

Unofficial results to be out soon as Odisha votes in panchayat elections

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Voting ended in the first phase of Odisha's much-hyped three-tier panchayat elections on Monday. Voting was estimated at 50 per cent when the voting booths closed at 12 noon. Officials figures, to be released later, are likely to take the number past 55 per cent.

Counting of votes commenced in booths where voting was complete. While results are to be announced only on February 22, the day after the five-phase polling is complete, some results will be known unofficially by Monday evening. These returns are likely to set the tone for next four phases of polls.

As many as 65 blocks in 29 districts

went to the polls in the first phase of the panchayat election. This phase will decide the fate of 188 zilla parishad (ZP) members. Polling was conducted for 198 ZP zones comprising 1,506 gram panchayats and 20,369 wards.

There were stray cases of violence and boycotts across the state but no Maoist violence. However, left wing extremists did torch a contractor's camp in Khaprakhole block in Balangir district on Sunday night but the State Election Commission (SEC) said it had nothing to do with the panchayat elections.

Polling began at 7 am Monday. About 35 per cent voting was recorded by 10 am and 50 percent at

around 11 am. When the day's voting closed at 12 noon, there were still people in queues.

State Election Commission secretary Rabindra Nath Sahu said there were reports of some disturbances in Mahanga block in Cuttack. In two booths of Haladia, miscreants resorted to booth capturing and rigging and in six booths of Dokada and Balijhari, the election was boycotted. A change in the election symbol of a candidate led to an agitation in Tikanpur gram panchayat of Kendrapara district.

In Hatadihi block in the northern district of Keonjhar, voting was affected after the voters lists of the presiding officer and polling agents did not

match.

"Barring sporadic incidents, the election process has been by and large peaceful in the Central Range districts," inspector-general (central) Saumendra Priyadarshi said.

Despite the threat from the left wing extremists in recent weeks, no disturbances were reported from the southern districts of Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur. In fact, in 27 booths under Lamataput under Koraput, polling was above 30 per cent till reports last came in.

"Voting has been peaceful across the southern districts and we are keeping a close watch on the proceedings," deputy inspector-general of the South Western Range S Shyni said.

BJP-ruled States making rapid strides: Jharkhand CM

BARGAON (SUNDARGARH) (KCN): Yet another BJP Chief Minister descended on

Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, Odisha BJP unit general secretary Ranjan Patel and secretary Dhiren

claimed that the farm sector in Odisha is in a bad shape due to lack irrigation facilities, while unemploy-

Odisha and the quality of '1 rice is very poor in Odisha," Raghubar said. "Neighbour helps a neighbour and as a good neighbour, I have come to appeal to you to jerk this inefficient BJD Government from its slumber," he added.

Stating that the BJP-ruled States are progressing rapidly, Raghubar called upon the people to vote for the party and pave the way for installing BJP Government in Odisha. Oram, in an appeal to the people, said, "I am feeling alone and the victory of BJP candidates in rural polls will help me in spending more funds in the district." Oram said his Ministry has a budget of Rs 5,600 crores and he wishes to allot special grant of Rs 100 crores to Sundargarh, but the State Government is preventing him. Sundargarh unit BJP president BK Mishra was also present.



Sundargarh to seek votes for the party's candidates on Sunday. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das campaigned in Bargaon block, bordering Jharkhand, a day after Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh and Union Minister of State Vishnudeo Sai campaigned in the district. Raghubar, accompanied by Union

Senapati addressed a meeting at Itma in Bargaon block for the party's Zilla Parishad nominees in Bargaon-A and B seats.

Raghubar launched a scathing attack on the BJD Government in Odisha saying despite 17 years of BJD rule, the State lags behind in road connectivity, rural electrification and infrastructure. He

ment and migration are on the rise.

Drawing a parallel between his 23-month rule, Raghubar said Jharkhand is making progress. Jharkhand is aggressively working to double farmers' earnings with stress on consumption of locally grown agriculture produce. "My Government pays old age pension of Rs 600 while it is Rs 300 in

China blames US, South Korea for North Korea missile launch

BEIJING (KCN): China, facing criticism that it is not doing enough to pressure North Korea to drop its nuclear program, said Monday that the root cause of North Korean missile launches is Pyongyang's friction with the United States and South Korea.

North Korea fired a banned ballistic missile on Sunday, its first test since U.S. President Donald Trump took office. The missile, launched as Trump hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Florida, is believed to have flown about 500 kilometers (300 miles) before splashing down in international waters.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China opposed the launch, which violated U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for an end to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests.

China is North Korea's largest source of trade and aid, and Trump has com-

plained that Beijing is not doing enough to pressure Pyongyang. Beijing counters that its influence is overstated and suggests that Washington's refusal to talk directly

ity Council resolutions on the nuclear issue. He said Beijing "has been striving for a settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue by proactively engaging in media-

sides to refrain from provocative action and said China would continue participating in Security Council discussions in a constructive and responsible way.



to North Korea is impeding progress toward a solution.

"The root cause of the (North Korean) nuclear missile issue is its differences with the U.S. and South Korea," Geng told reporters at a regular briefing.

Geng said China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, has been "completely and comprehensively" implementing Secu-

tion and promoting peace talks."

Although generally dismissive of sanctions, Beijing has signed on to successive rounds under the U.N. Security Council, and last month banned more items from being exported to North Korea, including plutonium and dual-use technologies that could aid its nuclear program.

Geng urged all

Beijing appears concerned that the U.S. and South Korea will speed up the planned deployment of an advanced missile defense system in South Korea designed to counter a missile attack from the North following the latest launch. Beijing objects to the system because it would possibly be able to observe Chinese military movements. **See page - 7**

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‘Neil Nitin Mukesh-Rukmini Sahay to wed today: Here’s what happened at their mehendi, sangeet. See pics, videos

New Delhi (KCN) February 13, 2017 4:11 pm

Adele, Beyonce, Grammy 2017, Grammy awards 2017, adele Grammy 2017, adele Grammy award, Beyonce Adele, Beyonce ADELE GRAMMY 2017, Beyonce crying, Beyonce pics, Beyonce Adele news, Beyonce Adele pics Grammy Awards 2017: Adele broke her Grammy into two to share it with Beyonce.

Who loves Beyonce? It seems everybody and you can add Adele to the list too. At Grammy Awards 2017, Adele may have won the top three categories — Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Record of the Year — pipping Beyonce to the winner’s podium but the Hello singer appeared reluctant to win. In fact, Adele was clear it was Beyonce’s year and she had no business winning Album of the Year.

While accepting her awards, Adele said, “I can’t possibly accept this award. The Lemonade album was just so monumental, Beyoncé. It was so monumental and well thought-out and beautiful and soul-bearing... we appreciate that. All of us artists here adore you. You are our light.” This was moments before she broke her award into two in order to share it with Queen Bey, who mouthed ‘thank you’ from among the audience.

Also read |

Grammy Awards 2017: Adele sweeps 59th Grammys, wins top 3 categories

Adele later added backstage: “I thought it was her year. What the fu*k does she have to do to win Album of the Year?” Adding to her outburst, Adele remembered the moment she fell in love with Beyonce, Adele recalled: “I remember when I was 11 years old, I was with some girlfriends, and we were practicing a song to do at an assembly. I probably suggested the Spice Girls, and they said have you heard [Destiny’s Child’s] ‘No No No’? And I was like, ‘no, no, no.’ I remember how I felt hearing her voice. I fell in love immediately with her. The way I felt when I first heard ‘No No No’ was exactly the same as when I first heard ‘Lemonade’ last year. ... The other artists who mean that much to me are all dead.”

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center of attention Sunday’s Grammy awards, as the pregnant singer delivered the night’s most anticipated performance. Beyonce, 35, went into music’s biggest night with a leading nine nomina-

said as she accepted her Grammy trophy.

While Beyonce is usually known to deliver energetic dance-filled performances, the singer opted to slow things down now she is expecting twins and instead centered her set on the theme of motherhood. For her performance of “Love Drought” and “Sandcastles,” a video projection of Beyonce dressed in a gold chain bikini and gold halo crown appeared on stage, as she caressed her pregnant belly and posed with her mother Tina Lawson and 5-year-old daughter Blue Ivy. Beyonce then appeared for real on stage, dressed in a nude sequined dress and crown, strutting along the top of a long table strewn with flowers while her dancers, dressed in flowing dresses, surrounded her. At one point, she sat on a chair on top of the table, which tipped back as she sang.

The performance ended with the singer standing in the spotlight as her dancers raised their intertwined arms behind her, looking upwards as Beyonce’s voice recites, “If we’re going to heal, let it be glorious.” A proud Jay Z wiped tears from his eyes as he cuddled Blue Ivy, who was dressed in a pink tuxedo in homage to Prince. Beyonce’s mother introduced her performance, praising the singer for her “devotion and love” and her “powerful words and music.”

Kriti picks up a cigarette for the first time for her role

NEW DELHI(K-CN): We have seen actors go to lengths for their roles, pushing the envelope, going out of their comfort zone and doing what is required.

This time Kriti Sanon has done it for her character in ‘Bareilly ki Barfi.’ The actress, who has always been a non-smoker, had to pick up a cigarette for her role, as the script demanded so.

Committed to her character, the ‘Heropanti’ actress did not hesitate to go ahead and do this, even though it was not in her comfort zone.



‘Hello world’, Shahid introduces daughter on social media

MUMBAI: (KCN) : Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor has

Misha Kapoor on social media. Shahid on

Instagram. ter along with his wife Mira Rajput, on

baby and kissing her cheek, while Misha is looking towards the



finally shared a photograph of his five-month-old daughter

Wednesday shared a black-and-white photograph of his daughter

Shahid Kapoor In the image, Mira is seen hugging the

camera. "Hello world," Shahid captioned the

image. Shahid and Mira welcomed their first child with utmost joy in August last year. The name of the duo’s daughter is an amalgam of her parents’ name. Shahid and Mira, who have a 12-year age gap, tied the knot in New Delhi in 2015. They reportedly met due to their connect with the religious group Radha Soami Satsang Beas.

On the work front, Shahid will be seen in filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s upcoming film “Padmavati”, which also stars Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone.

TAGSShahid Mira Misha

Have not withdrawn governance concerns, insists Murthy

BENGALURU(K-CN): Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy today denied that he had withdrawn his concerns about governance lapses at the firm, saying the Board has to address these "properly" and "full transparency should be displayed and people responsible for it should become accountable".

"No, I have not withdrawn my concern. They have to be addressed properly by the Board and full transparency should be displayed and people responsible for it should become accountable," Murthy told PTI.

Murthy was responding to reports that he had backed down from the confrontation with the

Board over corporate governance issues.



Asked about his view on the integrity of Infosys Board members, Murthy said while all the member are "good intended people of high integrity, but even good people sometimes make mistakes".

"...good leader-

ship demands that they listen to all con-

cerned shareholders, re-evaluate their decisions, and take corrective action. I hope they take corrective action soon and improve governance for a better future for the company," he added.

Over the last few days, Infosys has come under fire from

co-founders like Murthy who have

publicly raised concerns on alleged corporate governance lapses at the Bengaluru-based firm.

Some of the founders have aired concerns about CEO Vishal Sikka's USD 11 million pay and expensive severance

packages for former executives Rajiv Bansal (CFO) and David Kennedy (General Counsel).

They had also called for re-constitution of the Board, demanding that Chairman Ramaswami Seshasayee step down, taking responsibility for the "lapses".

Infosys has, however, defended itself saying all decisions were made "in the overall interest of the company" and that it has made "full disclosures" on all developments.

Infosys founders, along with their family members, owned 12.75 per cent in the company at the end of December 2016, as per the data available with BSE.

Government may tweak indirect tax maths mid-way after GST entry

NEW DELHI(K-CN): In a first, the government might have to recalibrate its budgetary tax collection estimate half-way after the goods and services tax (GST) comes into effect.

In Budget 2017-18, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley used the traditional tool of setting a modest growth to the expected revenue collection in the current fiscal

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Shi Yuanhua, a Korean studies professor at Shanghai's Fudan University, said that from Pyongyang's perspective, it was a good time to launch a missile because the new U.S. administration hadn't decided what approach to take with North Korea, and Beijing was at odds with Washington and Seoul over the anti-missile system.

"Whether or not to abandon nuclear weapons concerns North Korea's core national interests and there is no way for China to get it to change its stance with a few words of persuasion, and it can't solve the problem by applying a ban on exports," Shi said.

"The key for solving the problem lies in the hands of the U.S. If the U.S. is willing to sit and talk with North Korea, China will be happy to promote it," he added.

A Communist Party newspaper said in an editorial Monday that the timing of Sunday's launch, a day after the end of China's 15-day Lunar New Year period, suggests Beijing's participation in U.N. Security Council sanctions is having a "positive effect." Last year, North Korea launched a long-range rocket on the eve of China's most important holiday, in a snub to its chief ally.

for indirect tax projections of the next fiscal year.

By that yardstick, 2017-18 will be a different year compared with the past. Mid-way, GST will kick in by subsuming all central indirect taxes such as central excise and service taxes as also state levies like value-added tax (VAT) into one. GST collections so made are then to

be split equally between the Centre and states.

However, due to non-availability of reliable estimates of combined VAT collections of states, Jaitley could not project the Centre's revenue from GST in 2017-18.

"Right now, we have not put them under the head of GST because till the law is passed (by Parliament and state legislatures), we cannot account under GST. So, we have taken the normal estimate of excise and service tax collection.

We have taken a very modest growth rate of about nine per cent for indirect tax. Because of GST, we may have to wait and watch. So, we are being conservative in estimate," said Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia.

The GST revenue collections can be arrived once the all-powerful GST Council, headed by Jaitley, fixes tax rate for every goods and service.

Media 'drama' around Infosys distracting, says Sikka

MUMBAI(KCN): Pitted against a clutch of high-profile co-founders, Infosys

based on a very strong fabric.

"All this drama that has been going

with Mr Murthy, probably meet him 4-5-6 times a year," he said, but added that

by the Board and full transparency should be displayed and people responsible



CEO Vishal Sikka today said the "drama" going on in the media is "very distracting", even as the firm's longest serving chairman N R Narayana Murthy insisted concerns over corporate governance be addressed "properly."

Making his first public statement on the row that broke out after co-founders Murthy, Nandan Nilekani and Kris Gopalakrishnan wrote to Infosys Board questioning hike in CEO's compensation and severance pay to quitting executives, Sikka said the company is

on in the media, it's very distracting. It takes away attention but underneath that there is a very strong fabric that this company is based," he said at an investor conference in Mumbai.

"And it is a real privilege for me to be its leader," he added.

Sikka said he has always shared a "heartfelt, warm relationship" with Murthy.

"My relationship with the founders? It is wonderful. I meet Mr Murthy quite frequently...I have always had a heartfelt warm relationship

he has not met the other founders off late.

Sikka's comments came after a media report said Murthy is calling off his fight with the board as he was confident the IT giant he co-founded will deal with the concerns raised about corporate governance.

But Murthy, who along with other co-founders holds some 13 per cent interest in Infosys, said he has not withdrawn his concerns.

"No, I have not withdrawn my concern. They have to be addressed properly

for it should become accountable," he told PTI.

? Asked about his view on the integrity of Infosys Board members, Murthy said while all the member are "good intended people of high integrity, but even good people sometimes make mistakes".

"...good leadership demands that they listen to all concerned shareholders, re-evaluate their decisions, and take corrective action. I hope they take corrective action soon and improve governance for a better future for the company," he added.

India needs 1.5 million tonnes of sugar imports in 2017: Sources

DUBAI(KCN): India, the world's biggest consumer of sugar, will likely need to import around 1.5 million tonnes of the sweetener this 2016-

of the Dubai Sugar Conference.

Vithalani said the government could likely make a decision on imports by March but no later

the 2016-2017 season at around 20 million tonnes, plus or minus 2 percent, with opening stocks of 7.7 million tonnes and consumption of around

New Delhi currently charges a 40 percent import tax.

Since sugar is a politically sensitive commodity in India, the government often



2017 season, the chairman of one of the country's sugar trade associations told Reuters on Monday.

"The timing of the imports will be settled by the government but I personally feel that around 1.5 million tonnes is enough," Praful Vithalani, the chairman of the All India Sugar Trade Association said in an interview on the sidelines

than April 15.

By that time, Vithalani expects the government to have a clearer forecast for production and consumption figures.

The government's production forecast of 22.5 million tonnes remains unchanged for now but the Food Ministry is expected to reassess the situation soon.

Vithalani forecasts production for

24.5 million.

"That would leave us with opening stocks of 3.2 million come October 2017 to last until Nov. 10 and this is not a good opening stock to open the season with," Vithalani said.

"That is too low, even sometimes dangerous," he said.

Vithalani said should the government make a decision to import, the import tax would have to go.

resorts to measures such as scrapping the import tax and banning futures trading on commodity exchanges.

When the decision is made to import, Vithalani said the sugar would most likely come from Thailand or Dubai.

"When it is open for imports it can come from wherever, but I think mainly Thailand or Dubai."

Yuna Kim reveals Olympic torch in countdown to 2018 Games

Gangneung (KCN): Kim Yuna holds the Olympic torch during the ceremony to mark a year to the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games in Gangneung. The one-year countdown to the Pyeongchang Games began Thursday with Yuna Kim revealing the Olympic torch.

The one-year countdown to the Pyeongchang Games began Thursday with Yuna Kim revealing the Olympic torch and organizers opening online ticket reservations.

South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn and an International Olympic Committee delegation led by Gunilla Lindberg, who heads the IOC's coordination commission for the games, also attended the ceremony in Gangneung, which will host the ice sports events next year.

"I am convinced that the Pyeongchang Olympics will be a success," Hwang said in a speech at the ceremony. "I believe in the great strength of our people who have successfully hosted international events like the 1988 Olympics and 2002 World Cup."

Kim, a figure skating gold medalist who is perhaps the country's most popular sports personality

even in retirement, carried the white-and-gold Olympic torch onto a stage built over ice as a group of pop singers sang "We Are the Champions," highlighting an event that also included a video message from IOC President Thomas Bach.

"It is my great pleasure to invite the national Olympic



committees of the world and their athletes to participate in the Olympic Winter Games Pyeongchang 2018," Bach said in the message.

Hwang has served as the country's acting head of state since December when President Park Geun-hye's powers were suspended after lawmakers voted to impeach her over a corruption scandal. He told organizers in a meeting earlier in the day that government is ready to invest "every reliable resource" to build buzz for the games and ensure the safety of athletes and spectators.

With preparations entering the last phases, the participation of North Korea

and Russia have emerged as major issues ahead of next year's games.

Relations between the two Koreas have worsened since North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and a string of rocket launches last year as it continues to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Russian athletes have been

caught up in a scandal following allegations of state-sponsored doping around the time of the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Lee Hee-beom, Pyeongchang's organizing head, expressed hopes to see athletes from both countries at the games.

"Every country and every athlete who loves peace has a right and obligation to participate in the Olympics," Lee said. "North Korea is no exception. We are making preparations for the possibility that North Korea participates in the games."

The Pyeongchang Games will mark the second time the Olympics have been staged in South Korea, which also

hosted the 1998 Games in Seoul.

This time, organizers have had to overcome delays, local conflicts regarding venue constructions and difficulties attracting domestic sponsorships before putting preparations on track. Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the 12 competition venues in Pyeongchang and nearby Gangneung, including six new facilities that organizers say are about 96 percent complete on average.

The athletes and media villages, an international broadcasting center, and a pentagonal stadium that will host the opening and closing ceremonies are expected to be finished by September.

The political turmoil surrounding President Park has been a massive distraction that slowed organizers' efforts to stoke lukewarm public interest, and also rattled the country's ministry of culture and sports, which oversees the Olympic preparations.

Lee said that the recent political situation "to a degree" negatively affected preparations for the games, but said such impact could be overcome with more help from government organizations and the business community.

Our hearts and minds are already on Australia series: Kohli

HYDERABAD(KCN): India captain Virat Kohli, after a job well done against Bangladesh, said the players' hearts and minds are already on the big series against Australia, beginning with the first Test in Pune on February 23.

Kohli said the side wants to build on the good work done so far this season, in

work hard to dismiss the opposition twice with the match ending at stroke of tea on day five.

Kohli, who became the first batsman to smash four double hundreds in successive Test series, was especially pleased about the performance of his bowlers on a good batting track.

been the characteristic of our team. We didn't get overexcited. Ishant's spell was outstanding, coming with a soft ball, reversing it at pace. If we have two world-class spinners in the side, you can tell the fast bowlers to come in and attack and the partnership between them and the spinners is great.

fought well against the number one Test team but it would have been a different story had they taken their opportunities.

"We created a lot of opportunities with the bowling. If we had restricted India to 550 or 600, we could have had a chance. It's quite tough out there in the second innings, India have a lot of options, not only among the spinners but the fast bowlers as well. Hopefully we learn from this and come up with better performance," said captain Mushfiqur Rahim.

Overall, he felt there were lots of positives to take out of the game.

"I'm really proud of the boys, even the tail-enders showed really good character. Little things are what we need to improve on. Couple of matches coming up in Sri Lanka. Hopefully we capitalise there. We batted more than 100 overs each innings, and Mehedi Hasan batted and bowled well. Taijul (Islam) bowled well. But I think our fielding let us down. If we can compete for five days, we can push the big boys," he added.



the four Test series against Australia.

"I thought England was the biggest series for us this season, but having won that 4-0, we want to consolidate on that against Australia. Everyone's minds and hearts are already on it," said Kohli after India completed a 208-run win against Bangladesh in the one-off Test here today.

India had to

"Definitely, it was a good wicket to bat on, good toss to win, putting massive runs on the board helps. Bangladesh batted well in the first innings, the plan was to get into good habits and we have a big series coming up as well and the bowlers got into their rhythm and all in all a good game for us.

"The bowlers found ways to get batsmen out, that's

Umesh was a revelation really," said Kohli.

On his sensational run, the skipper added: "It's been coming off nicely, last year was something that I didn't expect to happen. I just go into each game with a fresh mind, try to be aggressive, but not over-attack. I'm very comfortable with where my batting is."

Bangladesh

Planning to turn professional with BFI support: Vikas Krishan

NEW DELHI(KCN): Former Asian Games gold medalist and two-time Olympian boxer Vikas Krishan has revealed that he is planning to turn professional by the end of this year provided the national federation keeps the amateur doors open for him.

Speaking to PTI from New Jersey (USA), where he has been training for more than two months, the former World Championships bronze medalist said he has his eyes set on the professional arena.

"I have plans to turn professional by the end of this year or the beginning of next year. I want the support of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). If our BFI President Mr Ajay Singh is okay with the move, I will seriously consider it. The

International Boxing Association (AIBA)

wait for the national federation's approval

in my decision whenever it happens," he

"We have been in

would thrash out a policy next month

boxers getting the maximum out of their talent in every arena but as Secretary General of a national federation, I would have to ensure that discipline is maintained," he added.

Vikas, a former youth world champion besides being an Asian Championships silver-medalist, has already been training with professional boxers in the US.

"It has helped me immensely. My endurance has improved drastically, which was a weak point of my overall game. I used to struggle to last three rounds but now I can sustain through six or even seven rounds. Sparring with professional boxers has helped me immensely," he explained.

The middle-weight boxer also de-

tailed his training schedule in the US, from where he is set to return early next month.

"I have three sessions of two and half hours each daily. The first is dedicated to endurance, the second is focussed on strength and conditioning, and the final session is devoted to boxing," he said.

"This focussed training is 10 times harder than what I have ever experienced in India. Training here has redefined boxing for me. I have also become better at pressure-handling," he added.

In immediate future, Vikas said he is eyeing selection in the Asian Championships to be held either in June or July later this year. The venue for the event has not yet been finalised.



has already ended the divide between amateur and professional," Vikas said.

"I want to compete for the country in amateur events and that is why, I would

to turn professional. The new federation has been doing a good job of rebuilding boxing and it would be a morale-booster for me if the federation is with me

added. BFI Secretary General Jay Kowli said the BFI will formulate a policy on dealing with professional boxers by the end of next month.

touch with him. As of now, there is no policy for professional boxers so we are neither supporting nor stopping anyone from going the professional way. We

and boxers would be free to go professional after registering with us but within the ambit of AIBA rules and regulations," Kowli said.

"As a former boxer, I am all for