

Pradhan favors VAT talk

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): Union Minister Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan today called upon the State Government to hold discussions with officials of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to sort out the contentious VAT row.

Mr. Pradhan said the State Government, instead of approaching the Supreme Court challenging the Orissa High Court's decision in which the demand notice of VAT recovery from IOCL was kept in abeyance, should hold discussions with the Oil Major.

On Thursday, the State Government had formally decided to move Supreme Court challenging the recent order of the Orissa High Court keeping in abeyance its demand notice of VAT recovery from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

Sources said the Government has de-



manded a demand notice of VAT recovery from Indian Oil Corporation Limited. The State Government in February had asked the IOCL to deposit tax of Rs 1485.98 crore for the sale of finished products from its Paradip Refinery project, which was commissioned in November, 2015.

Earlier, the Orissa High Court on March 16 had passed an order to "keep in abey-

ance" a demand notice of VAT recovery

A Division Bench of Justices Indrajit Mahanti and Biswajit Mohanty while adjudicating over a petition, filed by IOCL, also ordered the high-level working group formed under the chairmanship of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry to look into the concerns raised by the Government of Odisha and IOCL within two months.

The State Government after unilaterally striking down a vital clause from the 2004-MoU signed between itself and the IOCL had withdrawn the mutually agreed tax incentive to IOCL and placed the tax recovery notice on the Corporation. The clause related to grant of interest free credit to Odisha equivalent to the tax payable to the state on the finished products of the refinery during its first 11 years of commercial production.

British woman on trial for negligence

RAYAGADA(KCN): Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ) of Odisha's Rayagada district on Saturday acquitted an Iranian-origin British national, who was convicted by a lower court on charges of causing the death of a tribal child due to negligence in 2014.

The court besides

Ashtari to one year jail and fined her Rs 3 lakh over charges of causing the death of a six-year-old blind boy. She had moved the ADJ court against the lower court's order and secured bail.

Ashtari's lawyer Pratap Chandra Das said the ADJ court has asked her to appeal again if she

NGO 'Prishan Foundation' in Mukundapur village, nearly 30 km from Rayagada town in 2013.

Her parents had died when she was a child. She was inspired to open an orphanage and take care orphans after she met an orphaned boy Prishan in Sri Lanka.

could not be traced.

After the disappearance of Aseem, who was feared drowned, she was embroiled in a criminal case filed by the boy's father Peter Kilkara. Fearing that she will not get a fair trial, she had appealed to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj seek-



letting off aid worker Narges K Ashtari (28) due to lack of evidence has stated that she can file a petition seeking compensation from the Odisha government for making her suffer due to the trial.

Last year on December 5, the Jeypore sub-divisional judicial magistrate's court had sentenced

wants ex-gratia from the government as she suffered from mental trauma for two years for no fault of her own.

"She was forced to suffer due to a fake case," Das said.

A native of Isfahan in central Iran, Ashtari had arrived in India in 2011 and started an orphanage under her

Police sources said along with children from her orphanage Ashtari and her associate had gone for a picnic near a hanging bridge over Nagabali river in November 2014. While six children were washed away while bathing in the river, five were rescued. A six-year-old blind boy Aseem Kilkara

ing her intervention.

Earlier, NGO secretary Raju Gupta was acquitted over lack of evidence.

Additional public prosecutor Maheswar Mohapatra said they would appeal before a higher court against the ADJ's court verdict after examining the order and consulting with higher authorities.

MK Stalin, CM, Ministers debate over PDS, drought, Cauvery row

CHENNAI: Leader of Opposition MK Stalin and many ministers and on a few occasions, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami were engaged in an intense debate in the Assembly on Friday over many issues - State's financial position, special Public Distribution System, power projects, drought relief given to farmers and Cauvery water dispute during the discussion on the budget for 2017-18.

Food Minister R Kamaraj countered saying it was the DMK cadre who had staged agitations and not women. Stalin challenged that he was ready to prove that women were the protesters. Minister for Cooperation K Sellur Raju admitted that there was a lull in supply of some commodities, but it had been set right already.

Similarly, when

Stalin said no new power project had been announced in the budget, Electricity Minister P Thangamani reeled out a list of ongoing new power projects. However, Stalin maintained that the government had wasted five years without doing anything. When the Opposition leader charged the government with not doing anything to increase the storage of Mullaperiyar dam to 152 feet, the Chief Minister recalled how the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa took steps to increase the storage from 136 feet to 142 feet. Thereafter, `7.85 crore was allocated for strengthening the dam but Kerala government did not extend cooperation for that. However, works for increasing the storage were going on.

Five held for stealing bikes in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(K-CN): Police on Saturday arrested five persons, including an engineering student, for stealing two-wheelers here.

As many as 11 expensive motor-



cycles and six mobile phones were seized from the possession of the accused. The gang was active in Ghatikia, Dumduma, Jagamara and Khandagiri areas for the past six months and were involved in at least twenty cases.

Three among the

accused were identified as Manas Kumar Samantray, 28, of Nimapada in Puri district; Sk Islam, 18, of Jadupur and Biswaranjan Sharma, 19, of

Dumduma. They were booked under Section 379 (theft) and produced in court which remanded the trio to judicial custody.

The other two, who are minors, were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and sent to the Juvenile Reform Centre at Berhampur.

Panchayat on poverty free

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): State Government today decided to focus on sustainable income, environment, health and hygiene aspects in gram panchayats to alleviate poverty.

State has initiated planning for eradicating poverty from around 22 per cent of the GPs and building Poverty Free Gram Panchayats within the next two years. The State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) discussed the issue at a meeting here chaired by Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi.

The Chief Secretary advised the Department of Panchayati Raj to focus on sustainable income, green environment, quality education, health and hygiene.

According to officials, it was decided to take up 1342 GPs and develop these as model Poverty Free Gram Panchayat (PFGP) by October 2 in 2019.

Mr. Padhi directed the department to prepare the list of the GPs by end of this month.

Secretary Panchayati Raj Deo Ranjan Singh proposed adoption of a four-pronged approach to achieve the goal.

He suggested enhancing agricultural productivity, skilling of youth, creating opportunities for high order farm & non-farm activities and better targeting of safety-net schemes for combating poverty at Panchayat Level.

It was decided to have systematic interventions at 4 levels - individual level, household level, community level and gram panchayat levels.

The Secretary informed that the Union Government has announced launching of Mission Antyodaya for building around 50,000 poverty free gram panchayats in the country by October 2, 2019 and Odisha has been included in this Mission, he said.

The objectives of the Mission include strengthening grass root governance, creation of durable & income generating assets, creating good infrastructure and ensuring effective basic service delivery, said officials adding creation of mass awareness on entitlements of the people under various schemes and efficient utilization of funds at the GP level are other objectives of the Mission.

Notably, SLEC has been constituted for

implementation of the Mission Antyodaya. Secretaries of various departments such as Fi-



nance, Electronics & IT, Agriculture, ST & SC Development, S & M E, Energy and H & FW have been taken as members of the SLEC while Panchayati Raj Secretary is the Member- Convener of the apex body for all policy related decisions required for implementation of the programmes.

The Committee also prepares the framework and strategies for consideration of the Government, said the sources. The SLEC would meet at least once in every quarter to review the progress and resolve the issues cropping up in the process of implementation.

Principal Secretary Finance Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Principal Secretary Electronics and Information Technology Pardeep Kumar Jena, Principal Secretary Rural Development Madhusudan Padhi, Secretary Health & Family Welfare Pramod Kumar Meherda, Secretary ST & SC Development Surendra Kumar, Secretary Housing & Urban Development G. Mathivathanan, Director, Odisha Livelihood Mission Pranab Jyoti Nath, Joint Secretary Panchayati Raj Smruti Ranjan Pradhan along with other senior officers from concerned departments participated in the deliberations.

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It could just be a fling!

Baby Doll singer Kanika Kapoor is known for her connections with rich men. In the past, too, she was linked with

Mumbai shocked. If the rumours are to be believed, Kanika is dating author Shobhaa De's son Aditya Khilachand.

AD, as he is called by his friends, has had his share of link ups too! Whether this is



Kanika Kapoor

rich industrialists and even 'toy boys'.

This time around, her liaison has left

She apparently accompanied AD to Thailand for his friend's 40th birth-

just a fling or they are serious about each other, only time will tell!

Sanjay Dutt biopic: Dia Mirza to play Manyata in Ranbir Kapoor film

Actress-producer Dia Mirza will play the role of Sanjay Dutt's

Hirani. Now, the film's co-producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra

something from it," he added. Chopra also said that among

Shah Rukh Khan: I Am A Small Time Guy Who Had

tral Jail last year, the actor used to tell him and Hirani about his

one year," said Chopra, who is also set to direct a film on Kashmiri Pandits.

"The shooting will begin from September," said the director, who had helmed the film "Mission Kashmir" in 2000.

Also Read | Sanjay Dutt biopic: Dia Mirza shares first picture from sets with Ranbir Kapoor, Raju Hirani Will Kashmiri Pandit Anupam Kher star in it? "It depends on the role for him," said the filmmaker, who is here for the launch of his daughter Zuni Chopra's novel "The House That Spoke". The book by the 15-year-old, also on Kashmir, will be unveiled on Sunday. Asked about "Raees" and "Kaabil" clashing at the box office on January 25, he said: "Both (Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan) are my friends and I hope that both the films do well."



wife Manyata in the actor's biopic. Dia, who has acted with Sanjay in films like "Parineeta" and "Lage Raho Munna Bhai", had earlier this month said that she has joined the cast of the biopic, being helmed by Rajkumar

has revealed her role. "Dia Mirza is doing the role of Manyata," Chopra told IANS at the ongoing Jaipur Literature Festival, 2017. "It is a biopic and it is more than a biopic too because we expect people to learn

other things, the biopic will also explore Sanjay's relationship with his late star father Sunil Dutt. Veteran actor Paresh Rawal is playing the role of Sunil Dutt, while Sanjay's part is being brought alive by Ranbir Kapoor.

To Work Very Hard The filmmaker, who has worked with Sanjay in films like "Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.", "Eklavya: The Royal Guard" and "Mission Kashmir", revealed that after Sanjay's release from Yerwada Cen-

life. They thought it could make a good film. They are looking for a December release. "I don't make pictures depending on the release date. I prefer to make one picture in four years than four pictures in

SRK has rules for anyone wanting to date his daughter Suhana and they are scary!

Mumbai(KCN): It's no secret that Shah Rukh Khan is extremely protective of his children, especially his lovely teenage daughter Suhana. When it comes to his daughter, SRK is just like any possessive father. In a recent interview, the actor stated the guidelines for anyone who would like to date his daughter, Suhana.

The actor was talking to a magazine when he listed the seven guidelines which are as followed, "Get a job. Understand I don't like you. I'm everywhere. Get a lawyer. She's my princess, not your conquest. I don't mind going back to jail. Whatever you do to her, I



will do to you." Well, those are some tough guidelines but what else can you

expect from King Khan. Earlier, on KJo's Koffee with Karan sea-

son 5, Shah Rukh Khan spoke at length about his life, especially his kids. During the chat,

the actor confessed that he would rip the lips of anyone who would try to kiss his daughter. Well,

now after those mentioned guidelines, one thing is for sure, SRK is not joking around.



Sunny Leone and Rajnesh Duggal's bold and steamy hot scenes in Bollywood's dark love story Beimaan Love.

Lawrence, director Aronofsky caught kissing

New York: Actress Jennifer Lawrence and director Darren Aronofsky were spotted kissing after a dinner date here.

"She struggled when she dated Chris (Martin) and seemed very stressed out. With



Darren, it will probably be different. He does not attract attention like Chris does. He is very low-key. He does not seem like a person who enjoys being a celebrity. Jennifer is the same," said the source.

Snapchat files for \$3 billion IPO, outlines aggressive expansion plans

Snapchat owner Snap Inc shot the opening salvo in its \$3 billion initial public offering on Thursday, outlining aggressive expansion plans but offering new investors no say on how the company is run and no promise of profits.

Snap's publication on Thursday of its IPO registration document sets the stage for its upcoming marketing campaign to convince investors to look past its widening losses and the firm grip of its founders, and focus on its rapid growth of active users.

The number of

Snap's daily active users grew to an average of 158 million at the end of December, up 48 percent year-on-year, Snap revealed. However, its net loss widened to \$514.6 million in 2016 from \$372.9 million the year before.

Related Article Sony Entertainment CEO Lynton to quit for taking up top role in Snapchat Snapchat set to enter augmented reality headset field Snapchat updates guidelines to tackle fake news While Snap will have time to polish its marketing pitch in the run-up to the IPO

planned for March, some analysts were taken aback that the company was just beginning to reap cash from its product.

"What surprises me the most is that it is still very early days when it comes to Snap making money," said Rohit Kulkarni, managing director at private securities investment firm SharesPost.

Snap had confidentially registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an IPO late last year. It kept the filing under such tight wraps, even some of its IPO underwriters had not

seen it prior to publication on Thursday, sources familiar with the matter previously told Reuters.

Snap said in the IPO registration document published on Thursday it would become the first U.S. company to go public with shares on offer not granting voting rights to stock market investors. Its founders, Evan Spiegel and Robert Murphy, will keep control of the company.

Snap could be valued at between \$20 billion to \$25 billion, according to sources familiar with the situation who

asked not to be named because the matter is confidential. That would give the company the richest valuation in a U.S. technology IPO since Facebook Inc.

Snap, which launched itself in 2012 with an app that sends disappearing messages, rebranded itself last year as a camera company and started selling \$130 video camera glasses. It generates the majority of its revenue from advertising, seeking to challenge the dominance of internet giants such as Facebook and Alphabet Inc's Google.

"The industry has been crying out for new advertising units" says Ian Schafer, founder and chairman of ad agency Deep Focus, referring to the tight hold Facebook and Google have on the digital advertising marketplace.

In its IPO regis-

tration document, Snap cited Apple Inc, Google, Twitter Inc, Facebook and its photo-sharing platform Instagram as its competitors.

Spiegel, the 26-year-old Snap co-founder, last year earned \$503,205 in salary, with a \$1 million bonus. Imran Khan, Snapchat's chief strategy officer whom it hired from investment bank Credit Suisse Group AG in 2014, earned \$241,539 last year with a \$5.2 million bonus. In 2015, Khan also received \$145.3 million worth of Snap shares as a sign-up bonus.

Spiegel and Murphy will maintain tight control over Snap's stock through a unique three-share class structure. The structure will give Spiegel and Murphy the right of 10 votes for every share. Existing investors will have one vote for each of their shares, while new investors will have no voting

rights.

Snap said it couldn't predict if the structure would "result in a lower trading price or greater fluctuations" in the stock.

Keeping tight control is common in companies closely as-

sociated with their founders, who often prefer to grow their business without being questioned by a broad array of investors. Still, offering a class of stock with no votes in an IPO is unprecedented.

Russia's Sberbank to supply 20-25 tonnes of gold to India in 2017

MOSCOW(KCN): Sberbank CIB, the investment and corporate banking unit of Russia's largest

clients, who have the right to hold import operations with precious metals, on Jan. 27. The bank plans to



bank Sberbank, plans to supply a total of 20-25 tonnes of gold to India this year, the bank said in a statement on Friday.

Sberbank CIB started gold supplies to Indian corporate

start exporting silver to Indian clients at the end of the first quarter.

Sberbank CIB plans to supply a total of 50-60 tonnes of gold to Asia in 2017, it added.

Bosch to pay out \$327.5 million over Volkswagen 'dieselgate'

FRANKFURT(KCN): German car parts maker Bosch said Wednesday it will pay out some \$327.5 million (303 million euros) in compensation to US buyers and dealers of Volkswagen-made diesel cars affected by the 'dieselgate' scandal. Bosch made some elements of the sophisticated software, known as "defeat devices", that VW installed in 11 million diesel engines worldwide to minimise emissions during regulatory testing. Bosch said in a statement that a compensation agreement "would settle the claims of consumers and dealers of used vehicles against Robert Bosch GmbH, its

affiliates, employees, and directors" in the United States.

US customers who bought vehicles from Volkswagen and Audi with 2.0-litre diesel engines between 2009 and 2015, as well as 3.0-litre VW, Audi and Porsche cars produced between 2009 and 2016, will receive compensation.

The agreement must still be approved by a US federal judge in California, with a hearing slated for February 14.

While agreeing to pay out to VW buyers who have accused the firm of helping conceal the existence of the "defeat devices", Bosch said it "neither acknowledges the facts as alleged by the

plaintiffs nor does Bosch accept any liability." With the proposed agreement affecting only civil law claims, Bosch added that it "will continue to defend its interests in all other civil and criminal law proceedings and to cooperate comprehensively with the investigating authorities in Germany and other countries."

"We wish to devote our attention and our resources to the transition in mobility and in other areas of activity," chief executive Volkmar Denner said in the statement.

Presenting provisional results for 2016 last week, the Stuttgart-based, family-owned firm said it was investing billions in transitioning to

electric cars and connected objects from its traditional car components and domestic appliances business.

Bosch reported 73.1 billion euros (\$79 billion) in revenue and operating profit of 4.3 billion euros for the year.

TOKYO(KCN): Honda Motor Co on Friday lifted its an-

October-December - up 27.4 percent from a year prior and ex-

automaker to invest \$436 million in its seventh plant in the

global automakers which have come under pressure from

count for around 26 percent of its global vehicle output.

Honda raises full-year profit outlook on lower costs, weaker yen



nual profit forecast for the second time in as many quarters due to cost-cutting and the impact of a weakening yen, while sales in China remained strong.

Japan's third-largest automaker said it expected net profit for the year through March at 545.0 billion yen (\$4.82 billion), up from previous guidance upgraded in November, and 58.2 percent more than a year earlier.

It also raised its operating profit forecast to 785.0 billion yen after posting 207.6 billion yen for

ceeding the 157.07 billion yen average of 11 analyst estimates in a Reuters I/B/E/S/ poll.

Analysts expect the automaker to post full-year operating profit of 753.27 billion yen and net profit of 533.44 billion yen.

The automaker also forecasts the local currency to average 107 yen to the U.S. dollar through March, compared with an earlier forecast of 103 yen.

The results come as business is booming in China, where surging sales led by the Civic and the XR-V have prompted the

country.

It raised its full-year sales outlook for Asia including China to 1.945 million vehicles from 1.915 million.

The automaker expects to sell 5.005 million vehicles globally in the year through March, up from a previous forecast for 4.98 million. In the U.S., strong demand for Honda's latest CR-V sport utility vehicle (SUV) and the latest generation of its Civic sedan have also led to record sales in the automaker's biggest market during calendar 2016.

Honda is among

U.S. President Donald Trump, who has demanded that more cars sold in the United States be made locally to increase jobs and shrink the U.S. trade deficit.

The new president has focused on protectionist trade policies in his first weeks in office, formally withdrawing the United States from Trans Pacific Partnership trade pact. Honda and other Japanese automakers have increasingly localised vehicle production over the past three decades, and Honda's U.S.-produced vehicles ac-

The company operates seven production plants in the United States which manufactured nearly 80 percent of the record 1.64 million Honda vehicles sold in the country in 2016. It also operates plants in Mexico and Canada which export a chunk of their output to the United States. As demand for SUVs and trucks continues to rise in the United States, Honda has increasingly turned to exports from Japan, which more than doubled to 82,780 units in the 12 months through December.



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Force India fail to make Q3 in Australian GP qualifying

MELBOURNE(KCN): Force India's Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon set the 11th and 14th fastest time in qualifying of the Formula One

Sergio Perez and Team Representative and determined that he did exceed the time specified by the FIA in Event Document 10 by



season-opening Australian Grand Prix here today.

Perez narrowly missed out on Q3 with the best time of 1:25.081 while Ocon, in his first race for the team, was almost half a second slower than his more experienced teammate.

The Mexican, however, was reprimanded by the stewards for not adhering to FIA guidelines.

"The Stewards heard from the driver,

slightly more than 4 seconds and was not impeded by any other driver and therefore was driving unnecessarily slowly in violation of Art. 27.4 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations," read a statement from the stewards.

Force India had a memorable last season when they beat the likes of Williams and McLaren to finish fourth in the team standings for the first time.

India vs Australia: Poster boy of cricket Virat Kohli takes charge as the water boy

Indian skipper Virat Kohli might have missed the crucial fourth Test against Australia in Dharamsala as a result of a shoulder injury, but that did not stop Kohli from grabbing the spotlight.

Earlier today during the short break Kohli walked on to the pitch taking up the role of as a water boy to hand over drinks to his teammates. This act of his took the fans by surprise as they gave a rousing reception the moment Kohli



stepped onto the field. Former Australian speedster Brett Lee who currently assumed the role as a

commentator can be heard saying, "He must be the most expensive drinks boy in the world".

The fans took to social media and showering praise on the ace batsman for his gesture.

Lewis Hamilton takes pole in record pace at F1 Australian GP

MELBOURNE(KCN): Lewis Hamilton took pole position with the fastest lap ever at Albert Park and will start the season-opening Australian Grand Prix at the front of the grid.

The times kept

improving during the three practice sessions and the Mercedes driver's last flying lap in qualifying Saturday was 1 minute, 22.188 seconds. That lowered the mark Sebastian Vettel set in his

Ferrari in the last of the three practice sessions, which was already lower than the previous quickest time in Melbourne he set here in taking pole position for the 2011 GP. Vettel overhauled Mercedes driver

Valtteri Bottas for second spot in 1:22.456, but three-time world champion Hamilton had done enough to claim pole in Australia for the sixth time. Kimi Raikkonen was fourth in the second Ferrari.

India vs Australia: Kuldeep Yadav shines as hosts limit Smith's men to 300

DHARAMSALA: Australia squandered a wonderful opportunity to bat India out of the way in the fourth and final Test of the Border-

Hazlewood Though the Indians did a remarkable job in the last two sessions, they simply had no answers to Australia captain

Matt Renshaw lost his stumps to Umesh Yadav in the second over, put on 134 runs for the second wicket as India looked clueless in the morn-

He first removed Warner, who had scored his first fifty of the tour, and bowled Peter Handscomb and Glenn Maxwell. With Shaun Marsh departing to Umesh,



Gavaskar Trophy as from 131/1 they managed to get only 300 on Saturday. For India, it was debutant wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, playing in place of injured captain Virat Kohli, the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4/68. At stumps on Day One, India were 0/0 in the one over they faced off Josh

Steve Smith, who top-scored with a magnificent 111. The century was Smith's third of the series and seventh against India in eight Tests.

Winning the toss and batting first, Smith in the company of David Warner gave Australia a strong platform for the rest to cash in on. The duo coming together after

ing session.

Finding boundaries at will, they deflated the Indian attack before lunch as they scored at more than 4 runs per over and finished the morning session at 131/1. However, post-lunch session saw a different India, as Kuldeep's wrists changed the tide in India's favour.

India dominated that session and by the time Smith fell at the stroke of tea, Australia had wrestled the advantage to India.

Wicketkeeper Matthew Wade then frustrated the Indians with 57 with contributions from the lower-order, but India never let the pedal off as Australia were all out for 300.

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