

Fight over image Orders for bird culling

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik alleged that opposition parties were trying to malign BJD's image but they have been rejected by the people.

"There is an attempt to malign the image of BJD by a section of opposition parties. These parties have launched a misinformation campaign against BJD. But they have been rejected by the people of Odisha," the Chief Minister, who is also the President of the Governing BJD, said at the party's 19th foundation day here.

They (opposition) are in fact worried as their misinformation campaign has no impact on the people," he said.

Mr. Patnaik said though his party was ruling the state for the past 17 years, the "craze" for BJD among people is still there. "The people want the party should go ahead with their support."

"We are indebted to the people of Odisha since they remained untouched by the waves in national politics during 2014

elections," Mr. Patnaik said adding that the confidence of people in BJD made him more responsible.

Coming down heavily on opposition parties, Mr. Patnaik said, while some parties were engaged in internal quarrel others live on the publicity and people of Odisha were aware about them.

He was apparently referring to the infighting between leaders of Congress and BJP, which launched a publicity campaign.

"They (opposition parties) have no sincerity towards Odisha, while BJD is with the people of Odisha. The BJD continues to remain as number one party in the state due to hard work of the party workers... We will continue to keep up the position.

Therefore, let us join hands and work for the service of the state and its people," he said.

Harping on his party's oft-repeated charge of "Central Negligence", Mr. Patnaik said, "The Centre has cut down

allocations for development of backward and tribal dominated regions of the state. However, the State Government from its own resources con-



tinued the developmental activities in backward areas."

He also blamed the Centre for supporting the controversial Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh's unilateral construction of projects on Mahanadi river. BJD and Odisha government would

continue its agitation against the two issues. The Opposition Congress and BJP also made delay in

replying Mr. Patnaik's barb.

"What is BJD's image? Dana Majhi carrying his wife's body is the real picture of the State Gov-

ernment. The BJD's images are also children deaths in Malkangiri, Nagada, police firing on tribals and dalits at Gumudumaha," BJP State President Basant Panda said.

Congress Veteran and Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra alleged that winning elections do not make a good image of the party. "The BJD has been egoist for their over stay in power," Mr. Mishra said.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The District Administration of Khurda has decided to go for culling of birds from 27 December as the confirmation report of avian influenza H5N1 A1 virus in bodies of certain chicken collected Keranga,

The culling of birds will begin from tomorrow as per the Union Government's guideline, said Khurda District Collector Niranjan Sahu.

He said that steps have been taken for culling of birds within one kilometer from the epicenter. There is backyard farming of poultry in the area.

"In view of the report of National Institute of High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (NIH-SAD), Bhopal, that samples received from chicken in village Keranga of Khurda district are positive for H5N1 A1 virus and Government of India have issued advisory to follow immediate measures to complete culling operation, surveillance and sani-

tation in the infected zones, the State Gov-



ernment do hear by notify, Keranga as the epicenter and such other measures for control and contamination of H5N1 A1 virus, a notification issued by the Department of Fisheries and Animal Resource Development said.

The State Government also directed for taking up culling operations within one kilometer of epicenter and such other measures for control.

"Payment of compensation for forced culling of poultry birds, destruction of eggs and poultry feed for control and contamina-

tion of Avian Influenza will be made as

per the revised rate communicated by the centre," said Secretary FARD, Bishnupada Sethi.

Meanwhile, Rapid Response Teams (RRT) has been formed to monitor poultry farms within a radius of one Kilometer from the epicentre and three such teams have been formed to prevent spread of Avian Influenza reported in Keranga in Khurda.

Similarly seven more RRTs have been formed to keep surveillance in the alert Zone covering One to 10 kilometer radius of the affected area,

Mr. Sethi said adding preliminary preparatory measures for control and containment of Bird Flu situation at Keranga, Khordha was taken up by the Department of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD).

The State Government has opened Control Room 24X7 at the Directorate of animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services to monitor the situation and to pass on information to respective quarters.

This apart, the officials engaged during the previous outbreak of Bird Flu during 2011-12, have been asked to participate in the operational work of Avian influenza control.

The Government in a bid to create awareness among the public on Avian Influenza, said not to consume the chicken in the Keranga area, said official sources.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare has also taken steps to open special wards for the suspected Avian Influenza patients at the District Headquarters hospital in Khurda, Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar and SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

+2 Sc. Indian Students Intending to be Doctors of Merit should appear at the NEET exam in English only

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Love for Odia Language is being pushed to the irrelevant limits. The NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) is a National Level Medical Test. It is being regulated by the CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) Board. This National Level Medical Entrance Test is being held for selecting eligible students to take Admission in MBBS/BDS Courses offered by all Govt. and non-

commence once in a year in the month of May. All concerned should bear in mind that NEET Exam has replaced AIPMT (All India Pre-Medical Test) Exam, because the same was not free

All India "standard" must be maintained in providing Quality Medical Education to all those students selected for admission purely on merit. All seats under MBBS/

vify Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for malicious reasons. No public money should be wasted in producing +2 level Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology books in Odia. Because in order to be a Doctor worth the name, each medical student has to read Books and Journals of global standard that are already available in English. Any attempt to read any medical book in Odia/Tamil/Telugu/Hindi/Bengali/Gujarati would be simply a waste of time, energy and money and it would be practically of little use for a doctor aspiring to earn name and fame in his/her professional life. No patient will ever go to a Sub-standard Doctor for any treatment. Educationists like Prof. R.N. Panda, former Principal of BJB Junior College and Prof. Basudev Chhatoi, Chairman of Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) which conducts the +2 Examination are of solid mind that appearing the NEET Exam in English would be highly fruitful to the Examinees. So the

BDS categories of any Medical / Dental College will have to be filled by the "score" of NEET examination only. Meritorious students who have completed their +2 Science Stream studies are invariably those who had studied the CBSE prescribed courses in English. Standard books on Physics, Chemistry and Biology are not there in Odia and in other regional languages. Hence, those who are lobbying for Odia to be a medium of NEET Exam are demanding so out of sheer ignorance or simply to

future of +2 Sc. students of Odisha should not be a play thing in the hands of the "Odia-language lobby". All such Odia lobbyists should know the truth that brilliant students of Odisha desirous of becoming very good Doctors are not at all interested to have the NEET Exam in Odia. All the "Odia" lobbyists should go through the News item that have come out in bold letters in the Pioneer of 26.12.2016, (Page -2) headlined as: "Alas ! No takers for NEET Exam in Odia". The Free-thought Party of India demands that the State Chief Minister should refuse to be pressured in this regard and it urges upon the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to get the NEET Exam of 2017 conducted in English alone. This should help the Indian doctors of tomorrow to fairly compete with any Doctor from Great Britain, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, adds Party General Secretary B. Ramchandra CST Voltaire .

from corruption and leakage of questions and manipulation at valuation.



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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 thinks on the same

sassiest best, leaving host and filmmaker

of a kind ever seen on the celebrity chat

from calling Deepika Padukone their

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.



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

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.

Sofia Vergara's son Manolo Gonzalez makes modelling debut

WASHINGTON (KCN): Manolo Gonzalez Vergara, the only child of Sofia Vergara, recently made his plunge into modelling industry following in his mother's footsteps.

The 24-year-old son made his modelling debut in a photo spread for Paper magazine's latest issue, inspired by the films of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, reports E! Online.

In one photo, Gonzalez Vergara wears a black suit and poses along model Stevie DeFelicie who is sporting a red top, skirt and blazer as the duo hold a Bloody Mary each and sit on the floor that has a



shattered mirror reflecting them.

The young model also took to his Instagram handle to thank the magazine.

"And for allowing me to sit next to Stevie DeFelicie. I hope she wasn't too traumatized," he added.

Vergara's 44-year-old mom had modelled for years before she moved from her native Colombia to the United States to concentrate on an acting career. Her son, who she raised as a single, working mother, has also dabbled in acting and appeared with her in a Head & Shoulders commercial in 2014.

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

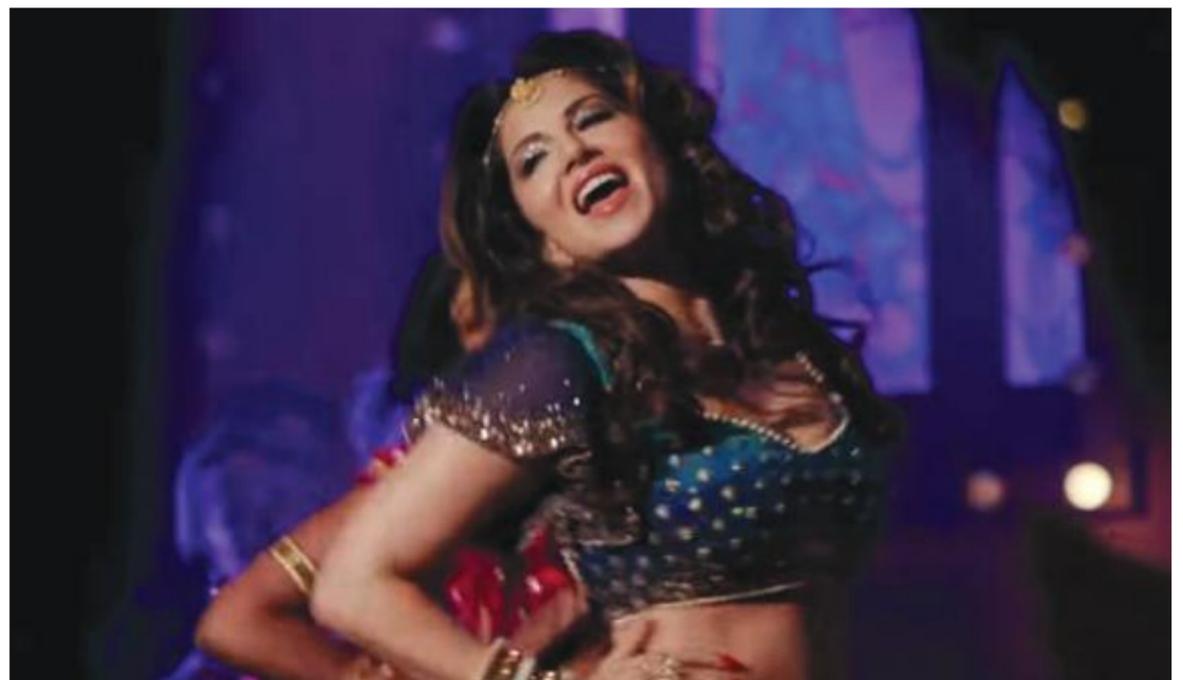
NEW DELHI (KCN): Sunny Leone's much-awaited song from 'Raees' is out and it has all the ingredients to make it to the top of every chartbuster!

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

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

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

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



India needs globally compatible tax rates: Arun Jaitley

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Monday said a lower level of taxation that is globally compatible is necessary if the country has to have a

'Will PM Modi Resign If Situation Doesn't Improve After 50 Days', Asks Mamata Banerjee

"... what you need is a broader base

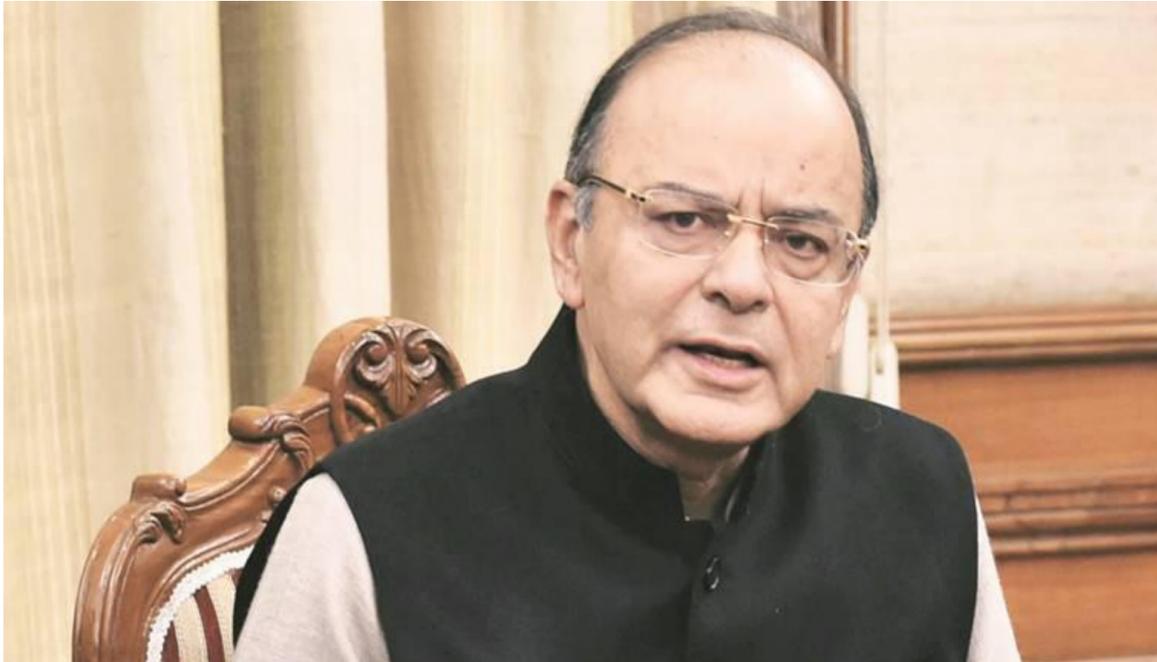
augurating the professional training of IRS officers.

He said competition is not merely domestic but global and therefore in the last

there is nothing "improper or immoral" about it.

This was, he said, considered to be "commercial smartness" and of course

mindset of the taxpayer (should be) that payment of legitimate taxes is a responsibility and then it should be reciprocated by



broader base of economy. He said gone are the days of the philosophy that high taxation will bring greater revenues and that since 1991 the course of economy has altered itself.

Watch what else is making news:

of economy for which you need a lower level of taxation. You need to manufacture products and provide services which are more competitive in character and therefore your taxes have to be globally compatible," Jaitley said while in-

two-and-a-half decades, governments have been guided by these principles. Tracing the behaviour of people in the last 70 years, the Finance Minister said there has been an impression if avoidance could be done of government revenue,

some people were visited with very serious consequences. He told the young revenue service officers that in coming future decades they should see that voluntary tax compliance has to increase in India.

"And the

you with a confidence in the tax payer. The tax payer is to be trusted, except when it's proven otherwise. And therefore only in those select cases, very objectively selected, you go in for a wider audit or a wider scrutiny itself," Jaitley said.

24 lakh people have income above Rs 10 lakh but 25 lakh cars bought per year since 2011

India has just 24.4 lakh tax payers who declared an annual income of over Rs 10 lakh yet 25 lakh new cars, including 35,000 luxury cars, are being bought every year for last five years, a top official said. A nation of over 125 crore people had only 3.65 crore individuals filing their tax returns in the assessment year 2014-15, the official said alluding to a huge number of individuals being outside the tax net.

Watch what else is making news:

'Will PM Modi Resign If Situation Doesn't Improve After 50 Days', Asks Mamata Banerjee

"Of the 3.65 crore individuals (filing returns in assessment year 2014-15), there were only 5.5 lakh people who paid income tax of more than Rs 5 lakh and accounted for 57 per cent of the total tax kitty. This essentially means that only 1.5 per cent of those filing tax returns (3.65 crore) are contributing to 57 per cent of tax kitty," the official

said. The tax returns when compared with car sales throw astonishing numbers, he said.

years by a common man, the official said.

The income tax data collated shows only

filers declared their annual income of being more than Rs 10 lakh and there were 1.47 lakh

25.4 per cent in the United States and 30.3 per cent in Japan. The official said the numbers



"Car sales on an average in last five years has been about 25 lakh per year. In the last three years the car sales were 25.03 lakh, 26 lakh and 27 lakh," he said adding the statistics points to a large number of people having income to buy cars are outside the tax bracket. A car normally has a life of seven years and a second car is purchased not before five

48,417 persons reporting income of more than Rs 1 crore in a year. Yet luxury brands like BMW, Jaguar, Audi, Mercedes, Porsche and Maserati sell almost 35,000 cars every year. Of the individuals filing returns, 5.32 lakh were with income of less than Rs 2 lakh per annum, and so not within the tax bracket.

He said 24.4 lakh

tax fillers who had an income of over Rs 50 lakhs in a year. Also during the 2014-15 Assessment Year, there were 1.61 crore people whose tax deducted at source (TDS) were deducted but they did not file income tax return (ITR), he said.

India's tax revenue as a percentage of its GDP was 16.7 per cent in 2016, compared with

point to a significant number of people who are liable to pay taxes aren't doing so. The government, he said, is shoring up its efforts to check tax evasion.

The November 8 decision to junk old 500 and 1000 rupee notes are one of the steps to tackle the menace, he said adding by mandating people to deposit the old currency in banks was a way to account for the unaccounted money and tax them.

Rs 100-cr deposit: Mumbai diamond firm under ED scanner

Mumbai (KCN): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched three locations in Mumbai on Monday in connection with deposits of Rs 100 crore by a city-based diamond firm post withdrawal of the old currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations on November 8.

ED sources familiar with the development said out of the total export remittances of Rs 600 crore, at least Rs 100 crore was deposited after demonetisation. "This deposit has

come under the scanner as it is of suspicious nature," said an ED source.

The agency is probing if the amount deposited by the firm is genuine export remittance, the source added.

In a separate development, the ED is investigating the role of four private banks in allegedly aiding a bullion trader to exchange scrapped currency of Rs 150 crore through shell firms. The money, according to ED sources, was deposited into the accounts of sev-

eral shell firms and later transferred into the trader's account using real time gross settlement system (RTGS).

On December 16, the agency conducted raids on at least four bullion firms in Zaveri Bazaar controlled by a bullion trader in Mumbai and froze two bank accounts in different branches of banks in connection with alleged illegal conversion of demonetised notes to the tune of Rs 70 crore.



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Virat Kohli chosen as captain of Cricket Australia's ODI team of the year

Accolades continue to pour in for India's dynamic Test captain Virat Kohli, who was today named skipper of Cricket Australia's ODI team of the year which also featured young yorker specialist Jasprit Bumrah.

Kohli, who was earlier also picked captain of the ICC's ODI team of the year, was preferred over Australia's Steve Smith. Smith was, however, picked in the 'All-Star' team.

"India's skipper played only 10 ODI matches in 2016, but he again underlined his status as one of the best in the 50-over format," CA said in a statement.

"The right-hander scored 45 or more in eight of his 10 innings for the year, notching back-to-back centuries in a run feast against Australia in January and

then a magnificent 154 (not out) in a suc-

CA said Bumrah made the cut riding

ing to a minimum that impressed us the

dia, captain), David Warner (Australia),



successful pursuit of 289 against New Zealand, more than half of his team's total.

"He now averages an incredible 90.10 in 59 successful run chases for India, and has been out in the middle for the winning runs on 20 occasions," it added.

on his consistency.

"India's unorthodox paceman Jasprit Bumrah was a stand-out in 2016, his first year as an international player.

"While nine of his 17 wickets for the year came against Zimbabwe, it was his ability to keep scor-

most; he conceded more than 40 runs in an innings just once all year and his extraordinary economy rate of 3.63 is easily the best in the world for 2016," the CA stated.

Cricket Australia's ODI Team of Year: Virat Kohli (In-

Quinton de Kock (wk) (South Africa), Steve Smith (Australia), Babar Azam (Pakistan), Mitchell Marsh (Australia), Jos Buttler (England), Jasprit Bumrah (India), Imran Tahir (South Africa).

Sunil Chhetri wants unified league in India

Amid uncertainty over the proposed merger of Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League, ace striker Sunil Chhetri today said a unified league will open up windows for the national team to play in more FIFA friendlies and give a shot at improving its ranking.

"I want to play all 13 FIFA dates in a year. We need that. That's where the unified league is going to come in handy. We should prioritise that, and ensure the national team gets a

year.

"You can say that 2016 was my finest. It went well for the national team, started by winning the SAFF Cup, we reached the finals of AFC Cup, we reached the semis of ISL. I think it was a fruitful season," Chhetri said.

"I have very small time targets, say 10 days, one week. I am only thinking about the Lajong (I-league) game, we are playing them at home. That's my target." Asked if

then think about the final journey."

Asked if Indian football should take a leaf out of Bengaluru FC's book – they have won two I-league titles and one Federation Cup since making their debut three seasons ago, Chhetri said, "We are doing the right things, trying our best, all of us are in sync, from owner Sajjan Jindal to the ball boy.

Asked about the small gap between Bengaluru FC's I-league game on January 27 and AFC



Suresh Kalmadi, Abhay Chautala made life president of Indian Olympic Association

In a significant development, former IABF President Abhay Singh Chautala was

Vijay Kumar Malhotra, who served as acting IOA chief between 2011 and

former Congress Member of Parliament, was a powerful sports official in his

Chautala served as the president of Indian Olympic Association from Decem-

ber 2012 to February 2014 when the IOA was suspended by the parent International Olympic Committee for fielding charge-sheeted candidates at the elections. His election as IOA chief was annulled by the IOC.



on Tuesday made honorary life president of the IOA, along with ex-IOA chief and 2010 CWG corruption scandal tainted Suresh Kalmadi. Chautala served as president of the IOA from December 2012 to February 2014 when it was suspended by International Olympic Committee.

Before Kalmadi and Chautala, only

2012, was made the Life President, according to IOA's official website.

Kalmadi served as IOA president from 1996 to 2011 and was jailed for 10 months for his involvement in the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games corruption scandal but later released on bail.

The Pune-born administrator, also a

heydays. He was the president of Asian Athletics Association for 13 years from 2000 to 2013. He was last year made Life President of the Asian athletics body last year.

Kalmadi, now 72, was also a member of the powerful ruling council of the International Athletics Federation (IAAF) from 2001 to 2013.

ber 2012 to February 2014 when the IOA was suspended by the parent International Olympic Committee for fielding charge-sheeted candidates at the elections. His election as IOA chief was annulled by the IOC.

Only after the IOA Constitution was amended to ensure that charge-framed candidates are not allowed to contest elec-

Chautala had served as president of erstwhile Indian Amateur Boxing Federation which was terminated from recognition in the world body AIBA in 2013 for possible manipulation in IABF elections.

Recently, he was elected as president of one rival faction of the Haryana Olympic Association, which was reportedly given recognition by the IOA.

chance to play more games. Hope we play bigger opponents and away from home as we have done really poorly as a nation away from home. Win or lose, that will at least give us a chance to improve as a footballing nation," Chhetri said.

"Who would not like to see a merger. One league with more teams, more months is what we all wish for. There are few technicalities and I am sure they are looking into it. Eventually we will see one league. A unified league."

Having won the SAFF Championship as national team member, reached a historic AFC Cup final with Bengaluru FC and semifinal in ISL with Mumbai City FC, Chhetri called 2016 his finest

Indian players should strive to play club football overseas, Chhetri said, "If the players have reached a certain level and he thinks he can improve more, then he should go. Not only in India it's everywhere. Gurpreet has done it very nicely, I have seen him grow up."

When told about Praful Patel's desire for India to qualify for 2022 World Cup, he said, "I think we have to come in the first 10 in Asia first. To come to 10 is going to be so, so difficult. Thailand was with us but now they are playing in the last qualifying round though they are getting hammered by some teams. We have to qualify for the Asia Cup and stay there, try to get 15th, 16th position in Asia and

Champions League play-offs match on January 31, Chhetri said, "We would love to play on the weekend. With only five months to finish I-League and then there is AFC I think it is difficult. You can't blame them (I-League)."

Chhetri was asked to compare between former Bengaluru FC coach Ashley Westwood and current manager Albert Roca.

He said, "There are lots of similarities with the way they want to win and a lot of differences with the way they want to attack. I learnt so much from them. We have been the best team in the country in the past three seasons if I may say so. They have very different styles but winning mentality is there."



PV Sindhu bagged a silver medal at the Rio Olympics. (Source: AP)