



32nd AGM of IFSMN at Press club of India, Delhi. Smt. Pushpa Pandeya, founder president, Dr O P Yadav, Editor, New DD-2, Mr Bijaya Shankar Chaturbedi, ED, Press Club of India and Editor, Rastra Times, Mr Sunil Dang, ex-president, Ins n Inla, Mr Jawahar Jairath, Chief editor, Kalam Ki Jang, Dr Pabitra Mohan Samantray, chief National Coordinator and Editor, Paryabekhyak and the Kalinga Chronicle, Ms Runu Hazarika, chief convener and editor, Assam Doot and Dr Gautam, editor, Navjiban Times and A P Basistha, president, Delhi journalist Association, Manju Saran and BT Ramachandran, vice presidents, N Janardan, president, Jeevan Stephen, secretary general and Y K Narayanpurkar, National treasurer were the distinguished guests. Senior, life, founder and patron members were present.

Time runs out for Jena Net plea for ePayment

Bhubaneswar (KCN): With Twin City Police seriously engaged in Investigation over Sex Video and death of an Engineering Student Ashutosh Mohanty it seems time is running out for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Mayor Ananta Narayan Jena. While Opposition is sharpening its demand for ouster of Mr.Jena for his alleged involvement in the Sex Video and death of Ashutosh alias Rishi, insiders in BJD feel that support base for Mayor is on wane.

Though BJD Spokespersons continued to claim that the investigation into both the allegations is on and the BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will take the

'appropriate' call at 'right time', party where near BJD Supremo Mr.Patnaik



sources said the distance between Mayor and Chief Minister is widening. Mr.Jena was no-

during its Foundation Day function though he had worked for it as a General Secretary of the party, they

said. Further, the different statements from party offices no longer bear the signature of Jena who earlier used to issue them on behalf of the party, they added.

Notably, party leaders had hinted earlier that Mr.Patnaik will certainly take a call before the Panchayat elections which has since been announced.

The Sword of Damocles is hanging on the head of Mayor and is expected to fall on Mr.Jena soon as BJD prepares for the rural polls amidst opposition clamor for action against him.

BJD Veteran Damodar Rout made a cryptic remark when the allegation surfaced that he had to undergo probe

when an allegation was leveled against him and he had to quit his post. In the meantime, Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today targeted Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for 'shielding' Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Mayor Ananta Narayan Jena in the sex video scandal in which the Mayor allegedly features.

The Union Minister attacked the State Government for not acting against BMC Mayor Mr. Jena over the sex video scandal in which he reportedly features.

"If the Mayor is innocent, the CM should break his silence on the issue," Mr.Pradhan demanded.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government has reiterated its earlier stand that Bank-

internet connectivity in terms of area and speed.

Andhra Pradesh



ing infrastructure and Internet connectivity in the state, more particularly in rural areas, is needed to be improved substantially from the present level for effective implementation of the digital payment system.

Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi told a meeting of Chief Ministers participating via video-conferencing on behalf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The Meeting went for over two and half hours.

Mr. Padhi said shifting to the cashless and digital payment system could hardly have any success unless there was improvement in

Chief Minister N Chadrababu Naidu, the Convener of the Committee of Chief Ministers on Cashless and Digital Transaction chaired the Meeting. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is also a Member of the Committee. Chief Secretary Mr.Padhi also demanded development of inter-portability across digital payment systems like Buddy Wallet and Paytm.

Mr. Padhi also advised that Buddy wallet is needed to be compatible and portable to Paytm and not only Paytm-to-Paytm.

He informed the Meeting that about 60 per cent of the rural

banking sub-service areas do not have adequate internet connectivity for supporting 3,900 micro ATMs and mobile POS machines.

Mr. Padhi said the failure rate of USSD transactions on feature phones in rural areas has been reported to be 60-75 per cent. Banking System in remote areas is not sufficient and telecom and mobile connectivity also needed immediate improvement.

Mr. Padhi categorically pointed out that Cashless and digital system of transaction is not impossible in the state if arrangements were made to boost the internet service.

Principal Secretary Finance Tuhin Kanta Pandey said though Commercial Banks use 3G/4G connections for their card-swapping machines, there are frequent disconnections and the data speed often goes down.

"This even occurs in some pockets of large cities like Bhubaneswar due to connectivity problems," Mr.Pandey pointed out.

PM Modi's interview to India Today: 'Demonetisation a tough decision to clean economy'

New Delhi (KCN): Narendra Modi interview, modi interview, india today modi, modi india today, india today modi interview, narendra modi india today, demonetisation, note ban, ilatest news, pm interview, rajdeep sardesai, karan



thappar Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given an exclusive interview, his first after demonetisation, to India Today magazine. In the interview with Group Editorial Director of the magazine, Raj Chengappa, the prime minister dismissed all criti-

cism and talked about the impact of demonetisation on Indian economy, government's future action plan and how he sees Opposition's protest against note ban.

Highlights of the interview

See page -7

Signal For Smart Projects

Bhubaneswar (KCN): While it was expected that International Financing Agencies will fund Smart City Projects, it seems these institutions are dillydallying their decision to go for such funding.

So with the International Financing Institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) delaying to fund the First Transit Oriented Development Project (TODP), the State Government has

green signalled Smart City Authorities to go ahead for the Project.

The First Smart City Project coming up with a cost of Rs.250 Crore on 12 Acres of land in the Capital City has received the approval of the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to go ahead in absence of financing from ADB and JICA.

This decision was taken after having comparison be-



tween the effective rate of interest for such bilateral and multilateral financing

by ADB and JICA and the rate of interest of State Government Borrowings.

Both rate of interest have come nearer and going for ADB and JICA finance does not offer much financial advantage, said sources.

Earlier it was proposed to be funded by the State Government by availing loan from ADB or JICA for setting up Railway Station

Multimodal Hub Project in the Smart City.

Vice Chairman BDA and Managing Director Smart City, Krishan Kumar will be taking up the job for formation of SPV.

Presenting the Project Dr.Kumar mentioned that the major components of the project include efficient parking place & circulation space, multi-level car

parking, business plaza, iconic tower with retail office, hotel, convention hall, residential space, renovated Ashoka Market, city bus terminal, night shelter for homeless, street vendor rehabilitation facilities and public amenities.

Redevelopment of Bhubaneswar Railway Station is another important sister scheme of this

project. The project would be developed in two phases. Redevelopment of Ashoka Market will also be taken up along with mix use of Real Estate in the City.

So the Project will be taken up by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) floated by Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and the SPV and BDA will engage Project Management

Consultants. The SPV will be 100 Percent Subsidiary of BDA.

In order to finance the Project, it has been decided that initial commitment will be given out of CDP Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF) of BDA.Funds can also be tapped from Smart City Mission Fund, said sources. A high level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary will coordinate various aspects of the implementation of the Project, said sources.

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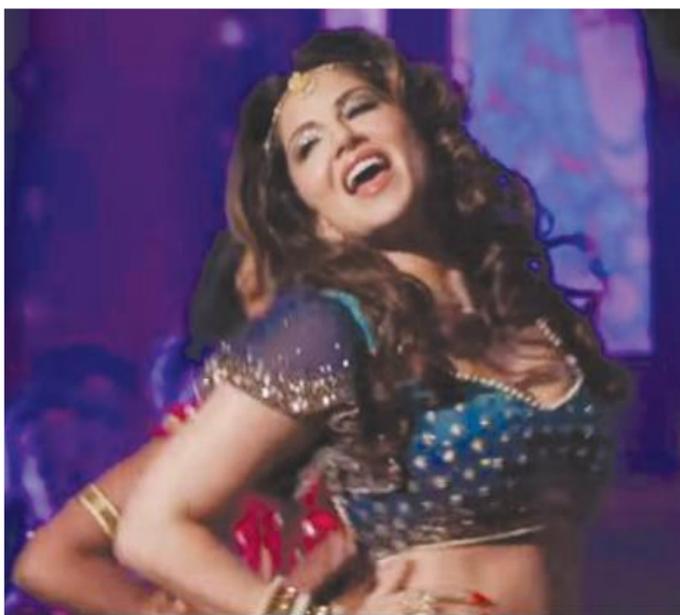
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It has been a difficult year for Malaika Arora Khan. Her split with husband Arbaaz Khan was followed by a lot of controversy and filing of divorce didn't help either. To ring in the New Year, Malaika has taken a break with sister Amrita Arora Ladak and her close friends. The group is all set to welcome 2017 in style, and going by the pictures, Goa beach is treating them well. Malaika Arora Khan shared pictures on her Instagram account and the post made all of us go ga-ga about her and her besties' hotness. In the picture, we see Amrita and Malaika with their back to the camera. She captioned the image as, "Sunsets in Goa with the girls????????". Take a tour and see more that they are busy doing in Goa. (Source: Photo by Instagram)

Laila O Laila tops music awards list

Sunny Leone's Laila O Laila song from the world. The Raees sources are to be believed, Laila O laila



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

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

beat close contenders 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.



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.

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.

India's GDP emissions reduced by 12 per cent

New Delhi (KCN): India's emission intensity of GDP has reduced by 12 per cent between 2005 and 2010, according to the country's first biennial update report submitted at the crucial UN climate summit recently, Rajya Sabha was told on Monday.

Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave said that India in 2009 had pledged to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 20 to 25 per cent by 2020 over 2005 levels despite having no binding obligations under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"As per India's first biennial update report submitted to UNFCCC in 2016, the emission intensity of GDP has reduced by 12 per cent between 2005-2010.

"The United Nations Environment

Programme (UNEP) Emission Gap report 2015 has recognised India as one of the country on track to achieve the voluntary pre-2020 pledge," he said in a written reply.

He said that as per the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by India to UNFCCC in October last year, India is committed to reduce GHG emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels.

"The government has launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) comprising of eight missions in

specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, habitat, water, sustaining himalayan ecosystems, forestry, agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change to achieve climate goals," he said.

Replying to another question, he said the government has undertake consultations with relevant

would keep evolving in the relevant areas and precise projections at the present juncture would not be

tion take into account its commitment to conservation of nature along with develop-



ministries to finalise the programmes and measures for implementing India's INDCs.

"India's INDCs are to be implemented in post 2020 period till 2030. Technology costs and options

meaningful," he said.

India's INDC is "comprehensive and balanced" incorporating all its development priorities, he said while replying to another question.

"India's contribu-

ment challenges like poverty eradication, food security, universal access to education, health and energy. India's NDC allows GDP to grow while reducing the emissions," he said.

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Black money has all been forced out into the open, whomsoever it may belong to-whether it is corrupt politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen or professionals. Counterfeit notes, which our intelligence agencies had reported to be available in high volumes with our enemies, have been instantly neutralised. The media has extensively reported on districts famous as counterfeiting hubs being badly hit.

Regarding frequent modifications one must be able to distinguish between Niti and Ran niti. Our ran niti however needed to be different, aptly summarised by the age old saying tu daal daal main paat paat.

Regarding Manmohan Singh, it is interesting that the world's monumental mismanagement comes from a leader who has been at the helm of India economic journey for the past 45 years. His reference to 'organised loot' was perhaps a reference to the unending string of scams under his leadership, from the coal scam to the 2G and CWG scam. Demonetisation on the other hand is the unprecedented step to confiscate the loot of the corrupt.

Demonetisation Deadline: Congress Attacks PM Modi: Find Out More

The govt tried its best to keep the parliament functioning. I was keen to speak in both the houses. Yet, there was a concerted attempt by the Congress to derail the functioning of the houses, rather than have a proper debate. While Opposition in Parliament is understandable, this is the first time this is being used to protect the dishonest and that to so openly.

When money returns to the bank, it loses its anonymity. Every rupee leaves a trail. This changes the game as black money that did not have an address till now has been tagged with one. We now know when was it, where and when. Holders of black money may hide behind the bank accounts of others, but unlike cash holdings,

they can be traced. In this game of hide and seek they have a few days to hide, but the govt has the mechanism and will to seek them out. More interestingly the existence of such trails, the identification of one culprit invariably leads to the unearthing of even larger sources and schemes of corruption.

If you act with clarity and with the purest of motives, the results will be there for any to see. Whatever my critics may say, I seek no personal benefit from all this, only the greater good.

Cash held by terrorists, Maoists and other extremists has also been neutralised. There has been a crippling impact on dangerous and highly damaging illegal activities, such as human trafficking and narcotics.

I pity a few of our opponents, especially the Congress leadership, for the desperation they have been exhibiting..Congress leaders are entirely pre-occupied with only one thing-elections.

There is nothing political in the demonetisation decision...it was a tough decision taken to clean up our economy and our society. If I were guided by short-term electoral politics, I would have never done so.

If one does an unbiased, objective evaluation of my government's programmes and priorities over the past two and a half years, the one thing that will unambiguously emerge is the centrality of the poor, downtrodden and marginalised.

The multiplier effect of introduction of money, which was till now uselessly hoarded and stocked away as cash, into the active economic system will give the economy further boost. Additional government revenue will be pushed into priority domains such as irrigation and rural housing, empowering the poor and needy.

We took the demonetisation decision not for some short term windfall gain, but for a long

term structural transformation. Our objective was to clean up our economy and society of the menace of black money, purging the distrust, artificial pressures and other ills that came with it. The revenue collected will be used for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and marginalised.

Earlier the income tax department used to shoot in the dark. Now, people have voluntarily come forward and deposited money in their banks. The aim is to ensure that the honest tax payer is not harassed of inconvenienced while the dishonest tax evade is efficiently caught and punished. Beyond this any erring officer or banker will be caught and punished. My government has zero tolerance for corruption.

Digital transaction should not be viewed only as a short-term substitute to help through the period of cash shortage. That is not my objective. Digital transaction deliver multiple benefits. They facilitate proper accounting and sizing of the formal economy. They provide greater ease and security in handling of money, especially for small businesses and ordinary people. They also deliver greater tax compliance ensuring the dishonest do not escape payment of their dues. Therefore, I see digital payment as method of cleaning the economy in the long run.

It is imperative that we figure out decisive ways of routing out black money from politics. I have been regularly appealing for the same.

I have asserted before the last parliament session itself that the need of the hour is to comprehensively relook and reform political funding. I have also repeatedly expressed concern about how our current system of multiple elections not only raises political expenditure, thereby hurting the economy, but also result in the nation perpetually remaining in the election mode, stalling governance.



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England get ready for Ashwin's talespin

RAJKOT(KCN):It can't be ascertained whether it was part of

but there come individuals who make teams successful.

He knows his game better than he did four years ago. You don't become a world class spinner overnight. It has to be developed and Ashwin has done that," said Cook of the single biggest threat to England's winning streak against India.

This explains why Cook & Co played more spin than pace at the nets. Four spinners plus spin-bowling coach Saqlain Mushtaq giving throw-downs, they practised coming forward head down and bat-pad close together. In what frame of mind they head home for a

Cup," noted wicketkeeper-turned-commentator Deep Dasgupta, standing near the nets. "The middle-leg line he bowled before that attacked mainly the inner half of the bat. By bowling outside off, he makes sure he gets the inside edge if the ball turns and outside edge if it goes straight."

For a batting unit low on experience of playing in India other than Cook (Joe Root played one Test in 2012-13), an in-form Ashwin is a lethal proposition. "He knows his strengths and bowls in areas



strategy or regular practice. The pitch at SCA Stadium was covered when the England team arrived for training on Tuesday afternoon. It was lying open under the sun at around the same time the last two days.

Alastair Cook headed for the centre of the ground after addressing the media and without seeking help from groundsmen, removed the cover himself for a look at the plot of land that might make or break reputations over the next few days. Kneeling down to feel the surface, the England captain spent some time there with coach Trevor Bayliss.

R Ashwin

What transpired was not known, but some of it must have been about how much spin the pitch would offer. With the prospect of sustained grilling by Ravichandran Ashwin looming large, the visitors know who and what to be wary of. India's spin arsenal is formidable at home and the off-spinner gives it a fearsome look.

Cricket is of course a team game,

While 75 wickets in 11 Tests since last year's South Africa series gives an indication of the impact he has made on batsmen, India's victory in eight of those (three affected by rain) shows the kind of influence the IT engi-



neer has had in getting results.

"His confidence is sky high (because of) the number of wickets he has taken in the last year in Indian conditions. Cricket is a funny game. A lot of it is played in the mind.

Christmas break will in all likelihood depend on how well they execute these over five Tests.

"Making off-spinners his stock ball and changing the line of attack has changed Ashwin after last year's 50-over World

that make him effective," said Virat Kohli. The skipper didn't elaborate. What he left unsaid is something that his principal weapon would be keen to demonstrate when the umpire calls play on Wednesday.

Steve Smith caps another big year with Melbourne ton

Australia captain Steve Smith's love affair with the Melbourne Cricket Ground showed no sign of fading on Thursday as he struck his third consecutive century in Boxing Day Tests to flatten Pakistan and finish another banner year with a bang.

Smith's unbeaten 100 carried Australia to 465 for six and a 22-run first innings lead after lunch on day four of the second Test before play was abandoned due to rain.

The weather may well have put paid to Australia's hopes of forcing a result and wrapping up the three-match series 2-0 but it allowed time enough for 27-year-old skipper to boost his claim as the most consistent batsman among active players.

The innings brought up his 1,000th run in a calendar year for the third time in succession, a feat achieved by only one other Australian batsman,

opener Matthew Hayden, who reached the mark in five consecutive years from 2001-05.

Following on from Christmas Day, few other players have brought the festive cheer into Boxing Day like Smith, who smashed 192 against India in 2014 and backed it up last year with an unbeaten 134 against West Indies.

Out of players who have batted at least five times at the MCG, only the great Don Bradman has a higher average, with 128.53 from his 17 innings versus the current captain's 114.60 from eight.

With four centuries this year, Smith has now raced to 17 tons from a total of 90 innings in his career, with only Bradman (50 innings), Sunil Gavaskar (81) and Hayden (82) reaching the number faster.

Assuming the captaincy has been good for Smith's batting, with nine of his hundreds struck when leading the

team. After watching Usman Khawaja fall three runs short of a

run-a-ball 144 on day three, but Smith showed almost complete control, picking



sixth century in the first few overs on Thursday, Smith steadied the innings in a 92-run partnership with rookie Peter Handscomb and ploughed on to reach the 90s as rain clouds gathered.

He cut Sohail for three runs past point to bring up a hundred from 168 balls. Two balls later, the umpires called tea early.

With nine boundaries, it was a reserved knock by the standards of David Warner's thrilling,

holes in the Pakistan field seemingly at will.

One of his more telling shots happened off the field, a parting one aimed at Pakistan's hapless bowlers who were also plundered for 130 by Smith in the series-opener in Brisbane.

"This hundred today, not much was happening — for a lot of the time, they weren't really trying to get me out," he said.

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Raghunath to lead India in Oz tour, Sreejesh out with injury

BENGALURU(KCN): Goalkeeper P R Sreejesh have been left out due to an injury and in his place experienced drag-flicker V R Raghunath will return to the squad to lead the Indian men's hockey team in the four-nation tournament in Australia later this month.

Raghunath, who was rested in last month's Asian Champions Trophy, will captain the 18-member squad in the absence of Sreejesh, who is recuperating from a knee injury sustained during the semi-final of the ACT

against Korea in Singh, who was the

Akash Chikte while Uttar Pradesh's



Kuantan, Malaysia.

Defender and drag-flicker colleague Rupinder Pal

top scorer in ACT, will be Raghunath's deputy in the tour Down Under.

will shoulder the responsibility of goalkeeping in Sreejesh's absence

Abhinav Kumar Pandey will be the second custodian in the squad.

Chikte came up with an outstanding performance in the final of ACT to help India clinch the title by beating arch-rivals Pakistan.

"Abhinav has been in and out of the camps. He has had a knee injury for a while but has made a strong comeback and we are pleased with his performance in this camp," said India's chief coach Roelant Oltmans.

Besides Sreejesh, senior strikers SV Sunil and Ramandeep Singh too will miss the tournament due to injuries.

While Sunil is yet to fully recover from the wrist injury he sustained at the Rio Olympics, Ramandeep, who replaced Sunil in ACT, too have been sidelined because of health issues.

"Both Sreejesh and Sunil will remain in SAI for rehabilitation. Also Sreejesh has willingly stepped up to spend some time with the junior team goalkeepers. He has already starting working with them and will assist Dave Staniforth who is joining us next week. This is great for the young boys and shar-

ing his experience with them ahead of the Junior World Cup," stated Oltmans, who will work with the junior team while strategic coach Roger Van Gent will accompany the senior team to Australia.

Ace midfielder Manpreet Singh and forward Akashdeep Singh, however, have made comebacks to the squad after being rested in the Asian Champions Trophy.

Besides India and hosts Australia, the four-nation tournament, starting November 23, will feature Malaysia and New Zealand.