance Society Shrimati Pandit gave this direction while reviewing activities of the team in the conference hall of the State Health Assurance Society (SHAS) today. The team was also asked

a time bound manner. Redressal of the grievances received through toll free numbers like 104 (call centre) and 155369 (card related issues) was also emphasized by the Chairperson. Review showed that more than 95 percent of the grievances received through different windows including social media were attended and appropriate actions were taken. The matters relating to ranking of

pitals both inside and outside the State were deliberated and worked out. It was decided to take up patients' satisfaction level as the principal criterion of raking along with other service-centric allied criteria.

Chairperson also emphasized upon placing of prominent signage in conspicuous places of the hospitals for convenience of the patients. The functional issues relating to the speed of

BSKY software for online raising of claims, scrutiny and approval were discussed in the meeting. Solutions were worked out, and Chairperson set timelines for completion of different tasks.

Chief Executive Officer Brudha D. Joint CEO, Subhananada Mohapatra, Nodal officers in charge of different empanelled hospitals along with senior officers of SHAS participated in the review.

## .Fest@Chak De Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As the city celebrations continued, day four of .FEST, which featured the "Chak De Odisha" theme, made the locals go gaga over watching their favourite Odia musicians perform on the best hits. Singers Lisa Mishra, Sniti Mishra, Rituraj Mohanty, and Odia rapper Samir Rishu Mohanty aka Big Deal sizzled the stage with their Odia flavours and enthralled the audience. Over fifteen thousand locals and visitors enjoyed the local music on day 4, which was free for the public to attend.

Locals and guests continued to enjoy the delectable regional delicacies from different Indian states as well as the international cuisines from the 16 Hockey World Cup participant nations and 24 In-

dian states. Additionally, they also enjoyed delicacies from Odisha. The Night Bazaar/Flea Market gave local artists, start-ups, performers, craftsmen, and innovators an excellent stage on which to display their products. The Flea Market, which was founded with the intention of displaying the handicrafts and textiles of Odisha, proved to be a wonderful crowd-puller and a shopping experience for visitors with more than 120 locally made goods on display. Sebbe-Au-Ebbe (Then & Now), a photo exhibition that honours Bhubaneswar's illustrious urban/city heritage and charts its transformation, remained the focal point of the occasion. The City Trails are available to visitors until February 12th, 2023, so they can fully immerse themselves in the culture and history of Bhubaneswar. The day 5 of the festival will welcome the top classical musicians from around the world, including Indian musicians Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Ustad Taufiq Quresh, Ojas Adhiya, and Odia singer Susmita Das along with International musicians including Louis Banks, George Brooks, and Gwyneth Wentink.

## Mantra for Banks

New Delhi(KCN): Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, chaired a full day review meeting of heads of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and financial institutions here today.

During the meeting, Dr. Joshi reviewed the progress of various social security (Jan Suraksha) schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri MUDRA and Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi), and Agri credit etc.

It was appreciated that ease of access to banking services has been strengthened in the last 7-8 year and

now having provided access to banking services to bottom of the pyramid, banks need to put in all-out efforts to make customer experience



more enriching and pleasant for sustainable banking relationship. Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has already been requested to expedite the Consumer Service Rating for all Scheduled Commercial Banks to gauge the consumer expectation and to enable banks to raise their standards of services

delivery to every segment of the customer.

The amendments proposed in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

with regard to reducing the delays in the processes relating to admission, resolution, National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) approval and liquidation were also discussed in presence of officials from Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

PSBs were also requested to take help of PM KISAN database with an aim to provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility to all the farmers in the country. The progress of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme was also reviewed. Officials from Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare were also present in the review related to agricultural credit.

The progress in digitisation of process for getting the KCC was also discussed to improve the transparency. PSBs were advised to take necessary steps to digitise entire journey of KCC loans in a timebound manner. The digitisation of KCC-Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) was also discussed and banks were told to start using the portal for their claims from FY 2021-22 onwards.

## National Award For 19 Dists

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nineteen Districts of Odisha have been selected for the National Award for outstanding achievements in computerization of land registration records in the State.

Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Satyabrata Sahu said that a total of 75 districts across the country have been se-

lected for Platinum Category Award for their outstanding performance in six categories under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

While the survey work has been completed in Deogarh district, the work has reached its final stage in Subarnapur district.

Mr. Sahu informed that steps have been taken to speed up the survey work in



lected for Platinum Category Award for their outstanding performance in six categories under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Out of these, 19 districts are from Odisha. The 19 Odisha districts have computerised over 99 per cent land records, he said. In the coming days, the District Collectors of these districts will be awarded in a function organized by the Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi.

The districts selected for Platinum Award are Angul, Boudh, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Rayagada and Sambalpur.

This was informed by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department in the Governing Body meeting of Odisha Land Records Modernization Society (OLRMS) held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra here on Wednesday.

Hi-tech survey is currently being imple-

Sundergarh district.

It has been decided to conduct the hi-tech survey in the remaining districts of Odisha. In this regard, a decision will be taken after ORSAC sends a detailed proposal to the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, the ACS informed. It was decided in the meeting to provide a three-month training to licensed surveyors after being affiliated to public and private polytechnic colleges.

The agenda for the meeting was presented by Shasadhara Nayak, Additional Secretary, Revenue Department. Compliance of the decisions taken at the last Governing Body meeting were also reviewed.

Among others, Dhaneshwar Mallick, Secretary, Law Department, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mallick, Chief Executive Officer of ORSAC, Additional Secretary, Finance Department, Manoj Kumar Patnaik, Chief Executive Officer, OCAC, were present in the meeting. Senior officers of various other departments, DGM of BSNL and senior officers of NIC and senior officers of Revenue Department were also present at the meeting.

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**'Pushpa: The Rise' raises 10 million Rubles at Russian box office**



MUMBAI: Allu Arjun-starrer "Pushpa: The Rise" has collected over 10 million Rubles at the box office in Russia, the makers said on Monday. The Telugu blockbuster was released in the Russian lan-

guage on 774 screens across the country on December 8, said Mythri Movie Makers on its official Twitter page. "#PushpaTheRise is a RAGE in Russia. 25 days and counting of a successful run in 774 screens with a collection of over 10M Rubles," the production banner said in the tweet. Ten million Rubles amount to approximately Rs 13 crore. Also starring Rashmika Mandanna, "Pushpa: The Rise" depicts the rise of a

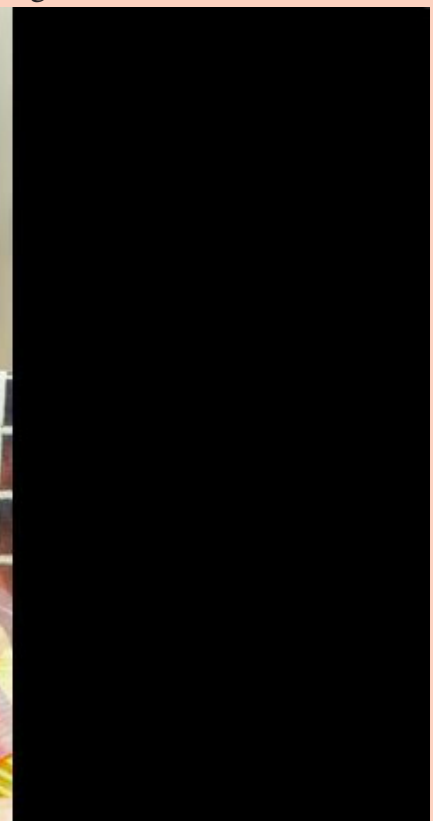
low-wage labourer (Arjun) in the smuggling syndicate of red sandalwood, a rare wood that grows only in the Seshachalam Hills of Andhra Pradesh state. It was released in India in association with Muttamsetty Media on December 17, 2021 and went on to become one of the biggest money-spinners of the year earning over Rs 350 crore. The film also opened the fifth edition of the Indian Film Festival in Russia on December 1. Arjun, Rashmika, director Sukumar Bandreddi, producer Ravi Sankar and music composer DSP had attended the gala in Russia. A sequel, titled "Pushpa: The Rule", is under production.

**Aakasa Veedhulo: A decent attempt**

It's quite a rare scenario where one makes a directorial and acting debut in the same

charming personality and came up with a good performance, especially during the

have written more layers in the script to make it more intense. He dealt the complicated subject well, but it would have been more convincing had he added more drama to the father-son thread.



Judah Sandy's music and Vishwanadh Reddy's camera work complemented the director's good work. The songs and background score are the big asset while editing was good. Producers Manoj JD and Dr DJ Manikanta did not leave any stone unturned during the making.

film. The trailer of Aakasa Veedhulo was interesting. Let's check out the review Siddhu (Goutham Krishna) is a happy go lucky chap who wants to make a career in music. But his father (Devi Prasad) is not happy with Siddhu's career choice. While his father tries to motivate him, his efforts go in vain. A frustrated father eventually breaks his son's guitar. A hurt Siddhu leaves the house! What happens later, and how he becomes a rock star and how the drama takes interesting turns forms the rest of the story. At the outset, Goutham Krishna chose a heavy subject for his acting and directorial debut. Although the film's first half was engaging and entertaining, the pace slows down in second half, which is a major drawback. But apart from the adequate entertainment, the movie also gives a message for the youth.

The scenes regarding father-son conflict is shown very convincingly, but could have been better and intense. The emotional scenes between the lead pair were also written well. Overall, the film will connect well to the youngsters! But more emphasis should have been on the lead pair. Goutham Krishna looked promising, though it's his debut vehicle. He has a

emotional sequences. His dialogue delivery too is appreciative. Pujita Ponnada looked pretty and is adequate. The actress showed off her oomph and glamour in some sequences and songs. Both Goutham and Poojitha's chemistry worked well for the movie. Srikanth Iyengar and Devi Prasad played their part efficiently while Satyam Rajesh provided the comic relief. Although the film was made on a decent budget, it has good technical qualities. Goutham Krishna took a bit of a risk in picking up a film that has strong emotions but he manages to impress with his direction. However, he could

**Anupam Kher starts shooting for Vivek Agnihotri's 'The Vaccine War'**

MUMBAI: Anupam Kher is officially a fourth collaboration between Agnihotri and Kher after movies such as "Buddha in a Traffic Jam", "The Tashkent Files" and "The Kashmir Files". Kher took to Twitter to share the news and posted a photo from the sets of the upcoming movie. "Announcing my



534th film! #TheVaccineWar directed by @vivekagnihotri. Fascinating and Inspiring! Jai Hind!" the 67-year-old actor posted.

“Haldi Doodh”(Golden Milk/Turmeric latte ),

## The Household Staple from India is the West's Newest Craze.

Herbs and spices have been used to fortify foods throughout history as preservatives, flavor and therapeutic agents.



Several studies have recommended the use of dietary herbs and spices for their beneficial effects on human health through their antimutagenic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, and immune modulatory properties. World Health Organization survey (2021) pointed that 70–80% of the world population depends on modern medicine mainly on herbal sources in their major healthcare. Moreover, 80% of population in developing Countries and up to 60% of the world's population depends directly on herbs and plants for their medical benefits.

In India different herbs and spices like Tulsi (Ocomum), ginger, garlic, cardamum, honey ect are integral part of our culture and religion and are used in daily life be it for cosmetic purpose, part of rituals or for prevention and treatment of diseases. Among all these spices the most common household name is turmeric. In Hindu communities, turmeric is used in festive occasions like weddings as a marker of fertility and prosperity. The pre-wedding haldi ceremony, for instance, involves family elders applying turmeric paste on the faces of the bride and the groom in a blessing-meets-beauty ritual. The taali or mangalsutra (a thread tied around the bride's neck by the groom to formalise the marriage) is often a thick woven thread dipped in turmeric water; and even now, clothes worn on auspicious occasions (including weddings) have a touch of turmeric powder in some corner. Also, Indian women have always added a pinch of turmeric to their homemade face packs, believing that it leaves the skin clear and glowing. From applying a turmeric paste over sprained ankles to sniffing a smoked rhizome clump to ward off a cold, many Indians use turmeric as a home remedy, and it has been used in the traditional medical system of Ayurveda for centuries. As per Ayurveda, turmeric is the only medicinal ingredient that is used to treat all the doshas, to balance vata, pitta and kapha referring to the three energies

### Letter to Editor

Dear Editor  
Vocal communication is an important tool from time immemorial that has distinguished humans from all other species on the planet. A motivational speech is a powerful tonic that has lead an entire legion to fight for a nation of win o er a war or made difference between wining or not winning a sports medal. Historically, politically, socially and economically a strong leadership with highly focused political will can make or break a nation. Unfortunately many of us suffer from the fear or anxiety of a good speech or presentation. But a good speech is a great selling point for an individual in both social or professional life. A good speech, like a good story, has a beginning, middle, and an end. Plan your speech to grab people's attention in the beginning, keep their attention through the middle, and tie it together in the end. Focus the body of your speech on telling a story, offering some insight, or sharing lessons learned. At the end, summarize your main points .

Thanking you  
Sincerely yours  
Saikat Kumar Basu

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road  
Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India

that Ayurveda believes every

**Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra**

human body is composed of. The spice turmeric , which is part of the ginger family, has been used for over 5,000 years as a medicinal herb and flavoring agent.

Milk is a complete food that provides a high level of essential nutrients. Milk promotes good health and protect us against various diseases. With references across ancient schools of medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha, various herbs and spices are being infused with milk and its byproducts since time immemorial for prevention and treatment of various diseases like inflammation, depression and even to induce better sleep. Among all these preparations that are used for prevention and treatment of various ailments the most common household name in India is “Turmeric milk”. “Turmeric milk” or our own “haldi doodh” is all the rage in the West, but back home, it's an ancient ‘nuskha’ for almost every seasonal health problem. Be it cough, cold, fever, upset tummy or constipation, every desi mother in India insists their child have a cup of lukewarm haldi doodh. Turmeric gets both its bright yellow colour and its purported health benefits from the chemical component called curcumin. One theory is that curcumin's efficacy is boosted by the way it is fried in oil in Indian cooking. There is a lot of research findings which suggest that Curcumin is a fat-soluble compound, combining turmeric with fats enhances the absorption of curcumin than eating it in a water-soluble form. Since milk is also a rich source of fat, it means one can go for haldi doodh without any second thought.

Indian haldi doodh or golden milk is warm milk mixed with turmeric powder and sweetened with sugar but most of the time other ingrediants like ginger, cinnamon, clove , black pepper ect are used to enhance its favour, taste and so also functionality. In India the preparation of haldi doodh varies from region to region but a standard version of its recipe which is most popular across the country is mentioned here. For a single serving of golden milk or about one cup, simply take 1/2 cup (120ml) of an unsweetened milk of your choice, 1 tsp of turmeric, 1 small piece of grated fresh ginger or 1/2 tsp of ginger powder, 1/2 tsp of cinnamon powder, 1 pinch of ground black pepper, 1 tsp of honey (optional).To make the golden milk, simply mix all these ingredients in a small saucepan or pot and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for about 10 minutes or until fragrant and flavorful. Strain the drink through a fine strainer into mugs and top with a pinch of cinnamon. Your golden milk is ready, golden milk can also be made in advance and stored in your refrigerator for up to five days. Simply reheat it before drinking.

The key ingredient in golden milk is turmeric, Curcumin, the active component in turmeric, has been used in Ayurvedic medicine for centuries due to its strong antioxidant properties. Antioxidants are compounds that fight cell damage, protecting your body from oxidative stress. They're essential to the functioning of your cells, and studies regularly show that diets rich in antioxidants may help lower your risk of infections and disease. Most golden milk recipes also include cinnamon and ginger, both of which have impressive antioxidant properties as well. Chronic inflammation is thought to play a major role in chronic diseases, including cancer, metabolic syndrome, Alzheimer's and heart disease.

For this reason, diets rich in anti-inflammatory compounds may reduce your risk of these conditions. Research shows that ginger, cinnamon and curcumin, the active ingredient in turmeric have potent anti-inflammatory properties. Studies even suggest that the anti-inflammatory effects of curcumin are comparable to those of some pharmaceutical drugs with none of the side effects. Heart disease is the worldwide leading cause of death. Interestingly, cinnamon, ginger and turmeric, the key ingredients in golden milk have all been linked to a lower risk of heart disease. What's more, curcumin may improve the function of your blood vessel linings known as endothelial function. Proper endothelial function is important for a healthy heart. The ingredients in golden milk, particularly ginger and cinnamon, may help lower blood sugar levels. Cinnamon seems to reduce how much glucose is absorbed in your gut after a meal, which can further improve blood sugar control. Similarly, regularly adding small amounts of ginger to your diet may help lower fasting blood sugar levels by up to 12%. It's worth noting that most golden milk recipes are sweetened with honey or maple syrup. Blood sugar lowering benefits, if any, are likely only present when drinking unsweetened varieties. In India, golden milk is often used as a home remedy against colds. In fact, the yellow drink is touted for its immune-boosting properties, studies suggest that curcumin has antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties which may help prevent and fight infections, moreover, compounds in fresh ginger may inhibit the growth of some bacteria. Ginger extract may fight the human respiratory syncytial virus (HRSV), a common cause of respiratory infections. Chronic indigestion, also known as dyspepsia, is characterized by pain and discomfort in the upper part of your stomach. Delayed stomach emptying is a potential cause of indigestion. Ginger, one of the ingredients used in golden milk, may help relieve this condition by speeding up stomach emptying in people suffering from dyspepsia. Research further shows that turmeric, another ingredient used to make golden milk, may help reduce indigestion symptoms. Turmeric may also improve the digestion of fat by increasing your production of bile by up to 62%. Finally, studies show that turmeric can help maintain proper digestion and prevent flare-ups in individuals with ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory digestive disorder resulting in ulcers in the gut. Golden milk can be rich in calcium and vitamin D depending on the milk you use. Both of these nutrients contribute to a strong skeleton, reducing your risk of bone diseases, such as osteopenia and osteoporosis. These anti-inflammatory effects may reduce joint pain from osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The study, published in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, noted that turmeric improves memory and mood. Though exactly how curcumin exerts its effects is not certain, but it may be due to its ability to reduce brain inflammation, which has been linked to both Alzheimer's disease and major depression. Daily consumption of turmeric milk helps to have a good night's sleep. In the wake of the Covid 19 outbreak, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, in its advisory states “Enhancing the body's natural defence system (immunity) plays an important role in maintaining optimum

health. We all know that prevention is better than cure. While there is no medicine for COVID-19 of now, it will be good to take preventive measures which boost our immunity in these times”. Along with daily practice of Yogasana, Pranayama and meditation, Ministry of AYUSH, recommends various ayurvedic Immunity Promoting food items and drinks like Chyavanprash, herbal tea / decoction (Kadha) so also Golden Milk (Half tea spoon Haldi, turmeric powder in 150 ml hot milk ) once or twice a day.

The gurdian declared golden milk as creamy, and incredibly Westernized variant of traditional Indian haldi doodh, or turmeric milk. The Guardian, suggests that “Golden milk” or turmeric latte, a combination of nut milk and juiced turmeric root is drink of choice. In the West traditionally their cuisines don't use turmeric but with so many recent scientific studies about its benefits now they are eager to include turmeric in their daily diet and what can be more acceptable to present it as a drink, so the golden milk has become a super popular drink in all the leading cafes in the west. The world has understood the potential of golden milk but turmeric is pungent in order to give it a flavoursome spin the west have developed a newfound affection for the Indian drink and are mixing juice from almonds and cashews to golden milk. In fact, Turmeric lattes are now being sold at cafes from Sydney to San Francisco, and the drink is gaining fans in the UK,” as per the Guardian reports.

Food industries have high demand for the products that meet the consumer's demand for a healthy life style for which functional food fortified with the plant ingredients plays an important role. Tulsi (Cinnamon), turmeric and ginger are such important medicinal plants whose medicinal usage has been reported in the Indian and British Pharmacopoeias and in the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Dairy products have always been a choice for food investigators to test the consumer's preferences for novelty in the products. Combination of herbs or spices in dairy products with gifted health benefit should conform to the requirements to avoid any side effects with respect to quality testing, safety, efficiency, price and marketing approval procedures. Considering its huge marketing potential, Amul has already launched an affordable and easily accessible immunity booster beverage “Amul Haldi Doodh” so also in 2015, Odisha-based dairy company Milk Mantra started selling haldi-milk under its Moo Milk brand which has got good consumer acceptance. However, there are numerous technological challenges that have to be carried out to develop dairy products enriched with herbs and spices like using nano-form to increase their availability and efficiency. Moreover, more research is needed to improve the existing method and to develop new procedures for optimized extraction and refining separation methods of active components from herbs and spices. As Indians we are well convinced about the superpower of haldi and its health benefits but since Haldi Doodh is associated with an unattractive taste profile, flavour and consumer still perceives it as a kind medicinal rather than a health drink, if we can combine great taste, flavour and an engaging brand then Haldi Doodh can fill the unstated gap in the market for a healthy ready-to-drink, acceptable to consumers of all age group.

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

## World Odisha Society Hosts Mahamrutyunjay Hymn Recital for Tanmay Panda

Bhubaneswar(KCN): World Odisha Society (WOS) hosted recital of Mahamrutyunjay Hymns for the recovery of ailing Dr Tanmay Panda in virtual platform. Presided over by WOS's Chairman Kishore Dwibedi the recital was attended by members and well wishers of World Odisha Society from across the Globe. The Additional Editor of the Publica-

tion Department of WOS, Founder of Vidya Publishing Inc. in Toronto and Professor of Business and Social Entrepreneur in a Canada University, Dr Tanmay Panda recently fell ill due to brain ailment. He had undergone brain surgery in a Hospital in Toronto. Now Dr Panda is lying unconscious in the ICU of the Hospital and is in a critical condition as per the family sources. The Founder of WOS Guruma Dr Arundhati Debi took the lead in reciting the Mahamrutyunjay Hymn for 108 times. The students of Sovaniya Sikhyashram at Cuttack and the participants joined the recital with her. Dr. Panda's close friend,



Founder of Prabhu Publications and General Secretary of Cuisine Department of WOS Prashant Bhuyan from Toronto and Educationist Dr. Sarojini Pani from Bhubaneswar recounted their fond interactions with Dr Panda in recent past. The participants Prayed almighty for the speedy recovery of Dr Panda. Vice - President of the Women's Wing of

WOS Reeta Patra presented vote of thanks. Smt Banojini Nayak conducted the proceedings of the recital from Bhubaneswar. Distinguished dignitaries joined the online meeting include Sudhashree Dash from Dubai, Sanjay Dalai from U.S.A, Dr Jayashree Nanda from London, Subas Sahoo from Bahrain, Sreemarani Das from Ireland, Krupanidhi Biswal, Barada Prasanna Das, Subrat Kumar Rath, Bandita Ray, Sanatan Mahakud, Renubala Mishra, Dr Kiran Kumar Panigrahy, Ayeesha Swain, Tapas Panda, Madhusmita Acharya and Ganesh Parida. Nandan Dwibedi managed the digital control room.

## People of Odisha will reject BJP for its anti-people policies: BJD

BHUBANESWAR: As the war of words between BJD and BJP has intensified ahead of



the 2024 elections, the regional outfit on Wednesday targeted the latter and said that it has failed to work out a strategy in the state to gain the confidence of the people. Addressing a media conference here, party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said the only

aim of BJP is to acquire power by politicising different issues and the saffron outfit does not have any motive to work for the people. Alleging that decisions taken by the Centre has always deprived the poor people of their rights, Mohanty said delaying release of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana houses and stopping the Pradhan Mantri Anna Yojana are examples. Mohanty alleged that the leaders of state BJP never fight for ensuring the rights of poor people of the state. People of the state are aware of this and have rejected the party in panchayat, urban local body elections and by-election to state Assembly seats. The people of the state will continue to reject the BJP in future for its anti-people policies, he added.

# HLCA Clears Rs.1.53L CR Projects

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Within just two months of completion of Make in Odisha Conclave, the High Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday approved 9 mega industrial projects worth Rs 1,53,074.63 crores that would generate over 27,030 employment opportunities for the people of Odisha.

The organizations who had participated at MIO Conclave 2022 and showed investment intent in the state realized the same with the HLCA committee approving 9 such industrial projects worth INR 1,53,074.63 crores that would generate over 27,030 employment opportunities for the people of Odisha. These projects were proposed during the last MIO Conclave. The State government is working hard towards converting the investment intents into ground reality, an official said.

The approved projects spread across diverse sectors like green energy and equipment, metals and minerals, paper and IT infrastructure. The projects will be set up across various parts of the State namely, Balasore, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Khordha, Koraput, and Mayurbhanj. The HLCA has given a go-ahead to 4 projects in the Green Energy and Equipment sector, 2 projects in the paper industries, 2 projects in the Metals & Minerals sector and one project

in the IT infrastructure sector. The Committee approved the proposal of ACME Clean Energy Private Limited, entail-



ing an investment of Rs 58,209.13 crore. It proposes to set up a Green Hydrogen plant and a Green Ammonia plant with a capacity of 1.1 million MT, at Kujanga, Jagatsinghpur and captive Renewable Energy Unit (4500 MW Solar Power Plant) at Koraput &

## Bhogi bonfires start Sankranti festivities in AP

VIJAYAWADA: The three-day Sankranti celebrations kicked off with Bhogi bonfires in various parts of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. Bhogi prayers and cock-

Chandrababu Naidu participated in the celebrations at his native Naravaripalle village in Chandragiri mandal of Chittoor district. Actor Balakrishna,

with popular film actor Manchu Mohan Babu attending the ceremony along with his family members. Cine actor Manchu Vishnu said Bhogi is celebrated to leave

songs. Bhogi bonfires marked the Sankranti festivities in all the 26 districts of AP, with women and children in large numbers participating.



Chandrababu Naidu participated in the celebrations at his native Naravaripalle. Wishing his fans, he hoped a good leadership will lead to better development of the state. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his spouse Bharati started the festival by joining Sankranti rituals at their house. Leader of opposition Nara

along with his family, joined the festivities at Naravaripalle. Mohan Babu University in Chandragiri mandal of Chittoor district also organised Bhogi celebrations grandly

past bitter memories and move forward with new ideas. Water resources minister Ambati Rambabu became the star attraction of Sankranti at Sattenapalli right from 5 a.m. on the day. He energetically danced with Lambadi women to the tunes of folk and movie

Vedic pandit N. Jagganatha Sarma explained that the first day Bhogi is for the family which wakes up early in the morning and burns waste wood accumulated in the house during the year, symbolising destruction of evil. Elders of the family bless younger people by putting Bhogi pandlu (jube) on their heads.

## Covishield vax at health facilities from January 19

BHUBANESWAR: Amid fear of a possible resurgence of Covid-19, Odisha government on Monday announced availability of Covishield vaccine at select healthcare facilities in the state from January 19. Officials of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said the vaccine will be available in identified district headquarter hospitals (DHHs), sub-divisional hospitals (SDHs), community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) under the National Covid-19 Vaccination Programme for those who have not taken their second or precaution dose. The officials requested citizens to avail the

opportunity and get vaccinated. Last month, the state government had urged the Centre to provide necessary guidance and support for commencement of Covid precaution dose as 59 per cent people in the state were yet to get the precaution dose. Around 8.14 crore vaccine doses had been administered in the state till last month. Around 3.52 crore people (97 per cent) have been administered the first dose, while 3.3 crore (91 per cent) have received the second dose. However, the vaccination figure stands at just around 1.31 crore (41 per cent) for precaution dose to 18 years of age and above.

Kalahandi district. It is expected to provide employment opportunities to about 3,400 people in the State.

The State has also approved the proposal of Avaada Green H2 Private Limited at Ganjam district, which promises an investment of Rs 23,500 crores and is expected to provide employment opportunities to about 1,500 people in the State. Alongside these two Green Energy and Equipment sector projects, HLCA approved two other projects in the Green Energy & Equipment sector namely Renew eFuels Private Limited (REFPL) with an investment of Rs 20,000 crore and Ocior Energy Private Limited Of Rs 7,200 crore which aim to provide employment to more than 3,300 people of Odisha in total.

While REFPL intends to set up a Green Ammonia Plant with a capacity of 1.09 million MT, the Ocior Energy Private Limited proposal includes installation of Green Ammonia Plant of 1million MT capacity. In the Paper sector, the Committee gave a nod to two projects, namely Bank Note Paper Mill India Private Limited and Deevyashakti India Private Limited. With an investment of Rs 2,500 crore, the Bank Note Paper Mill India Private Limited, (JV between Govt. of India and RBI) proposes to set up a bank note paper unit at Balasore, which will provide employment opportunities to more than 800

people of Odisha.

On the other hand, Deevyashakti India Private Limited proposes to set up an Integrated Pulp and Paper Mill at Dhenkanal, which includes an investment worth Rs 1,000 crore, is expected to furnish employment opportunities to around 3000 people of the state.

In terms of the Metals & Minerals sector, the authority approved two large projects which are expected to provide employment to a total of around 12,500 people of Odisha. The proposal of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Ltd includes the setting up of 7 MTPA Steel Plant in Jagatsinghpur with an investment of Rs 38,000 crore, and is expected to churn employment opportunities for more than 11,000 people in the State.

The second project in the sector, from Rungta Metals Private Limited (RMPL) is for the expansion of its Integrated Steel Plant from 0.5 MTPA to 1 MTPA in Rairangpur of Mayurbhanj district with an investment of Rs 1,140 crore.

In the IT & Infrastructure sector, the proposal by My Home Constructions Private Limited has been approved by HLCA, which involves the development of IT infrastructure with modern amenities at Bhubaneswar, in Khordha. With an investment of Rs 1,525.50 crores, the project is expected to provide employment opportunities to 2500 people.

## MGM Chief on HR Care

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ace Industry Captain and CMD MGM Group, Pankaj Lochan Mohanty has harped on the Gen X Human Resources development and its care, while addressing the National Conclave on HR leadership and Award 2023 of ASSOCHAM. ASSOCHAM, a premier industry body of the country was held here today. Industry

for the Industry. The reputed Industry Leader Mr.Mohanty joined the galaxy of personalities from Industry, Civil Society, Human Resources, Business and Trade Sector to address the National Meet. Tapan Chand, President Vedanta said "In the coming industry 4.0, jobs will be eliminated, and new jobs will be created.

when mass production started with application of electricity as the country was not prepared. In the 3rd Industrial revolution, India got some benefit as it has a vast reserve of English educated technical manpower. Among others Bijay Kumar Patnaik, former Chief Secretary, Mahadev Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur,

occasion. In his address, Bijay Patnaik highlighted the rat race going on in chasing placement and package. Mahadev Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur presented the need for support to the start-ups and the successful case studies developed by IIM Sambalpur for small entrepreneurs. He also underscored the speedy digitization that is going on.



captains, CHROs, HR professionals, consultants, scholars, and industry professionals attended this meet in a large number. MGM Minerals Limited, the Platinum Partner of ASSOCHAM National HR Convention, its Chief Mr.Mohanty stressed upon the utilization of work force to reap maximum benefits

Next generation HR needs to visualize and prepare industry ready employees who can cultivate the benefit of this 4th Industrial revolution," he said while addressing the ASSOCHAM National HR conclave here today. He also pointed out that in the past India has missed the benefit of the second industrial revolution

Prasant Hota, President, Group Head – CSR, Education & Sustainability, JSPL, Brig. Dr. Somnath Mishra, Ex- Vice chancellor, Sikkim Manipal University. Pradip Ranjan Choudhary, Advisor A S S O C H A M , Odisha State counsel, Pradeep Kumar Nayak, Asst. Director, ASSOCHAM other prominent figures present on the

Prasant Hota, President, JSPL presented the thinking of Bhagavad Gita and its relevance in the management. Pradeep Ranjan Choudhary indicated about the upcoming 4th industrial revolution. Brig. Dr. Somnath Mishra narrated his experience in defence forces relating to human resource management and skill up-gradation.

## Tribal Development schemes in Jharkhand has been a failure: Vijay Shankar

Ranchi (KCN): Adivasi Bachao rally in the tribal government and spending only ? 13 crores out of 135 crores for the development of tribals is like drowning in a handful of water for a government that talks about tribals.

Central President of Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum, Central Vice President cum former candidate of Adivasi Moolvasi Janadhikar Manch, Kanke Assembly Constituency Vijay Shankar Nayak today informed about the development plans of tribal dominated villages.

He further said that today the condition of development schemes of tribal dominated villages has turned from bad to worse.

Mr. Nayak further informed that in the financial year 2020-21 Tribal Utility Area (TS.In P) only Rs 13.11 crore was spent from the head of special central assistance while only Rs 70.49 crore was available. During the financial year 2021-22, not even a penny has been spent from this item, while Rs 65.31 crore was allocated. That is, in two financial years, the center gave 135.8 crores for the development of tribal-dominated villages, but only 13.11 crore rupees were spent and the matter of developing 702 villages in 2022-23 is still pending with the central govern-

ment, which is a matter of condemnation and platform. Demands from the center that 702 villages should be developed. The matter should not be kept pending for consideration, this plan should be approved immediately so that the way to develop 702 villages can be paved.

Mr. Nayak requested the Chief Minister of the state to take personal interest on this point and work on a special plan to take a special initiative to spend 100% of the crores received in TSP so that Allround development of tribal-dominated villages can be speeded up and all backward tribal-dominated villages can be developed.



## Ukraine puts Dnipro toll at 21 after wave of Russian missile strikes

KYIV: Ukraine said Sunday that the death toll had risen to 21 after a Russian missile slammed into a tower block in the city of Dnipro during a massive wave of strikes causing power outages and blackouts across the war-torn country. Officials said more than 40 people were still missing after the Dnipro strike Saturday, which came as Ukraine celebrated the Old New Year holiday and as Britain became the first Western country to offer Kyiv the heavy tanks it has long sought. At least 21 people were killed and 73 others



wounded in the attack on the Dnipro tower block. Ukraine's regional council head Mykola Lukashuk said.

A 15-year-old girl was among the dead, officials said, after dozens of people were pulled from the rubble, including a woman brought out by rescuers on Sunday.

"Rescue operations continue. The fate of more than 40 people remain unknown," regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko said.

The strike destroyed dozens of flats in the apartment block leaving hundreds of people homeless, said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, a senior official at the presidency.

The Ukrainian army said the block was hit by an X-22 Russian missile that it lacked the capacity to shoot down.

"Only anti-aircraft missile systems, which in the future may be provided to Ukraine by Western partners... are capable of intercepting these air targets," it said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday pleaded for more Western military weapons, saying that Russian "terror" could be stopped only on the battlefield.

"What is needed for this? Those weapons that are in the warehouses of our partners," Zelensky said. British tanks

On Saturday, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak pledged to provide Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, the first Western country to supply the heavy tanks Kyiv has been demanding.

The tanks would arrive in Ukraine in the coming weeks, Downing Street said, adding that Britain would also train the Ukrainian Armed Forces on how to use them.

Russia's embassy in Britain warned that "bringing

tanks to the conflict zone... will only serve to intensify combat operations, generating more casualties, including among the civilian population".

Moldova, Ukraine's southwestern neighbour, said it had found Russian missile debris on its territory after Saturday's strikes.

"Russia's brutal war against Ukraine directly impacts Moldova again," President Maia Sandu tweeted, posting photographs of the wreckage.

Ukraine's energy facilities were still reeling Sunday from what was a 12th wave of large-scale Russian attacks on energy infrastructure in recent months. The attacks targeted power infrastructure in the Kharkiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zaporizhzhia, Vinnytsia and Kyiv regions, Energy Minister German Galushchenko said.

On Sunday, operator Ukrrenerg said energy infrastructure was "being restored" but that the attacks had "increased the energy deficit".

"The period of outages may increase," it acknowledged.

Zelensky said Ukraine shot down 20 of the more than 30 Russian missiles fired.

Rivalries over Soledar

"Unfortunately, energy infrastructure facilities have been also hit," he said, adding that the regions of Kyiv and Kharkiv, home to the country's eponymous second city, were suffering the most.

The strikes came amid uncertainty about the fate of Soledar, a salt mining outpost that Russia claimed to have captured, despite denials from Ukraine.

Both sides have conceded heavy losses in the battle for the town, which had a pre-war population of about 10,000.

On Sunday, the US-based Institute for the Study of War said that "Ukrainian forces are highly unlikely to still hold positions within the settlement of Soledar itself".

On Friday, Russia's defence ministry announced that it had "completed the liberation" of Soledar.


Russian paramilitary group Wagner first claimed victory over the city on Wednesday, although the defence ministry initially made no mention of Wagner, only later praising the "bravery" of Wagner's troops in Soledar.

Late Saturday, Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin praised his mercenaries in a veiled jab at Russian army command, which has been criticised for poor coordination and being too far removed from the ground.


Prigozhin attributed Wagner's victories to a "perfected system of command".

"Everyone can express his opinion," Prigozhin claimed, "but once a decision has been taken, all tasks are fulfilled. It is our group's strictest discipline that gives us these possibilities."

Wagner, which has been accused of abuses in the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Syria and Ukraine, has recruited thousands of convicts to fight in Ukraine.



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## Green revolutionaries: Meet the founders of Eco Oscars awardee agri-tech startup 'Kheyti'

Sathya Raju Mokkalapati was 17 when he saw a farmer eating mud out of hunger in his village in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The image stayed with him. Thirteen



years later, in 2015, he co-founded an agri-tech startup, Kheyti, along with Ayush Sharma, 37, Saumya Sahay, 33, and Kaushik Kappagantulu, 36, to supplement and enhance the income of farmers through their innovative 'greenhouse-in-a-box' method. Kheyti recently won the Earthshot Prize 2022, also called the Eco Oscars.

Sharma and Mokkalapati—friends for over a decade—had earlier founded a similar startup, Cosmos Green. The seed for Kheyti was sown when Mokkalapati travelled with Kappagantulu to hundreds of villages in India in 2015 as part of Acumen Fellowship, a leadership development programme, to understand the problems faced by small farmers—no rains or unseasonal rains, extreme heat patterns and risks of pests due to the heat.

Kappagantulu, who roped in his former colleague Sahay, says, "Many farmers we met said their aim was to generate extra income each month. With that as a goal, we worked backwards and realised that the answer lay in greenhouses, which could minimise risk from vagaries of climate and regularise incomes." Ayush Sharma, Saumya Sahay, Kaushik Kappagantulu, Sathya Raju Mokkalapati Thus was born Kheyti's 'greenhouse-in-a-box', an affordable, modular greenhouse that uses 90 per cent less water than standard

greenhouses, grows seven times more food, and gives farmers a steady dependable income. The durable greenhouse also cuts off heat, prevents bugs and saves water, making it easier for the farmers to earn higher revenue.

Traditionally, greenhouses were earmarked for exotic vegetables such as broccoli and lettuce, but the startup has adapted them for wider use—almost all Indian vegetables from cabbage to cauliflower, leafy vegetables and other common ones like potatoes can be grown now. Kheyti installed their first greenhouse in 2017 in Siddipet (Telangana) before expanding to seven states, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, benefiting over 1,500 farms.

By bringing down the standard one-acre size of the greenhouse to one-tenth, the startup has managed to bring down the cost from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 60,000, making it accessible and affordable. Mokkalapati says, "Agricultural incomes are dependent on climate risk.

Kheyti provides a model of farming which is economically viable and environmentally friendly too."

Helping farmers meet the dual purpose of generating more income as well as creating diversified sources to do it, the 37-year-old says, "Small farmers usually extend their surplus income to buy cattle, which cost Rs 50,000 to Rs 80,000, the same amount Kheyti is helping them earn."

As the award propels Kheyti into much-needed and well-deserved recognition, they are eager to scale up and expand their operations. This is just the beginning of the greenhouse revolution.

### Interstate Cricket Match for the Visually Impaired Organised in Sukinda Chromite Mine of Tata Steel Mining.

Continued from page-1

the trophy to the winning team Odisha-11 and said "We must join hands to empower the differently abled persons with right skills and provide them with right opportunities to showcase their talents. I believe, this initiative taken up by Tata Steel Foundation and Tata Steel Mining will surely encourage other specially abled to participate in mainstream sports," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director, Tata Steel Mining Limited, Pankaj Satija said, "As a responsible mining company, Tata Steel Mining continues spotting sporting talents, harness their skills and help them realise their dreams. Persons with disabilities are integral part of the society and events like this are our commitment towards the inclusivity."

Team Jharkhand won the toss and decided to bowl first. Batting in the first innings, Team Odisha scored an impressive 309 runs giving the target of 310 runs to Team Jharkhand. Taking to bat in the second innings, Team Jharkhand finished with 152 runs and Team Odisha won by 157 runs.

Nakul Badnayak of Team Odisha who scored a thumping 130 runs out of 60 balls, was declared Man of the Match.

With an aim to create awareness and sensitise the community at large for the specially abled persons, TSML and TSF have always encouraged the youth to participate in all kinds of sports and has undertaken many such noble initiatives.

### UK PM Rishi Sunak defends PM Modi over controversial BBC series

Continued from page-1

screened in India, as a propaganda piece with a questionable agenda behind it.

"We think that this is a propaganda piece, designed to push a particular discredited narrative. The bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset is blatantly visible," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi told reporters during a press briefing in New Delhi on Thursday when asked about the controversial series.

ALSO READ | 'Propaganda piece to push discredited narrative': India on BBC documentary on PM Modi

The first part of the two-part 'India: The Modi Question' programme, which aired on BBC Two on Tuesday, was categorised by the UK tax-payer-funded broadcaster as "a look at the tensions between Indian PM Narendra Modi and India's Muslim minority, investigating claims about his role in 2002 riots that left over a thousand dead".

The second part of the series, scheduled to be aired next Tuesday, is pegged as a "look at the troubled relationship between Indian PM Narendra Modi's government and India's Muslim minority following his re-election in 2019".

"We strongly condemn the BBC's malicious documentary 'India: The Modi Question,' said Insight UK, among several diaspora groups who have taken to social media to condemn the documentary.

"Riddled with antisemitism, anti-Hindu and anti-India biases, they have lost many viewers and yet continue spreading their hate without consequence or accountability," it added.

## Adani Enterprises FPO price band at Rs 3,112- Rs 3,276

MUMBAI: The Rs 20,000 crore follow-on public offer (FPO) of Adani Enterprises will open for subscription on January 27 and will close on January 31. Billionaire Gautam Adani led the company on Wednesday and announced Rs 3,112-Rs 3,276 price band for the country's biggest FPO.

The company, one of India's largest listed business incubators in terms of market capitalisation, will use the proceeds from the FPO to repay debts and to meet its capital expenditure requirements, said the company in its Red Herring Prospectus.

Of the Rs 20,000 crore proceeds of the FPO, Rs 10,869 crore will be used for green hydrogen projects, work at the existing airports and construction of a greenfield expressway. Another Rs 4,165 crore will go towards repayment of debt taken by its airports, road and solar project subsidiaries. "As of September 30, 2022, we had Rs 40,023.50 crore in borrowings from banks and financial institutions, comprising term loans (including foreign currency borrowings), working capital loans and trade/supplier credits, net of unamortised costs and

borrowings from related parties," said the company in its prospectus.

"We propose to utilise an amount of Rs 4,165 crore from the Net Proceeds towards repayment of borrowings of our company three of our subsidiaries, namely, Adani Airport Holdings Limited, Adani Road



Transport Limited, and Mundra Solar Limited," it added.

The company has announced a discount of Rs 64 per share in the FPO for retail investors bidding in the retail portion of the offer, said the company in a filing to the BSE. Under the FPO, the employee quota for Adani Enterprises has been fixed at 5%, retail at 35% and the non-institutional quota has been fixed at 15%. The company will issue fresh shares on a partly-paid basis under a 100% book-built offer.

The minimum bid lot for the FPO will be four equity shares and investors can bid for multiples of four equity shares thereafter.

As of December 31, 2022, the Adani group had a market capitalisation of Rs 18,402 billion and is one of the largest listed groups by market capitalisation in India. Shares of Adani Enterprises ended 1.2% on Wednesday to close at Rs 3,595 on the BSE on Wednesday.

### Air India flight plans worry for Odisha connectivity

Continued from page-1

India authorities. Chief of operations Capt R S Sandhu suggested the corporate affairs team be contacted.

Contacted, an official spokesperson said he is unable to share information on the matter at this stage. Asked whether any decision has been taken to withdraw the service from Bhubaneswar, he neither confirmed nor denied it.

BPIA director Prasanna Pradhan said the airport has not received any communication from the airline on its withdrawal plan so far. "Air India has given us its flight schedules till March 31," he added. Chairman of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) Odisha chapter Gagan Sarangi said withdrawal of Air India service from the city will have a negative impact on tourism.

"The airline was the preferred one for both inbound and outbound tourists for its services after Tata Sons took over. Agents hardly face any difficulty while planning with bulk bookings unlike other airlines," he said. Earlier, AirAsia had stopped its service to Kuala Lumpur in 2017 while the operation between Bhubaneswar and Bangkok was discontinued in 2019 after only a year's service.

## A look at air crashes in Nepal since 2010

KATHMANDU: An aircraft with 72 people on board crashed in Nepal on Sunday, officials said, the latest aviation disaster to hit the Himalayan nation.

Nepal's air transport sector has been plagued by accidents due to poor maintenance, insufficient training and lax standards.

February 16, 2014

Eighteen people are killed when a Nepal Airlines flight crashes in Arghakhanchi district, with rescuers finding body parts and debris strewn across the mountainous countryside.

September 28, 2012

A plane flying 19 people towards Mount



Everest goes down in flames on the outskirts of the Nepali capital, killing everyone on board including seven Britons and five Chinese citizens.

May 14, 2012

Fifteen people die when an Agni Air plane carrying Indian pilgrims crashes near the treacherous high-altitude airport of Jomsom in northern Nepal, while six make a miraculous escape.

September 25, 2011

A small plane taking tourists on a sightseeing trip around Mount Everest crashes into a hillside near Kathmandu, killing all 19 people on board.

December 15, 2010

All 22 passengers and crew on board a passenger plane that crashes in eastern Nepal are killed. Most of the victims are pilgrims from Bhutan, with one US citizen also among the dead.

August 24, 2010

A small Agni Air plane crashes in bad weather near Kathmandu, killing all 14 people on board including four Americans, a Japanese and a British national.

Here is a timeline of major air disasters to hit the country since 2010:

May 29, 2022

A Twin Otter plane operated by Nepali carrier Tara Air crashes shortly after takeoff from Pokhara in western Nepal, killing 22 people.

April 14, 2019

A small plane veers off the runway while taking off near Mount Everest, hitting two helicopters and killing three people. Three people were also injured.

March 12, 2018

A flight from the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka crash-lands at Kathmandu airport, skidding into a football field where it bursts into flames. Fifty-one people are killed in what was the deadliest aviation accident in the country for decades.

February 24, 2016

A Twin Otter aircraft operated by Tara Air crashes into a hillside in Myagdi district, killing all 23 people on board.

## Hockey WC 2023: Netherlands record win over Chile to seal berth in quarters; Malaysia stun NZ

BHUBANESWAR: Three-time champions Netherlands registered a record-breaking 14-0 win over debutants Chile to secure a direct



qualification into the quarter-finals, while Malaysia stunned New Zealand 3-2 to finish second in Pool C at the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup here on Thursday.

With three wins from as many games, Netherlands finished at the top of Pool C with a maximum of nine points, while Malaysia was second with six points from two victories.

In the second match of the day, world No.3 Netherlands toyed with Chile, ranked 23rd, and scored goals at will to register the biggest margin of victory in a World Cup match.

The record for the biggest margin of win in a hockey World Cup match was earlier held by world No.1 Australia, who thrashed South Africa 12-0 in New Delhi.

Jip Janssen (6th, 29th, 34th, 44th minutes) and skipper Thierry Brinkman (25th, 33rd, 58th) scored a hat-trick each, while Koen Bijen (40th, 45th) struck a brace.

Derck de Vilder (22nd), Thijs van Dam (23rd), Terrance Pieters (37th), Justen Blok (42nd) and Teun Beins (48th) were the other goal-getters for the Dutch.

Janssen's all four goals came from penalty corners.

Players of Malaysia and New Zealand (in

## Ruud beaten to boost Djokovic title charge at Australian Open

Casper Ruud on Thursday joined Rafael Nadal in making a stunning second-round exit from the Australian Open, another boost to Novak Djokovic's bid for a 22nd Grand Slam title.

On a bad day for some of the leading men's players, Ruud was always struggling against hard-hitting Jenson Brooksby, the second seed from Norway going down in four sets.

Soon after, Taylor Fritz and Alexander Zverev also became high-profile casualties.

Defending champion Nadal limped out of the tournament on day three in a shock defeat to Mackenzie McDonald and on day four it was another American who ousted Ruud.

The top two seeds are now gone in the first week at Melbourne

Park, with Nadal saying on Thursday he will be out for about six to eight weeks with his hip injury.

The 39th-ranked Brooksby, who is on his Australian Open debut, will face Tommy Paul in round three after his fellow American beat Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in five sets.

"First and foremost, Casper is a warrior, I knew it would be a great battle out there," said Brooksby, 22, having prevailed 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2.

"I'm just really proud of my mental resolve after the third-set battle didn't go my way, and to turn it around."

Ruud, who could have become world number one in Melbourne, refused to blame an abdominal injury.

"I gave it my all, but in the fourth set especially it wasn't enough," he said.

Eighth seed Fritz was also on his way home after wildcard local hope Alexei Popyrin beat him 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2.

"This is a dream and I don't want to wake up at all," said Popyrin, who was reduced to tears by the crowd chanting his name.



white) vie for the ball during the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 match, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023. (Photo | PTI)

The Netherlands, who have won the World Cup thrice and finished runners-up in the last two editions, earned 18 penalty corners from which they converted six, while Chile got just two PCs in the match.

Earlier, Malaysia's star player Faizal Saari (8th, 56th minutes) struck a brace, while Razie Rahim converted a penalty corner in the 42nd minute as world No.11 Malaysia shocked No.9 New Zealand 3-2 in another Pool C match.

Hayden Phillips (51st) and Sam Lan (52nd) scored two goals in as many minutes to raise New Zealand's hopes before Saari drew the final blood four minutes later. Lan's strike was also the 2500th goal of the World Cup.

New Zealand are third in Pool C with just one win, while Chile finished winless.

While Netherlands qualified directly for the last-eight round, Malaysia and New Zealand will play crossover matches to book their place in the quarter-finals.

The top teams from the four pools qualify directly for the last eight, while the second and third-placed sides play in the crossover matches to fill up the remaining four slots. Chile will play in the fifth to 16th place classification matches.

Zverev, the 12th seed, suffered another setback on his return from serious injury as he lost to 107th-ranked Michael Mmoh.

Safely into round three of a men's draw which was already missing injured world number one Carlos Alcaraz is Russia's fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev and ninth seed Holger Rune.

Serbia's Djokovic will step up his bid for a record-extending 10th Australian Open crown when he faces 191st-ranked French qualifier Enzo

Coucaud in the night session on Rod Laver Arena.

Ominous Sabalenka In the women's draw, Aryna Sabalenka showed why she is a serious contender for the title by powering into the third round.

Also safely through was France's fourth seed Caroline Garcia, a 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 winner over former US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez.

Belarus's Sabalenka swept past 51st-ranked American Shelby Rogers 6-3, 6-1 in an hour and 27 minutes and faces 26th-seed Elise Mertens.

Sabalenka, who reached the semi-finals at the US Open last year, extended her 2023 unbeaten record to six matches. She won the recent Adelaide International without dropping a set.

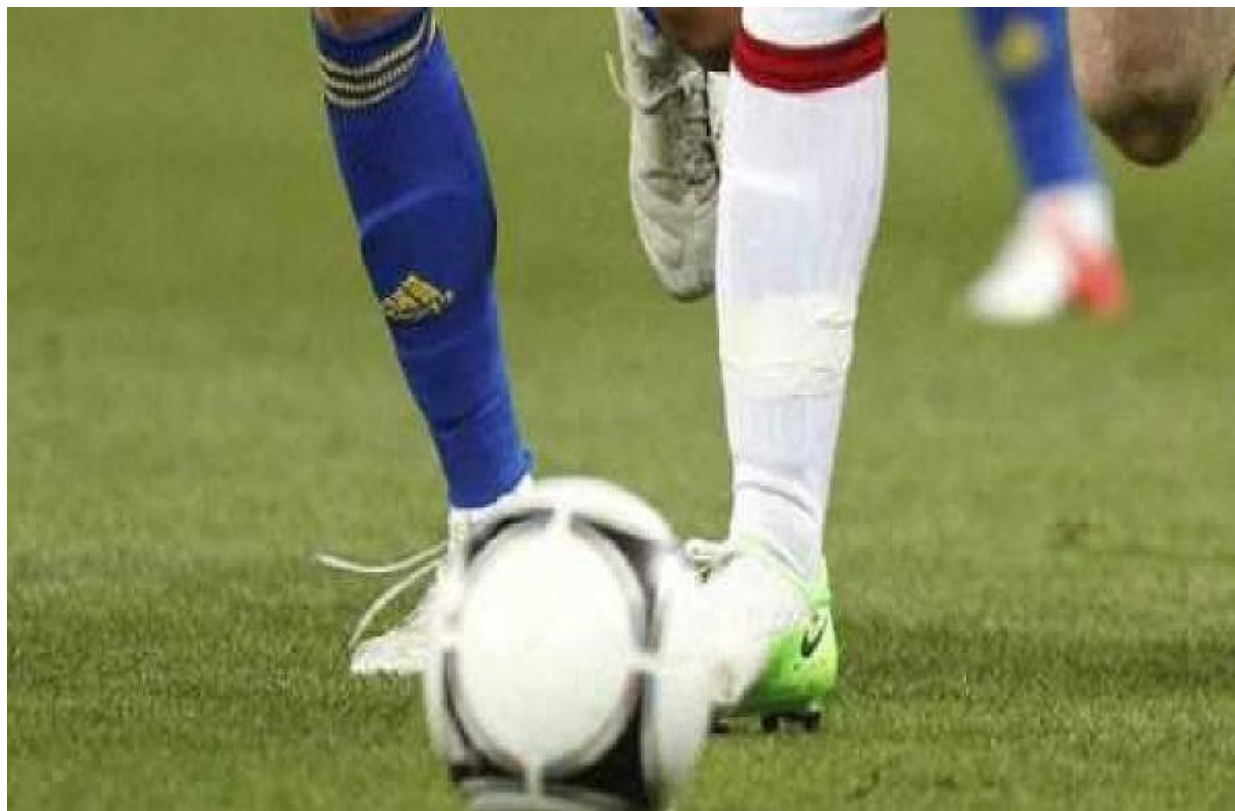
It is a marked contrast to the start of last season when her serve completely deserted her, reducing her to tears during an Australian Open warm-up event.

Sabalenka served three aces against Rogers but, tellingly, no double faults. She talked openly about the hard work involved in turning her fortunes around.

"I worked a lot on my serve. You can't even imagine," she told reporters.

"Oh my God, I did, I think, almost everything to trying to fix my serve."

## Wales agree equal pay for football internationals



LONDON: The Football Association of Wales (FAW) became the latest governing body to agree on equal pay deals for men's and women's internationals on Wednesday.

The deal comes into place immediately and covers the period up to and including the 2026 men's World Cup and 2027 women's World Cup.

A joint statement released by Wales men's and women's teams said: "Together Stronger has been the mantra across the Cymru national teams for us all, both on and off the pitch as we look to put Wales on the world stage."

"As part of the FAW's strive towards equality, we are now proud to announce that together, our men's and women's

teams have agreed to an equal pay structure for future international matches." World champions the United States, and European champions England, Spain and Norway are among nations who have introduced equal pay for male and female players for representing their countries.

"We hope that this will allow future generations of boys

and girls to see that there is equality across Welsh international football, which is important for society as a whole," added the players' statement.

"With this agreement in place, we will now look ahead to the Euro 2024 and 2025 qualifying campaigns, as we aim to see further success across both our senior teams in the near future."

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