

Triple talaq hearing: Issues of polygamy, 'nikah halala' to remain open for future adjudication, says SC

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme

"It may not be possible to deal with

Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Cen-

"The scope of referring had all the

nificance in the backdrop of the remarks of the apex court that it will only deal with the issue of triple talaq that too if it was fundamental to Islam.

The AG asked the bench also comprising Justices Kurian Joseph, R F Nariman, U U Lalit and Abdul Nazeer to make it clear that the issues of polygamy and 'nikah halala' are still open and would be dealt by other bench in future.

"It will be dealt in future," the bench clarified.

The bench is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the practice of triple talaq among Muslims. The Centre has resumed its arguments in the case today.

Delay hits port roads

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Ports facilitators in Odisha Administration are in a worried state as several major road and rail connectivity to the upcoming ports in the state are pending with Union Government.

This will be a major bottleneck in providing infrastructure to the Non Major Ports of this Eastern State, pointed out Sanjay Rastogi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport with Government of India, said sources.

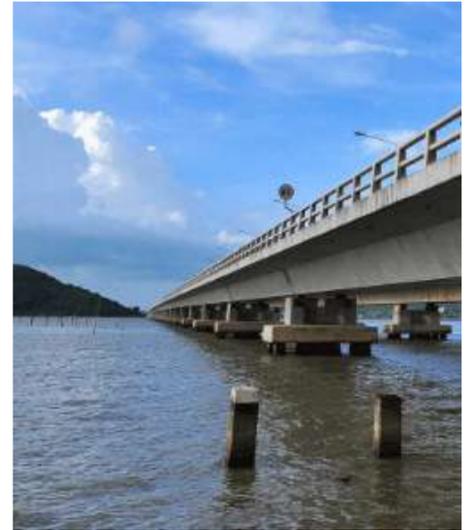
In the recent meeting held by NITI Aayog, Mr.Rastogi raised the pending issues and urged the Centre to clear the proposals, said official sources. Both road and rail connectivity is crucial for the port development in the state, said he.

Out of 13 major project proposals only two have been included in ambitious

National Perspective Plan under Sagarmala and rest are facing uncertainty.

Several up-coming Non Major Ports

road connectivity from Chhatrapur to Gopalpur Port and Rail Connectivity to Dhamra Port has been included in Sagarmala Projects



like Dhamra, Gopalpur, Kiratania, Chudamani, Astarang, Balih-archandi in Odisha would have been benefitted under the scheme.

While development of four lane

other 11 Projects have been pending with the Centre.

A major road connectivity like Construction of four lanning of road from Jamujhadi on National See page-7



Court today said it was keeping open for adjudication in the future the issues of polygamy and 'nikah halala' among Muslims as the Centre insisted deliberations on these aspects as well.

all the three issues in the limited time we have. We will keep them pending for future," a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar said.

The observation was made when Attorney General (AG)

tre, said that the issues of polygamy and 'nikah halala' were also part of the order of a two-judge bench which had referred to the Constitutional bench the three issues, including the practice of triple talaq among Muslims.

three issues that was divorce, nikah halala, polygamy. All these three issues are before this court by virtue of the reference order of the two-judge bench," Rohatgi said.

The Centre's assertion assumes sig-

Dissidence rise in BJD

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Though Naveen Patnaik is not worried about the turmoil in Biju Janata Dal (BJD), he is slowly trying to contain dissidence, which is on rise. The issue is discussed in political circles as Biju Patnaik's younger son goes slowly on the dissident leaders.

The rumblings, which originated in the BJD Parliamentary Party has now spread to the Legislature Party, particularly after the 8 May Ministry reshuffle.

BJD workers and leaders in different districts have expressed their resentments for not getting a berth in the Council of Ministers. Naveen has started pacifying them by making them understand that he cannot accommodate MLAs from all the districts as the maximum number of Ministers is limited to 22.

While some leaders have realized Naveen's compulsions, others are silent and a small section of the party is busy in scheming and looking for an opportunity to speak out.

In a bid to give a message to the leaders crossing 'Laxman Rekha' Naveen removed Kendrapara MP Bajayant Panda from the position of the Spokesman of the

Parliamentary Party without asking him to explain as to why he defied the party President.

Mr. Panda, though a four-time MP with the blessings of Naveen, has started making noise through newspaper articles and Twitter posts. He has given least importance to the call given by the party supremo.

Naveen had categorically said that the leaders should come forward for discussion and refrain from giving comments on media. However, Mr.Panda did not stop.

The latest one came when Mr.Panda expressed his views on the ministry reshuffle and also on former Koraput MP Jayaram Pangri joining BJP. Pangri from Koraput and Amar Nayak of Jajpur have joined BJP after being suspended from the BJD some time ago.

Though Naveen is not worried over Jairam Pangri and Amar Nayak, he, however, has been careful in not antagonizing dissident leaders in general.

Naveen, known for his image of "Leader Killer" has once again struck and preferred to remove Mr.Panda from the post he was holding in Delhi.

While attempting to pacify MLAs to ensure that the dissidence disease did not spread to the Legislature Party, Naveen has given a strong

ate indiscipline. Another senior MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, who is also the BJD leader in the Lok Sabha, often creates problem for

Rekha though he invited a notice earlier for giving a statement on the BJD's possible relationship with Congress.

Nobody knows when Mahtab would also be removed from the BJD's leadership in the Lok Sabha. Though Mr.Patnaik does not hesitate to throw away leaders from the party, he is giving opportunity to leaders to rectify.

Everybody in Odisha politics including Mr.Panda and Mr.Mahtab know that people vote for Naveen and not for them. However, senior leaders feel that they are not getting the importance due to them in the party.

Though Naveen has now agreed to lend an ear to the dissident leaders, earlier he used to engage his official to note down the grievances of the MPs or MLAs. Senior leaders hesitate to record their grievances before any officer and wanted that the Chief Minister himself listen to them.

However, keeping in view the dissident activities, Naveen has now been inviting leaders to come for discussion.

What could be another reason behind the dissidence in the BJD is that the leaders now find an alternative See page-7



message to the party's Parliamentary Party that he will not toler-

Naveen. However, Mahtab has not crossed the Laxman

India demands suspension of Jadhav death penalty at ICJ; Pak calls plea unnecessary

NEW DELHI(KCN): Expressing apprehensions about the execution of former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, India on Monday demanded consular access to him at the International Court of Justice contending that a Pakistan's military court has awarded him death sentence through a "farical trial".

Eminent lawyer Harish Salve and Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary Deepak Mittal led India's charge against Pakistan in the UN's highest judicial body. India contended that the situation was urgent as it was afraid that Islamabad might hang Jadhav even before the hearing was over. The charge was denied by Pakistan in its arguments later in the evening where it contended that the hearing was "not necessary" as Jadhav was found guilty on charges of espionage and subversive activities and hence does not fall under ICJ's jurisdiction.

"Jadhav has not got the right to get proper legal assistance

and the right to consular access. There is an immediate threat to him to be executed even before a decision is passed," Mittal told the court in his open-

consular access 16 times. Highlighting this and invoking Article 36 of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Salve said: "The graver the



ing remarks. India's decision to move ICJ over an issue with Pakistan has come after nearly after four decades. India's main contention is that it was denied its consular rights to its national and accused Pakistan of violating the Vienna convention and conducting a "farical trial" without a "shred of evidence".

"The execution of the death sentence cannot be done while this court is hearing the appeal. Else, it will be a violation of the Vienna Convention," lead attorney Harish Salve said. Pakistan has turned down India's requests for

charges, the greater the need for continued adherence of the Vienna Convention. Jadhav has been in judicial custody without any communication with his family." India has called the trial 'farical' as it was not provided chargesheet against Jadhav, neither was he provided with defence counsel; and New Delhi came to know about his death sentence from the media. Human rights treated as "basics" all over had been thrown to the wind by Pakistan and the trial had been vitiated, India argued. Islamabad said that the Permanent-5 was informed about the case.

CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publications shall not be held responsible/liable for any consequences, in cases such claims are found to be false.



AUTOMOBILE

SALE
Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale
Contact: 2555328

PURCHASE
Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleo in good condition. Contact 2555783



REAL ESTATE

SALE
Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact : 988-1078308

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale. Contact : 0674-2556733
Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-

HIRE

For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis. Contact : 2555763

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamando. Contact : 9238691168

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Stored North/East facing building at Puri. Contact 9437143483



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9881079437
For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : Sagacity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required double/Single/ Multi stored Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595



It has been a difficult year for Malaika Arora Khan. Her split with husband Arbaaz Khan was followed by a lot of controversy and filing of divorce didn't help either. To ring in the New Year, Malaika has taken a break with sister Amrita Arora Ladak and her close friends. The group is all set to welcome 2017 in style, and going by the pictures, Goa beach is treating them well. Malaika Arora Khan shared pictures on her Instagram account and the post made all of us go ga-ga about her and her besties' hotness. In the picture, we see Amrita and Malaika with their back to the camera. She captioned the image as, "Sunsets in Goa with the girls?????????". Take a tour and see more that they are busy doing in Goa. (Source: Photo by Instagram)

Laila O Laila tops music awards list

Sunny Leone's Laila O Laila song from the world. The Raees sources are to be believed, Laila O laila



Raees tops the charts amongst international videos. The World Music Awards is an international awards ceremony honouring the best-selling and most popular recording artists from around which is revamped version of the 80's original song, featuring Zeenat Aman. The song is said to have already managed to get 11 million views within 24 hours it hitting the digital medium. If the beat close contenders like Chantaje featuring Shakira, Maluma, and The Chainsmokers featuring Halsey; Starboy (Official) featuring Ricky Martin ft. Daft Punk and more to secure the first position.



From being a 'Viva!' girl to winning the Best Playback Singer (Female) award for her song 'Jag Ghoomeya' from Salman Khan starrer Sultan, Neha Bhasin bares all about her journey in an exclusive chat.

Koffee With Karan: Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma have a fan in Deepika Padukone

If you are of the same view that the latest Deepika Padukone sassinest best, leaving host and filmmaker of a kind ever seen on the celebrity chat from calling Deepika Padukone their



episode of Koffee With Karan was one of this season's best, and both Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma were on fire, there is someone else who agrees with us. lines too. This, when neither Kat nor Anushka preferred to call Deepika their 'friend' on the show. Surprised? Katrina and Anushka were at their Karan Johar in total 'meltdown'. So much so, that it even left the viewers sweating due to their hysteric connotations and reactions on every petty thing – definitely one show. The two beauties accepted that they are not like the typical actor-friends in the industry and comfortably give each other space. They, however, refrained 'friend'. While we never saw Deepika and Anushka bonding (one word: Ranveer Singh), and keeping distance, her cold vibes with Katrina only brings one name to our head – Ranbir Kapoor. Now that Ranbir is out of both Deepika and Kat's lives, looks like our Piku has extended an olive branch towards Katrina, by posting a tweet praising the two girls and the episode. Deepika Padukone has always stayed away from both Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma, due to the connection of her former and current boyfriends Ranbir Kapoor and Ranveer Singh, with the two girls. There was a time when Deepika and Katrina were never seen under the same roof and shared cold vibes. But after years of rivalry, they reportedly buried the hatchet at a recent awards night with Shah Rukh Khan being the pacemaker. Sometimes, heart-breaks help in mending ties. And these two girls are the latest example.

Passenger vehicle sales in top gear; grow by 15 percent in domestic market in April

NEW DELHI(KCN): Passenger vehicle sales in India started the new fiscal 2017-18 in top gear posting 14.68 per cent growth in April, propelled by robust performance from

ment during the last month.

"Factors like commissioning of new manufacturing plants, new model launches led to strong growth in the passenger vehicle segment

growth forecast of 10-12 per cent for the PV segment.

Last month, MSI continued its domination of the domestic PV space selling 1,44,081 units at a growth of 23.10 per

"In two-wheelers segment, scooters are doing pretty well.

In fact, even in rural areas, people are increasingly going in for scooters," Sen said.

Motorcycle sales

April were at 5,86,886 units compared to 4,68,368 units in the previous fiscal, up 25.3 per cent.

Segment leader HMSI posted sales of 3,68,550 units during the month as against 2,63,324 in April 2016, up 39.96 per cent.

Chennai-based TVS Motor Co posted a growth of 31.4 per cent in its domestic scooter sales at 79,443 units as against 60,455 units sold in April 2016, becoming the number two player in the category.

Hero MotoCorp dropped to third position with sale of 63,746 scooters during the month, as compared to 83,506 units in the same period of last year, down 23.66 per cent.

Sales of commercial vehicles were down 22.93 per cent to 41,490 units in April, SIAM said.

The drop in sales in the segment during the last month was biggest since January 2009 when sales had declined by around 67 per cent.

"After-effects of demonetisation still remain in the segment. Besides, there has been a pre-buy in the months of February and March due to the coming into force of BS IV emission norms from April," Sen said.

Vehicle sales across categories registered an increase of 6.82 per cent to 20,30,476 units from 19,00,848 units in April 2016.



market leader Maruti Suzuki India.

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), domestic passenger vehicles (PV) sales rose to 2,77,602 units in April from 2,42,060 units in the same month last year.

Domestic car sales posted the biggest monthly growth in one-and-a-half years at 17.36 per cent to 1,90,788 units as against 1,62,566 units in April last year. The previous highest growth in the segment was recorded in October 2015 when sales grew by 21.8 per cent.

Mini segment cars and compact sedans led sales growth in passenger cars seg-

during the month," SIAM Deputy Director General Sugato Sen told reporters here.

Elaborating further, he said the segment saw a push mainly due to Maruti growing over 23 per cent during the month as supplies commenced from parent Suzuki's Gujarat plant leading the firm to also de-congest production at its other facilities as well.

MSI had received a total of 10,000 units from its parent Suzuki's Gujarat-based plant in 2016-17. This fiscal, the company expects supply of around 1.5 lakh units.

Despite a bright start to the new fiscal, SIAM, however stuck to its earlier

cent.

Rival Hyundai Motor India was a distant second with 44,758 units at a

growth of 5.68 per cent followed by home grown Mahindra & Mahindra in the third spot with 19,325 units, down 14.7 per cent.

Honda Cars India overtook Tata Motors to take the fourth spot with 14,480 units, up 38.09 per cent, while Tata Motors sold 14,066 units during the month, up 15.01 per cent.

In the two-wheeler segment, total sales in April increased by 7.34 per cent to 16,74,796 units compared to 15,60,308 units in the year-ago month.

were up marginally at 10,29,972 units as against 10,24,895 units a year earlier.

Market leader Hero MotoCorp sold 5,21,909 units during April as compared to 5,17,019 in the previous fiscal -- a marginal increase.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) overtook Bajaj Auto to occupy the second spot with bike sales of 1,83,182 units last month as against 1,50,711 units in the same month of the previous fiscal, a growth of 21.54 per cent.

Bajaj Auto posted sales of 1,61,930 units as against 2,00,433 units in April 2016, down 19.2 per cent.

Scooter sales in

'Mid-term foreign trade policy to be out before GST roll out'

New Delhi(KCN): Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the revised mid-term foreign trade policy (FTP) is to be announced few days ahead of July 1, the scheduled date for the Goods and Services Tax roll out.

After holding a meeting with various stakeholders, including exporters as part mid-term review of FTP (2015-20) here, the minister also said that no suggestions were made to scale down the 2020 export target of USD 900 billion, including services.

Given the current economic and geopolitical situations globally there are concerns that international trade may be impacted. Sitharaman said suggestions were made that the review should be concluded by July 1 so that it is aligned with the GST implementation.

"We found merit in the suggestion that the review of the policy should be well in time to go along with the roll out of the GST. It means I have to announce it well in time for July 1," she said.

Indian economy to grow 7.5% next year on higher infra spending: UN

New Delhi (KCN): Indian economy, india economic growth fy17, india gdp growth 2017, indian economy un predictions, un escap, united nations, asian development bank, international monetary fund, imf, un economic social commission asia pacific, india news, indian express

"Meanwhile, inflation is projected to reach 5.3-5.5 per cent in 2017 and 2018, which is somewhat above the official target of 4.5-5 per cent."

The Indian economy will grow 7.5 per cent next year by virtue of consumption revival and higher

infrastructure spending, says a report by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). For 2017, India's economic growth is projected stable at 7.1 per cent before catapulting to 7.5 per cent going into the next year, the regional development arm of the United Nations said. This forecast is "underpinned by higher private and public consumption and increased infrastructure spending," the report said.

The International Monetary Fund last month projected India's growth at 7.2

per cent in the fiscal 2017-18 and at 7.7 per cent for the next financial year. While, the Manila-headquartered Asian Development Bank sees growth jumping to 7.4 per cent in 2017-18 and 7.6 per cent in the next. Even at this rate, India will continue to clock a better growth than China, which is expected to grow at around 6.5 per cent in 2017. "Meanwhile, inflation is projected to reach 5.3-5.5 per cent in 2017 and 2018, which is somewhat above the official target of 4.5-5 per cent," the ESCAP said.

A heightened financial sector risk

SBI to raise funds via FPO/QIPs; to appoint six merchant bankers

NEW DELHI(KCN): The country's largest lender SBI today said it plans to raise funds from capi-

discretion and the decision of the shareholders," SBI said in a public notice.

The bank said it

government will continue to support public lenders based on requirements as was announced by the Fi-



tal markets in the current fiscal but did not specify the amount.

State Bank of India, which last month merged with itself five associate banks and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank, will raise funds through follow-on public offer/qualified institutional placement to expand business.

It has sought applications from merchant bankers for managing the issue.

"The bank intends to tap capital markets via a QIP/FPO. The issue size may vary based on various factors including but not limited to management

proposes to select and appoint up to 6 merchant bankers with requisite experience who together will be designated as Book Running Lead Managers (BRLMs). SBI has already taken board approval for raising up to Rs 15,000 crore through various means public offer and overseas issuance of shares during the current fiscal.

In a stock exchange filing, the bank said a general meeting of the shareholders of SBI will be held on June 15 to elect four Directors to the Central Board of the bank.

Meanwhile, the

Royal Bank of Scotland to cut 334 jobs, offshore more jobs to India: Unite Union

LONDON(KCN): British lender Royal Bank of Scotland plans to cut 334 jobs and offshore more jobs to India, the Unite Union said on Tuesday.

The tax payer-backed bank plans to cut jobs within technology in areas including Finance Solutions, Risk Solutions, Natwest Markets Technology and Digital Engineering Services, among others, Unite said in a statement calling the cuts "unjustified".

"Unite cannot understand how RBS, which continues to be taxpayer backed, can justify hundreds more staff cuts and continue transferring important work out of the country," Rob MacGregor, Unite national officer, said.

understand how RBS, which continues to be taxpayer backed, can justify hundreds more staff cuts and continue transferring important work out of the country," Rob MacGregor, Unite national officer, said.

In the medium-term, India will also benefit from recent reforms measures aimed at declogging supply side bottlenecks, it added. Implementation of good and services tax (GST), amendment of a bankruptcy law and opening up of pharmaceuticals, defence and civil aviation sectors will help India in its economic growth, the report said.

On the trends in the Asia-Pacific region, the UN ESCAP has found growth in the region moderating in recent years compared to its historical

trend and a rebound in 2010. "The region's export-oriented economic growth strategy is under pressure amid prolonged weakness in external demand and global trade," the report said. "China is both a transmitter and a source of the current economic slowdown, given its role as a hub in global value chains and it rebalanced towards consumption and services," it said. Although, the region's growth is commendable despite a modest recent past, given a struggling global economy, it added. For all the latest India News, download Indian Express App now

We encourage our players to play in IPL: New Zealand Cricket

KOLKATA: Contrary to Cricket Australia (CA)'s stand against its star performers playing in the Indian Premier League (IPL), New Zealand cricket authorities on Friday said they encourage their players to take part in the top notch Twenty20 league in India.

"We think IPL is a top league. The New Zealand Cricket encourages its players to play in the IPL," James Wear, the commercial director of New Zealand Cricket, said at a sponsorship event in the city.



Reports have surfaced that CA has offered three-year contracts to five of their most valuable cricketers including Test captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner in exchange for not playing in the IPL.

As a team leader you always have to interact and coordinate with everyone on the field and motivate youngsters to play well," said the Haryana-born player.

Asked to identify the stand-out player in Canada, Rani did not specifically name a player and attributed it to team work.

Foreign exposure useful, says Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal

MUMBAI(KCN): Indian women's hockey team's captain Rani Rampal says the squad members are getting a lot of foreign exposure which is helping the side improve its performance. "We are getting lots of foreign exposure and it is helping in improving our performance. Right now we are focusing on (the) New Zealand tour and then the target will be to

give our best in (the FIH) World League semifinals in July," Rani told PTI in an email interaction.

The Indian women are to play a five-match hockey Test Series in New Zealand after a successful outing in West Vancouver, Canada where they won the Women's Hockey World League Round 2 and qualified for the Women's Hockey World League Semi

Final to be played in Johannesburg.

"New Zealand tour will be a good preparatory tour for us ahead of the World League semi final and this exposure will help us improve and also understand our weak points," she had said before the team's departure.

She said as the team leader, one of her responsibilities was motivating youngsters.

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

Amaravati(KCN): The Andhra Pradesh

Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994,

Section 4 of the aforementioned law

passed by the Legislative Council as

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.

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

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



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

"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.

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 in March 2017 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.