

Biotech Park to take off

Bhubaneswar(K-CN): With Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) deciding to start its construction of Project Development activities by March, chances of revival of Biotechnology Sector looks bright. So Biotech Park Project will take off, feel officials.

Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi held discussion with BBIL CMD Krishna M Ella and urged him to start physical work of their Project, so that activities in the Biotechnology Park picks up. Principal Secretary Industries, Sanjeev Chopra and IDCO CMD Sanjay Kumar Singh were also present during the discussion, sources said.

Vir Vikram Yadav, Secretary, Science & Technology, who is taking interest in development of Biotechnology Park in the State also held discussion with the BBIL Team recently, which has promised to start their Project Work earliest by March.

BBIL CMD, Dr. Ella along with A Arunachalam, Pro-

ject Head of Odisha and other senior officials of Biotech Major were present in the meeting. According to official sources, way back in 2007, the State Gov-



ernment decided to develop a Biotech Pharma Park on 64 Acres of Land on the outskirts of Capital City and after competitive bidding BBIL was selected as the Developer and Anchor Tenant of the Biotech Park.

BBIL will be setting up Vaccine Manufacturing Plant and will be inviting other promoters to set up such plants as has been done in

Hyderabad. BBIL has been instrumental in creating Genome Valley Biotech Hub of Hyderabad, where more than 250 Biotech Companies are operating.

Biotech Major wants to replicate the same here in Bhubaneswar at Odisha Biotech Park and convert Odisha the Hub for Biotechnology in the East of India, said Dr. Ella.

However various hurdles came on the way and the Developer could not take up the Project work for which there was uncertainty and recently Chief Secretary Mr. Padhi urged

the BBIL authorities to take a final call on the matter.

And they have agreed to take up the Project work in a time bound manner and Time Line has been given to the promoters of Biotech Park. In the meantime, the State Government, which has announced Biotechnology Policy of Odisha. However such type of Policies of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh provide more incentives to the promoters for which they are attracting investors in Biotechnology Sector.

Under this backdrop, BBIL has urged the State Government to review the Policy and more incentives are to be given to the Promoters, so that investors will be interested to come to Odisha.

With less incentives, experts feel that Biotechnology Policy of Odisha is a Non Starter, which was announced in 2016. Looking at the top incentives offered by other State Governments, Mid Way Corrections are needed in the Policy, feel they.

6 lakh Olive Ridley turtles arrive at Gahirmatha to lay eggs

KENDRAPARA(K-CN): With arrival of more than six lakh endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles here, the serene and idyllic Gahirmatha beach in Odisha's Kendrapara district has re-established itself as the world's largest known rookery of these marine animals.

The delicate marine species which have dug out neat pits on the sandy beach have so far laid over whopping seven crore eggs. However, space constraints on the nesting beach has led to the damage of eggs with the marine animals re-digging the pits where nests had been erected earlier, a forest official said.

Farm distress puts Odisha House in disorder

BHUBANESWAR(K-CN): The Assembly on Tuesday witnessed noisy scenes with the Opposition Congress members creating ruckus over distress sale of vegetables by farmers across the State, forcing repeated adjournment of the House.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour,

Since the commencement of mass-nesting otherwise described as 'arribada'

lakh one thousand and six hundred forty one) turtles turning up for nesting, the of-

phenomenon is still continuing since the past one week and is expected to last for at



(a Spanish term used for en masse laying eggs by turtle species) on February 22, the third highest ever congregation of marine species has taken place in the idyllic unmanned Island with 6,01,641 (Six

official said. The highest record of mass nesting was registered in 2001 with 7,41,000 turtles while the second best was 7,11,000 turtles in 2000. This year the spectacular natural

least three to four days, they said.

"It will be no surprise if the mass nesting record of past years is bettered this time," said Subrat Patra, Forest Range Officer, Gahirmatha marine sanctuary.

Congress members criticised the anti-farmer policies of the State Government and demanded compensation for farmers who resorted to distress sale due to lack of cold storages and marketing links in tribal dominated districts.

Led by Congress chief whip Taraprasad Bahinipati, the members rushed to the well of the House and tried to climb the Speaker's podium. They demanded a statement on the issue from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Agriculture Minister and Cooperation Minister, who looks after cold storages.

Bahinipati said farmers of Keonjhar district on Monday dumped quintals of fresh tomatoes on the road in front of the Collector's office after being unable to sell the produce at proper price. They even could not get 50 paise per kg of tomatoes in Keonjhar and preferred to dump them on road, Bahinipati said and added that farmers of Rayagada, Koraput and Bargarh districts had also faced similar situation earlier. He alleged that demonetisation has seriously affected the farmers financially.

Speaker Niranjan Pujari's repeated calls to keep the House in

order fell on deaf ears. Unable to run the House, Pujari adjourned the Assembly twice till 3 pm. The House was adjourned from 11.33 am to 11.48 am and later to 3 pm as noisy scenes continued over the issue.

Similar situation **Army conducts operation to flush out terrorists in East Karbi Anglong district**

GUWAHATI(K-CN): The Army conducted operations in East Karbi Anglong District of Assam to

continued after the House reassembled after lunch at 3 pm forcing the Speaker to adjourn the Assembly for the day at 3.05 pm. Except the Question Hour, no business could not be transacted during the day due to the pandemic.

of the jungles of EKA District, he said.

The operation has been a huge success as flushing out of



flush out terrorists based on intelligence inputs, a Defence spokesman said today. Red Horns Division of Gajraj Corps carried out large scale search operations in the area following nefarious activities of the militant outfit, Kuki Liberation Front (KLF) causing harassment for the locals and the administration, the Spokesman said.

The operations were planned to flush out anti-nationals who were also engaged in large scale extortion from their hideouts in the

terrorists from the area has brought much needed relief and succour to the local population of the strife-torn area, the spokesman claimed.

The Army is also keeping a strict vigil and maintaining a robust area domination and counter terrorism posture in the disturbed areas of Upper Assam and East Arunachal Pradesh amidst regular inputs of terrorist groups trying to make their presence felt in the area and also seeking opportunities to cause attrition to the security forces, he added.

My job is not to represent the world: Donald Trump

WASHINGTON(K-CN): Addressing his

own path.

is less conflict — not more," he said.

he added. **Related Article**



first joint session of the Congress, U.S. President Donald Trump asserted that his job is not to represent the world and suggested other na-

"My job is not to represent the world. My job is to represent the United States of America. But we know that America is better off, when there

"Free nations are the best vehicle for expressing the will of the people — and America respects the right of all nations to chart their own path,"

Trump's merit-based immigration proposal could benefit Indians
Trump seeks increase of nine per cent in U.S. military

budget

Key points of Trump's maiden speech to Congress

The President said the United States strongly supports NATO, but partners must meet their financial obligations.

"Our foreign policy calls for a direct, robust and meaningful engagement with the world. It is American leadership based on vital security interests that we share with our allies across the globe. We strongly support NATO, an alliance forged through the bonds of two World Wars that dethroned fascism, and a Cold War that defeated communism." Trump said.

He added that he respects historic institutions, but also respect the sovereign rights of nations.

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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 show. The two beauties accepted that they Anushka Sharma, due to the connection vibes. But after years of rivalry, they report-



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. Deepika Padukone thinks on the same lines too. This, when neither Kat nor Anushka preferred to call Deepika their 'friend' on the show. Surprised?

Katrina and Anushka were at their sassiest best, leaving host and filmmaker 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 of a kind ever seen on the celebrity chat

are not like the typical actor-friends in the industry and comfortably give each other space. They, however, refrained from calling Deepika Padukone their 'friend'. While we never saw Deepika and Anushka bonding (one word: Ranveer Singh), and keeping distance, her cold vibes with Katrina only brings one name to our head – Ranbir Kapoor. Now that Ranbir is out of both Deepika and Kat's lives, looks like our Piku has extended an olive branch towards Katrina, by posting a tweet praising the two girls and the episode. Deepika Padukone has always stayed away from both Katrina Kaif and

of her former and current boyfriends Ranbir Kapoor and Ranveer Singh, with the two girls.

There was a time when Deepika and Katrina were never seen under the same roof and shared cold

edly 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.

Laila O Laila tops music awards list

Sunny Leone's Laila O Laila song from Raees tops the charts amongst international videos.

The World Music Awards is an international awards ceremony honouring the best-selling and most popular recording artists from around the world. The Raees

song, Laila O Laila which is revamped version of the 80's original song, featuring Zeenat Aman. The song is said to have already managed to get 11 million views within 24 hours it hitting the digital medium. If the sources are to be

believed, Laila O Laila beat close con-

tenders like Chantaje featuring Shakira, Maluma, and The Chainsmokers featuring Halsey; Starboy (Official) featuring Ricky Martin ft. Daft Punk and more to secure the first position.



Priyanka Chopra's Oscars 2017 dress is great. It's her interview with Jennifer Aniston that's meme-worthy. Watch video

AIB might call Priyanka Chopra's \$3 million white Ralph and Russo dress at the Oscars 2017 kaju katli but let us put it like this, Priyanka is OUR kaju katli. We think Priyanka was perfect at the 89th Academy Awards as well as Oscars after-party, which she attended with Deepika Padukone. However, this is about what happened backstage with Priyanka, Chrissy Teigen, Kelly Ripa and a certain FRIENDS star. So, Priyanka did not present an award this time but she was still our shining beacon at the 89th Academy Awards (she and Sunny Pawar and Dev Patel, we love you too guys!). Priyanka was seen walking the red carpet, talking Baywatch — her upcoming Hollywood break, schmoozing with co-star Dwayne Johnson and giving quotable quotes.

Watch: Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone at Oscars after-

party But what we are really interested in is

model and actress Chrissy Teigen. And it seems PeeCee and

looked absolutely non-plussed and the next question is about

big or go home," to which Priyanka's answer is, "I'm going

Murad strapless gown, completed her look with straight



what happened backstage. Once the Oscar moment is done, actors headed backstage to talk to Kelly Ripa, the host of Live With Kelly. From Justin Timberlake to Viola Davis, all got to meet Kelly for some candies and champagne after the hurly-burly of awards was done. And so did Priyanka in the company of

Chrissy want Kelly's job. They are on the lookout for a celeb to interview and zeroed in on Jennifer Aniston. A bemused Jen was asked to come onto the hot seat where Priyanka asked her about hall pass, where a husband or a wife allow their partner to go single for a day or week. Jennifer

their birthdays. Kelly was seen complaining how Priyanka wants her job.

While the interview failed to get off the ground (Kelly have no fear, your job is safe), they sure had fun together and moments before Priyanka bid bye to Kelly, they downed a shot together. Kelly asked Priyanka, "Go

home after this."

And we can tell you what Priyanka did once she reached home, wolfed down a big, fat burger. We envy you, girl. Now, back to her dress that doubled up as a Twitter joke. The 34-year-old star, who made heads turn during her first red carpet appearance at the Academy Awards last year in a white Zuhair

open hair and minimal make-up. The Lorraine Schwartz diamond earrings and bracelets added a gorgeous touch to the whole ensemble. Matching silver sandals rounded out the look. But that hardly cut any ice with Twitterati which compared it with Italian tiles, cigarette wraps, solar panels and, of course, kaju katli.



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

Market cheers GDP data, Sensex at 6 month high, zooms 241 points

MUMBAI(KCN): Robust GDP data for the December quarter provided the markets a big relief as the Sensex today rallied over 241 points to end at about a six-month high of 28,985 amid favourable global cues. The impact was such that even the broader NSE Nifty took back the 8,900-mark.

The Central Statistical Office yesterday showed that India's economy expanded by 7 per cent in the third quarter, belying all fears of the note ban puncturing economic activity.

The Sensex took off on a positive note and went past the key 29,000-mark to touch a high of 29,029.17 before settling up by 241.17 points, or 0.84 per cent, at 28,984.49, a level last seen on September 8 last year when it had closed at 29,045.28.

Related Article
Sensex, Nifty rise on

stronger-than-expected GDP data
The gauge had lost 149.65 points in the previous two sessions.



The NSE Nifty also moved up 66.20 points, or 0.75 per cent, to 8,945.80 after shuttling between 8,960.80 and 8,898.60. Sentiment also got a lift after a

monthly survey showed that India's manufacturing sector grew for the second straight month in February.

Both the key indices have rallied by almost 9 per cent in the past two months, largely on the back of a growth-oriented

pected 7.1 per cent for 2016-17 despite the cash blues, with manufacturing and agriculture doing exceptionally well, which in

the same as the first one put out by the CSO in January.

Better Chinese factory readings and a higher opening in Europe amid US President Donald Trump's congressional speech too influenced mood, which led to a higher closing in Asia.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.15 per cent and Japan's Nikkei up 1.44 per cent while Shanghai Composite Index was up 0.16 per cent.

In Europe, London's FTSE was up 0.61 per cent, Paris' CAC 40 1.11 per cent and Frankfurt's DAX 30 1.14 per cent in their early deals.

Stocks of automobile companies led by M&M, Hero Motocorp and Bajaj Auto were in limelight and gained up to 3.13 per cent largely on the back of encouraging sales numbers for February.

Other prominent gainers included Tata

Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service said demonetisation will be credit positive for India as it is likely to reduce tax avoidance and corruption.

Budget, better-than-expected earnings from bluechip companies and strong global cues.

The government pegged GDP growth at a higher-than-ex-

turn made India retain the tag of the world's fastest growing large economy.

The GDP projection for the fiscal at 7.1 per cent in the second advance estimate is

Gold falls on dollar pressure after hawkish Fed comments

LONDON(KCN): Gold fell on Wednesday as the dollar gained after comments from U.S. Federal Reserve officials raised expectations of an interest rate hike in March and overshadowed President Donald Trump's first major policy speech to Congress.

comments, investors moved to price in around a 68 percent probability of a March hike, according to Reuters data.

"Rate rises are now priced in to futures but not in to gold, so the risk is to the downside (for gold)," said Mitsubishi analyst

"Fed Chair Yellen will be giving a speech on Friday. If Yellen's remarks also point to a rate hike in the near future, this will weigh on the gold price," Commerzbank said in a note. Expectations that Trump would give details on stimulus plans on

bullishness in other markets and are easing accordingly. That said, with Trump's speech not giving much substance there is still room for disappointment," said FastMarkets analyst William Adams.

The dollar index climbed as much as 0.7 percent to its

Demonetisation effect: India's GDP growth slows to 7 per cent in Oct-Dec

The Central Statistics Office on Tuesday

third quarter. It is not going to have any im-

with a lag, we will see an impact on GDP num-

media, "There is no time for complacency. The



pegged India's growth rate at 7 per cent for the current fiscal, 7.3 per cent for fiscal year 2018 and 7.7 per cent for fiscal year 2019. In a statement today, the CSO said, "Agriculture and allied sector growth estimated at 4.4 per cent in 2016-17, up from 0.8 per cent last fiscal. Advance GDP growth estimate for current fiscal pegged at 7.1 per cent, the same as projected earlier.

Economist at Phillip Capital India, Anjali Verma told Reuters: "It's a slight positive surprise the fact that they have not revised FY17 numbers downwards. That is clearly showing that it is the financials which have saved the GDP. I think Q4 should be slightly better than the

impact in rate cuts because (RBI is) focused on inflation. This will rather boost their argument of shifting from accommodative to neutral."

WATCH | India's Q3 GDP Growth Rate At 7% In 2016-17, Demonetisation Impact Factored In India's Q3 GDP Growth Rate At 7% In 2016-17, Demonetisation Impact Factored In

Aneesh Srivastava, chief investment officer at IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company, said the growth rate is much higher than expectations. "Perhaps this data is not capturing the impact of demonetisation. I am totally surprised and stunned to see this number. This is totally ahead of our expectations and I believe that,

reform momentum must be maintained," he said, while suggesting that India should take steps to revise the labour laws, handle banks' stressed assets and ease stringent product regulations.

Gurria supported India's move to demonetise high value currency notes. "Demonetisation is a very short term mechanism with a visible effect. India will never be the same again post demonetisation... You are moving towards a much less cash society. This will not affect investment or jobs," he said. "Demonetisation may have inflicted short term impact on growth, but in long term its effect would include important gains going forward," he added.

Earlier in the day, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Economic Survey had projected India to grow at 6.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent in current fiscal, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had estimated it to be 6.6 per cent. Paris-based think tank OECD had today said, "India has been a star performer in gloomy times. We do not have many cases of 7 per cent growth... It is a top reformer among all the G-20 countries."

Complimenting India for its initiatives towards modernising bankruptcy laws and giving states power to undertake reforms, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría told



New York Fed President William Dudley -- one of the most influential U.S. central bankers -- said the case for tightening monetary policy had become "a lot more compelling", while San Francisco Fed President John Williams said he saw "no need to delay" raising rates.

Having priced in only around a 30 percent chance that the Fed would move this month before the

Jonathan Butler. Rising U.S. interest rates increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding gold, while boosting the dollar.

Spot gold dropped 0.5 percent to \$1,242.07 an ounce by 1250 GMT, heading for a third straight day of losses. The metal hit its highest since Nov. 11 at \$1,263.80 on Feb. 27.

U.S. gold futures fell 0.9 percent to \$1,242.40.

Tuesday were largely disappointed, with the President failing again to provide detail on tax reform and infrastructure spending.

The speech did, however, contrast with the harsher rhetoric investors have come to expect, thus tempting some into riskier assets and slightly knocking gold's appeal as a safe haven.

"Gold prices are reacting to the

highest in seven weeks

India's February gold imports surged more than 82 percent from a year ago as consumers ramped up purchases for weddings, provisional data from consultancy GFMS showed.

Spot silver was flat at \$18.31 an ounce, platinum fell 0.3 percent to \$1,022.50 and palladium gained 0.5 percent to \$772.50.

Dashing Nigerian Moses signs new deal with Chelsea

LONDON(KCN): Nigerian international Victor Moses' impressive form this season saw him rewarded with a new two year contract by Premier League leaders Chelsea on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old wing-back -- who prior to this season spent the majority of his time since joining Chelsea in 2012 on loan -- signed a two year extension which will see him tied to the club till 2021.

"I feel very excited," Moses told the club website.

"I'm delighted to be here for another few years now and to sign a new deal.

"Now it's time to concentrate on the team and keep work-



ing hard to make sure we win games and try to win the Premier League this season.

"We're having a great season, I'm enjoying my football and we have a good manager here that has given every single one of us confidence.

"I just want to keep on enjoying it and working hard for the team," added Moses, who engendered five bids from Chelsea to his previous club Wigan before finally being sold.

Michael Emenalo, Chelsea technical director, said Moses had earned his new deal after flourishing under manager

Antonio Conte, who has guided the club in his first season to a 10 point lead over Tottenham in the table.

"We are extremely pleased Victor has chosen to extend his contract with us," he told the club website.

"He is enjoying an excellent season and, under Antonio's leadership, has proved to be an important member of the squad.

"This new contract is testament to Victor's hard work and dedication to succeed at Chelsea and we believe he will be a big part of our future success."

Two uncapped players in Sri Lanka Test squad for series against Bangladesh

COLOMBO(KCN): Sri Lanka on Wednesday named two uncapped players in a 15-member squad led by spinner Rangana Herath for the two-Test home series against Bangladesh starting next week.

All-rounder Malinda Pushpakumara, 29, was brought into the squad after he led Sri Lanka A to a three-wicket victory over England Lions in an unofficial Test on Monday, the Sri Lankan board said.

Fast bowler Vikum Sanjaya Bandara, 25, was called up for a second time. He was first named into the Test squad in December for the South African tour, but did not play.

Sri Lanka's regular skipper Angelo Mathews has been left out of the two Tests against Bangladesh, but the Sri Lankan board has

not ruled him out of the three one-day internationals and the two Twenty20 games. The first Test starts in Galle on March 7.

Mathews returned home in January, halfway through the South African tour, after twisting his ankle.

Herath filled in for Mathews during Sri Lanka's tour of Zimbabwe in November, when he led his side to victory in both Tests.

Sri Lanka squad: Rangana Herath (capt), Dimuth Karunaratne, Niroshan Dickwella, Upul Tharanga, Dhana-njaya de Silva, Kusal Mendis, Asela Gunaratne, Dinesh Chandimal, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara, Nuwan Pradeep, Vikum Sanjaya Bandara, Dilruwan Perera, Lakshan Sandakan, Malinda Pushpakumara

India vs Australia 2017: Slow turner, and not a sandpit, likely in Bangalore for 2nd Test

BANGALORE (KCN): "Arre pitch dekha nahi bhai, Vishwas karo!" Amit Mishra, his thigh heavily strapped, says as he walks inside the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bangalore. Beside him is Mohammad Shami who smiles before walking away. The seamer and the leggie are at the National Cricket Academy for rehab from injuries, and both realise the frenzy that's about to set in the city.

Leaving the two cricketers in the outdoors café with their South Indian snacks, you head to the stadium to see a surprising sight: water sprinkling here and there. Where Pune looked a parched desert, the groundstaff at stadium in Bangalore aren't being miserly with water. Not yet. The word is that the pitch would be a slow turner — something that would help spin from second or third day but it won't be a sand pit. A usual Bangalore track, in other words.

India vs Australia 2017: India Suffer Harrowing 333 Run Defeat

The teams are expected to come Tuesday evening into the city and would be coming to the stadium on Wednesday. It's ironical that just when the memories

of South Africa Test in Nagpur seemed a distant memory, espe-



cially after a fabulous home season, the shenanigans in Pune have brought the pitch back in focus. Indians worked hard through the season to dispel any talk about pitch as conspiratorial nonsense from media, but here we are, a week from the Test, and all the talk has come down to the 22-yard strip.

No one is obviously giving any official quotes about the pitch, but where is the fun in that? As if anyone in Pune was musing about sand pit before the game! It's the

rumours that one is interested anyway. You walk out to the

savoury khara bhat that closely resembles upma but the game was as simple as that but you move on and bring who are running the show. It would be really surprising if

And so you hit the clubhouse area. It's early evening and only thing flowing is filter coffee and the

tastes way better. Familiar faces — from umpires, scorers, officials, admin staff — are lounging about.

Sip some coffee, and gulp in some gossip. Talk revolves how the pitch backfired in Pune (for India that is), and how the non-spinner Stephen O'Keefe was the best because he was the "worst" spinner out there. Someone says, India should have tried M Vijay or even Cheteshwar Pujara — India's worst might have turned it less and produced better results. If only

the discussion to the pitch in Bangalore.

MUST READ | Late recognition for Australia spin consultant Sridharan Sriram Would there be a word from the Indian management here? After the laughter subsides, an official points out the strained relations between India's head coach Anil Kumble and Brijesh Patel's men. "You know the history and how the election was fought last time around. Even if Brijesh has resigned, it's his men

Kumble or anyone else has any demands here."

Not everyone agrees with that argument. Someone would come with a request or two, they say. But if the track plays out like a normal Bangalore track — spin but nothing alarming like Pune, Indians might be happy with that. The consensus about the pitch is that there will be spin but not from the first ball. It seems a fairly sensible thing to do after what went down in Pune, but time will tell.

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