

## Angela Merkel urges speedy Brexit talks after UK election

**MEXICO CITY(KCN):** German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Britain Friday to quickly launch Brexit talks with the

a harsh election setback.

"We are ready for the negotiations. We want to do it quickly, respecting the calen-

with Britain on its withdrawal from what will now be the 27-member EU would start "in the coming days."

next few days these talks will begin. We will defend the interests of the 27 member states, and Britain



European Union after Prime Minister Theresa May suffered

dar," Merkel said during a visit to Mexico. She said talks

"We were waiting for the election in Britain, but in the

will defend its own interests," she told a press conference.

## Plastic hits Tiger zones

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):**With the polythene menace posing serious problem in the Tiger Reserves of the State, Union Government has asked the State Administration to make these sensitive zones, "Plastic Free".

Tiger Reserves, Nature Parks and Protected Forest Areas in the State is needed to be "Plastic Free", said Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in her letter to the State Government.

While hundreds of people are visiting these Green Zones in Similipal, Satkosia Tiger Reserves every day, officials admit that polythene is a part of life now and it is posing real menace. And the wild animals eat the plastic materials and face tough time even death. Looking at the menace, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC has urged the State Government to ask the PCCF Wild Life and Director Project Tigers to ensure "Plastic Free Environment".

Dr. Prasad has

urged the State Government to take initiative to urged the tourists to bring back plastic waste/litter along with them after visiting Tiger Reserves and nature Parks.

Similarly, the pristine Beaches like of Gopalpur, Puri, Konark, Paradip and Chandipur in the Coastal State are littered with trash and MoEFCC has decided to makes these beaches "Trash Free".

Dr. Prasad has asked the State Government to identify Five Beaches, where with the support of the local people, cleanliness drive will be taken up and the waste should be removed and disposed off safely.

Both the District Administration and Tourists should join hands to clear trash from the beaches in a time bound manner.

While awareness is generated through various audio-visual media not to pollute the pristine Coats, tourists are just not behaving with responsibility, admit officials in Department of Tourism.

However Addi-

tional Secretary, MoEFCC, Dr. Prasad has underscored the importance of making the Pristine Beaches "Trash Free" and accordingly urged to chalk out a fortnight long pro-



gram for generation of awareness.

In fact Beaches are littered with heaps of filth, garbage and mounds of polythene, so making these Beaches "Trash Free is a Herculean Task", say officials. In several beaches across the State, prohibition is there on the use of polythene and disposable plastic cups, sachets and bags. Such moves are for keeping the beauty of beaches intact and making it tourist-friendly.

But both tourists and officials here

have scant regard towards such environment safety measures, pointed out an activist engaged in Green Protection Movement.

MoEFCC is also organizing "Clean

environment Fort-night" during these days and Green Initiatives are needed to be taken up by the State Government, urged she.

In addition to these drives, Dr. Prasad has also advised the State Government to take up cleanliness drive in Lakes, Rivers and other Water Bodies.

For greater impact, she has requested the State Government to continue these activities beyond the "Cleanliness Fortnight Drive" after 15 June also.

## Odisha leads on PM road

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha leads in Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna in the country securing the second place in this regard.

This was revealed at a State Level Steering Committee meeting here today where the scheme was reviewed under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi.

Mr. Padhi, sources said, directed the officials for maximum and fruitful utilization of the funds allocated for the repair and maintenance of the rural roads. Development Commissioner R Balakrishnan advised the concerned officials to set priorities and take up construction accordingly.

Secretary Rural

Development , Bishnupad Sethi said that as many as

"Target has been set to connect the remaining villages by



13,976 villages of the 16555 have since been connected by road and as much as 5797 kilometer road was connected during 2016-17 fiscal.

2019," Mr. Sethi said.

Mr. Sethi asked to take up construction of nearly 7000 km roads during the current fiscal.

Chief Engineer

Bharat Chandra Pradhan revealed that Odisha has been included in the upgradation of rural road scheme of the Union Government.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to send the detailed project report on upgradation of nearly 4263 km rural road to the Union Government by July 15.

Mr. Pradhan informed the meeting about State Government efforts to introduce Green Technology in the construction of the rural roads. Cold tar mixed with soil, chemicals and plastic waste and effluent from steel plant will be used in the construction of the road under the Green Technology initiative, Mr. Pradhan said.

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Rangoon review: A gritty thriller with lots to like

It appears that some Tamil films haven't yet figured out a way to accommodate the heroine. And by accommodate, I mean depicting her as belonging naturally in the universe of the story, especially one that is as grittily realistic as Rangoon. Gautham Karthik plays the hero—or the anti-hero—Venkat after seemingly having sat through many grueling hours of makeup. He is made to look tanned—dark almost—so he can fit the bill of a character who has had a rough childhood in the outdoors. Natasha (Sana Makbul), however, is at all times caked in make-up, and always dressed to go to a wedding. And in the grimy, admirably realistic backdrop of Rangoon, this is quite a problem. Thankfully though, despite the wholly

underutilised angle of her singing dreams, her character à la many Tamil films

many characters interwoven delicately in the backdrop of smuggling. This is a

this is a question you're also encouraged to ponder over for the remainder of

even resort to kidnapping. Amid films that project their protagonists as poster boys of moral superiority, Rangoon is different.

Much like Ayan (which was incidentally based on Burma Bazaar), Rangoon too details the minutiae of smuggling. You are shown how gold biscuits can be hidden in all sorts of things, from cylinders and statues to shoe soles and mysore paks. This minutiae extends to the portrayal of some of its minor characters, including Venkat's friends, Siya's jewellery association rival, and even Venkat's childhood mate who grows up to be a policeman. The fact that it's established early on that he's been bullied by his friends makes for a nice, juicy red herring.

I wasn't at all, however, sure about the voice-over, which

is fast becoming a troublesome trend. It's a lot like the redundant onscreen captions sometimes. In one shot, for instance, you're shown the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence office, and the signboard makes it plenty obvious. Yet, you have text flashing on the screen that reads "DRI office". But these are minor missteps in an otherwise gritty film that exists somewhere in the universe inhabited by films like Subramaniapuram and Renigunta. Rangoon, like those films, is about crime, friendships gone awry, loss, betrayal, and at its heart, plenty of ambition. It's perhaps why among the last few words of the narrator are 'natpu, izhappu, dhrogam'. And as Venkat says, every man is all the wiser for such experiences.



SRK's next inspired by When Harry Met Sally?

Imtiaz Ali's Jab Harry Met Sejal, starring

also allow the film to cash in on a long

film's first two looks on Facebook, with

third time that the two actors have been



Shah Rukh Khan and Anushka Sharma in the lead, has been slated for release on August 4. Apparently the move has been made to avoid a box-office clash with Akshay Kumar's Toilet: Ek Prem Katha. The release date will

weekend, as Rakshabandhan falls on August 7.

The title was officially revealed by Shah Rukh, Anushka and Imtiaz, through their social media handles, in the late hours of June 8. Imtiaz posted the

the tagline "What you seek is seeking you".

The movie is believed to be a take on the classic Hollywood film, When Harry Met Sally. The title is also reminiscent of Imtiaz's own superhit movie Jab We Met. This is the

paired after Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi and Jab Tak Hai Jaan. The romantic drama which has been shot in Prague, Amsterdam, Lisbon and Budapest will be presented by Shah Rukh Khan under his banner, Red Chillies Entertainment.

Without even screen test, Farah Khan-Shah Rukh Khan chose Deepika Padukone for 'Om Shanti Om'

**Delhi(KCN):** Next up on 'Famously Filmfare' is Bollywood's ultraglam diva Deepika Padukone, where she will talk about her first film 'Om Shanti Om' and how Farah Khan and Shah Rukh Khan took her for the role without holding a screen test.

Reminiscing about the career changing opportunity, Deepika says, "I

gives me goose bumps thinking, without knowing whether I will deliver or not, but Farah and SRK trusted me. They literally hand held me through the entire process."

The 'Tamasha' star will speak at length about how at a later stage in her career, a director, after having given a confirmation, backed out from signing her for a movie she was keen



had never been to a film set, didn't know how to say dialogues and basics about body language. It

to be a part of, while Farah kept her word on casting her for 'Om Shanti Om' despite being a newbie.



Sushant and Kriti in Raabta



After Gauri Shinde's 'Dear Zindagi' starring Alia Bhatt in the lead with Shah Rukh Khan as her life coach struck the right chord with the audiences, fans really want to see the pairing once again on the big screens.



## India is a partner country, not a market: Alexandre Ziegler

**NEW DELHI (KCN):** France is looking at India as a strategic business partner than a market and a handful of French firms are close to finalising major partnership deals with Indian firms, according to Alexandre Ziegler, ambassador of France to India. Such deals will help both the countries capture European and global markets, he added.

"Most French companies are seeing India as a partner destination and they are investing big in India and making in India," Ziegler told Express.

A few start-up companies in aeronautical space are likely to sign major partnership deals during the Paris Air show

starting on June 19. Ziegler also highlighted that French companies have helped in job generation. "Companies like Alstom are making in India and has about 3,000 employees against 300 three years ago," he said.

The Ambassador stressed that India is a big business partner, as 25 out of 40 top French companies have research and development centres in India. "The idea is for long-term commitment and inventing solutions in India that would be relevant all over the world. What we invent here, we would not invest in Europe or any other place... This is the specific approach of French companies in India,"

said Ziegler. He said that during the past three years, India has remained investor-friendly backed by reforms in ease of doing business. Further infrastructure reforms like development of smart city, urban transport (Railways) and thrust on clean energy fits in with the potential that the French companies can offer to India, he said. The Ambassador highlighted that the recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron was critical and important from strategic, political and business as both leaders showed a lot of trust.

"It was a very positive meeting.

Both leaders showed a lot of personal trust and it is important between leaders... There is a lot of trust between France and India. It is of importance in a world which we live in. It is important for strategic, diplomatic and business relations," said Ziegler.

He said telecom companies in France are looking for opportunities in rural areas with the technologies available with them. Ziegler said some start-up firms are also looking to partner with Indian firms. "Some of them with renewable energy storage, smart grid connectivity and making it accessible are looking to co-develop products for India," he said.

## Won't need government funds in FY18: SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya

**MUMBAI (KCN):** It may be capital-surplus, but State Bank of India (SBI) wants to raise more cash and is gearing up to monetise some of its non-core assets. SBI, the country's largest lender, which mopped up Rs 15,000

She added that during the current fiscal, SBI will focus on listing its life insurance arm. "We have plans of unlocking value by listing at least the life insurance subsidiary. So there will be some more (capital) that we

cent in 2018-19. SBI cuts rates on home loans above G75L

SBI on Friday reduced interest rate on home loans above H75 lakh by 10 basis points to 8.55 per cent (8.65 per cent) for salaried women and

'Haven't cancelled credit lines to telecom sector'

State-run SBI on Friday said it has not cancelled unused line of credit to debt-laden telecom operators. The sector is facing the squeeze on revenues and profitabil-



crore through its largest ever equity issuance in the country, however, said it would not be holding out the cash bowl seeking fiscal support from the government this financial year.

According to Arundhati Bhattacharya, chairperson of SBI, the bank has enough capital to meet regulatory requirements up to 2019. Still, that won't stop it from listing its insurance subsidiary to raise further cash from the market. Besides, it may consider paring stake in outfits like CCIL, NSE and UTI MF.

"As per the plan we have put in place, we are quite comfortable on the capital front till next year. We will not require government funds (in FY18). At this point, we have not asked for capital. Even without this capital raising we can meet all the regulatory capital requirements up to 2019, including Basel III need. This is over and above that," Bhattacharya told reporters here on Friday.

will get through our non-core divestments," she explained.

SBI's QIP, which garnered Rs 15,000 crore issuing around 52.21 crore new shares at Rs 287.25 apiece, was over-subscribed and demand exceeded Rs 27,000 crore.

Referring to the QIP issue, Bhattacharya said, "We have taken this to support growth because we very much believe that growth is around the corner.

There was huge demand from DIIs, FIIs, sovereign wealth funds and many investors who have never invested in the country. Most of the investors are those who have never invested in a public sector institution earlier."

LIC, which wanted 38 per cent share in the total QIP, was allotted only 77 per cent of its total demand and its stake now stands at 10.4 per cent, up from 8.6 per cent. The bank expects a credit growth of 10-12 per cent in the current fiscal and 14 per

8.60 per cent (8.70 per cent) for others, with effect from June 15. The move comes close on the heels of RBI's push to revive housing credit by relaxing provisioning norms.

In May, the bank reduced rates for loans up to H30 lakh by up to 25 basis points to 8.35 per cent, and by 10 basis points on those above H30 lakh. Friday's rate cut could prompt other banks to follow suit and in turn give a much-needed push to the government's goal of providing housing for all by 2022. SBI's home loan rates are among the lowest in market

ity in the wake of cut-throat competition following entry of Reliance Jio.

"As a matter of general practise, we do review all the accounts irrespective of which sector, including telecom," said B Sriram, MD, SBI. According to SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya, the bank has a cancellability clause for unutilised limits so that it doesn't unnecessary block capital. "This is a regular review that is taken and where the limits are unused for a period of time, there we simply cancel it," she said.

## \$1-trillion digital economy by 2022: Govt to discuss roadmap with IT leaders

**NEW DELHI (KCN):** The information technology (IT) industry, which is reeling under pressures from key Western markets, will have a formal meeting with the Centre to discuss various problems that have report-

ers for developing the roadmap towards the Centre's target of having a \$1-trillion digital economy by 2022. The meeting, which is expected to be held on June 16, will be chaired by IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

digital economy — telecommunications, digital payments, banking, cyber security — have also been invited to the meeting.

In the recent months, the IT industry has faced business uncertainties from

dent Donald Trump, has initiated a number of steps to review the visa programme. In April, Trump signed an executive order, directing federal agencies to implement a 'Buy American, Hire American' strategy. He called on



edly resulted in job losses across the sector, a senior government official said.

In separate letters to top IT officials, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's additional secretary Ajay Kumar wrote that the government is organising a high-level roundtable with select industry lead-

The government official cited above told The Indian Express that soon after news reports of mass layoffs, the IT ministry began chalking out plans to have regular dialogues to deal with issues concerning the industry. The official also said that apart from the software sector, those from other aspects of

various fronts including issues pertaining to H-1B visa in the US, slowdown in key geographies and the growing need for more specialised skills, which reportedly led to a number of mid- and senior-level employees being laid off.

However, Nasscom stated that employee departures this year are in line with previous years — pegged to be in the range of 0.5 to 3 per cent on company level — and were largely driven by performance-related factors. The US administration, under Presi-

the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to "propose new rules and issue new guidance, to supersede or revise previous rules and guidance if appropriate, to protect the interests of United States workers in the administration of our immigration system, including through the prevention of fraud or abuse" and to "suggest reforms to help ensure that H-1B visas are awarded to the most-skilled or highest-paid petition beneficiaries".



Volkswagen Tiguan Design



Aadhaar will be a must for filing Income Tax Returns from July 1, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said today



## ICC Champions Trophy LIVE

### Australia to defend 277 against England to qualify for semis

**BIRMINGHAM (KCN):** Jason Roy took a sensational Maxwell (20) swiped a hard, flat shot off England seized control, taking the Zealand. The Australians have endured two washouts, leav-



catch on the boundary to precipitate a late collapse by Australia in its 277-9 against England in the Champions Trophy on Saturday.

Needing a victory to qualify for the semifinals, Australia was motoring along at 239-4 in the 43rd over when Glenn

that was heading for a six until Roy reached above his head for a brilliant catch.

Teetering next to the boundary edge, Roy threw the ball into the air to avoid carrying it over and returned to take it for

next four wickets for nine runs in 20 balls as Wood finished with career-best ODI figures of 4-33 and legspinner Adil Rashid claimed 4-41.

England has already qualified for the semifinals, as the winner of Group A, by beating Bangladesh and New

ing them with this must-win contest at Edgbaston.

Travis Head produced some big hits in the final overs to finish on 71 not out, with two sixes and five fours. Aaron Finch scored 68.

For the English to win, they would need to produce a record chase at Edgbaston.

## French Open 2017, Women's Final: First among equals as Simona Halep, Jelena Ostapenko eye title at Roland Garros — Preview

**Paris (KCN):** Simona Halep is targeting the world number one ranking in Saturday's French Open final but fast-rising Latvian upstart Jelena Ostapenko threatens to crash the Romanian's party as a first-time major champion will be crowned.

Halep marked herself out as a favourite for the title at Roland Garros after winning in Madrid and finishing runner-up in Rome, but a tumble in the Italian Open final left her with ankle ligament damage and cast doubt over whether she would play in Paris.

The 25-year-old has since dismissed concerns over her fitness and finds herself one win away from a memorable maiden Slam title triumph that would also see her supplant Angelique Kerber at the top.

"It's a big challenge, a big chance. I think I have the game. I have the mentality to win, but it's going to be tough," said Halep, who lost to

Maria Sharapova in three sets in the 2014 French Open final.

"I learned many things during the years, not just after that final. Also semi-finals in Wimbledon. Then US Open against (Flavia) Pennetta before that

she faced match point against Elina Svitolina before pulling off a miraculous recovery from 3-6, 1-5 down to reach the last four.

Halep then beat Karolina Pliskova, who would have replaced Kerber as the

Ostapenko was in his players' box as he beat Roger Federer in the quarter-finals in Paris.

"When I came here, of course I didn't expect I would be in the final," said Ostapenko, who celebrated her 20th



match.

"My game is stronger, and it's different. I think more about the game, and I play smarter, in my opinion, and also physically. I'm much better, stronger. Attitude better. I think I'm different player, and I'm much stronger than 2014."

Third seed Halep stormed into the quarter-finals without dropping a set, but

new number one had she made the final, for the fifth time in six meetings to set up an intriguing clash with unseeded Ostapenko.

"I never played against her. I don't know what to expect from her," said Halep, bidding to become just the fifth player to win both the girls' and women's singles titles at Roland Garros.

"She's much younger than me. Of course she has nothing to lose.

"But I can feel that I'm in the same position. I played once before here, and I was very close to winning it. If it happens this time, it's going to be great. If not, I will have many years ahead to work and to play some more finals."

Ostapenko's run is all the more remarkable given her third-round exit at this year's Australian Open represented her best previous Grand Slam performance.

She is the first Latvian to reach a Slam final, going one step further than Ernests Gulbis in 2014 when a young

birthday on Thursday by overpowering Timea Bacsinszky in the semi-finals.

"But then, like, first match was a tough match, as well, and I won it. I think it kind of gave me confidence. Then every match I was playing better and better and I got my confidence, and I think it works pretty well."

Ostapenko lost her opening match on her Roland Garros main draw debut a year ago, but the world number 47 is hunting a victory that would see her become the lowest-ranked champion in tournament history.

She is also hoping to win a maiden tour-level title at a Slam -- a feat lasted accomplished by Gustavo Kuerten at the French Open in 1997 on the same day Ostapenko was born.

"Tennis is not popular in our country because it's a kind of expensive sport," said Ostapenko, who will crack the top 20 after her breakout display in Paris.

"I think probably I will have a lot of attention when I come back home."

## Indian skipper Virat Kohli ready for crunch Champions Trophy clash against South Africa

**LONDON(KCN):** Virat Kohli says India will thrive under pressure in their make or break Champions Trophy clash with South Africa on Sunday.

After slumping to a shock defeat against Sri Lanka on Thursday, holders India must win their final Group B fixture at The Oval to avoid an embarrassing exit.

India came into the tournament as favourites to lift the silverware, but failure to build on their opening match thrashing of Pakistan has put their title defence in jeopardy.

Although he is well aware of the criticism that would come with elimination at the group stage, India captain Kohli is remaining upbeat and he called on his players to embrace the high-stakes nature of their showdown with South Africa.

"It's become very exciting. Every

game is effectively a quarter-final now," Kohli said.

table for sure." South Africa also come into the fi-

four points on the board right now, we still would have gone

Combinations Kohli hinted changes are on the agenda as he looks to find the right balance in his bowling attack.

"We will have to sit down and think of how we match up against the opposition that we're playing against," Kohli said.

"As I said, all options are open. We had certain things in mind which didn't come off well against Sri Lanka.

"There will be a lot of things discussed, what went wrong and what combinations we can come out with in the next game.

"If you want to bring in a bit more balance into the bowling attack by changing it up a little bit, that will be up for discussion as well."

South Africa go into the game with question marks over the form and fitness of captain AB de Villiers, who was dismissed for his first ODI golden duck



"In our group especially, all teams are on two points, and you have to win your next game to go through, which is an exciting position to be in for all teams.

"It's a great scenario where you literally have two matches now which are going to be even more competitive cricket.

"So we are pretty clear about the whole situation. It certainly opened up the whole

nal fixture on the back of a defeat, against Pakistan on Wednesday, but Kohli warned his team not to underestimate the Proteas.

"We are against a very high quality side and we have to go out there and play good cricket," he said.

"So there's no room for complacency in a tournament like this, and we as a team certainly don't feel that.

"Even if we had

out there to try to beat South Africa, and that's exactly the mindset we are going to take into the next game."

Although India posted a solid score of 321 against Sri Lanka, their batsman failed to push on for an unassailable total.

India's bowlers were even more culpable after a lacklustre effort allowing Sri Lanka to win for the loss of just three wickets.



Bangladesh's Mahmudullah celebrates his side's victory over New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy Group A cricket match between New Zealand and Bangladesh at Sophia Gardens Cardiff Wales Friday June 9 2017.