

Rahul meets Odisha leaders

New Delhi (KCN): AICC Vice President Rahul Gandhi today patiently heard the senior Odisha Congress leaders, who held One To One talks after a long time.

Majority of the leaders not only pressed for State leadership change but also urged to change the AICC In-Charge for Odisha.

Mr. Gandhi met these leaders in four phases at his residence here to put their views on re-vamp of the State unit and strengthen it to take on rivals Biju Janata Dal and the Bhartiya Janata Party.

The meeting assumes significance in the wake of the clamor for a change in the State unit leadership.



Senior leaders Niranjan Patnaik, Narasingha Mishra, Bhakta Charan Das, Prasad Harichandan, Srikant Jena, Jaydev Jena, Chiranjib Biswal, Naba

Kishore Das and AICC IN Charge B K Hari Prasad Secretary Subhankar Sarkar were also present during the meeting at Delhi durbar. Leader of Oppo-

sition and senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra described the meeting as 'fruitful.' "We cannot discuss the details of the meeting in public," he added.

Rahul first met the senior leaders and followed it by a meeting with the Congress legislators, women's wing and Student wing, said sources.

Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Niranjan Patnaik said that the meeting was convened to discuss on measures to strengthen the party organization in State as it has been receiving repeated drubbings in elections.

Though he said he will think seriously to take up the

charge, he thanked those who are understood to have proposed his name as a replacement for PCC Chief Prasad Mr. Harichandan.

"I thank them for their support, but I would think a hundred times before accepting the responsibility," he had said.

However, Congress Chief Whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati has been consistently demanding a change in the party leadership.

He also held discussion with Rahul Gandhi in this connection. All most all the Lawmakers are in favour of Niranjan taking over the reins of the party, which is facing rout in the State due to poor leadership.

Decks cleared for Tiruchy airport runway expansion

TIRUCHY (KCN): After a long wait, the State government has granted administrative sanction for the extension of runway at Tiruchy International Airport. A total of 346 acres covering two villages have been identified for acquisition. Once the land is acquired, the current runway will be extended to a total length of 12,500 ft

and would be ideal for the touchdown of wide-bodied aircraft, marking a significant improvement in the development of the airport.

Though Tiruchy airport gained international status five years ago, the short runway proved to be a hindrance for further development of the airport. Due to short runway, only

narrow-body aircraft could be operated. At 8,136 ft, the airport has the shortest runway among the top 15 tier-II city airports in the country. While the runway at the Cochin International Airport is 11,155 ft, it is 11,808 ft in Ahmedabad and 10,007 in Visakhapatnam airports. Delhi has a 13,534 ft runway. **See Page-7**

Reshuffle raises resentment

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Though the BJD

and Mayurbhanj districts have no repre-

us eradicate the regional imbalance," said Dibyashankar.

Former Minister and a wannabe Minister Padmanabh Behera reportedly expressed his irritation in a diplomatic manner being denied a berth in Ministry.

Earlier Mr. Behera was very powerful and influential but after Kandhamal Killings, he has fallen from the grace of BJD Supremo.

He said that BJD workers are unhappy over No representation from the District of Boudh.

The Lawmakers from Jajpur district are totally annoyed over being ignored in the reshuffle. Seven legislators from the district have been winning for the past 18 years.

The current reshuffle should have at least accommodated one leader from the Jajpur district, said a law maker adding that the reshuffle has not been done in a proper manner.

BJD Spokesperson Pratap Kesari Deb said that those who feel disappointed might be given other responsibilities by the party supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The opposition Congress and BJP have taken the issue seriously and found an opportunity to take on the ruling party.

Leader of opposition Naraingha Mishra has criticised the government for not giving adequate representation to the western Odisha.

BJP also came down heavily on the government and ridiculed the BJD over the reshuffle.



MPs were making noise since some times, the MLAs were almost silent and calm.

However, the Sunday's Ministry reshuffle has caused resentment among a section of Treasury Bench Lawmakers who have openly expressed displeasure over the manner in which the ministers were taken in.

After being ignored for a Ministerial berth some of the well known MLAs have openly expressed their disappointment.

In the biggest ever reshuffle in the history of the Governing BJD, there has been a conspicuous oversight of regional balance.

No leaders from the four big districts of Western Odisha Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sambalpur and Sundergarh have been inducted into the Ministry, sparking resentment in the rank and file of the governing party.

Similarly, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Nayagarh, Angul, Kandhamal Rayagada, Malkangiri, Gajapati

Election Commission refuses to accept 'expose'

AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tues-

EVMs. She had pointed to the BJP's

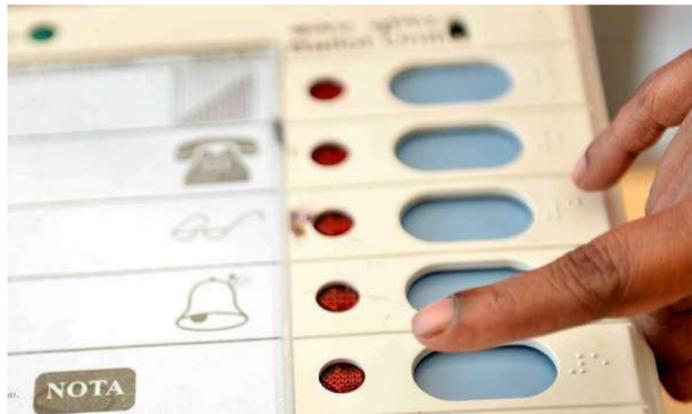
told the Assembly that he had a B Tech

Conducting a mock poll on an EVM machine, Bharadwaj demonstrated how despite giving two votes each to various parties, the finally count showed that the votes of some parties had been transferred to one party.

He said this was possible with a secret code that is assigned to every constituency. Bharadwaj claimed that before voting begins the election officials show that everything is done fairly but after 10 am, they activate the code,

the motherboard. All it takes is 90 seconds. It's outrageous," Bharadwaj said, explaining that a "manipulator" enters the polling booth early into voting and enters a unique secret code that ensures that all votes polled thereafter that would go to a selected candidate.

The AAP Twitter handle also put out a tweet explaining how the votes were cast in the demo, and how the outcome was different. The Election Commission, however, dismissed the claim of the AAP MLA saying that the EVM used for the demonstration was 'invalid'. The EC in its response reportedly said that any EVM that leaves its security zone is no longer an EVM of the EC. Meanwhile, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is expected to speak out on the corruption allegations levelled by his hand-picked leader Kapil Mishra, who was suspended from the party on Monday. Kapil Mishra who usually sits in the front row was seen seated in the last row. Mishra, meanwhile, has knocked on the doors of the CBI and filed three complaints against Kejriwal and his cabinet colleagues.



day at a Special Assembly session of the Delhi Assembly demonstrated how Electronic Voting Machines can be manipulated. He showed how simple it was for an engineering graduate such as himself to rig a voting machine, and challenged scientists to prove him wrong. AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal had blamed the party's loss in Punjab to the rigging of voting machines.

The Election Commission has been claiming that EVMs are tamper-proof and had challenged that it be proven otherwise by parties making allegations about rigging. Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati had also claimed that the BJP's resounding victory in Uttar Pradesh was gained by tampering with

vote share in Muslim majority areas to substantiate her argument that that it would not have been

degree in computer science and that he had worked on microprocessors and micro-controllers,



Saurabh Bharadwaj shows LIVE demo of EVM tampering

	Actual votes	EVM Result
AAP	10	2
BSP	2	2
BJP	3	11
Cong	2	2
SP	2	2

possible for the safe-front party to get that many votes in those areas, if not for EVM fraud.

Bharadwaj, who

said, "An ordinary engineering graduate like me can manipulate an EVM by working on it for just 10 to 15 days."

which ensures that all votes cast thereafter would go to a particular candidate.

"All it takes to rig an EVM is to change

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Jennifer Lawrence's next to have 'Hard R' rating?

Mumbai(KCN): It seems like Jennifer leap from the fantasy world to the real world. According to the Hollywood Reporter,



Lawrence is taking a world. the new footage of

the flick 'Red Sparrow,' shown at a special Fox event, highlighted the adult nature of the film.

The director, Francis Lawrence, told during the event that this movie is definitely going to be R. He also revealed that when he pitched the idea of his approach for the movie, nobody chickened out or got cold feet, everyone was up for it. 'It is a Hard R.'

The film, which also stars Joel Edgerton, Jeremy Irons, Matthias Schoenaerts, Mary Louise Parker and Charlotte Rampling, sees Lawrence reuniting with her 'Hunger Games' director.

The film is heavy on sex, with the Oscar-winning actress' character trained to seduce the individuals deemed as enemies of the Russian state.

Talking about working with the 'Passengers' star, he said, she was willing to take some risks in this movie, but might not have been willing to do for somebody she didn't know.

While Lawrence revealed that there was just one week's worth of shooting left to do, with production taking place across Europe and now in London.

'Red Sparrow' is due for a release in March 2018.



Beyonce's announcement of her pregnancy was one of the most talked about topics in recent weeks.



'How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?': 40 funny quotes about France and the French

Raabta: Sushant Singh Rajput and Kriti Sanon are raising the temperatures with every new still, see pic

Sushant Singh Rajput and Kriti Sanon's on-screen chemistry is the highlight of their upcoming film Raabta and this has been proved in the film's trailer so far. Sushant and Kriti are currently promoting the film in different cities.



Both have been teasing their fans with various stills from the movie. Raabta team today shared a new pic from the film and it's another proof of Sushant-Kriti's chemistry. Raabta's official Twitter handle shared the look and captioned the picture as, "Happiness looks gorgeous when #ShivAndSaira is together. ? @kritisanon @itsssr #DineshVijay @MaddockFilms @TSeries." Going by the picture, one can see Sushant Singh and Kriti enjoying each other's company.



Bollywood Actress Preeti Jhangiani and Rahul roy are expected to act in upcoming Odia film Gangster with Arindam Roy in the lead, Gangster directed by Tanmay Patra, produced by Jagat Ranjan Mangaraj under the banner Sai Vinayak Entertainment. Along with Preethi and Rahul Roy, Mahabharats Yudhishtra – Gajendra Chouhan would also perform in this movie. For complete list of cast crew and other details of Gangster

Gigi and Bella Hadid join anti-Trump rally

NEW YORK(KCN): Models and sisters Gigi and Bella Jordanian-American, Muslim and of Palestinian descent, were "We are all Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Atheists, Christians, coloured knit turtle-neck which cropped jacket. They were joined by their mum



Hadid took to the streets here against US President Donald Trump's ban on entry of citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. When marching down a blocked-off roadway, they held up a sign which read: Jews." Certain key letters from each denomination written in the protest sign were highlighted to spell out: "We are all humans." Bella flashed her tummy in a cream above her pants. She donned a pair of skintight jeans and sneakers. Gigi sported a cropped pair of denim with a red stripe on the sides, completing her look with a red puffer Yolanda Hadid at the rally. It's not the first time Gigi has expressed her political views. Earlier, she voiced her support for a Women's March in Washington.

Passenger vehicle sales in top gear; grow by 15 percent in domestic market in April

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Passenger vehicle sales in India started the new fiscal 2017-18 in top gear posting 14.68 per cent growth in April, propelled by robust performance from

ment during the last month.

"Factors like commissioning of new manufacturing plants, new model launches led to strong growth in the passenger vehicle segment

growth forecast of 10-12 per cent for the PV segment.

Last month, MSI continued its domination of the domestic PV space selling 1,44,081 units at a growth of 23.10 per

"In two-wheelers segment, scooters are doing pretty well.

In fact, even in rural areas, people are increasingly going in for scooters," Sen said.

Motorcycle sales

April were at 5,86,886 units compared to 4,68,368 units in the previous fiscal, up 25.3 per cent.

Segment leader HMSI posted sales of 3,68,550 units during the month as against 2,63,324 in April 2016, up 39.96 per cent.

Chennai-based TVS Motor Co posted a growth of 31.4 per cent in its domestic scooter sales at 79,443 units as against 60,455 units sold in April 2016, becoming the number two player in the category.

Hero MotoCorp dropped to third position with sale of 63,746 scooters during the month, as compared to 83,506 units in the same period of last year, down 23.66 per cent.

Sales of commercial vehicles were down 22.93 per cent to 41,490 units in April, SIAM said.

The drop in sales in the segment during the last month was biggest since January 2009 when sales had declined by around 67 per cent.

"After-effects of demonetisation still remain in the segment. Besides, there has been a pre-buy in the months of February and March due to the coming into force of BS IV emission norms from April," Sen said.

Vehicle sales across categories registered an increase of 6.82 per cent to 20,30,476 units from 19,00,848 units in April 2016.



market leader Maruti Suzuki India.

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), domestic passenger vehicles (PV) sales rose to 2,77,602 units in April from 2,42,060 units in the same month last year.

Domestic car sales posted the biggest monthly growth in one-and-a-half years at 17.36 per cent to 1,90,788 units as against 1,62,566 units in April last year. The previous highest growth in the segment was recorded in October 2015 when sales grew by 21.8 per cent.

Mini segment cars and compact sedans led sales growth in passenger cars segment

during the month," SIAM Deputy Director General Sugato Sen told reporters here.

Elaborating further, he said the segment saw a push mainly due to Maruti growing over 23 per cent during the month as supplies commenced from parent Suzuki's Gujarat plant leading the firm to also de-congest production at its other facilities as well.

MSI had received a total of 10,000 units from its parent Suzuki's Gujarat-based plant in 2016-17. This fiscal, the company expects supply of around 1.5 lakh units.

Despite a bright start to the new fiscal, SIAM, however stuck to its earlier

cent.

Rival Hyundai Motor India was a distant second with 44,758 units at a growth of 5.68 per cent followed by home grown Mahindra & Mahindra in the third spot with 19,325 units, down 14.7 per cent.

Honda Cars India overtook Tata Motors to take the fourth spot with 14,480 units, up 38.09 per cent, while Tata Motors sold 14,066 units during the month, up 15.01 per cent.

In the two-wheeler segment, total sales in April increased by 7.34 per cent to 16,74,796 units compared to 15,60,308 units in the year-ago month.

were up marginally at 10,29,972 units as against 10,24,895 units a year earlier.

Market leader Hero MotoCorp sold 5,21,909 units during April as compared to 5,17,019 in the previous fiscal -- a marginal increase.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) overtook Bajaj Auto to occupy the second spot with bike sales of 1,83,182 units last month as against 1,50,711 units in the same month of the previous fiscal, a growth of 21.54 per cent.

Bajaj Auto posted sales of 1,61,930 units as against 2,00,433 units in April 2016, down 19.2 per cent.

Scooter sales in

while Amritsar one is 12,001 ft.

"An office will be set up to monitor the entire land acquisition process, for which surveyors and officers would be appointed," said Tiruchy airport director K Gunasekaran.

Of the total 510.30 acres, 164.68 acres fall in the defence category. Leaving out those 164 acres, the remaining will be available for development. The delinking of defence land would help focus on the remaining area.

Of the total 346.32 acres spread across Nathamavadipatti and Kizhakalkandarkottai, an area of 116.66 acres, considered to be wetland, was the subject of controversy. The remaining were all poromboke and arid lands. Based on the survey for land acquisition, compensation would be provided by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to the landowners.

Once the required infrastructure is made available, Tiruchy airport could be on par with the Chennai International Airport.

During Cyclone Vardah and floods, all flights were diverted to Bengaluru from Chennai. Tiruchy can be an alternative after runway expansion.

New Delhi (KCN): Indian economy, india economic growth fy17, india gdp growth 2017, indian economy un predictions, un escap, united nations, asian development bank, international monetary fund, imf, un economic social commission asia pacific, india news, indian express

"Meanwhile, inflation is projected to reach 5.3-5.5 per cent in 2017 and 2018, which is somewhat above the official target of 4.5-5 per cent."

The Indian economy will grow 7.5 per cent next year by virtue of consumption revival and higher

infrastructure spending, says a report by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). For 2017, India's economic growth is projected stable at 7.1 per cent before catapulting to 7.5 per cent going into the next year, the regional development arm of the United Nations said. This forecast is "underpinned by higher private and public consumption and increased infrastructure spending," the report said.

The International Monetary Fund last month projected India's growth at 7.2

per cent in the fiscal 2017-18 and at 7.7 per cent for the next financial year. While, the Manila-headquartered Asian Development Bank sees growth jumping to 7.4 per cent in 2017-18 and 7.6 per cent in the next. Even at this rate, India will continue to clock a better growth than China, which is expected to grow at around 6.5 per cent in 2017. "Meanwhile, inflation is projected to reach 5.3-5.5 per cent in 2017 and 2018, which is somewhat above the official target of 4.5-5 per cent," the ESCAP said.

A heightened financial sector risk

SBI to raise funds via FPO/QIPs; to appoint six merchant bankers

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The country's largest lender SBI today said it plans to raise funds from capi-

discretion and the decision of the shareholders," SBI said in a public notice.

The bank said it

government will continue to support public lenders based on requirements as was announced by the Fi-



tal markets in the current fiscal but did not specify the amount.

State Bank of India, which last month merged with itself five associate banks and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank, will raise funds through follow-on public offer/qualified institutional placement to expand business.

It has sought applications from merchant bankers for managing the issue.

"The bank intends to tap capital markets via a QIP/FPO. The issue size may vary based on various factors including but not limited to management

proposes to select and appoint up to 6 merchant bankers with requisite experience who together will be designated as Book Running Lead Managers (BRLMs). SBI has already taken board approval for raising up to Rs 15,000 crore through various means public offer and overseas issuance of shares during the current fiscal. In a stock exchange filing, the bank said a general meeting of the shareholders of SBI will be held on June 15 to elect four Directors to the Central Board of the bank.

Meanwhile, the

Royal Bank of Scotland to cut 334 jobs, offshore more jobs to India: Unite Union

LONDON(KCN): British lender Royal Bank of Scotland plans to cut 334 jobs and offshore more jobs to India, the Unite Union said on Tuesday.

The tax payer-backed bank plans to cut jobs within technology in areas including Finance Solutions, Risk Solutions, Natwest Markets Technology and Digital Engineering Services, among others, Unite said in a statement calling the cuts "unjustified".

"Unite cannot

understand how RBS, which continues to be taxpayer backed, can justify hundreds more staff cuts and continue transferring important work out of the country," Rob MacGregor, Unite national officer, said.

trend and a rebound in 2010. "The region's export-oriented economic growth strategy is under pressure amid prolonged weakness in external demand and global trade," the report said. "China is both a transmitter and a source of the current economic slowdown, given its role as a hub in global value chains and it rebalanced towards consumption and services," it said. Although, the region's growth is commendable despite a modest recent past, given a struggling global economy, it added. For all the latest India News, download Indian Express App now

IPL: Mumbai elect to bat against Hyderabad

NEW DELHI(KCN): Indian pacer

ets. Goswami, play-

career tally to 181 wickets.

pacer is the all-time leading wicket-taker

award, followed by Arjuna Award in



Jhulan Goswami has become the leading wicket-taker in Women's One Day Internationals (ODI) going past Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick record of 180 wick-

ing his 153rd ODI against South Africa Women during the ongoing Women's Quadrangular Series in South Africa on Tuesday, took three wickets to take her

Fitzpatrick, who had taken 180 wickets in 109 matches, had retired in 2007.

With 271 International wickets across all formats, the 34-year-old Indian

in women's cricket.

Goswami made her ODI debut against England in 2002.

In 2007, she won ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year

2010 and two years later she won the prestigious Padma Shri.

Currently, she ranks second in ODI Rankings for Bowlers.

Enough evidence against Sharjeel Khan, Khalid Latif on spot-fixing: PCB

KARACHI(KCN): The legal advisor of the Pakistan Cricket

had all undergone forensic testing and were enough to con-

both players have said that the PCB has insufficient evi-

Nawaz's call up is said to be related to an incident in

sisted that he had not met a bookmaker but the bookmaker had

employees of the board.

The tribunal is



Board (PCB) Tafazzul Rizvi has said that there is enough evidence against Pakistani batsmen Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif on spot-fixing and other charges.

Rizvi said in an interview that the "available evidence in the form of telephone conversations, messages etc

vince the tribunal, formed to hear the spot-fixing charges, to take action against the players".

He felt that the two players were trying to misguide the tribunal.

"They are trying to use legal terms to save themselves and misguiding the tribunal," said Rizvi.

The lawyers of

dence against their clients but Rizvi insisted that the evidence was strong and enough to hand over punishments to the players.

The PCB's Anti-Corruption Unit, meanwhile, has also summoned Pakistani allrounder Muhammad Nawaz for questioning on May 11.

Australia when Pakistan was touring there last winter.

The sources within the board say that the spot-fixing case could take an interesting turn when Pakistani Test opener Nasir Jamshed will record his statement to the ACU on skype from London. Rizvi also said that Latif in-

met him.

"Even if the bookmaker met him why didn't he report this immediately to the authorities and this in itself is a punishable offense under the anti-corruption code," he added.

The lawyer for Latif has raised the objection that all three members of the tribunal were former

headed by retired Justice Asghar Haider, who worked as legal advisor for the PCB, former Test captain Wasim Bari, who has worked in various capacities in the board.

The third member is Lt General (retd) Tauqir Zia, who was Chairman of the board between 1999 and 2003.

Can't force estranged couple to settle: SC on Leander Paes, Rhea Pillai

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme Court today said it cannot force ace tennis player Leander Paes and his estranged live-in partner Rhea Pillai to arrive at a settlement in a maintenance case, even after having accorded them in-chamber hearing.

Favouring that another bench should hear the matter, a bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Amitava Roy made the observation after Paes and Pillai insisted that no settlement was possible among them. "We can't force the parties for a settlement. It is not possible to say anything at this stage. We tried our best to persuade the parties while hearing them in-chamber," the bench said.

The bench said

that after according the parties in-chamber hearing earlier this year, it would not be appropriate for them to hear the matter on merit. "It will be better if another bench hears this matter as we have accorded in-chamber hearing to the parties. List the matter before another bench on July 18," the bench said.

When the matter was first taken up for hearing this morning, both parties told the bench that they had certain proposals. The court then asked them to exchange it among themselves and posted the matter for hearing later today.

In the afternoon, when the matter was again taken up for hearing, counsel for Pillai told the bench that she has asked Paes for a house but he was not agreeable to it. Paes's counsel on other hand said that Pillai has already got a house from Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt (her former husband) and the tennis star was not ready for such a demand. "He (Paes) is not agreeable to anything. He doesn't want to give anything. He doesn't want to pay money," Pillai's counsel said.

To this, the bench said it cannot force the parties for settlement and the matter would be now heard on merit. The apex court had earlier asked the couple, who have a daughter out of their live-in relationship, to settle the dispute amicably out of court. Pillai had approached the apex court for maintenance under the Domestic Violence Act.

Paes had opposed the plea of Pillai saying he was not married to her. The couple have been locked in a legal battle over maintenance and custody of their 11-year-old daughter since 2014, when Pillai filed a case of domestic violence and harassment against Paes and his father. Pillai had challenged a Bombay High Court order by which it had refused to grant any relief in the dispute.

The High Court had also asked the couple to sit down together and work out an amicable solution. However, they had failed to arrive at a settlement. After getting divorce from actor Sanjay Dutt, Pillai had moved in with Paes and was in a live-in relationship.

I have lost weight, worked on my weaknesses: Mohammed Shami

NEW DELHI(KCN) : Two years is long hiatus from limited overs cricket and a fit-again Mohammed Shami is ready to come out all guns blazing in the upcoming Champions Trophy in England from June 1. Shami last played for India in an ODI, back in 2015 World Cup and it will be a fresh start in the 50-over cricket.

"Two years is a long time to be out of ODI squad. In these two years, I have focussed on my strength and fitness. I have also worked on my weaknesses. I have got leaner. I am hopeful that I can perform well in the upcoming Champions Trophy. I want to give my best shot," Shami

said after being named in the Champions Trophy squad.

Shami who plays for Delhi Daredevils in the Indian Premier League, feels that IPL games will be great match practice in the tune up to the marquee event. "IPL is a good platform for me wherein I will be getting 8-10 matches before going to the international tournament." Delhi Daredevils captain Zaheer Khan's presence has been of great help as his insights has helped Shami become a better bowler. "Obviously, when you speak to former players, you get valuable tips. If you speak to Zaheer, there is something or the other that emerges," he said.