

## Pact for Horti Tech

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In order to upgrade the skills of the farm-

ment of Odisha. MoU aims at establishment of train-

provide better livelihood support to the farmers growing it.

ture and lead Odisha to be a Horticulturally important State in the country.

The MoU is signed to provide hassle free easy access to technology, demonstration and knowledge up-gradation in the field of horticulture/agriculture and allied sectors to the farmers, entrepreneurs and in-service officers at one platform.

In order to establish a well-equipped horticulture training centre-cum-farmers hostel and to help in human resource development through training of the horticulture farmers and other stakeholders the MoU will facilitate.

Training on production and protection technologies of horticultural crops would be the central objective of the training centre-cum-farmers hostel, said a senior official in the Directorate of Horticulture.

Training, Farmers meeting, Interface meeting and Institu-

tional meeting by IIHR-CHES or RC-CTCRI and State Government Departments will be taken up.

Around 1000-1500 farmers can be trained per year on Horticulture Technologies like; Nursery Management, Protected Cultivation, Good Agriculture Practice like; Organic Cultivation, Post-Harvest Management, Farmers Producer Organization etc.

The Centre will have residential capacity of 38 farmers and training hall with a capacity of 200 trainees.

Further, around 500 residential farmers and 1000 non-residential farmers from other sponsoring Organization like; CTCRI, Water Shed, Central Avian Research Institute, ITDA etc. can also be given training.

On campus training by any society in the sector of Horticulture and Agriculture can be provided.

## SBI Chief Lauds Efforts

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya lauded the ef-

Educational Institutions, which are provided under CSR activities.

SBI in Odisha is

ernment of effective management of its ATMs.

In Odisha, thanks to the leader-



ers in Odisha with the help of new technology and knowledge of the Central Horticulture Experiment Station (CHES) a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Directorate of Horticulture and CHES Authorities.

Head CHES, H S Singh Director Horticulture Odisha Srikanta Prusty and signed the MoU in presence of Minister Agriculture & FARD, Pradeep Kumar Maharathy, Principal Secretary Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment of Govern-

ing centre cum farmers' hostel at IIHR-CHES, Bhubaneswar at its farm located at Aiginia, Bhubaneswar.

It also aims to operationalize the training centre cum farmer's hostel for the cause of training and other related activities.

In fact, Odisha is an agriculturally dominated State and out of 61.8 lakh hectare of cultivated area about 14 lakh hectare is under Horticultural crops.

Horticultural crops give more return per unit area and

Training is an integral part of crop production through dissemination of technology. An amount of Rs.5.70 Crore has been sanctioned under RKVY for establishment of training centre-cum-farmers hostel at Central Horticultural Experiment Station, Aiginia, Bhubaneswar.

About 1000-1500 farmers will be trained each year in this training centre. Farmer from remote areas of the State will get training to enable them to establish projects on horticult-



orts of the officers and employees of the Bank in Bhubaneswar Circle for their patience and sincerity, while serving the people during last twenty days following demintization announced by the Union Government.

Infact India's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI), rose to the occasion and took charge of the situation.

Mrs. Bhattacharya is on Odisha visit to grace Make In Odisha Conclave here on 30 November came down to the SBI Local Head Office (LHO), where she fallgged off the School Buses for

supporting various social causes through its CSR activities and Educational Institutions are provided with Computers and School Buses.

SBI Chief General Manager B Venu Gopal Reddy, General Manager Alok Johri, General Manager A K Choudhury and other senior officials of SBI were present.

While addressing customers and members of Staff, she appreciated the efforts to maintain continous cash flow to ATMs on regular intervals.

With a host of private banks bowing out, it was the SBI that assured the Gov-

ship displayed by CGM Mr.Reddy, employees and officers worked relentlessly to provide service to the people, for which SBI earned laurels of the State Government.

Mrs. Bhattacharya also unveiled the innovative sand art of Subal Maharana depicting Demonitization, which has been lauded by customers.

Customers were happy with the proactive approach of the Chiarman Mrs. Bhattacharya for making sincere efforts to provide liquidity to the economy in post demonitization period.

## Divided opposition to take on ruling BJD during winter session

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):** Even as a divided Congress prepares to take on the ruling BJD during the winter session of the assembly beginning from December 1, buoyed by the visit of party president Amit Shah, the BJP plans to corner the state government over several issues.

Death of more than a hundred children in tribal-dominated Malkangiri district due to Japanese Encephalitis will be the major issue before the opposition political parties. The change of health secretary two days before the assembly session indicates that the ruling BJD has also taken the issue seriously.

While the Congress will expose the failure of the state government to contain the disease even after three months, the visit of union minister of state for petroleum and natural gas (PNG) Dharmendra Pradhan to Malkangiri has put the BJP in an advanta-

geous position.

Leader of the Opposition Narasingh Mishra said failure of the state government to check the death of children in Malkangiri will be raised on a priority. The disease has also spread to several other districts because of the lack of proper health infrastructure in tribal areas, he said.

Death of children in Nagada due to malnutrition will also be raised by the state government, Mishra said and added that the deteriorating law and order situation will be another major issue to be discussed during the session.

The leader of the Opposition said the double speak of the state government on the Mahanadi river water dispute with Chhattisgarh and the misleading statements given by ministers on the issue will be raised by the Opposition. Mishra said the issue has assumed significance as it was admitted by the ruling BJD recently.

Acute poverty in many parts of the state despite claims of the government to the contrary will also be raised during the ses-



sion by the opposition political parties. The Congress Legislature Party will meet on December 1 to prioritise the issues and the manner in which those will be raised.

Leader of the BJP Legislature Party (BJPLP) KV Singhdeo said law and order situation, failure of the government to create health infrastructure and largescale vacancies of doctors and teach-

ers are some of the major issues to be raised during the session. The BJPLP will meet tomorrow to finalise the issues, he

said. The state government will place the supplementary budget on December 1, the first day of the session. Parliament affairs minister Bikram Arukha said the state government is prepared to discuss any issue to be raised by the opposition.

The state government will bring nine bills during the session. The Appropriation Bill will be passed on December 15.

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ADHM and Shivaay still in the competition

**Santhu... is out-and-out Yash's show**

Film : Santhu Straight Forward  
Cast: Yash, Radhika Pandit, Devaraj, Shyaam, Anant  
Director: Mahesh Rao

Santhu Straight

friends and a loving family, the two end up together. All a steady march towards a happy ending.

Though it is a tried and tested tem-

believes in being straight forward and his parents are proud of their son's open nature.

Enter Ananya (Radhika Pandit) an architecture student

builder and her maternal uncle. The rest of the story is whether Santhu plans to propose to Ananya and how he wins her over.

Director



Foward is a perfect example of a commercial film. It follows a safe storyline -- boy meets girl story, and with a little help from

plate, this still makes for a one-time watch because Yash keeps the show going. The title character Santhu is a care-free youngster, who

and it is love at first sight for Santhu. But his dreams suffer a crushing blow when he gets to know Ananya is engaged to Deva (Shyaam) a

Mahesh Rao, who has also written the story, did scream from the roof top that his film Santhu Straight Forward is an original

**No break for the 'Breakup Song' singer**

**Bombay (KCN):** 'Mental Manadhil' from OK Kanmani, 'Mei Nigara' from 24, and now, 'The Breakup Song' from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil... Jonita Gandhi is on the crest of a wave. Over telephone from Mumbai, the 27-year-old says with a laugh, "My phone has been buzzing with messages ever since the ('Breakup') song released. Many were quite surprised when they came to know that I had sung it. I am not sure why." As for Jonita, it was one of the most fun projects that she had done. "We were partying and recording... it was dramatic," she says.

Jonita has a lot on her plate, from recording for movies to performing live gigs. But she also talks about a dream that she has been holding on to for

sometime now. "Writing music... I want to sing something that I have written from scratch. How cool would that be," she says, a little lost in thought. "I have written in the past, but I am just very picky. So I am not sure whether many of those will see the light of day," she adds after a pause.

Meanwhile, she is consciously making sure that her YouTube channel (Jonita Music has over half a lakh followers) thrives -- given that's where she began her journey as a musician. "I used to record my song videos, all covers, on my phone and post them," she recalls. Later, as her channel continued to gain visitors, she started making professional videos, self-produced videos and collaborating with different artists. "This

was way back in 2011, and that's how far I could reach Bollywood from Toronto. But it helped me get a foot in the door, as several music composers recognised me, and next thing I know, I was doing a tour with Sonu Nigam in North America," she says. Following the tour, Jonita debuted in Bollywood with Chennai Express.

"Till then, I had only performed in live shows. I hadn't recorded a Bollywood song from scratch. Understanding and learning a composition on the spot was new to me. So I was extremely nervous," she recalls. The first song she recorded was the title song of Chennai Express for Vishal-Shekhar. "The song was already done, and the male voice was by SPB sir.

There was a small part in the song that fea-

**BT Exclusive! Nadira Zaheer Babbar**

**Bombay (KCN):** Nadira Zaheer hasn't done till date in her life. In an exclu-



Babbar will soon be seen enacting both her mother and herself in a play to be featured at the Prithvi Theatre Festival.

The soon-to-be 70 actress wishes to do everything she

sive chat with Bombay Times, she opens up on finally being able to write a play on her mother and work with Makarand Deshpande at the same time.

**Deepika stuns in latest trailer of 'xXx'**



Deepika Padukone's fierce Serena avatar in her Hollywood debut 'xXx: The Return of Xander Cage' is a treat to our eyes.

Paramount Pictures recently released the latest trailer of the action-adventure film starring Vin Diesel in the lead. The 30-year old actress is seen in a bold look and her action sequences give us the chance to see a different side of the 'Piku' star in this new trailer of the film.

script and not a remake. Sadly, the plot not only carries the thread from Tamil film, Vaalu, but also sees other elements that are borrowed -- scenes

For the Indian audience, Paramount Pictures India also released the trailer in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

The movie also stars Donnie Yen, Samuel L. Jackson, Tony Jaa, Nina Dobrev, Ruby Rose, Rory McCann, Kris Wu and Ariadna Gutierrez. Directed by D.J. Caruso, 'xXx: The Return of Xander Cage' is slated to hit the big screens on January 20, 2017.

from other languages and of well known films such as Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge and 3 Idiots. Having said that, the director.

Deepika Padukone in the visu-



als and they wanted a female voice. I just happened to be around then, so they told me to try it out, and it all came out well," she says.

She was then spotted by A.R. Rahman, with whom she worked on the album Raunaq and Tamil film OK Kanmani, among others. "I was in Chennai once, so he asked me to come to his studio and record in Tamil. Thankfully, I had people around me who really supported me. I had no idea how well I was singing the words. I had to rely completely on whoever was directing the videos to visually set everything right," she says with a laugh. "On my first trip to Chennai, while working with Rahman sir, I had no idea who we were recording for.

# Air Asia for S'Pore

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Finally Thai Air Asia has agreed to start Direct International Flights from Biju Patnaik International (BPI) Airport to the South East Asian Countries.

And in order to start such International Services from the BPI Airport, the State Government has allowed Thai Air Asia to receive Subsidy Support.

While the Thai Air Asia has also agreed to the proposal of the State Government and has requested for allowing the International Airlines for entering a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Odisha.

Earlier the Department of General Administration (DoGA) had informed Thai Air Asia that the State Government has agreed to provide Subsidy Grant of Rs.1.70 Lakh per round trip for starting Air Service Operations from

Bhubaneswar to Singapore/Bangkok/Kualalumpur.

After receiving the order from the State Government, Thai Air Asia authori-



ties have urged the State Government to finalize the Terms and Conditions of MoU as soon as possible, so that the International Airlines will be able to chalk out Plan of Operations as soon as possible.

Suresh Nair, General Manager India, Srilanka and Bangladesh of Thai Air Asia has informed the State Government about its willingness to operate International Flights to South East Asian Countries.

In fact Odisha Government for quite some time requesting the Government of India to ask the International Airlines to start Air Service Op-

eration between Bhubaneswar and South Asian Countries but Union Government took little interest in this regard.

Undeterred over apathy of the Centre, the State Government decided to have Direct International Flights from BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar to Foreign Soil even by providing Subsidy Grants..

To begin with the State Government floated Expression of Interest (EoI) for International Airlines to operate from

Bhubaneswar to the above destinations at least two or three flights a week preferably on alternate days.

Since most of the flights connecting Singapore with Major airports in Europe, Middle East, South East Asian and American Countries leave Changi Airport at Singapore in the forenoon; the flights from Bhubaneswar may start around mid night so as to reach Singapore early in the morning.

The Bhubaneswar bound flights may reach BPI Airport late in the evening. Such a flight schedule will attract people from Odisha to avail this route so as to catch outbound flights to the other cities of the World. Besides this will encourage International Tourists to come to Odisha to explore this Eastern State as Tourist Destination, feel senior officers in DoGA.

The State Gov-

ernment has already reduced VAT on ATF to Zero Percent for direct International flights. And the State Government has now allowed reasonable Viability Gap Funding (VGF) in form of Subsidy Grant.

Accordingly Silk Air, Tiger Air and Thai Air Asia expressed their interest to run International Flights from BPI Airport and participated in EoI.

And the Thai Air Asia quoted lowest Subsidy Support among the other International Airlines, so the State Government had accepted the offer.

Earlier the State Government had made it clear that Subsidy Support will be extended to those, who will cover an aerial distance more than 1,000 Nautical Miles, which is more than 1800 Kilometres. That means International Flights to Dhaka or Colombo will not be subsidized. Now the State Government is fine-tuning the MoU conditions and soon both the parties will enter the Pact after which Thai Air Asia will start operations, said sources.

# India's 2016 gold demand declines to lowest levels in seven years: WGC

**MUMBAI(KCN):** India's gold demand could fall by as much as 24 percent in 2016 to the lowest level in seven years due to

of tax code for high-value jewellery purchases, Somasundaram PR, managing director of the WGC's Indian opera-

ter the country's imports of dore, a semi-pure alloy made by miners, fell 84 percent from a year ago to 11.1 tonnes, it said.

The price rise provided Indian consumers an opportunity to liquidate their stocks, said the WGC, adding scrap supplies of gold more than doubled in September quarter from a year ago to 39 tonnes.

"Sudden drop in prices before Diwali, good monsoon rains and trade activity back in normal fashion means demand in the fourth quarter would be the higher compared to the first three quarters," he said.

The quarter ending in December typically accounts for about a third of India's gold sales since it includes the start of the wedding season and festivals like Dhanteras and Diwali, when buying gold is considered auspicious.

Indian celebrated Diwali in the last week of October. Two-thirds of demand in India comes from villages, where jewellery is a traditional investment.



higher prices and increased smuggling as the government seeks to bring transparency to bullion purchases, the World Gold Council (WGC) said.

Lower demand from the world's second-most consumer of gold could hurt global spot prices that have risen a fifth so far in 2016, but help the South Asian country to reduce its trade deficit. Gold is one of India's biggest expenses on its import bill.

India's gold demand in the first three quarters of 2016 fell 29 percent from a year ago to 441.2 tonnes, hit by price rises and government moves such as the mandatory disclosure

of tax code for high-value jewellery purchases, Somasundaram PR, managing director of the WGC's Indian opera-

ter the country's imports of dore, a semi-pure alloy made by miners, fell 84 percent from a year ago to 11.1 tonnes, it said.

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# Who is Abhimanyu?

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Who is Abhimanyu in Odisha Politics?

Union Minister Drarmendra Pradhan has said that the ruling BJD has been trying to forge an alliance with the Congress to defeat BJP in the state.

Mr. Pradhan dubbed the possible handshake between the Governing BJD and the Opposition Congress as an "Unholy" Alliance.

"They are forging an unholy alliance to kill 'Abhimanyu'. But this unholy nexus will be defeated before the truth," Mr.Pradhan said while addressing a party meeting here held ahead of BJP National President Amit Shah's meet on November 25.

However, Mr. Pradhan did not mean whom he says the "Abhimanyu". Is it he himself or the party as a whole?

If he is Abhimanyu, then Mr.Pradhan must be ready to be killed in

the political battlefield of Odisha. And if BJP is Abhimanyu, then it should also be killed as the son of Arjuna had laid his

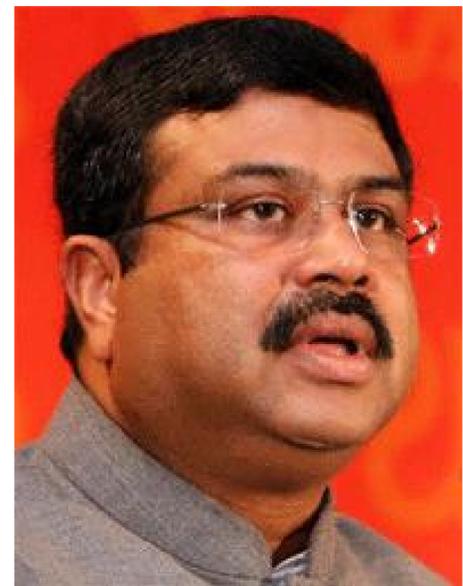
Congress leader and former Minister Suresh Chandra Routray had described Niranjan Patnaik as the

pany.

"We would welcome the selfish and immoral alliance if BJD goes for. This alliance is the work of most unethical people. Everybody knows no BJD leader can utter a single word without an instruction from the Third Floor and Mr.Mahtab is not an ordinary parliamentarian. He has given a fresh indication in Odisha politics", Mr.Pradhan said.

"Many things have happened in the last 48 hours. First, Mr.Mahatab was asked to raise the matter and 24 hours after the remark, his leader and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik denied the claim. Then, a leader from Congress-Srikant Jena- who is very nominal in his party now, said that Congress-BJD alliance is impossible", Mr. Pradhan pointed out.

Mr.Mahatab on his part said Mr.Pradhan's statement is **See page-2**



life while fighting.

The political circle here, however, prefer to see Mr.Pradhan in the role of Abhimanyu as he has been fighting alone in the battle field against the Mighty BJD while other senior leaders are silent.

Recently, senior

"Narada" and his son-in-law and OPCC President Prasad Harichandan as Bishnu.

Therefore, Mr. Pradhan should clarify the people to whom he means as the Abhimanyu who are alone fighting against the Naveen Patnaik and com-

*illuminates the knowledge*

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