

Improve net for cashless push State on cancer care

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha Government spread out a list of suggestions to promote digital payments State in the wake of demonetization of high value currencies and Union Government's initiatives for cashless transactions across the country.

Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi, participating in a video conference on behalf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with the Committee of Chief Ministers on digital payment system, suggested that all card payments should be made free of cost even beyond December 31 and service Tax on digital transactions exempted up to Rs 10,000 instead of Rs 2000 as announced by the Union Government on 8 December.

Mr. Padhi said apart from all Government payment gateways should be made bank neutral,

Point of Sale (POS) machines should be possible round the clock. All efforts



supplied by banks free of cost to Government departments, Local Bodies and other agencies.

While pressing for RBI to ensure inter-operability and security aspects of e-wallet transactions, Mr. Padhi suggested NEFT, ECS, RTGS modes of electronic payments to be made

should be taken to ensure that the interest of the citizen, particularly those in the rural areas with deficient banking infrastructure is protected, he stressed.

Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, special invitees and senior

officers of other states participated in the meeting.

Mr. Padhi was accompanied by Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister UN Behera, Development Commissioner R Balakrishna and Principal Secretary Finance Tuhin Kanta Pandey to represent the Chief Minister in the Video Conference.

Raised the issue of deficient banking infrastructure in the State, Padhi stated that 70 per cent of the Gram Panchayats with 47 per cent of rural population did not have a bank branch. Banking Correspondents are also not active due to host of reasons while a third of the Gram Panchayats even did not have a Banking Correspondent.

"Therefore, it is extremely important at this point to have a massive programme for opening brick and mortar branches in

Odisha and other similarly placed States," he said adding mobile vans and temporary counters should be pressed into service by banks immediately in rural areas to provide access to banking and other digital payment services.

Banking Correspondents with Micro ATMs, particularly enabled with Aadhaar based Payment System, should be activated, he urged.

Mr. Padhi also said that telecom connectivity in Odisha is still very inadequate with one-third of the villages not covered under mobile connectivity and less than 2000 Gram Panchayats out of 6238 Gram Panchayats have wire-line broadband service.

Under the ongoing Bharat Net Project, so far only about 350 GPs have been enabled with high speed internet facility. Since digital payment infrastructure at present is extremely weak, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, there is an urgent need for the Centre to ensure that Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited accelerates the project to connect remaining GPs as early as possible.

The Centre should ensure early commissioning of sufficient mobile towers through BSNL utilizing Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund, he said.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With cancer turning out as one of the most dreaded disease, the State Government is preparing a Comprehensive Cancer Strategy to combat the menace.

A number of programs will be envisaged in the Comprehensive Plan, which also include developing the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre (AHRCC) as State Cancer Institute with tertiary care facility as par with National Standard, which will be Nodal Center for cancer care in the State.

Pramod Kumar Meherada, Secretary Health & Family Welfare is working on the Comprehensive Strategy, which will be developed focusing on District Level Chemotherapy Program, Palliative Care, Cancer Screening and strengthening Tertiary Cancer Care Center (TCC) at MKCG and VIMSAR Medical College & Hospital.

While MKCG provides health care facilities for at least 10 districts in southern Division, VIMSAR provides health facilities to at least 10 districts of Western Odisha besides the people of the neighboring states. The Cancer Centre will be boon for the patients.

Dr. Meherada after taking over as Secretary Health & Family Welfare is making detailed discussion with the officials and experts in this regard, said

sources.

Presently District Level Chemotherapy Program has been implemented in Seven Districts and in Capital Hospital and it is proposed to roll out in Eight more dis-



tricts including Rourkela general Hospital (RGH) Rourkela. It has been decided to functionalize the Niramaya Medicine Store at AHRCC for selling Chemotherapy drugs to Non BPL Patients and robust Management of Information system (MIS) will be developed to monitor District Level Chemotherapy Program.

In order to strengthen TCC at VIMSAR and MKCG, the Director AHRCC will extend support and while establishment of TCC at Bhawanipatna, it is needed to follow up with Government of India, said sources.

In order to provide Hospital Based Palliative Care in the first phase at least Seven Districts and Capital Hospital will

be implemented, where Chemotherapy Program has already been implemented in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar for BPL category patients.

And for Home

based Palliative Care in Bhubaneswar, the vehicle of Mobile Health Team and for Cuttack, AHRCC Vehicle will be utilized and motivated Nursing Staff will be provided proper training at Karunashrya, Bangalore. After the proper training the Nursing Staff will be able to handle Morphine and Narcotics for cancer patients.

So far Cancer Screening Program is concerned, this will be taken up in five districts and two Urban Centers as the priority districts will be covered in the first phase.

For better screening of oral cancer, a protocol for identification of cases and their referral should be developed and communicated to all Dental Surgeons, said a senior official.

Urge for RuPay Kisan

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Nabard Chairman Harsh Kumar Bhanwala has urged the Odisha Government to provide the RuPay Kisan Cards to farmers of the State on a priority basis.

Dr. Bhanwala in his letter has pointed out the process of providing RuPay Kisan Cards to 44.61 Lakh Agricultural Farmers, who are borrowing from the Cooperative Bank has not started in the State.

He said issuance of RuPay Kisan Cards is now given high priority by the Union Government and the

State Government is needed to take on top priority basis.

It has been focus of both Government of India and NABARD to cover all agricultural borrowers from the banking system under Rupay Kisan Card by December, 2016, said he.

But in Odisha none of the Cooperative Banks have started issuing RuPay Kisan cards to 44.61 Lakh Agricultural Borrowers, pointed out the Chairman of NABARD.

Taking into account the complexity of issuing RuPay

Kisan Card in the short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS), three models were adopted and circulated by NABARD to enable the banks to issue RuPay Kisan Cards without compromising with the existing structure.

Dr. Bhanwala said the Banks are free to adopt any of the three models or any other model convenient to them but RuPay Kisan Cards are needed to provided them in time.

He underscored the importance of installation of Micro ATMs, with the Pri-

mary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) for providing Basic Banking Services to all the customers of the Banks.

Financial support is available to the Cooperative Banks for procuring Micro ATMs and integrating ATMs with Core Banking Services (CBS) of the Banks from Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) maintained by NABARD, said he.

Under this backdrop, Dr. Bhanwala has urged the State Government to complete the process of issuance **See page - 7**

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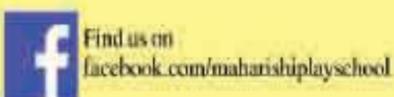
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Deepika Padukone becomes 'Sexiest Asian Woman in the World'

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actress Deepika Padukone has added another accomplishment to her rapidly growing list of achievement by being crowned the 'Sexiest Asian Woman in the World' for the first time.

The award-winning movie star dethroned Bollywood rival Priyanka Chopra, who has won the title for the last two years, in the popular long-running list annually published by UK-based Eastern Eye newspaper.

The win rounds off a dream year for the current queen of Bollywood, who has won numerous 2016 Best Actress awards for her acclaimed role in Indian film 'Piku' and commenced shooting her high-profile Hollywood debut 'xXx: Return of Xander Cage' opposite Vin Diesel.

In demand, A-list star Deepika was delighted to top the list for the first time and said: "Well it does bring a smile to my face but sexy means different things to different people. For

me it's not just physical. For me being comfortable with who you are is sexy! Confidence and vulnerability is sexy."

The 2016 edition of the popular annual poll was based on millions of votes pouring in from across the globe and heat generated by stars with their work, and on social media sites in the past 12 months. The mass interest in the 13th edition of the list was such that it was trending on Twitter in various countries in-

cluding across India during the vot-

ertainment Editor Asjad Nazir, who

major turning point for the 'Bajirao



ing process. Eastern Eye's award-winning En-

founded the list and puts it together annually, believes 2016 was another

Mastani' star and will lead to even bigger things for her.

A vaudevillian spectacle

A relatively obscure street band formed in Brighton, U.K., in the early 80s, intriguingly called Pookiesnacknurger, has now evolved into a worldwide musical sensation that currently tours the world with several production companies staging shows.

Stomp, brought to Mumbai by AGP World, is a theatrical production that involves music, acrobatics and histrionics, and has been co-created by musician Luke Cresswell and musician/director Steve McNicholas.

Perhaps Cresswell and McNicholas didn't realise the phenomenal vaudevillian spectacle they'd go on to create. With Pookiesnacknurger, which was a travelling band, both Cresswell and McNicholas extensively toured cities and towns entertaining crowds with their histrionics and music.

"It's now been more than 35 years," reminisces McNicholas. "When I joined, I wrote a bunch of songs for the band and we became Pookiesnacknurger. There wasn't really anything like it at the time." The six-piece band — comprising members of London's then punk scene — featured the future Stomp creators, with Cresswell on snare and African log drum, and McNicholas on the fiddle and violin.

Blast to the past
For about a decade, the slapstick musical ensemble travelled all over Europe. One particular instance still brings on the chuckles for the co-creators.

During a tour in Paris, the band found a great spot on the boulevard that would surely give them the attention and money they desired. However, the performance turned out to be

the shortest of their careers when a burly Romanian fire-eater claimed ownership of the place. "He said if we didn't finish in the next 10 minutes, he would set fire to our instruments," laughs McNicholas.

At another show in Zurich, McNicholas slipped while leaping and jumping around, falling backwards to

McNicholas. "So he started to improvise and play whatever was around at the time. If someone had a bottle in their hand, he'd play it. That really was the germ of the idea that became Stomp."

Decoding the steps
By his own admission, Stomp's director says there hasn't been a single point of inspira-

sal quality of rhythm. Over the years, it's become evident that no matter where the show's mounted, humour, rhythm has managed to unite audiences.

"The core of the message is as simple as a heartbeat, which is the same wherever you are in the world," McNicholas says. The result is a grungy stage

struments to make a new sound," he says, before adding that it's been 25 years and they haven't stopped yet. New routines are developed, honed and added to the show every three years. And unlike other productions, innovation won't dilute Stomp's effect. "The great thing for us is that Stomp is a concept which means the

stresses that the logistics of shipping out a production like Stomp is quite complicated. McNicholas remembers one of the earliest international tours in Australia where local hardware stores served to equip the performers with instruments. However, it wasn't so in Hong Kong on a subsequent trip. "We couldn't find half



crush his violin. "Well, there wasn't a lot of news at the time, because it became front-page news," says the director.

He says people from the audience were really supportive and sympathetic. While one bystander offered the band 200 pounds to buy a new violin, another actually went home and got one for McNicholas. "A year later, we were performing there again and I gave it back to him."

Owing to the nature of Pookiesnacknurger's performances, portability was of absolute essence. "Luke carried his snare and log drum, but it was a little restricting for percussionists," says

tion. Instead, it's been an evolution where influences have been drawn from experiences and, more importantly, from drumming groups such as the Japanese outfit Kodo, choreography from films like Stormy Weather (1943), Fred Astaire's moves, and the company Moving Picture Mime (MPM). "When we would watch them (MPM) do these shows without words, that was something so expressive and that really appealed to us," says McNicholas. "We weren't mime artists or physical comedians."

But the English musicians and co-founders of the show were determined to create a similar effect on people using the univer-

upon which performers take chances to beat, slap, clap, yes even stomp, and pretty much do what they can with their body and a few props to make percussion. Past routines have seen dishwashers, garbage bins, buckets, sticks and even brooms used to make music.

And the key to keep resonating with people all over the world is entirely dependant on one feat: constant evolution and innovation. It's as if it's a compulsive disorder for the cast and crew, they're forever striving to develop new routines. So McNicholas and the troupe can't ever just pay a simple visit to a hardware or DIY store. "Part of your brain is always looking for new in-

show can change a lot and yet remain Stomp," says the director. "Whereas others, if you change several routines it would cease to be that show."

Then and now
Since the show's first international tour in 1991, Stomp has strived to become entirely self-sufficient. "We have to think about each territory and we recce every single venue we go to, to iron out any of the problems that we might encounter," says Glynis Henderson, founder of her eponymous production company that has been handling the productions at West End in London since the beginning.

The producer

the things we needed," he says. "To the point where we grabbed a [fallen] hubcap that rolled along the street."

The version of Stomp that Mumbai will get to witness will be the Henderson Company's London effort with 12 performers banging their way through an hour and 45 minutes of adrenaline-fuelled slapstick percussion.

Word has it that a bigger Indian tour is in the works for the show's 26th year. That just means we get to see just how different two shows can be.

Stomp at Jamshed Bhabha Theatre, NCPA, from December 9 to 18. See bookmyshow.com Post a Comment

Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox bids \$14 billion for UK's Sky

NEW YORK/LONDON(KCN): Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century

is backed by Sky's independent directors, would strengthen the position of James

against the U.S. dollar and Sky's share price tumbling. Owing Sky

AT&T Inc announced an \$85 billion bid to buy Time Warner Inc earlier this year.

trol," a person familiar with the deal said. "Now it was the perfect moment. With

some UK politicians, who said it would give the billionaire owner of The Sun and The Times newspapers too much control over the country's media.

That bid collapsed in 2011 when Murdoch's UK newspaper business was engulfed in a phone hacking scandal that intensified political opposition, resulted in a criminal trial and led to the closure of his News of the World tabloid.

Liberum analysts said Friday's proposal was likely to have an easier ride, partly because News Corp has now separated from Fox, which means the bidding firm no longer owns UK newspapers, and because there are no competition issues.

They also said the British government was keen to promote investment in the wake of the Brexit vote and could present the deal as a sign of confidence in the economy.

Prime Minister Theresa May met Rupert Murdoch after a visit to the United Nations in September, according to media reports.

Fox said it would reinforce Britain's standing as a top global hub for content generation and technological innovation.

Tom Watson, deputy leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party and a key critic of the Murdochs during the 2011 scandal, called on regulators to be ready to properly vet the deal - but did not oppose it outright.

"This bid has been expected since 2011," he said.

JAMES TIGHTENS GRIP

Fox's proposed bid is a 36.2 percent premium to Sky's closing share price on Thursday. It values the company at about 18.5 billion pounds (\$23.2 billion) and the stake Fox does not already own at 11.25 billion pounds, according to Reuters calculations.

Martin Gilbert, a member of Sky's board who will assess the bid as part of its independent committee, told Reuters the offer was a good premium worth presenting to shareholders.

Even so, analysts at Citi characterized the offer as a "low-ball bid," citing a fair

value assessment of 13.50 pounds per share.

Sky's shares closed up 26.7 percent at around 10 pounds, while Fox's were down 1.8 percent at \$28.12 at 2020 GMT.

Before Friday's surge, Sky's shares had dropped 30 percent this year in part due to concerns of an UK economic slowdown caused by Brexit.

The deal has also been made more attractive for Fox by a drop in the value of sterling, which makes it cheaper for foreign firms to buy UK assets. British tech company ARM was snapped up by Japan's SoftBank Group Corp in the days after the Brexit vote and shares in UK commercial broadcaster ITV Plc closed up 5 percent on Friday on speculation it could be next.

Long tipped as his father's successor, James Murdoch's reappointment as chairman of Sky earlier this year reignited speculation of another bid approach by Fox.



Fox Inc has struck a preliminary deal to buy the 61 percent of British pay-TV firm Sky Plc it does not already own for around \$14 billion, five years after a political scandal wrecked a previous bid.

The proposed offer of 10.75 pounds a share in cash, which

Murdoch - who is both chief executive of Fox and chairman of Sky - in his 85-year-old father's media empire.

People familiar with the matter said Fox had pounced after Britain's vote to leave the European Union in June sent the pound down about 14 percent

would give Fox, whose cable networks include Fox News and FX, control of a pay-TV network spanning 22 million households in Britain, Ireland, Austria, Germany and Italy.

It would also be the latest deal to marry distribution with content after

While Sky does produce some of its own content, including in news and sport, the deal would give Fox full ownership of a wider distribution platform in Europe.

"Fox has always seen its 39 percent stake in Sky as an unnatural state of being and has long been trying to buy full con-

the weak pound (and lower stock price), Sky has become 40 percent cheaper and the government is supportive of almost any investment in Britain."

Rupert Murdoch's previous attempt to buy Sky through his News Corp business provoked uproar among

Banks expect huge rush for cash on Tuesday after 3-day long weekend break

NEW DELHI(KCN): Bank customers continued to line up outside branches and ATMs as banks faced the uphill task of meet-

ing the huge demand for cash ahead of three-day break.

Banks will remain closed in many places for three days in a row

on account of 'Id-e-Milad' on Monday.

Bankers are anticipating huge rush for withdrawals when they open for public dealing

getting adequate cash from currency chests to meet the withdrawal pressure on account of pay day.

A private sector

that the situation would continue for another 10-12 days.

Faced with acute shortage of cash, banks have imposed their own limits for withdrawal as low as Rs 2,000 in some cases against the limit of Rs 24,000 per week set by RBI.

Frustrated with standing in long queues people at times venting their anger at bank officials asking them to compensate them for not being able to keep their promise of providing Rs 24,000 per week to a person, similar to what bank charges when a customer fails to maintain minimum balance in the account.

"Because of the acute short supply of cash, and when branches are unable to meet the requirements of cash withdrawals, irritated customers are naturally becoming angry, and annoyed and their anguish is turned

towards the staff, officers and managers." All India Bank Employees' Association said in a statement.

Some banks are disbursing only Rs 2,000 per person while those having better cash availability are offering Rs 10,000-12,000 per withdrawal against specified limit of Rs 24,000, bank officials said.

To promote less cash economy, the government yesterday announced slew of measures incentivising payment through digital mode for purchase of petrol, diesel, insurance cover, railway tickets etc.

It also waived service tax for payments up to Rs 2,000 made through cards and decided to do away with transaction fee for payment to central government departments and PSUs.

BSNL suffers Rs 1,721-crore loss in Apr-June this year: Government

NEW DELHI(KCN): State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd's losses in the April-June quarter this fiscal stood at Rs 1,721 crore while total income was at Rs 7,331 crore, Rajya Sabha was informed today.

"The turnover, that is, revenue from operation, has increased from Rs 26,153 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 27,242 crore in 2014-15 and to Rs 28,449 crore in 2015-16," Communications Minister Manoj Sinha said in a written reply.

The revenue from operations stood at Rs 7,183 crore during April-June quarter of 2016-17.

The telecom PSU registered loss of Rs 7,019 crore in 2013-14 and Rs 8,234 crore in 2014-15. Its losses

less than halved to Rs 3,880 crore in 2015-16.

On the other hand, the total revenue (which includes revenue from operations and other income) rose from Rs 27,996 crore in year 2013-14, to Rs 28,645 crore in 2014-15, and further to Rs 32,919 crore in 2015-16.

To another question, the Minister said that telecom regulator TRAI has received 512 complaints related to excess billing against Airtel in the first ten months of the calendar year 2016, while 393 such complaints have been received against Vodafone. As many as 172 such complaints were received by the regulator in the case of Idea, and 197 for Reliance.



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of RuPay Kisan Cards by month end and accelerate the pace of installing Micro ATMs in PACS.

NABARD Chief General Manager K C Panigrahi is already in dialogue with the State Cooperative bank and pursuing the matter.

Sources said the Odisha State Cooperative Bank Managing Director Tushar K Panda has also making moves for issuing the Cards.

However as the process is getting delayed Dr.Bhanwala has urged to expedite the matter in the State.

after the break.

The situation at bank branches has not improved as ATMs are still not dispensing adequate cash despite being recalibrated for new currency notes.

Bankers on the condition of anonymity said that despite assurances by RBI and government, they are not

banker said that although about 95 per cent of over 2 lakh ATMs have been recalibrated, there is cash shortage due to logistics issue. ATMs are fed only once a day and most of them are running out of money shortly due to heavy withdrawals.

Bankers expect

Kohli retains second spot in ICC ODI batsmen rankings

DUBAI(KCN): India's Virat Kohli retained his second spot in the latest ICC Player Rankings for ODI Batsmen but Australian opener David Warner was breathing down his neck with just two points behind in the chart issued today.

Warner cut Kohli's earlier 62 point lead to just two following a stellar performance in the Chappell-Hadlee series against New Zealand, which concluded in Melbourne yesterday with Australia winning 3-0.

Warner finished as the leading run-getter with 299 runs in three matches to consolidate his number three ranking.

South Africa's



AB de Villiers is still the number one ranked batsman with 13 points ahead of

Kohli.

The fight for the No.1 ranking will resume next month

when Kohli is expected to feature in the three-match series against England

(January 15-23), Warner will take the field against Pakistan in the five-match se-

ries (January 13-26) and de Villiers is set to lead South Africa in the five-ODI series against Sri Lanka (January 28 to February 10).

Meanwhile, New Zealand opener Martin Guptill and Australia's trio of Steve Smith, Mitchell Marsh and Josh Hazlewood have all achieved career-high rankings.

Guptill has been rewarded for his 193 runs in the series with a rise of two places, which has put him in the sixth position, Smith has jumped six places to 10th following series contribution of 236 runs, Marsh has gained three places to rise to 22nd position, while Hazlewood has

vaulted 12 places to join Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi in 11th position following six wickets in the series.

Pat Cummins, who was the leading wicket-taker with eight wickets, has returned in 47th position while other bowlers to make upward movements include James Faulkner (23rd, up by two places) and Mitchell Santner (50th, up by 16 places).

Trent Boult, who was the leading wicket-taker in the series with eight wickets, has retained his No.1 ranking. He leads South Africa's Imran Tahir by eight points, with West Indies' Sunil Narine one more point be-

hind in the third position.

There is no change to the all-rounders' list, which is headed by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan, who is followed by Angelo Matthews, Mohammad Nabi, James Faulkner and Mitchell Marsh.

On the ICC ODI Team Rankings, No.1 ranked Australia has moved up from 118 points to 120 points, while New Zealand has dropped behind India in the fourth position. New Zealand had started the series on 112 points, but the 3-0 defeat has meant it has dropped to 109 points.

Boxer Mary Kom to return to 48kg category

GUWAHATI(KCN): Five-time World Champion boxer M.C. Mary Kom asserted on Friday that she aims to return to the 48 kg weight category

amid speculation that it could be included in the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

The star boxer from Manipur had won all her world

titles in women's 48kg division but had moved up to the women's 51kg category in order to compete at the Olympics.

She had taken a

bronze in her new weight class at the 2012 London Olympics but went empty handed at the Rio Olympics earlier this year.

But with the

International Boxing Federation (AIBA) reportedly thinking about including the 48kg division in the Tokyo Games, Mary is hoping to win an

Olympic medal of a better hue.

"Yes, I am planning to go back to the 48kg weight category. I am back as this is my real and original weight

(category) in which I am fit to," Mary told IANS on Friday.

The 33-year-old asserted that she is looking forward to recapturing her old

form in the 48kg category and is aiming for glory at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I will see. I am still very much fit and will be in the camp very soon," she said.

Churchill Brothers remain upbeat despite lack of time in hand

CHENNAI: A day after the All India Football Federation reinstated them to the I-League in a landmark ruling, the mood is upbeat at Churchill Brothers.

The last time the two-time I-League champions was part of the league, Indian football looked very different. Bengaluru FC were still in their inaugural year, the Indian Super League was still a far-fetched concept and current India skipper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was yet to make his national debut. Indian football moved on without them and Churchill have a lot of catching up to do. And they have less than a month to do it.

But Churchill CEO Valanka Alemao told Express that while the task at hand is difficult, it is far from impossible. "It's been a long struggle, going to the Delhi High Court, knocking on the doors of FIFA," she

said. "To be honest, it's a big task. Difficult, but not impossible. My father is known to have an eye for talent. We have a lot of well-wishers and players who have played for us in the past."

With Dempo, Sporting Clube and Salgaocar pulling out, Churchill are currently the only Goan club in the league. As such, Valanka feels that the team now has added responsibility to represent that state.

"Now Churchill Brothers have to represent Goa as a whole. I feel we need to give more representation to Goan players. It is sad for Goa football that three teams have gone. At the same time, this is alarming because the player fraternity has been affected badly by all this. This has caused a lot of unemployment. I feel for players and we will do our best for them," she said.

With only days to assemble a play-

happen. I'm trusting God on that and hop-

can gel with the players who are

ment at the club to marshal them in the

mix of both," she said.

of the league, Indian football looked very different. Bengaluru FC were still in their inaugural year, the Indian Super League was still a far-fetched concept and current India skipper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was yet to make his national debut. Indian football moved on without them and Churchill have a lot of catching up to do. And they have less than a month to do it.

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ing squad and international players, Churchill have quite the task at hand. Valanka believes that the goodwill the team has with former players will stand them in good stead. "There is a lot of revamp that has to

ing all goes well," she said. "Our players who have been there in the past have always been calling asking 'when are we getting back into the I-League?'. That connect has always been there. But we need to see how they

here, because it's not about the team, it's about the players."

Since their I-League expulsion, Churchill have competed every year in the Goa Pro League with varied results. Asked if she trusts the current manage-

I-League, Valanka replied that changes would have to be made. "We need a mix of both (old and new). The current management have also worked very hard. It's about getting more professional. So we need a

A day after the All India Football Federation reinstated them to the I-League in a landmark ruling, the mood is upbeat at Churchill Brothers.

The last time the two-time I-League champions was part