

Odisha asks for NINEI Amat takes speaker charge

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prime Minister

IIT, Bhubaneswar for construction of

in the renewable energy sector, Government of Odisha has taken several initiatives in accordance with the national development goals including recent announcement of the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2016," Mr.Patnaik had earlier written to the Prime Minister.

In order to promote research and innovation in the renewable energy sector, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy had decided to set up a NINEI in Odisha, Mr. Patnaik said. Mr.Patnaik has written the letter under the backdrop that the State

is likely to miss the proposed NINEI, thanks to bureaucratic wrangle and political considerations, feel senior officials. As the State was found to be most suitable place to establish the proposed NINEI, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) had decided to set up this Innovative Institute of National Standard in Odisha. Almost all steps were taken for setting up this Institute as the State Administration took proactive interest in this regard. However as uncertainty prevails in MNRE level, Chief Minister Mr.Patnaik has send the missive to the Prime Minister, said sources.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Former Finance Minister and senior Lawmaker Pradip Kumar Amat has today assumed the charge as the Twentieth Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Mr.Amat, who resigned as Minister Finance, Health & Family Welfare on 6 May, began his Second Term as the Assembly Speaker today.

Earlier, he was Speaker of the OLA from 25 May, 2009 till 20 May, 2014.

Mr.Amat's election came a day after the Treasury Bench moved a notice for the Speaker's election.

As Niranjan Pujari had tendered his resignation as the Speaker on 5 May ahead of the Ministry reshuffle on May 7,

the post was vacant.

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Sanand Marandi chaired a brief session of the OLA where Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved a motion and proposed Mr.Amat's name for the Speaker's post which was seconded by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keasri Arukha.

As the motion was passed on Voice Vote, Mr.Marandi announced that Mr.Amat has been elected as new Speaker of Assembly.

Later Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra of Congress and BJP legislature party leader KV Singh Deo welcomed Mr.Amat and led him to the Speaker's Chair.

Chief Minister

Mr.Patnaik wel-

The Congress



Narendra Modi's intervention has been urged to start construction of the proposed National Institute of New Energy and Innovation (NINEI) in the state.

Though the Odisha Government has allocated 73.86 acres of land free of cost near

the proposed NINEI, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is yet to take possession of the land and start construction work of the building, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said in a letter to Mr.Modi.

"I am happy to share with you that



CBI raids former Union minister P Chidambaram and son Karti's homes in Chennai; searches on in Delhi, Mumbai, Gurugram too

The CBI has launched multiple raids in former Union minister P Chidambaram's son Karti Chidambaram's

The CBI team began the raids at his house early in the morning under the supervision from the Delhi headquarters.

charges include criminal conspiracy, cheating, taking gratification in order by corrupt or illegal means to influence

Chidambaram, who served in the Congress government that was voted out of office in 2014, declined to comment

and her company INX Media. INX Media operated channels like NewsX, 9X and 9X Music.

It is alleged that while the clearance was only for Rs. 4 crore, the actual foreign investment was much higher, and this was allowed because Karti allegedly facili-

was allegedly paid from INX Media to Northstar Software Solutions Pvt Ltd. On September 24, 2008, another tranche of 20,000 Dollars were allegedly paid to ASCPL's Singapore subsidiary by INX Media.

A first information request, or police

Bharatiya Janata Party, alleging corruption in a 2006 telecoms merger.

Alleging that the government wanted to silence his voice, the former union minister said, "Government is targeting my son and his friends by using CBI and other agencies".

Karaikudi also.

Karti, who is facing money laundering charges in connection with the Aircel-Maxis deal, has been raided at his offices in the past as well.

Tom Vadakkan, a Congress party spokesman, said the



residence at Nungambakkam in Chennai. In all, 14 locations, including in Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai and Chennai, connected to the senior Congress leader and his son are being searched by the CBI. The case has been registered under section 120-B r/w, section 420, section 8 and section 13(2) r/w and 13 (1) (d) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram's residence at Jor Bagh in New Delhi. | EPS-Shekhar Yadav

According to reports, the raids are part of the Aircel-Maxis case. It is also being said that the raids are linked to

public servant and criminal misconduct.

A CBI spokesman in New Delhi confirmed a raid was taking place at the

when asked about the raids by Reuters.

Local reporters said the raids may relate to investment clearances given to a



clearances given to INX media, which was once owned by Peter Mukerjea. The

home of Chidambaram's son, Karti, but gave no further details.

company called INX Media and that the deal was linked to Indrani Mukherjee



tated the deal. The CBI is also investigating a money trail and the bribe allegedly given to Karti.

According to reports, on Sept 22, 2008, Karti's Advantage Strategic Consulting Private Limited (ASCPL) allegedly received Rs. 35 Lakhs from INX Media, on the same day another Rs.60 lakh

report, was filed in the matter on Monday, the Indian Express reported.

Chidambaram has been an outspoken critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. He has also been the target of litigation brought by Subramanian Swamy, a prominent lawmaker in Modi's

"The government wants to stop me from writing, as it has tried to do with leaders of opposition parties, journalists, columnists, NGOs and civil society", he further added.

The raids are also being conducted at their offices and may follow at Chidambaram's native place in

raids were an attempt to malign Chidambaram's reputation and that they had found no incriminating evidence.

"This is clearly a fishing expedition launched by the Modi government against Chidambaram," Vadakkan told Reuters. (Inputs from agencies)

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Donning many avatars

Raksha Karthik on striking a balance between dance and dentistry

Not many of us can claim to be successful at juggling our jobs and hobbies like Dr Raksha Karthik. The consultant dental surgeon, mother of one and a Bharatanatyam dancer is at ease balancing her multiple roles.

"I enjoy being a mother, dancer and dentist. That is why I don't feel the pressure."

"My grandmother encouraged me to dance when she saw me groove at the age of seven. Learning how to dance was different those days. You had to begin your dance journey with structured postures and master the basics till they were perfect. Only then could we move to the next step.

To be honest, it was boring to do stretches and just sit in one posture for most of the training," she recalls.

would do what I was taught – sit in one posture until everyone laughed!"

Having come a long way since then,



She narrates how she was the reason for a lot of humour in the household.

"My training was confined to basics for many years. My parents would still ask me to perform at family functions.

Since I had not progressed from the sitting postures, I

Raksha says: "Now, I know the value of that training and I believe it is necessary. Master your initial steps and the rest will fall into place. It is like a tree. If the roots are not strong, the tree will not last long. Continuous hard work and practice are always a part of any

art field and in Bharatanatyam, it is not different."

She rues about how parents these days are in a hurry to watch their children perform on stage and dance to songs.

"It is difficult to explain to them since they live in a time where a pizza is prepared and delivered in 30 minutes. They do not understand that a dance performance can take years to prepare and perfect. There is no fast forward mode to teaching dance. It requires consistent patience and hard work."

An exponent of the Pandanallur and Vazhavur styles of Bharatanatyam, Raksha has also been trained in the advanced form of Abhinaya or the expressional technique by Bhanumathi and Chandrashekhara Nriitya Kalamandiram.

"A lot of work is done by the composer because he feels an

emotion and shapes it into a song. I merely have to react to his music. Half the emotions are already expressed. I add the visual aspect to the song."

Having performed at domestic and international festivals, she finds the foreign crowd to be very impressed. "I don't like to compare them, but abroad, the audience is more silent and watches the dance intently. They read up about the dance form and are curious to know more. This makes Indian dance fascinating for them. Here, we do not value the things we have but others see it as an invaluable gift."

Raksha points out that dance has several benefits. "It helps you focus and calms the mind. Dance is a free flow of emotion. You forget everything and jump into it trying to convey the emotion of the song through dance."

'Kaabil' review: Hrithik paints every frame in glorious colours

Film: "Kaabil"
Director: Sanjay Gupta

Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Yami Gautam, Ronit Roy and Rohit Roy
Sanjay Gupta is



known for blatant plagiarism but a film from almost a decade ago now shows why Gupta comes short in that respect too. What does it say about your film if it makes Ghajini look sophisticated? The premise is same. A revenge drama like any other. A cardboard villain. One man army. A disability. Rohan (Hrithik Roshan) in Kaabil is blind. Sanjay in Ghajini fights his short term memory loss. Both exist to extract gimmicks. But Ghajini - which cannot even be categorized as a good film or filmmaking - at least hits the right notes for its genre.

Actors Samantha, Chaitanya get engaged

Actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Chaitanya Akkineni got engaged in a private ceremony in Hyderabad on Sunday. Actor Nagarjuna took to Twitter to announce the good news about his son Chaitanya saying: "#Chaisam It's official now. My mother is my daughter now.

Couldn't be happier!! more pics to come" (sic) a few hours after the event. The actor was hinting at Samantha (who



played his mother in the Akkineni family magnum opus Manam in 2014), turning his daughter once she steps into the household as his eldest daughter-in-law. He shared photographs of the couple exchanging rings and a family photograph too, featuring the new couple, his younger son Akhil Akkineni and soon to be daughter-in-law Shriya Bhupal, along with wife Amala. The date for the high-profile wedding is yet to be announced.

Sunny Leone is the perfect seductress in 'Laila main Laila'

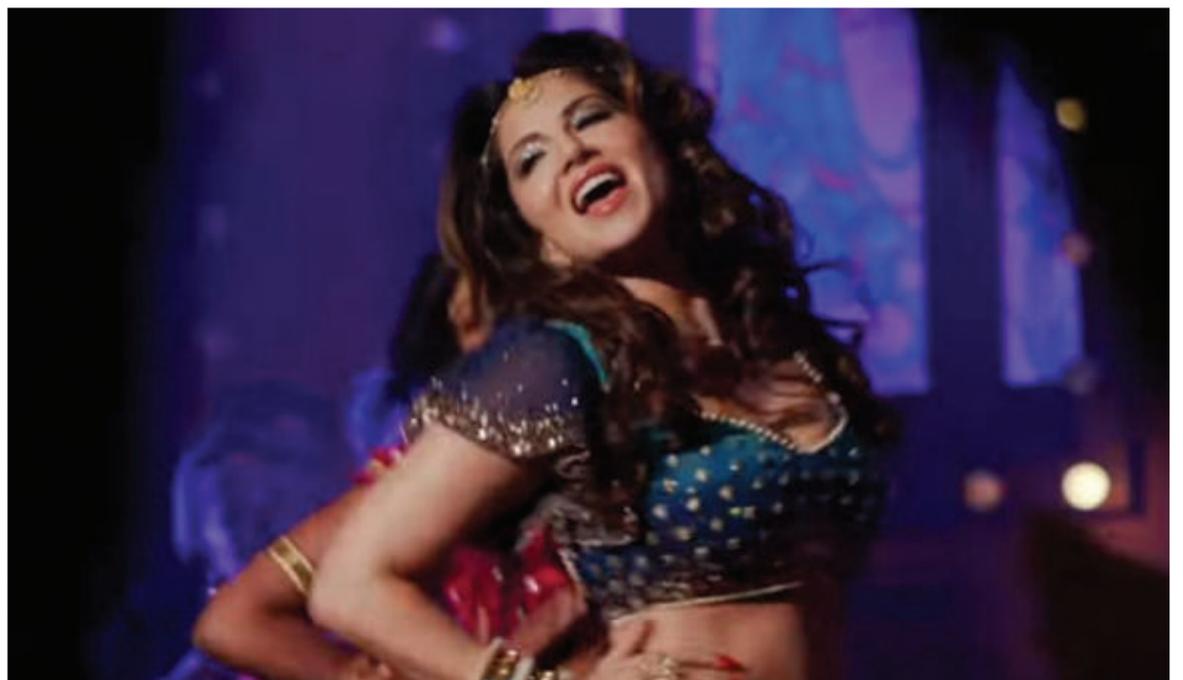
NEW DELHI (KCN):Sunny Leone's much-awaited song from 'Raees' is out and it has all the ingredients to make it to the top of every chartbuster!

From Sunny's sexy dance moves to Shah Rukh Khan's killer looks, the remixed version of Zeenat Aman's 'Laila O Laila' is sure to make you groove.

Set in a dance bar, it seems the song is an important part of the development of SRK's character of a liquor baron in Gujarat.

The 70's classic rendition has been recreated by Ram Sampath and sung by Pawan Kalyan.

Directed by Rahul Dholakia, 'Raees' is all set to release on January 25 next year.



Vodafone's operating profit slides 10.2 pc after Jio's entry

MUMBAI(KCN): Vodafone India today reported a 10.2 per cent decline in FY17 operating profit to Rs 11,784 crore on margin contraction primarily impacted by the competitive pressures after the entry of Reliance Jio.

In its financial performance, which comes a week after the largest telco Bharti Airtel, and the third largest operator Idea Cellular reported huge reverses in March quarter numbers, the second largest telco reported a marginal 0.6 per cent decline in revenue at Rs 43,095 crore.

The British company, which is set to be merged with Idea to create the biggest telco in the country, reported a margin contraction of nearly 3 percentage points to 27.3 per cent for the year, indicating the dent inflicted by the near-free data offering by the Reliance group company.

Vodafone's subscriber base increased 5.6 per cent to 209 million and the rev-

enue market share increased 0.7 per cent in the nine months to December 2016, to



22.7 per cent.

The entry and the initial free offerings of Reliance Jio has severely hurt the financials of the incumbents as they seek to protect their customers from moving out.

Traditionally, the voice segment contributes a major chunk of the topline for the older companies, but Jio is offering free voice in bundled packs focused on data.

Vodafone said data revenue grew 5 per cent during the year to Rs 8,467 crore, which is only a fifth of the overall

base. Its total data users declined by 1 per cent to 66.9 million, and those consuming

over 1MB declined at a faster clip of 2.9 per cent to 43.5 million.

It had a service average revenue per user (ARPU) of Rs 158 for the March quarter, but the ARPU on data was hit by Jio's entry and fell to Rs 140 from Rs 160.

Bharti's net income plummeted 72 per cent in the March quarter and 37.5 per cent for the fiscal, while Idea booked a loss of Rs 325 crore for March quarter and Rs 404 crore for the fiscal.

The Vodafone management expressed satisfaction at

the performance in challenging times.

"Amidst an unprecedented and intensely competitive environment, we delivered a stable performance in the year," the company's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sunil Sood said.

The service revenue declined 0.5 per cent to Rs 42,956 crore for the year, of which 17 per cent came from Vodafone Business Services.

The company invested Rs 8,311 crore during the year and its net debt stood at Rs 60,200 crore as on end March.

It has 1.41 lakh total sites in the country, of which 1.06 lakh are broadband ones.

The India operations, which was the growth driver for the group for many years in the past, proved to be a drag on the group's global operations, which reported a net loss of Euro 6.1 billion on a 3.7 billion euro tax impairment from India operations.

Vedanta posts fourth-quarter profit helped by higher revenue

Vedanta Ltd, the Indian unit of diversi-

the fourth quarter ended March 31,

profit of 26.67 billion rupees, accord-



fied energy group Vedanta Resources PLC, reported a consolidated quarterly profit, as revenue surged, driven by improved commodity prices and higher zinc volumes.

Consolidated net profit stood at 29.88 billion rupees (\$466.09 million) in

compared with a loss of 211.04 billion rupees a year earlier, the metals and mining group said on Monday. (<http://bit.ly/2rh8ncs>)

Analysts on average expected Vedanta, which recently completed the buyout of Cairn India Ltd, to post a

ing to Thomson Reuters data.

How Vedanta-owned Balco managed aluminium price crash Consolidated revenue surged about 35 per cent to 246.12 billion rupees. Shares of the company were up 1.8 per cent as of 0941 GMT.

Over 19k lights at Hyderabad airport converted to LED

HYDERABAD(KCN): GMR Hyderabad In-

completed, a state-

19,500 traditional lamps have been



ternational Airport Ltd (GHIAL) today claimed it has become South India's first and India's second airport to convert the entire taxiway edge lights from halogen lamps to energy efficient LEDs.

The GHIAL is on its green journey of transforming the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) here into a 100 per cent LED airport, out which 75 per cent of the work has been already

port operator said.

Taxiway edge lights play a critical role in air-side operations. They are used to outline the edges of taxiways during periods of darkness or restricted visibility conditions.

Around 500 airport taxiway edge lights were converted to LED in a span of six days.

"RGIA has more than 26,000 conventional lamps. As of now more than

converted into LEDs," the release said.

"This effort has a huge impact on overall electricity consumption, since migration to LEDs has amounted to a saving of 2.2 million units of electricity per annum," it said.

RGIA currently caters to more than 15 million passengers per annum (FY16-17) with close to 400 daily air traffic movements.

Some businesses in Asia disrupted by cyber attack, authorities brace for more

SINGAPORE/WASHINGTON(KCN): Asian governments and businesses reported some disruptions from the WannaCry ransomware worm on Monday but cybersecurity experts warned of a wider impact as more employees turned on their computers and checked e-mails.

The ransomware that has locked up more than 200,000 computers in more than 150 countries has been mainly spread by e-mail, hitting factories, hospitals, shops and schools worldwide.

"Most of the attacks are arriving via e-mail, so there are many 'landmines' waiting in people's inboxes," said Michael Gazeley,

managing director of Network Box, a Hong Kong-based cybersecurity company.

In China, the world's second-largest economy, energy giant PetroChina said payment systems at some of its petrol stations were hit, although it had been able to restore most of the systems. Several Chinese government bodies, including police and traffic authorities, reported they had been impacted by the hack, according to posts on official microblogs.

The official China Daily newspaper, citing Chinese tech firm Qihoo 360, said that at least 200,000 computers had been affected in China, with schools and colleges par-

ticularly hard-hit.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, one of the region's biggest bourses, said all systems were so far working normally. "We remain highly vigilant," he said.

Companies have warned users and staff not to click on attachments or links. One school in South Korea barred its pupils from using the internet. Taiwan's government appeared to have escaped major infection, possibly because regulations there require all departments to install software updates as soon as they are available.

South Korea's presidential Blue House office said nine cases of ransomware were found in the country, but did not provide details on where the cyber attacks were discovered.

In Australia, Dan Tehan, the government minister responsible for cybersecurity, said just three businesses had been hit by the bug, despite worries of widespread infection. There were no reported cases in New Zealand.

BRIEF RESPITE

Cyber security experts said the spread of the ransomware had slowed since its appearance on Friday but that the respite might only be brief.

For one thing, the attackers or copycat attackers may have developed new versions of the worm, although a British-based security researcher who thwarted an earlier version of the worm told Reuters most of these reports had been proven false.

In Hong Kong, Gazeley said his team had found a new version of the worm that didn't use e-mail to lure victims.

Instead, it

loaded scripts onto hacked websites where users who clicked on a malicious link would be infected directly. He said it was too early to tell how many websites had been affected.

Gazeley added that several major companies in Asia had been hit by the ransomware, but "the last thing they want to do is come out in public and admit it." He declined to elaborate.

In a blog post on Sunday, Microsoft President Brad Smith appeared to tacitly acknowledge what researchers had already widely concluded: The ransomware attack leveraged a hacking tool built by the U.S. National Security Agency, that leaked online in April.

The non-profit U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit research institute estimated that total losses would range in the hundreds of millions of dollars, but not exceed \$1 billion.

Most victims were quickly able to recover infected systems with backups, said the group's chief economist, Scott Borg.

Infected computers appear to largely be out-of-date devices that organizations deemed not worth the price of upgrading or, in some cases, machines involved in manufacturing or hospital functions that proved too difficult to patch without possibly disrupting crucial operations, security experts said.

Microsoft released patches last month and on Friday to fix a vulnerability that allowed the worm to spread across networks, a rare and powerful feature that caused infections to surge on Friday.

Andhra Pradesh Amends Act to appoint PV Sindhu as Group-1 officer

Amaravati(KCN): Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994, Section 4 of the aforementioned law passed by the Legislative Council as well. Following her success in the Olym-



Legislature today passed a Bill to appoint Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu as a Group-1 officer in the government, by amending the State Public Services Act.

Certain provisions in the Andhra Pradesh (Regulation of Appointments to Public Services and Rationalization of

prevented the appointment of the badminton player as any recruitment in public service should only be through the AP Public Service Commission, selection committee or employment exchange.

To give effect to the Cabinet resolution, the government decided to amend

to enable the appointment of Sindhu directly in the cadre of a revenue divisional officer.

Accordingly, the State Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu introduced a Bill to amend the Act and it was passed unanimously in the Assembly. The Bill was later

well.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced in the State Assembly on the occasion that his government intended to appoint Sindhu as the state's sports ambassador. "We will give government jobs to other meritorious sportspersons as well," he said.

pics last year, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet had passed a resolution on August 22, 2016, offering Sindhu a Group-1 (gazetted officer) post of her choice.

The government also gave a cash reward of Rs3 crore and a residential plot to Sindhu in Amaravati.

Indian football team's friendly against Lebanon cancelled

New Delhi(KCN): Indian football team's international friendly against Lebanon, which was supposed to be played in Mumbai on June 7, has been cancelled after the West Asian nation pulled out of the match, citing problems in the procurement of visas for its players.

The match against Lebanon was to serve as a build-up for India's crucial Asian Cup Qualifiers game against Kyrgyzstan on June 13 in Bengaluru. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) said it was looking for a replacement country, but it is unlikely to happen with very little time left to look for another nation.

"The Lebanese Football Association has expressed their regret at not being able to travel to India to play the international friendly against the Indian national team on June 7, 2017.

Lebanon had earlier confirmed their willingness.

As per rules of the Government of



ness to play the match in Mumbai. The AIFF is currently looking for a replacement," the AIFF said in a statement.

In a letter to AIFF, Jihad Al Chohof, general secretary of Lebanese FA, wrote: "We regret to inform you that we will no longer be able to play the friendly match. It is not possible to apply for entry visas for the majority of national team visas at Indian Embassy in Beirut, as they are playing abroad with their respective clubs. It is not possible for them to come to Lebanon to apply for their vi-

India, Lebanese citizens cannot get visas on arrival in India.

Expressing his disappointment at the development, national team coach Stephen Constantine said: "The decision of the Lebanon FA, that too at the 11th hour comes as a jolt for our preparations for the crucial AFC Asian Cup Qualifier against the Kyrgyzstan Republic."

Even as we are trying to find a replacement team, I understand that it is very difficult as all other teams have already finalised their matches," he said.

PM Modi offers unwavering support to Palestine, but hopes peace between Palestinian and Israeli sides

NEW DELHI: While hoping for an early resumption of talks between Palestinian and Israeli sides to move

After wide ranging talks, where two leaders inked five agreements, Prime

"India hopes for early resumption of talks between Palestinian and Israeli sides to move towards finding a comprehensive resolution," PM Modi said while adding that at the bilateral level, India is committed to be a useful development partner of Palestine.

On his part, Abbas said Palestine appreciates the solidarity India extends to its cause. "India is a friend. It has influence at the international level. India can play an important role (in the resolving Palestine Israel crisis," Abbas said.

The two sides signed agreements for visa exemptions for diplomatic passport holders, in the fields of agriculture cooperation, IT and electronics, health sector and cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports.

Mentioning about the technopark jointly built by India and Palestine in Ramallah, Modi said it will be a one-stop solution to IT-related services in Palestine. In October 2015, India

has announced grant of USD 12 million for setting up the park with payment of USD 3 million each on half-yearly basis for 2 years. The Palestinian side has made the land available for the project.

According to the joint statement issued by the MEA, it said, "President Abbas and I agreed that both sides, through practical cooperation, will work together to build Palestine's economy and contribute to improving the lives of its people. We will continue to support the development and capacity-building efforts of Palestine. The agreements concluded today are reaffirmation of our intent to strengthen cooperation in this direction." Modi, while inviting Palestinian people to participate in large numbers during International Yoga Day, Modi also said that both leaders also look forward to enhancing our cultural exchanges by adding new elements including Yoga exchanges.



towards finding a comprehensive resolution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday conveyed India's "unwavering support" to the Palestinian cause. After holding extensive dialogue with visiting Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas in national capital, Prime Minister Narendra Modi India hopes to see a sovereign, independent, united and viable Palestine, co-existing peacefully with Israel.

Modi's reaction is seen as a balancing act ahead of his upcoming visit to Israel, the first ever visit by any Indian Prime min-

ister. Minister Modi, while addressing joint media, he said, "We hope to see the realisation of a sovereign, independent, united and viable Palestine, co-existing peacefully with Israel. I have reaffirmed our position on this to President Abbas during our conversation today."

Modi also said that two leaders had an extensive exchange of views on the situation in West Asia and the Middle East Peace Process and agreed that the challenges in West Asia must be addressed through sustained political dialogue and peaceful means.

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