

Musk care by Nepal Prez Odisha eyes more funds

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President of Nepal, Bidya Devi Bhandari today assured the people of Odisha to take necessary steps to arrange 'Kasturi' for Shri Jagannath Temple here to tide over the acute shortage of musk essential for special rituals of the Presiding Lord.

Mrs. Bhandari, who paid obeisance to the Trinity in the 12th century shrine, told Media Men that she would take up the issue of shortage of Kasturi, which is obtained from a stag's navel, with the Government of Nepal.

The visiting dignitary said she would take appropriate measures to resolve the problem so as to enable the temple authorities to continue with the rituals and traditions for the deities without disruption.

The rare and precious Kasturi was earlier received by the Shri Jagannath Temple from Nepal during the reign of Monarchs.

United CEO Munoz will not chair board in 2018 following passenger furore

NEW YORK(KCN): United Continental Holdings Inc said on Friday Chief Executive Oscar Munoz will not become chairman in 2018, under an

As the purity and quality of Kasturi Mukherjee as well as the Central and



from Nepal is considered high, it was used for special rituals of the Trinity.

Mrs. Bhandari expressed happiness after Darshan and Pujan of Lord Jagannath, and she thanked President of India, Pranab

Odisha Government for the arrangements made for her visit. She also thanked the residents of Puri and Servitors

She said that India and Nepal enjoyed age-old friendly ties with strong cultural bonds,

and she expressed the hope that the bilateral relationship would continue in future for further development of India.

The Himalayan Country Chief, who is on the concluding leg of her two-day tour of Odisha, visited the shrine and offered prayers to Lord Jagannath amid tight security.

The visiting VVIP, who spent over 40 minutes in the temple premises, was welcomed near the Lion's Gate by the District Collector Aravind Agarwal and other senior officials of the District, Temple Administration and Servitors.

District Police Chief Sarthak Sarangi took all steps for ensuring foolproof security arrangements.

Elaborate security arrangements were made both outside and inside the temple for her visit, while the entry of other devotees into the shrine was restricted.

United's commitment to reforms. Committee leaders said in a joint statement that getting answers about what happened and how to prevent a recurrence was a "priority" and any further delay was "unacceptable."

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha will pitch for at more Central funding at the third meeting of the governing council of NITI Aayog scheduled to be held on April 23 at New Delhi.

It is expected that the State will demand Central funding on 90:10 ratio or at least 75:25. Presently, funding for the State is being done on the 60:40 ratio.

Sources said, the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes will rationalized into 28 umbrella schemes. Out of 28 umbrella schemes, six have been categorized as core of the core Schemes, 21 as core schemes and remaining one as optional scheme.

The existing pattern of funding will continue for Core of the Core Schemes as 60:40 Ratios for the State of Odisha, however for Special Category and North Eastern States, sharing will be 90:10 basis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened the meeting of the council, which comprises all chief ministers, senior Union ministers, administrators of Union Territories and Aayog Members. While the first meeting of the governing

council (GC) was held on February 8, 2015, the second meet was held on July 15, 2015.

Sources said, the governing council

basis the goal envisaged in the "Vision 2030" document. It is learnt that the medium-term strategy paper (for seven years) and the 15-

view the social goals proposed for a period of 15 years after taking inputs from the State governments, Union Ministries and experts from various fields.

The State governments have also prepared Action Document for 2017-18 to 2019-20, aligned to the predictability of financial resources during 14th Finance Commission Award. Similarly, a seven year strategy document spanning 2017-18 to 2023-24 to convert long term vision to implementable policy and action will be part of the National Development Agenda.

Third GC meeting will discuss the new GST Regime, rationalization of Central Schemes, Task Force Report on Agriculture Development, Task Force Report on elimination of Poverty, Implementation of Digital India Program and Policy Paper on Doubling Farmers' Income.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will participate in the meeting and will be accompanied by Chief Resident Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhargava and Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Rajesh Verma, sources said.



will finalize the vision, strategy and agenda for the country. The meeting was in the offing as the practice of five-year plans ended after the term of 12th Five-year Plan (2012-17) expired on March 31.

Therefore, the officials said, it was imperative on the part of the Centre to have the new three-year action plan at the earliest to guide various Central Ministries, Departments and States to achieve on a yearly

year roadmap for country's growth vision will also be finalized in the meeting.

It is expected that the action plan, as prepared by the NITI Aayog, will redefine the Union governments' expenditure by classifying it on the basis of capital and revenue categories as the system of plan and non-plan ceased to exist now.

NITI Aayog has prepared the vision document keeping in

Pakistan's spy agency protecting Al-Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri in Karachi: Report

WASHINGTON(KCN): Egyptian-born Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, one of the world's most wanted terrorists, is most likely hiding in Karachi under the protection of Pakistan's notorious spy agency ISI, a US media report said.

"Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI) has been protecting al-Zawahiri, a trained surgeon, since US forces evicted Al-Qaeda from Afghanistan in late 2001," Newsweek said in a major investigative story claiming that its information is based on several authoritative sources.

"His most likely location today, they say: Karachi, the teeming port city of 26 million people on

has surfaced about the hiding location of the Al-Qaeda chief, who is Osama bin Laden's mentor and

a 30-year CIA veteran who was the top adviser on South Asia and the Middle East for the past four US

material found in Abbottabad (Pakistan)," where bin Laden was slain, "that point in that direction," he added.

"This would be a logical place to hide out, where he would feel pretty comfortable that the Americans can't come and get him," he said.

Riedel told the weekly that Karachi would be a "very hard" place for the US to conduct the kind of commando raid that got bin Laden on May 2, 2011.

"If he was in someplace along the border with Afghanistan, I think the temptation See page -7



the Arabian Sea," the weekly said.

This is for the first time in several years a news report

successor.

"Like everything about his location, there's no positive proof," Bruce Riedel,

presidents, told the magazine.

"There are pretty good indications, including some of the

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'We are not promoting sex'

Do you think the film industry is welcomed my journey though because it was What are your expectations from it?



ing to newcomers like you?

It's really difficult to get into Bollywood - it's a matter of time and the luck factor counts too. It's tough; and it was tough for me. It has been a very long and difficult struggle for me, I have en-

not like I was just struggling and doing nothing ... I have taken a little long to do the kind of film I really wanted and desired. But it has finally happened and I am here.

Wajah Tum Ho can be termed as your proper debut film.

My expectations are very high because this film has given me everything that I have ever dreamt of. I feel amazing as I have experienced everything I wanted in this film - being a solo lead, performing to the best songs, playing a very strong character.

Nothing redeemable in Sunhil Sippy's Noor

Film: Noor
Director: Sunhil Sippy
Cast: Sonakshi Sinha, Kanan Gill, Purab Kohli, Manish Chaudhary
Rating: 2 stars

It's only natural that Saba Imtiaz's Karachi, You're Killing Me would find

propriation and then there is gross misappropriation. The writing is credited to Althea Delmas-Kaushal, Shikhaa Sharma and Sunhil Sippy, and you wonder what was so complex that three minds couldn't manage what Saba Imtiaz did

posal. An embarrassing monologue serves dual purpose of being Noor's homecoming and the film's crowning piece. In trying to be current or today, Sippy puts Twitter and Facebook on screen, and also as plot elements.



home in popular cinema. It has everything. A wisecracking, self-aware, not so self-assured young journalist navigating the dangerous, dramatic city of Karachi, trying to find herself and her big story. It is replete with everyday characters that'll appeal to the privileged audience it unabashedly targets - a little discontentment in their lives and they head to Dubai.

Only in Sunhil Sippy directed Noor, Noor Roy Chowdhury (Sonakshi Sinha) takes that break when life isn't going her way, in London. There is ap-

so well in the book. It's not always a crime. Adaptations mess with book plots in huge ways and make good to great films out of them. But there is always a book's soul and some honesty in characterizations to keep in check. Noor almost fails in every way and doesn't work even if you remove Karachi! You're Killing Me from your mind.

Noor loses everything going for it by making its protagonist check her privilege while it should have been about what she can accomplish with everything at her dis-

A traditional news cycle is lamented as death of journalism while a day old viral video is celebrated as career making. Twenty-eight thousand followers on Twitter is hailed as resume worthy while the not so life altering fact is even Kamaal R Khan has millions in number. A compelling micro story about a single character loses its essence by trying to be a macro story about Mumbai, journalism and other words thrown at you with sincerity reserved for banal platitudes.

KOEL ORIYA ACTRESS BIOGRAPHY

Many bengali girls tried their luck in Oriya film industry, but some of them are successful. Actress Koel is one of them. Now she is also married to odia actor Bobby Mishra. They have acted together in 'Tate Bhala Pauchi Boli', directed by Prashant Kumar. After marriage, Koel is acting in Hara Pattnaik's upcoming venture "Om Sai Ram" opposite Budhaditya.



Medha Ghosh



Another Ollywood actress Riya, who is also ruling the silver screen with her fascinating acting and appealing physique, is not behind to other actors when it comes to remuneration. Ollywood industry sources said Riya is getting above Rs 8 lakh for an Odia movie.

Eurozone economy hits 6-year high in April

BRUSSELS(KCN): The eurozone economy grew at its fastest pace in six years in April on the back of strong demand and "widespread optimism" about the outlook, a closely watched sur-

veys showed Friday. Data monitoring company IHS Markit said its April Composite Purchasing Managers Index came in at 56.7

points, the highest reading since April 2011 and up from 56.4 points in March. The PMI measures companies' willingness to invest in their business and so gives a good idea

economy is expanding.

IHS Markit said the 19-nation eurozone economy was doing well on all fronts.

"Job creation... rose to the highest for almost a decade

statement.

"Price pressures, meanwhile, remained among the strongest seen over the past six years," it added.

Inflation, which has bumped along for years well short

Broken down, the figures showed the services sector - which accounts for the bulk of economic activity -- rose to 56.2 points in April from 56 points in March.

The manufacturing output PMI meanwhile jumped to 58 points from 57.5.

IHS Markit chief business economist Chris Williamson said the April report suggested the eurozone economy would grow by 0.7 percent in the second quarter, compared with 0.6 percent in the first three months of the year.

"Such strong growth, if sustained, will inevitably lead to upward revisions to economists' 2017 forecasts," Williamson said in the statement.

He said exports were getting an ad-

ditional boost from a weak euro, caused in part by Brexit jitters, while job creation was a major positive.

"Employment growth has accelerated to the best seen for nearly a decade," he noted.

On the risk side, "France's elections pose the highest near-term risk to the outlook but in the lead-up to the vote the business mood has clearly been buoyant," he noted

France and Germany, the top EU economy, "are enjoying their best growth spells for six years, while elsewhere in the region the pace of expansion has accelerated to a near 10-year high," Williamson added.

H-1B visa issue: Arun Jaitley may take it up with US authorities

New Delhi (KCN): India may take up the work visa issue with US authorities during the visit of finance minister Arun Jaitley to the US. Jaitley on Wednesday indicated that he would take up the visa issue with the US authorities during his visit. "These (IT industry issues) are matters of discussion with the appropriate authorities there. Once I do discuss and get an opportunity, I will let you know," he told reporters when asked whether he would take up the concerns of the Indian IT sector with the US administration.

The Indian IT industry has expressed concerns over the US government's clampdown on the rules for H-1B visa, which is primarily used by domestic IT professionals for short-term work. US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order for tightening the rules of the H-1B visa programme to stop its "abuse" and ensure that the visas are given to the "most-skilled or highest paid" petitioners.

Jaitley was scheduled to leave on a five-

day visit to the United States on Wednesday night to attend the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF as well as deliberations of G20 nations. During his stay in Washington and New York, he will hold meetings with American CEOs and institutional and pension fund investors, where he will pitch India as a favourable investment destination. The finance minister is also slated to hold a meeting with the US Treasury Secretary. Industry body Nasscom warned that the US' move to replace the lottery system for issuing H-1B work visas with a merit-based approach could have "unintended consequences" even as it sought to downplay any immediate impact on IT companies this year. "No new changes are being implemented immediately... Nothing is being proposed that would impact or change the FY18 H-1B lottery that is currently underway," Nasscom said in a statement on Wednesday. The proposed changes are forward-looking and non-specific, it contended.



vey showed Friday.

Data monitoring company IHS Markit said its April Composite Purchasing Managers Index came in at 56.7

of how well the underlying economy is performing.

Any reading above the boom-bust 50 points line indicates the

as firms boosted operating capacity in line with buoyant demand and widespread optimism about future prospects," it said in a

of the European Central Bank's near two-percent target, has picked up recently, reflecting an increase in underlying demand.

U.S. judge sentences Volkswagen to three years probation, oversight

DETROIT(KCN): A federal judge in Detroit on Friday sentenced Volkswagen

fraud," U.S. District Judge Sean Cox said in approving the settlement that re-

that VW intentionally cheated on emissions tests for at least six years, the company

In a statement New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, who oversees investments in Volkswagen on behalf of the New York City Pension Funds, said VW's "scheme was deceitful." "Today's massive fine underscores the extent of the fraud and the need for change at the company."

The U.S. Justice Department has charged seven current and former VW executives with crimes related to the scandal. One executive is in custody and awaiting trial and another pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate. U.S. prosecutors said in January that five of the seven are believed to be in Germany. They have not been arraigned.

German prosecutors also are conducting a criminal probe of VW's excess diesel emissions.

"We have worked tirelessly to address the misconduct that took place within our company and make things right for our affected customers," the company said in a statement on Friday. "Volkswagen today is not the same company it was 19 months ago."

India records increasing foreign direct investment from tax havens

KOCHI(KCN): India is at an inflection point of foreign investment, it seems. The FDI inflows into the country have been increasing over the past few years. Inter-

includes post-demonetisation era (after November 8, 2016).

"Since 1990, foreign investment into the country has been through tax havens.

make out that foreign investors still prefer the tax heavens route to avoid tax. In a way, it decreases the intensity of the country's war against black money. However, the positive trend is that India receives increased FDI inflow," said Akshay Agarwal, managing director, Acumen Capital Market India.

From Page -1 sleep just 10 minutes ahead of the missile that hit that room."

The magazine said al-Zawahiri, now 66, has survived several drone strikes. One of the Taliban's former ministers adds that al-Zawahiri and Al-Qaeda are "no longer welcome" in areas controlled by his group because it's engaged in peace negotiations with the Afghan government and doesn't want to be seen as "a threat to world peace," it said.

"Closed out of the tribal areas, al-Zawahiri was moved to Karachi under direction of the black leg," the Afghan Taliban's code name for the ISI, according to the group leader who spoke with the magazine.

"He may well have taken (another al-Qaeda leader) Saif al-Adel, indicted in the US in connection with the 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, with him," the report said



AG to three years' probation and independent oversight for the German automaker's diesel emissions scandal as part of a \$4.3 billion settlement announced in January.

The plea agreement called for "organization probation" in which the company would be overseen by an independent monitor.

The sentencing was one of the last major hurdles to VW moving past a scandal that led to the ouster of its chief executive and tarnished the company's reputation worldwide.

"This is a case of deliberate and massive

quired the automaker to make significant reforms. He also formally approved a \$2.8 billion criminal fine as part of the sentence.

As well as accepting the agreement reached between VW and the U.S. government, Cox rejected separate calls from lawyers representing individual VW customers for restitution.

The German automaker pleaded guilty in March to fraud, obstruction of justice and falsifying statements after admitting to installing secret software in 580,000 U.S. vehicles.

Since the September 2015 disclosure

has agreed to spend up to \$25 billion in the United States to address claims from owners, environmental regulators, states and dealers and to make buy-back offers.

Speaking on behalf of Volkswagen, general counsel Manfred Doess said the company "deeply regrets the behavior that gave rise to this case. Plain and simple, it was wrong," he said.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced Friday it had selected former Deputy U.S. Attorney General Larry Thompson to serve as the company's independent monitor.



esting, FDI from countries which were known tax havens increased during April-December 2016-17, government data shows.

Tax havens are countries that have low or near-zero tax rates, especially for some kinds of transactions. Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong and Mauritius are the popular ones. But, the list includes others such as Luxembourg, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, the Netherlands and Bermuda, too.

The data assumes significance as the period also

Countries such as Mauritius and Switzerland top the list of countries which pump money into India. In the recent past, the Narendra Modi government has taken steps to ease FDI inflows. This has also resulted in increased FDI into India. Recent restrictions on foreign portfolio investment, which came into effect from April 1, 2017, may also force foreign investors to eye the FDI route," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

"It is easy to

De Villiers to return for IPL clash against KKR

KOLKATA(KCN): spinner Yuzvendra Chahal said at the previous match against Gujarat



Bangalore will be bolstered by the return of star batsman AB de Villiers in their IPL clash against Kolkata Knight Riders here tomorrow. "I think he is okay," Royal Challengers leg-

match-eve news conference today. The South African was seen at the practice, coming ahead of skipper Virat Kohli and Chris Gayle, who joined the team in the second-half of their ses-

returns, Travis Head will have to sit out. De Villiers, who had already missed the first two matches of the season with a back injury, had a recurring back trouble that forced him to sit out of their

Lions. In de Villiers' absence, Kohli returned to open with Gayle and they put together a 122-run opening stand to post the season-high 213/2 en route a 21-run win over the Lions.

Azlan Shah Cup an important test for India, feels Oltmans

BENGALURU(KCN): Chief coach Roelant Oltmans feels the upcoming Sultan Azlan Shah Cup will give a clear picture of where the Indian hockey team stands after working rigorously on the physical and mental aspects.

With a fresh outlook, new tactics and youngsters in the fold, the team tonight leaves for the prestigious tournament in Ipoh, Malaysia.

The tournament is the first major event in this year's international calendar for the senior men's team.

"While getting off to a good start is important, the most important thing for me is the finish – in December when we really have to be good. This tournament will give us an indication on the things we expect and test ourselves to see if the progress I expect to see is really on," Oltmans said.

India will take on Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand, Japan and hosts Malaysia.

While India will be vying to improve their silver medal finish last year,

beating Australia will be on the players'



minds as the team has been a nemesis for long.

"Yes, in a way Australia has been a tough team to beat. Until last year they had a lot of senior players and were the most experienced team. In pressure situations, their past performances really helped them cope with that pressure and come up with good results," said captain cum goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.

He added, "But I think now, our team has experienced youngsters, who can turn the matches around. In tournaments like these its important to beat top teams like Australia

so that you can develop your confi-

dence."

While India will play with a mix of young and experienced players in the team, Australia, too, will come with a young squad.

"Australia come in as a new team, with new coaching staff and a mix of young and experienced players. We play them in the third match so we get to watch two of their matches before we play against them. That way we will get to make analyses of their game and make specific plans to play against them," stated Oltmans.

India had a 40-day long national camp where the team was put through a

tough regime involving nearly five-six

hours of intense training.

"We deliberately had a 40-day camp. Physically I wanted them to be at a good starting point so there was a lot of emphasis on that and I believe we have succeeded in achieving that level."

"With new players coming into the squad, the understanding between players had to grow. New style of play needed to be adapted to and the best place to get confirmations is in big tournaments and we go to Malaysia to test ourselves," concluded the 62-year-old Oltmans.

India begin their campaign against Great Britain on April 29.

Bopanna-Cuevas struggles into Monte Carlo semis

MONTE CARLO(KCN): Indian tennis ace Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas produced a spirited performance as they bounced back from a set down to book their place in the semi-finals of the men's doubles event at the Monte-Carlo Rolex Masters here last evening. After going down in the first set, the Indo-Uruguayan duo rebounding strongly to register a 3-6, 6-3,

13-11 win over the

With the win,



Finnish-Australian duo of Henri Kontinen and John Peers in a exhilarating quarter-final clash.

Bopanna and Cuevas have now set up a clash against the French team of Hugo Nys and Romain Arneodo for a place

in the summit showdown. In the men's singles event, fourteen-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal continued his rich vein of form as he swept aside Diego Schwartzman of Argentina 6-4, 6-4 to storm into the last four.

Nadal, who is bidding for his 10th title at the tournament, will now lock horns Belgium's David Goffin for a place in the finals.

Combating Kohli & Gayle is like going into battlefield: Balaji

KOLKATA(KCN): Combating the fear-

match, which saw Gayle and Kohli join-

Raina's side sealing a four-wicket win.

need to show your aggression by taking



some batting duo of Virat Kohli and Chris Gayle is no less than going into the 'battlefield', Kolkata Knight Riders bowling coach Lakshmiipathy Balaji said today.

"It's hard to plan. It's like Army men going into the battlefield. You may have a lot of planning but on the day you just try to disorient a little bit. But the important thing is what comes to us and what we can control," he said about the challenge that lies ahead when KKR clash with Royal Challengers Bangalore here tomorrow.

The last year's runners-up posted a season-high 213 for 2 en route to a 21-run win over Gujarat Lions in their previous

ing hands at the top for a partnership of 122.

"In T20, it's all about what you do on that day. The batting decides the outcome in most of the games. We have been playing good cricket. It's about keep doing the things that has given you good results instead of being intimidated by the opposition," Balaji said.

"We just need to do look after our limitations. We cannot control the opposition. We can control many things that we are doing good, that's why we are in top three," he said.

KKR suffered an upset defeat against Lions last night as they failed to defend a challenging total of 187/5 with Suresh

But Balaji backed his bowlers, saying they were doing a fine job.

"It's about wickets, and not by runs. Your game destination is decided on how many wickets you take. Wickets form an important aspect and we have done exceedingly well in that department.

"But at the same time we will look to improve in the areas that needed to be addressed."

Balaji chose to delve into the positives of their match against Gujarat Lions.

"The good thing is we got five wickets, that's a positive outcome. The batsmen are aggressive in this format, so you

wickets. There has to be a balance.

"When you keep doing that, the outcome takes care on its own. The wickets decide the outcome most of the times rather than containing runs."

The spectators would divided tomorrow with the cricketing heartthrobs Kohli and Gayle in the opposition.

"Definitely, they are very good cricketers and ambassadors of the game. There will definitely be a lot of cheers. That's good for us. We have got our own support. We have been doing well here. It will be an exciting match."