

Naveen asks coal clearance Congress to rake up currency ban in rural poll campaign

New Delhi (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik met the Union Minister for Mines, Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy, Piyush Goyal here today.

He mentioned that a number of important issues relating to power, coal, mining leases and forest clearance have remained pending with the Union Government for quite some time.

These issues, he stated, have significant bearing on power generation including supply of affordable clean power to consumers, mining operations and resources of the State.

Chief Minister impressed upon the Union Minister to expedite allocation of suitable coal block(s) in favour of Odisha Thermal Power Corporation (OTPC) in lieu of Tentuloi Coal

(SECC) Data, 2011 to ensure better and wider coverage of deprived households in the State.

Chief Minister added that all hydro electric power plants above 25MW including pump storage plants may be considered as renewable sources of energy and urged upon the Union Minister to sanction funds to the tune of 75% of the project cost from National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) for implementation of the pump storage hydro power plants to make clean power affordable to the consumers.

Highlighting that the Standard Bidding Documents for Ultra Mega Power Project at Bedabahal, Sundargarh have remained pending for over a year, he impressed upon the Union Minister to expedite their finaliza-

tion of the area limit. last revision was carried out in May-June, 2012.

He urged upon the Union Minister to share at least 60% of the funds collected towards 'Clean Environment Cess' with the respective coal bearing States and transfer the additional levy of Rs.295 per tonne collected from the prior allocatees of Schedule-II Coal Blocks to Odisha at the earliest.

Further, the Chief Minister mentioned that the approval granted in favour of Odisha Mining Corporation for Silijora-Guruda-Baldakalimati (SGBK) Mines in Keonjhar District requires amendment at the earliest well before 12.1.2017 to include Iron Ore in addition to the approved Manganese Ore.

He urged that the Ministry of Mines may expedite the

grant of mining leases for Bauxite in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts.

Chief Minister suggested an amendment to Section 6(1)(b) of the MMDR Act to exempt public sector undertakings and captive user industries from opera-

tion of the area limit. Taking up issues relating to Ministry of Environment & Forests, Mr.Patnaik impressed upon the Union Minister to follow up with Ministry of Environment & Forests for ensuring forest clearance under Section 2(iii) of the Forests Conservation Act, 1980 well before 12.1.2017 for all the Mines for which Ministry of Mines has already granted prior approval.

Further, the conditional approvals granted under Section 2(iii) may be waived off and these may be allowed to be complied with during the course of Section 2(ii) approval under Forests Conservation Act, 1980, he added.



Block proposed to be cancelled.

He further desired that Ministry of Power may consider selection of beneficiaries under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) utilizing the Socio Economic Caste Census

tion and initiate the bidding process for early implementation of the 4000 MW Ultra Mega Power Project.

Mr.Patnaik underscored the need for enhancing the royalty on coal at the earliest since this is long overdue as the

grant of mining leases for Bauxite in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts.

Chief Minister suggested an amendment to Section 6(1)(b) of the MMDR Act to exempt public sector undertakings and captive user industries from opera-

prospective operations.

Mr.Goyal appreciated the genuine concerns of the State and assured that early action will be taken on the pending issues and the suggestions made by the Chief Minister will be considered expeditiously.

Prez invites Naveen

New Delhi(KCN): Though BJD President Naveen Patnaik had fielded P A Sangma against then Congress candidate in the 2012 presidential candidate, President Pranab Mukherjee has invited the Odisha Chief Minister much ahead of the July 2017 elections to the Raisina Hills.

Naveen said he is leaving for New Delhi to attend lunch

invitation by the



President of India.

"I have been invited for lunch by the President tomorrow," Mr.Patnaik said be-

fore leaving for the National Capital today.

Asked about the purpose of the President's invitation, Mr.Patnaik said, "No purpose is indicated in the invitation. BJD has not taken any stand on the ensuing presidential election."

The President will be meeting Naveen at the Rashtrapati Bhawan between 2 pm to 3 pm

tomorrow.

Mr.Patnaik said during his visit to New Delhi, he will meet Union Power Minister this evening and attend the Non-Resident Odia Conference.

"The President will be attending the conference as well," the Chief Minister said.

The invitation to the Chief Minister Mr. Patnaik ahead of the See page -7

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Congress has decided to highlight the hardship faced by the common people to

gress Committee (OPCC) here. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed 11 convenors who will

which Congress has planned on January 11 at New Delhi.

"The party will intensify its protest against the

AICC general secretary in-charge BK Hariprasad did not attend the meeting. However, Subhonkar Sarkar, secretary of



demonetisation decision of the Centre during its campaign for the panchayat polls beginning from February 13. The roadmap for the campaign was prepared at a meeting of the State office-bearers, district presidents, MLAs and senior leaders of the party convened by the Odisha Pradesh Con-

be entrusted the charge of three organisational districts to oversee the campaign against demonetisation.

It was decided that the Mahila Congress will organise protest against demonetisation on January 9 all over the State. Besides, party leaders from the State will join the protest

demonetisation decision of Narendra Modi Government at the Centre which has been supported by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik," OPCC president Prasad Harichandan said and added that demonetisation will be one of major campaign issues of the Congress for the panchayat polls.

the AICC and in-charge of Odisha, was present. OPCC treasurer Mohammed Moquim said the State in-charge has always been trying to keep the party together and the meeting was convened on Thursday as per his direction. Out of the party's 33 organisational districts, 19 presidents attended the meeting.



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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 DeFelice 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 DeFelice. I hope she wasn't too traumatized," he added.

Man who hacked Kareena's I-T e-filing account arrested

MUMBAI(KCN): An employee of Central paramilitary forces was arrested by the cyber police here for accessing Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor's Income Tax e-filing account, police said tonight.

The accused wanted to get Kareena's personal mobile number so he hacked her IT account, they said.

Kareena's chartered accountant had last year approached the police with the complaint that somebody had hacked her IT e-filing account and tampered with it.

Cyber-police tracked down the culprit today.

The accused files income tax returns for people as a part-time job while working with paramilitary forces, police said, without disclosing his name. Further probe was on.



Kajol, Priyanka hail Pakistan's move to remove ban on Indian films

Bombay (KCN): 'Mental Manadhil' from OK Kanmani, 'Mei Nigara' from 24, and now, 'The Breakup Song' from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil... Jonita Gandhi is on the crest of a wave. Over telephone from Mumbai, the 27-year-old says with a laugh, "My phone has been buzzing with messages ever since the ('Breakup') song released. Many were quite surprised when they came to know that I had sung it. I am not sure why." As for Jonita, it was one of the most fun projects that she had done. "We were partying and recording... it was dramatic," she says.

Jonita has a lot on her plate, from recording for movies to performing live gigs. But she also talks about a dream that she has been holding on to for sometime now. "Writing music... I want to sing something that I have written from

scratch. How cool would that be," she says, a little lost in thought. "I have written in the past, but I am just very picky. So I am not sure whether many of those will see the light of day," she adds after a pause.

Meanwhile, she is consciously making sure that her YouTube channel (Jonita Music has over half a lakh followers) thrives - given that's where she began her journey as a musician. "I used to record my song videos, all covers, on my phone and post them," she recalls. Later, as her channel continued to gain visitors, she started making professional videos, self-produced videos and collaborating with different artistes. "This was way back in 2011, and that's how far I could reach Bollywood from Toronto. But it helped me get a foot in the door, as several music composers recognised

me, and next thing I know, I was doing a tour with Sonu Nigam in North America," she says. Following the tour, Jonita debuted in Bollywood with Chennai Express.

"Till then, I had only performed in live shows. I hadn't recorded a Bollywood song from scratch. Understanding and learning a composition on the spot was new to me. So I was extremely nervous," she recalls. The first song she recorded was the title song of Chennai Express for Vishal-Shekhar. "The song was already done, and the male voice was by SPB sir. There was a small part in the song that features Deepika Padukone in the visuals and they wanted a female voice. I just happened to be around then, so they told me to try it out, and it all came out well," she says.

She was then spot-

ted by A.R. Rahman, with whom she worked on the album

well I was singing the words. I had to rely completely on who-



Raunaq and Tamil film OK Kanmani, among others. "I was in Chennai once, so he asked me to come to his studio and record in Tamil. Thankfully, I had people around me who really supported me. I had no idea how

ever was directing the videos to visually set everything right," she says with a laugh. "On my first trip to Chennai, while working with Rahman sir, I had no idea who we were recording for. But I was just happy to

be working with him. He is an amazing person and makes people super comfortable, and while most think that he is quiet, in reality, he is a very funny person," says Jonita, who is trained in Western Classical music.

Looking back, while her academic degrees (she has two undergraduate degrees in Health Sciences and Business) did little to contribute to her career as a singer, she says, "Music was always there on the side. I used to come home from school during weekends and perform at events. It was already my part-time job. Even at home, there were always old Hindi songs - those of Rafi, R.D. Burman, Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle - and 90s Bollywood music by Shreya Ghoshal and Sonu Nigam - playing. I grew up listening to them."

Banks' loans rose 5.1 percent in two weeks to Dec 23: RBI

MUMBAI(KCN): Indian banks' loans rose 5.1 percent in the two weeks to Dec. 23 from a year earlier, while deposits rose 15.2 percent, the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement showed on Friday.

Outstanding loans rose 89.40 billion rupees (\$1.31 billion) to 73.48 trillion rupees in the two weeks to Dec. 23. Non-food credit rose 38.00 billion rupees to 72.43 trillion rupees, while food credit rose 51.40 billion rupees to 1.05 trillion rupees.

Bank deposits fell 750.80 billion rupees to 105.16 trillion rupees in the two weeks to Dec. 23.



Key equity indices trade in red during afternoon session

MUMBAI(KCN): The key Indian equity indices that opened in green on Friday slipped into red terri-

(NSE) was trading 12.75 points or 0.15 per cent lower at 8,261.05 points. The Sensex of the

points in the trade so far.

Good buying was observed in banking sector, while selling



tory in the afternoon as technology stocks fell sharply.

The 30-scrip Sensitive Index (Sensex) was trading 45.82 points or 0.17 per cent lower in the afternoon session.

The wider 51-scrip Nifty of the National Stock Exchange

BSE, which opened at 26,929.69 points, was trading at 26,832.42 points (at 1.24 p.m.), 45.82 points or 0.17 per cent lower from the previous day's close at 26,878.24 points. The Sensex touched a high of 27,009.61 points and a low of 26,822.52

pressure was seen in information technology (IT), technology, media and entertainment (TECK) and realty sectors. The S&P BSE IT index plunged by 2.32 per cent, TECK index dropped by 1.82 per cent and realty index slipped by 0.52 per cent.

India forecasts GDP growth to slow to 7.1 percent in 2016/17

NEW DELHI (KCN): The Indian government said on Friday economic growth would slow down to 7.1 percent in the fiscal year ending in March from 7.6 percent a year earlier.

Most private economists have pared India's growth forecast to 6.3-6.4 percent for the 2016/17 fiscal year, citing the impact of the government's scrapping of high-value bank notes last November, which they reckon would linger for one more year.

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July, 2017 Presidential election is significant as he is also the President of the BJD that has 28 MPs (20 in Lok Sabha and 8 in Rajya Sabha) in the Parliament besides enjoying support of another Independent Rajya Sabha MP. This apart, Mr. Patnaik's party has 117 MLAs in the House of 147 besides support of two other Independent members.

Therefore, the BJD could play a vital role in the ensuing Presidential elections. Mr. Patnaik, who played a crucial role in the previous



Presidential election in 2012, was opposed to Congress-supported Pranab Mukherjee last time. Naveen with support of the then AIADMK Supremo J Jayalalitha, had made Late P A Sangma as the candidate in the Presidential elections but Sangma lost the polls.

An invitation from the President sparked speculation in the political circle here as regional parties like BJD, AIADMK of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal's Trinamool Congress are likely to play a key role in the President's election.

SC restrains Aircel-Maxis from transferring 2G licences

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme Court today restrained transfer of 2G licences from Malaysia's Maxis which was originally allotted to Aircel to any other telecom company. A bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar also proposed to restrain earning of any revenue by using the 2G spectrum licences which were originally granted to Aircel in 2006.

It also directed that in case the proposed order is passed, it would not be open to

any of the accused to raise the issue of monetary losses.

The bench posted the material for further hearing on January 27 and said other averments made by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy will be dealt with at later stage. Swamy has alleged that FIPB clearances to Aircel Maxis were granted illegally. Special 2G prosecutor Anand Grover said that hearing on framing of charges in the trial court is scheduled on January 9.

Airbus reached A350 delivery target in 2016: Sources

PARIS (KCN): Airbus reached a target

est European long-haul jet had been de-

ference on orders and deliveries on Jan 11.

in 2016.

Rival Boeing



for at least 50 deliveries of its A350 wide-body jetliner in 2016, two industry sources said on Friday.

Widely watched deliveries of the new-

layed by problems in supplies of cabin equipment, notably from France's Zodiac Aerospace.

Airbus declined to comment ahead of an annual news con-

It has predicted more than 670 total deliveries for 2016, including at least 50 A350s. It has also predicted it would sell at least as many planes as it delivered

was due to issue 2016 data later on Friday, maintaining its position as the world's largest planemaker by the number of units delivered.

Tata Sons to remove Mistry as Director on February 6

MUMBAI(KCN): After ousting him as Chairman, Tata Sons has called a shareholders' meeting on February 6 to remove Cyrus Mistry as director of the holding company of the USD 103-billion Tata Group.

Tata Sons had abruptly removed Mistry as its Chairman on October 24 and sought his ouster from operating companies like Tata Motors and TCS. Mistry subsequently resigned from the board of six companies, but dragged Tata Sons and his interim successor Ratan Tata to

the National Company Law Tribunal.

After the board meeting of October 24, 2016, Tata Sons had resolved that Mistry shall, notwithstanding his ceasing to be the Chairman, continue as a director of the company. "Subsequent to his replacement, Mistry has made certain unsubstantiated allegations, which cast aspersions not only on Tata Sons Limited and its board of directors, but also on the Tata group as a whole. Internal communications, including confidential, were made public. Mistry's

conduct has caused enormous harm to the Tata group and its stakeholders, including employees and shareholders," Tata Sons said in a note for extraordinary general meeting (EGM).

Tata-Mistry spat shows independent company directors vulnerable in India. The ousted chairman's conduct, it said, "resulted in significant erosion of the market value of the Tata group companies, which has consequently resulted in harm to Tata Sons Limited and indirectly losses to its shareholders". The

notice said continuation of Mistry as a Director of Tata Sons is "untenable" and therefore, he should be removed.

The resolution, which has been moved for his removal, said: "The board of Tata Sons Ltd is of the view that the integrity of the board proceedings is being jeopardised by Mistry's continuation as a Director and the confidentiality of the board decisions and proceedings cannot be ensured as the documents presented to the board have been leaked and made public in a distorted and untruthful manner."

Zverev ramps up Aussie Open preparations

PERTH (KCN): Highly rated teenager Alexander Zverev continued his impressive build-up for the Australian Open with a straight-sets win over Dan Evans at the Hopman Cup on Friday.

Britain's Evans beat Zverev at last year's US Open, but he couldn't repeat the feat against the 19-year-old German who floored Roger Federer earlier at the team competition in Perth.

Zverev's 6-4, 6-4 win squared the tie, after Briton Heather Watson earlier opened her account for the week with a win over Andrea Petkovic.

The German pair then claimed the tie with a 4-2, 4-2 win in the Fast

Four mixed doubles. Both teams were al-

final.

Zverev, the

the top 50 and ranked 24th, started

ard Gasquet, but his next two perfor-

future of tennis".

On Wednesday,

sets in what was regarded as one of the best matches in the Hopman Cup's 29-year history.

He broke the 66th-ranked Evans early in the first set and then controlled the match on the back of his powerful groundstrokes, winning 6-4, 6-4 in 81 minutes.

Zverev was pleased to be able to maintain his form after the euphoria of the victory against Federer.

"It was a completely different match, against Roger is always very difficult," he said. "To kind of back it up I am very happy with it."

Watson cruised through the first set against Petkovic, but the German looked certain to level the match

when she raced to a 5-1 lead in the second.

Petkovic twice served for the set, but Watson broke on both occasions and took it to a tie-breaker, which she claimed to win in straight sets, 6-2, 7-6 (7/3). Watson was pleased to finally record a win after her earlier losses to Belinda Bencic and Kristina Mladenovic.

"I wanted that a lot," she said. "I woke up today thinking, 'You know what, I've been playing good tennis, I've had some really tight matches with great players, and I just wanted to continue doing the right things'."

"My goal is to be fit and playing my best tennis in Melbourne."



Frustration as fixing scandal hits ahead of Australia Open

SYDNEY (KCN): A match-fixing charge in Australia has underlined concerns about corruption in tennis ahead of the year's opening Grand Slam, with top players frustrated at another scandal hitting the sport.

Police said an 18-year-old had been charged with match-fixing at a tournament in Victoria last October

and would appear in court in March.

Australian media Friday named him as Oliver Anderson, an emerging star who is the reigning Australian Open boys champion.

The claim, just days before the world's leading players assemble in Melbourne for the first Grand Slam of the season, related to a

youngest player in the week with a loss to Frenchman Richard Gasquet, but his next two performances have shown why is dubbed "the he upset Swiss maestro Federer in three

something like that comes out," said Murray.

"If it's going on and nothing is happening about it that's much worse for the future of the sport.

"So, if it's happening, there should be the most severe punishments for whoever is involved in it."

He was backed by rival Novak Djokovic, also in Doha, who said he was saddened by the news.

"Very disappointing to hear, especially considering the fact that he's young and won the junior Grand Slam," said Djokovic.

"You know, obviously the quality is there and the potential is there.

"I don't understand why he has done it," he said, before adding: "Everyone makes mistakes."

Fourteen-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal said the latest police case showed the fight against match-fixing was working.

"You get tired about this kind of stuff,

but the most important thing is (to) fight against these kind of things," he told reporters at the Brisbane International tournament.

On the eve of the Australian Open last year, there were bombshell media allegations that match-fixing was rife in tennis and the authorities had done little to counter corruption.

They included claims that players who had reached the top 50 had been repeatedly suspected of fixing matches but had never faced action. It sparked an independent review headed by Adam Lewis QC, a London-based expert on sports law, aimed at shaking up tennis's under-fire anti-corruption body, the Tennis Integrity Unit.

Virat Kohli to be named limited overs captain to usher in new era

Mumbai (KCN): India's limited overs cricket will usher in a new era with the national selectors expected to name Virat Kohli as the captain when they pick the squad for three ODIs and three T20 Internationals against England.

Test skipper Kohli is expected to be anointed captain of the limited overs teams also, after Mahendra Singh Dhoni decided to step down from the job in a surprise decision last night.

While there should not be any doubt regarding Kohli taking over as skipper of the limited overs team, the selectors have the onerous task of choosing the two squads having a right balance as there has been a spate of injuries to top players recently.

Two key Mumbai batsmen — Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane — have been ruled out with injuries, which may give a chance to out-of-form Shikhar Dhawan, if he's de-

clared fit, to open the innings with K L Rahul, unless the selectors spring a total surprise and bring in a newcomer.

Karnataka's Rahul missed the ODI series against New Zealand due to an injury while Delhi batsman Dhawan too got injured in the preceding Test rubber against the Kiwis.

The left-handed Dhawan last played in an ODI in Australia in January last. After flopping in the first two matches, he struck a purple patch in the remaining three games of that series to make a century and two half centuries.

Karun Nair, who scored a brilliant triple hundred in the fifth and final Test against England in Chennai, is expected to be chosen in place of Rahane whom he also replaced in the Test team.

A question mark, however, remains regarding key spinner Ravichandran Ashwin who cited an injury after the conclusion of the 4-0 Test drubbing of England

and has not played in Ranji Trophy for his state team Tamil Nadu. He also missed

would be interesting to see whether the two slow bowling all-rounders will be cho-

veyed to the selectors who, thus, will choose him over other claimants.

squad along with Yadav.

Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav

Sharma to team up with in-form Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav to man the

the selectors repose faith in Suresh Raina for the ODIs, but they are expected to include him in the squad for the three T20 International matches, which also will to be chosen on Friday, provided he is declared fit again.

The selectors will also choose the India A squads for the two practice games against the tourists set to be played at the Brabourne Stadium here on May 10 and 12.

The official announcement of the meeting has been given through a media release by BCCI's Chief Executive Officer Rahul Johri, who thus is expected to perform the duty of the secretary of the Board in place of the sacked Ajay Shirke.

England are set to return to India on Sunday. They start the ODI series on January 15 in Pune and conclude the second part of their visit to India with the third and final T20I at Bengaluru on February 1.



the ODI series against New Zealand as he was rested to keep fresh for the subsequent Test rubber against England.

Second off-spinner Jayant Yadav was out ruled out of the last Test of the series against England due to an injury and it

sen by the selectors without proving match fitness.

Although Dhoni has stepped down as captain of the limited overs team, he has made himself available to play under a new captain, which should be Kohli, and this has been con-

Axar Patel was chosen to be the left-arm spin option against the Kiwis while resting Ravindra Jadeja. But, with the big break in between the Test and ODI rubber, Jadeja should get the nod. Amit Mishra was the third spinner in that

should retain their spots in the ODI squad along with Mandeep Singh. With Mohammed Shami, who did not play in the ODI series against New Zealand, and Dhawal Kulkarni out with injuries, the selectors have the option to recall Ishant

pace department.

Hardik Pandya too got injured during the Test series against England but has started to play in the D Y Patil T20 tournament now in progress here and is likely to get the nod.

It will be interesting to see whether