

## BJD avoids DeMo talk Now, Bhitarkanika a safe second

### address for Irrawaddy dolphins

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The BJD MPs today cleverly avoided demonetization issue though party President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had in November described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision as "bolt step" towards fight against black money.

The BJD's leader in Lok Sabha Bhartuhari Mahtab, who was first given opportunity to speak on the vote of thanks on President's address to the joint session of the Parliament, did not touch the issues relating to Demonetization though the party MLAs in Assembly had strongly criticized the situation created following demonetization of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 notes on November 8.

While most of the non-BJP MPs including Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Karge of Congress, strongly opposed the demonetization, Mr.Mahtab easily avoided to speak on

the subject. BJD's another MP Tathagat Satpathy, who was



allowed to put forth his views on the President's address, also clearly said that he was not speaking anything on Demonetization.

The BJD's changed stand on Demonetization has surprised the senior BJP leaders including Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. These leaders had openly praised Naveen Patnaik for his support to the demonetization decision.

However, the BJD changed its stand in three months

as the Union Government led by BJP did not fulfilled demands of Naveen Patnaik in the aftermath of the demonetisation.

Naveen had demanded permission for cooperative banks to exchange banned currency notes, no PAN provision for the bank account holders in schedule area and more bank branches in remote areas. The Union Government did not pay any heed to Naveen's demand even though he supported the demonetization decision.

This apart, the CBI has intensified its action against the BJD leaders allegedly involved in the chitfund stand.

The BJD leaders feel that the BJP leaders were instrumental behind CBI's action ahead of the three-tire panchayat polls in Odisha.

While speaking in the Parliament, both Mr.Mahtab and Mr.Satpathy strongly condemned the Union Government and accused its sup-

port for BJP ruled Chhattishgarh Government which unilaterally constructed projects on upstream of Mahanadi leading to less flow of water to Hirakud reservoir.

"There should be no politics over the Mahanadi issue as fifty per cent of the state's 30 districts depend on the river for their livelihood," Mr.Mahtab said asking Prime Minister to direct Chhattishgarh government to immediately stop construction before holding further negation to resolve the dispute between two neighbouring states.

Mr. Satpathy, in his speech pointed out that Odisha has been hit by both Andhra Pradesh and Chhattishgarh in Polavaram project and Chhattishgarh for Mahanadi issue. He warned the central government that water dispute would become a major issue this year as the IMD had predicted El Nino effect this monsoon.

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):** The endangered Irrawaddy dolphins appear to have found a safe second home in Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary where, the latest census says, the cetaceans are found in good numbers too though Chilika lagoon remains the primary habitat.

While the total dolphin count across seven coastal divisions has shown a decline, the number of Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilika Wildlife and Rajnagar Mangrove divisions has remained more or less steady, sources said.

The census result shows that there are 134 dolphins in Chilika of which 121 are Irrawaddy species while the rest are Bottlenose. In 2015, the brackish water lagoon had 144 Irrawaddy dolphins while Bhitarkanika had 58.

Experts say the drop in Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilika should not necessarily mean a huge drop in population. "This could mean the Irrawaddy dolphins have found Bhitarkanika to be a favourable habitat. Since the Irrawaddies migrate to sea from the coastal wetlands,

and also from one habitat to another through the marine waters, their number keeps changing," sources informed.

not permit sighting at many ranges. If six species were sighted two years back, this time around, four species were re-

were sighted. Balasore reported zero sighting as against five in 2015.

In total, as many as 257 dolphins, in-



This year, the lagoon has recorded Bottlenose dolphins too. As many as 13 Bottlenose dolphins were sighted by the census teams. According to experts, The Bottlenose dolphins can not survive in fresh water but do live around the mouth of the lagoon and even get inside during high tides in search of food as this is the spawning period. They exit the lagoon during low tides.

In Rajnagar Division, the total head count was 82 as against 270 in 2015. The sharp drop was primarily because inclement weather did

corded. Similarly, in Puri Wildlife Division, altogether seven Bottlenose dolphins were sighted whereas in 2015, the sighting was nil.

The census, conducted across six coastal divisions on January 20, also showed that there has been marginal change in the dolphins sighted in the rest four - Berhampur, Bhadrak and Balasore. At Berhampur, about 29 dolphins including 11 Bottlenose and 18 Humpbacks were recorded whereas at Bhadrak, five Irrawaddy dolphins

cluding 181 Irrawaddy, 31 Bottlenose, 40 Humpbacks (of two subspecies) and five Pantropical Spotted cetaceans were recorded. In 2015, as many as 450 dolphins were sighted. Maximum number of species diversity was noticed in Rajnagar.

Five dolphin species were reported during the enumeration by 40 estimation teams having 204 members from Wildlife Wing, Honorary Wildlife Wardens, WWF-India, BNHS-Mumbai, Ouat, Chilika Development Authority and NGOs.

## BJD-BJP face off at Congress cost

**ROURKELA(KCN):** After a humiliating defeat in 2012 election to the 35-member Sundargarh Zilla Parishad (ZP), the BJP led by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram seems to have rejuvenated itself in Sundargarh district. In this ZP poll, the BJP looks poised to erode into the base of Congress, if not the ruling BJD.

In at least 10 of 35 ZP seats, the BJP has projected itself as a strong contender. Sources said in 2012 ZP poll, the BJP had failed to open account largely due to infighting, while the BJD had formed the ZP council with 19 seats. Later, three Independent ZP members joined BJD and after losing a ZP seat in 2016 by-election,

the BJD has 21 seats in the outgoing council. At present, the Congress has nine ZP seats, CPM and JMM have one each seat and Birmitrapur MLA George Tirkey has three Independent ZP members.

In Nuagaon-A and Bisra-B constituencies of Birmitrapur Assembly Constituency (AC), the saffron party is giving tough challenge to BJD and George's nominees, while in Lathikata-A ZP constituency of Rajgangpur AC, both Congress and BJD are wary of the BJP.

Rourkela Development Authority Chairman and BJD's election in-charge in Birmitrapur AC, Sarada Prasad Nayak said the BJD is uniformly ahead in all

six ZP seats in Birmitrapur AC and exuded confidence that BJD would garner more than 22 seats in the district.

Rourkela unit BJD president AC Mohanty said the BJD will have direct contest in four ZP seats of Bonai, Lahunipara and Gurundia blocks of Bonai Assembly Constituency. He added that the BJD has the capacity to win seven of the total eight ZP seats in the sub-division.

A senior BJD leader, requesting anonymity, said the ZP poll is a prestige issue for Jual and the BJP seems to be growing at the cost of the Congress. Poll observers pointed out that in Subdega-B and Balishankara-A

ZP constituencies under Congress' Talsara MLA Prafulla Majhi, the BJD and BJP are in neck to neck fight and the Congress comes later. In Tangarpali-B ZP seat under Congress' Sundargarh MLA Yogesh Singh, the BJD and BJP are ahead of Congress, while in Sundargarh-A and Lefripara-B ZP seats of Sundargarh AC, the BJP's vote share may rise substantially. However, Sun-dargarh District Congress Committee president, Dushmanta Naik dismissed the equations and claimed that the Congress would bag more than its present tally of nine ZP seats.

Jual reiterated that the BJP would throw up surprising results in the ZP poll.

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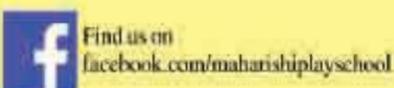
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# Katrina Kaif shares a sizzling underwater click and it will simply flip your 'perspective,' see pic

We told you some-time back how insanely angelic Katrina Kaif can look even in her first morning selfie – flawless and fresh. Her latest upload on Facebook is making many skip a heartbeat yet again. This time she isn't cuddled up under her quilts, but rather buried deep down inside the sea. She shared the picture and grabbed eyeballs instantly with the caption, “?VIT???????”

Also read | Katrina Kaif shares a selfie from her bed. She wakes up looking like this?



The Bollywood actor joined Facebook last year on her birthday. And as much as her social media debut made news, so does her posts, now that she is one of the most active B-town celebs on the internet. Kat had also turned hairdresser for her Jagga Jasoos director Anurag Basu. While we saw her doing her new task

diligently, the filmmaker showed no trust in her, as he was too scared about the look Katrina would give him. The funny video surely made the day of her fans.

When Katrina Kaif Turned Stylist For Anurag Basu

Also read | Anurag Basu hires Katrina Kaif as his hair-dresser, and we are so jealous. Watch

video Katrina had also shared several pictures from the bridal beach photoshoot she did for good friend and designer Manish Malhotra. She slayed in every click and stayed on top of the trends for several days. Now, she is prepping up for the release of her next film Jagga Jasoos opposite former boyfriend Ranbir

Kapoor. But apart from its post production work, she does keep stealing some time and sharing stuff from her life on her Facebook page. Check out the underwater picture Katrina Kaif shared on Facebook.

And this is what she shared in December last year. Sometime back, there were reports that Katrina had in-

jured herself on the sets of the film. She even shared an image with the caption, “Never waste any amount of time doing anything important when there is a sunset you should be sitting under .... ( even if it's a cutout ) ??#JaggaJasoos UTV Motion Pictures.”

Jagga Jasoos is set for an April 17 release. The film shot in

news last year, when reports emerged that both Katrina and Ranbir were facing trouble in shooting together post their breakup. However, after much ado, the two professionals did manage to finish the shoot. Now, we await to see whether or not they will promote the film together.



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)



Celebrities like Katrina Kaif, Anurag Kashyap and Emraan Hashmi — once big newsmakers from Bollywood — seemed to have faded away this year.

# Maruti Suzuki hikes prices by up to Rs 8,014 with immediate effect

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Friday hiked prices of its entire product range

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said in a statement. "The hike in car prices is because of increase in com-

modity, transportation and administrative costs," it added. 5 Instances Of BJP-Shiv Sena Standoff

Modality, transportation and administrative costs," it added. The company sells a range of models starting from hatchback Alto 800 to premium crossover S-Cross, priced be-

Brezza by Rs 20,000 and that of premium hatchback Baleno by Rs 10,000. On a select range of models, Mahindra, Nissan, Toyota, Renault, Mercedes-Benz India and Tata Motors had announced hikes



by up to Rs 8,014 with immediate effect. The price hike is in the range of Rs 1,500 to Rs 8,014 (ex-showroom Delhi) across models,

between Rs 2.45 lakh and Rs 12.03 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). In August last year, MSI had hiked the prices of its compact SUV Vitara

the price hike was between Rs 1,500 and Rs 5,000. Last year, various car makers like Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra &

in prices of their vehicles from January citing rise in input costs and adverse foreign exchange impact.

prolonged at the IAAF's Council meeting in Cap d'Ail near Monaco, could not be reintegrated into the sport before November. Double Olympic 1500-metre champion Coe was speaking after the IAAF Council approved the Taskforce's recommendation that Russia was "not ready for reinstatement".

# Russia banned from London World Championships: IAAF

FRANCE(KCN): Russia will miss August's World Athletics Championships in London after their doping ban was extended, world governing body president Sebastian Coe said.

Coe said Russia, whose 15-month ban from athletics was

tional competition since November 2015 following a damaging report alleging that state-sponsored doping was rife in the country.

The ban had already been extended in March and then June 2016, prevent-

sian Athletics Federation, and new Russian Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov, the Taskforce also "pointed to some negative developments" including "unhelpful public comments recently made by some Russian sporting officials".

It said that RusAF "continues to face practical and legal difficulties in enforcing provisional doping bans and there continues to be very limited testing of Russian track and field athletes at the national level as well as troubling incidents at what testing is taking place".

The roadmap to reinstatement specifies that "testing of Russian athletes must take place without further incidents or difficulties" and that RusAF takes "demonstrable objective and practical steps to cultivate the clean sport movement"



ing Russia's athletes from competing at the Rio Olympics. The Taskforce, which was set up to oversee Russia's reintegration into international athletics, produced recommendations detailing a roadmap to reinstatement.

But while "acknowledging several positive developments" at recent meetings in Moscow with RusAF, the Rus-

For foreign investors, the budget is expected to provide guidelines behind the General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) that will start in April that are intended to crack down on tax avoidance.

The government eased some of the doubts on Friday by saying that GAAR would not apply for foreign investors based in a jurisdiction for genuine commercial reasons, while saying investors meeting key conditions of individual tax treaties would not be subject to GAAR.

# India's investors brace for taxation hike, less friendly budget

Mumbai(K-CN): India's investors brace for taxation hike, less friendly budget Among the potential to raise tax measures could involve a second consecutive annual hike in the Securities Transaction Tax for futures and options markets, currently set at around 0.05 percent for every 10 million trades.. (Representational image)

Standoff Among expected measures are a hike in a transaction tax on

ernment on Friday provided some, but not all, key clarifications.

lower corporate tax rates or provide incentives to sectors hit by government's sur-

improve India's competitiveness rankings and attract foreign investors," said Rajesh

created since Modi said in December that market participants needed to make a

at around 0.05 percent for every 10 million trades. India could also lower the



Investors in India are bracing for higher taxes and fewer incentives from the government's annual budget on Feb 1 as the focus shifts to wringing out revenues to finance giveaways and higher public investment. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration is widely seen as being friendly to businesses and investors, it not expected to announce any dramatic moves at a time when the economy is under pressure from a cash squeeze.

Watch What Else is Making News

5 Instances Of BJP-Shiv Sena

stock derivatives trading and a less beneficial approach to long-term capital gains tax exemptions, according to analysts.

India could also provide additional details for new rules in April that will crack down on tax havens, after the gov-

Foreign portfolio investors are also seeking clarity behind "indirect transfer" rules that could increase tax liabilities for overseas funds.

But any negative impact from such measures could easily be offset should the government also

prise decision in November to abolish high-value banknotes, analysts said.

"We can certainly see a sensitivity for investor concerns, and the government wants to do things like ease the cost and complexities of doing business,

H Gandhi, a tax partner at Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

"However, at the same time the government has revenue pressures as it seeks the meet its fiscal targets."

Expectations for higher taxes for investors have in-

"fair contribution" to nation-building, without providing any details.

Among the potential measures could be a second consecutive annual hike in the Securities Transaction Tax for futures and options markets, currently set

time threshold for long-term capital gains.

Currently, investments sold after at least a 12-month holding period are exempt from taxes, while anything below that is taxed at up to 20 percent of the gains.

Overseas portfolio investors will also seek more details after India's tax department said in December that foreign companies with more than 50 percent of their assets in India could be liable to pay indirect transfer taxes when exiting from their investments.

The comment was seen as potentially ensnaring foreign funds that have more than half of their portfolios invested in India.

## It would be a challenge to score big runs in India: Australia coach Darren Lehmann

**MELBOURNE(K-CN):** Australia coach Darren Lehmann is not losing his sleep over getting 20 In-

reasonably well but even then lost 4-0. If there is one thing that they would have backed themselves is

players. So someone like Matthew Hayden and Damien Martyn would come out from nowhere and play

would mean a hell of a lot to a young group. But look, they are just focused on winning the first day



dian wickets but said it will be a challenge for his batsmen to score big runs and hoped someone would step up like Matthew Hayden and Damien Martyn did in the past tours.

Australia will play India in the upcoming four-Test series starting on February 23 in Pune and Lehmann said his boys will have to play flawless cricket.

"Everything's going to have to go right, that's a simple fact of life. You've got to be really methodical, well prepared," said Lehmann, who was part of the team that last won a Test in India in 2004.

"You have to hold on to each catch for a start ... You have to put pressure. We need to battle on. I think England played

score bigger runs and that is going to be a challenge for the group.

"We have got spinners who can take 20 wickets and quicks we can reverse the ball, so we're not fearing getting the 20 wickets, we've just got to put enough scoreboard pressure on them," he added.

It was Damien Martyn, who had scored two centuries to help Australia claim a 2-1 win in the four-Test series against India in 2004, while Matthew Hayden had an outstanding series in 2001, where he scored 549 runs in Australia's narrow 2-1 series loss.

"The great thing about the Australian team for years is with back to the walls it brings the best of the

well in tour.

"We hope we have a Martyn or Hayden type series from someone. If we do that, we'll make enough runs and it would help with the ball as well," he said.

Lehmann said the Australian team has been analysing the video of Indian players as part of their preparation ahead of India tour.

"They've been doing that for a while. The lads are pretty good with that sort of stuff now, they've had that on file now for probably two or three months," he said.

"We just have to play pressure cricket for five days. Any away tour is really tough ... for us, sub-continent tours are the frontier if you like.

"It (winning)

of first Test in Pune, that's what we can be worried about at the moment. So we would give them the best tools to succeed there, that is important for us," he added.

So how to dismiss India skipper Virat Kohli? "Bowl well and have a bit of luck along the way," pat comes the reply from the Aussie coach.

"He is a class player so we have to come up with a plan that works for us in picking up wickets in these conditions. That's going to be a challenge but we can't be worrying too much about the outcome.

"We're going to have to pick up certain areas ... playing a world-class side like India is going to be tough."

## Alastair Cook quits as England Test captain: England and Wales Cricket Board

**LONDON(KCN):** Alastair Cook resigned as England Test captain after a record 59 matches in the role, saying Monday it was "a sad day" but the right decision for the team.

Cook, England's

team over the past five years," Cook, 32, said in a statement.

"Stepping down has been an incredibly hard decision, but I know this is the correct decision for me and at the right time for the team."

tinue playing Test cricket. "It's a sad day personally in many ways, but I want to thank everyone I've captained, all the coaches and support staff and, of course, the England supporters and the Barmy

captain.

England's director of cricket Andrew Strauss said Cook had made a "fantastic contribution" and "deserves to be seen as one of our country's great captains".



leading scorer in Tests with 11,057 runs, became captain in August 2012 and led his country to Ashes glory on home soil in 2013 and 2015 as well as series wins in India and South Africa.

Yorkshire batsman Joe Root is the early favourite to take over with an announcement expected in the next fortnight.

Related Article Joe Root ready to captain England should Cook quit "It's been a huge honour to be England captain and to lead the Test

Cook, who also led England in a record 69 one-day internationals between 2010 and 2014, is the country's most capped Test skipper and has scored more Test centuries than any previous captain.

He was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 2012 and ICC World Test Captain in 2013.

He tendered his resignation to England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Colin Graves on Sunday, but intends to con-

Army who follow us home and away and have given us unwavering support," Cook added.

"Playing for England really is a privilege and I hope to carry on as a Test player, making a full contribution and helping the next England captain and the team however I can."

Cook's decision to stand down follows England's 4-0 series defeat in India at the end of last year.

The ECB said a "proper process" had started to appoint England's next Test

"We now move on with the process of appointing the right successor," Strauss said.

"There are a number of established players who are playing formal or informal leadership roles and whilst we've rightly not spoken to anyone in relation to the Test captaincy so far, we can now talk fully and openly within the team. "We expect to be able to make an announcement before the team head to the West Indies on 22nd February."

## Highs, lows & other turns: Pleasant recap of India's Test odyssey

**CHENNAI(K-CN):** Despite cricket springing new surprises, the most avid of fans like revisiting the past. It brings back nostalgic moments, of days when the romance of the game was greater. A lot of us recall matches from the yesteryear that we have close connections with. Some could even recall where they were and what they were doing when Sachin Tendulkar was murdering Shane Warne in Sharjah.

After their book Midwicket Tales, S Giridhar and VJ Raghunath take readers through another emotional run, recol-

lecting some of India's memorable Test matches. Mumbai to Durban is about some epic Test battles the Indian team has been part of. For a country that occasionally tasted success in the 20th century, especially away from home, this book brings back some of the matches where the team stood eye-to-eye with the giants of the game.

I started the book from part four called The Rise to the Top because I wanted to live through the moments which capture India's ascent to the top since the turn of the century. It doesn't

offer new anecdotes. But let's not forget it is one of the hardest things to do, because those who follow cricket closely have



read all of what was possibly under the sun from the time Sourav Ganguly became cap-

tain.

When it talks about Eden Gardens, Multan, Adelaide, Johannesburg, Jamaica, Nottingham it

gives goosebumps. It makes you wonder where have those days gone! As they speak

about the future under Virat Kohli, they leave readers with hope that fans might see the team notch up wins away from home.

The best of it is in the first three parts. Beginning from 1947, it narrates tales of

Vijay Hazare, Vinoo Mankad and takes you through the unprofessional manner the team was run, compared to what cricketers get today.

The authors' experience of following the game in the pre-TV days brings back tales of how they waited for newspapers carrying reports of a day earlier. Kudos to them for mentioning some of the matches through the words of the reporters. The book has lots of references of KN Prabhu and R Mohan among others. Some of these writings also demonstrate how the standard of cricket report-

ing has fallen these days.

The anecdotes make you smile. The "Garry, we are enforcing the follow-on" comment from Ajit Wadekar to West Indies legend Garry Sobers is one such moment which got buried under other tales of the tour that ended in India's first win in the Caribbean. Attention to details, observations and simple language make this a pleasant experience.

Though the authors take time to describe draws and defeats, the quality of output stands out, perhaps because of the

meticulous research that has gone behind the production.

Published by Jugger-naut, the book is a pleasant surprise. Credit to the two for not just writing about matches India won, but also the hard-fought draws and defeats. In the period between 1980-90 they mention very few games.

The Barbados Test of 1997, which broke a million hearts, doesn't find place. As a reader, you wish they wrote more and something new about the Fab Four, which many will never be tired of reading. Maybe that's what they can try next.