

## Normalcy returns Bhadrak Naveen raises river Woes

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The situation in Bhadrak town is gradually limping to

sector officer each. The sector officers were held accountable if some unto-

no spread of rumor which escalated tension in earlier days.

A team of CB's

opened during the curfew relaxation period.

The curfew,

and colleges and government offices open tomorrow and arrangements have been made to ensure availability of essential items like milk, vegetables and eggs, he said.

People queued up at shops to purchase provisions, the police said adding the curfew would continue for some more time.

Social Media platforms remained blocked after the state government restricted access to them in Bhadrak town and nearby areas for 48 hours from last night to prevent rumours from spreading, a senior official said. State Chief Secretary AP Padhi, who has directed the Crime Branch to probe the rumors circulated through social media, said no rumor monger would be allowed to instigate people and escalate tension.

A senior official said Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel had yesterday staged flag march in sensitive areas.

Besides, three companies of RAF and two companies of CRPF, 35 platoons of police (around 1,200 personnel) have been deployed to maintain law and order in the town.

### Plan for livestock

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi today suggested aligning the National Livestock Mission with State Livelihood Mission.

His suggestion came at the State Level Executive Committee Meeting of the National Livestock Mission at State Secretariat here.

Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Department Secretary Bishnupada Sethi presented a Rs 25.33 crore Action Plan for 2017-18 fiscal.

The meeting decided to extend financial support to 17,000 below poverty line (BPL) families in setting up of backyard poultry farms.

According to sources, the State Government will provide financial assistance to about 17,000 BPL families for backyard poultry farms. Each household will be provided with Rs 2250 to buy

**New Delhi (KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reiterated his serious concerns on the implementation of inter-State water projects including the Polavaram project and the ongoing construction activities in the upper catchment areas of River Mahanadi in Chhattisgarh.

Raising the issue at the 11th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-

demand of the Union Government made to the States for reimbursing the cost on account of CAPF deployment is totally unjustified.

He urged upon the Centre to ensure equitable distribution of funds, logistic support and deployment of Central Forces and to bear the expenditure on their deployment.

The Chief Minister informed that Odisha has already

taken in the GST Council meeting to use the proceeds of the clean environment cess for GST Compensation Fund, meant for all States, is clearly disadvantageous to coal bearing States like Odisha which have to bear the huge burden of environmental degeneration and the cost of rehabilitation.

He urged upon the Union Government to earmark 60 per cent of the clean



normalcy as the Odisha Police have so far arrested 80 mischief mongers on charge of escalating tension.

Principal Secretary Home, Asit Tripathy's multi-pronged strategy has started giving results which is evident from the fact that no major violence took place during last 24 hours.

Mr. Tripathy rushed to the Troubled Zone and worked out strategy with DGP K B Singh.

Besides deploying armed Police Forces in crucial points, Mr. Tripathy has divided the entire Bhadrak town into five different sectors and appointed one

ward incident took place in their jurisdiction.

Each sector is covered with three-layer security like static deployment, mobile patrolling with magistrate and quick action team.

However, despite several measures, the miscreants could succeed in setting fire on three shops at Bant Chhak.

A mischief monger reportedly threw a burning cycle tyre from atop the fly over at Bant Chhak leading to fire in three shops located near the fly-over.

This apart, Special DGP, Crime, B K Sharma has also ensured that there was

cyber cell today reached Bhadrak and verified the source of rumor messages.

Curfew was relaxed for six hours today in Bhadrak today. People were happily purchased vegetables, and other food items during the "No Curfew Hours".

DGP Mr. Singh said the Police have arrested 80 people and registered eight cases in connection with the arson and violence that took place in the town.

He said the situation was "fully under control" and normalcy was restored in the town as shops, markets, business establishments, offices, ATMs and banks



State Council here today, Mr. Patnaik stated that the Union Government has not adopted principles of fairplay in declaring Polavaram as a National project and in assigning the task of taking decisions on contentious issues between the two States to a functionary of Polavaram project.

He urged the Union Government to discontinue the Polavaram project and constitute a Tribunal at the earliest to resolve the Mahanadi water dispute, and in the interim, stop all ongoing construction activities in Mahanadi basin in Chhattisgarh for protecting the livelihood of the people of Odisha. Concluding his observations,

The Chief Minister hoped that the specific concerns of Odisha and common issues concerning all States as raised by him will receive due consideration of the august Committee and the Union Government, in the true spirit of cooperative federalism.

Mr. Patnaik further expressed his concern at the demand of the Union Government's thrust on the Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected States for reimbursement of the cost of deployment of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

He stated that the threat of LWE Meance is a national challenge and is one of the biggest internal security threats faced by the Nation and the

furnished a consolidated response on the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission and has agreed to 136 recommendations, disagreed with 55 and conveyed conditional acceptance to 48 recommendations.

He stated that Odisha fully supports the recommendations of the Commission aimed at strengthening the autonomy of the States including defining the role of Governor and underlined that it should be our common endeavour to retain the constitutional integrity of our federal structure which provides for clear division of powers between the Union and the States.

Mr. Patnaik conveyed specific views of the State government on each recommendation contained in Volume-II and on various issues relating to Financial Relations between Centre and states, provided in Volume-III of the Report.

He pointed out that Odisha has a high percentage of population below poverty line and belonging to ST and SC and deserves the same sharing pattern at par with the North Eastern and Himalayan States.

Chief Minister said that this demand of the State is in line with the Punchhi Commission recommendation for higher Central transfers to backward States for improving their physical and human infrastructure.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that the decision

environment cess for the coal bearing States.

Mr. Patnaik said that poor telecommunication connectivity including lower bandwidth, low financial inclusion and a lower bank credit, continue to remain major concerns of Odisha.

He informed that 28 per cent of the villages in the State do not have any mobile coverage; 70 percent of gram panchayats in Odisha do not have any bank branch; and the Credit-GSDP ratio at 24.75 percent is abysmally low, and impressed upon the Union Government to address these critical deficiencies urgently, to realise the goals of Digital India and balanced economic and social development.

Chief Minister informed the Standing Committee that the State Government has assured to provide land and part finance many railway projects for connecting hinterland Maoist affected areas and urged upon the Centre to support these projects with adequate funding including the proposed Malkangiri-Jeypore and Jeypore-Nabarangpur Rail projects.

He urged that the Union Government should provide adequate funds in the Union Budget for ordinary repair and periodical renewal of National Highways passing through Odisha, many of which are in a state of disrepair.



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**WATCH: 'Half Girlfriend' film trailer released**

The movie trailer based on Chetan Bhagat's book 'Half Girlfriend' is finally out.

'Half Girlfriend' is directed by Mohit Suri, produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ekta Kapoor and it stars Arjun Kapoor, as Madhav and Shraddha Kapoor as Riya, the lead characters.

The film looks at the 'grey area' in relationships today; the



in-between space, between two people and is set in Delhi, Patna and New York.

Based on Chetan Bhagat's novel of the same name, the movie also features actress Amy Jackson and Seema Biswas. After 'Two States', this is the second film based on Chetan Bhagat's books to have Arjun Kapoor as the protagonist.

The film is set to release on May 19.

**Kangana Ranaut turns down Fashion 2?**

According to sources, recently Madhur Bhandarkar visited Kangana Ranaut with the script of Fashion 2. The actress is said to have not liked the script and she chose to be not part of the film.

More than two years back it was reported that Bhandarkar is planning a sequel to his hit film, Fashion and a top actress will be roped in soon for the lead role.

The original Fashion, which had Priyanka Chopra and Kangana in pivotal



roles was successful at box office and was appreciated by critics too.

Now that Kangana has turned down the film, we wonder if

Bhandarkar will approach Peecee (Priyanka Chopra) or is she too out of his reach now?

**Dilip Kumar says he is doing fine, thanks fans**

The actor also thanked Punjab Association for honouring him with a lifetime achievement award.

The post was accompanied by pictures of him receiving the award.

The post was accompanied by pictures of him receiving the award.

Mumbai: Veteran actor Dilip Kumar says he doing fine now and has thanked his fans for being by his side.

There were



rumours that the 94-year-old star was not keeping well and earlier this month the legendary actor's wife Saira Banu

took to his official Twitter account to give an update on his health.

"God's grace and your prayers with

me. I am much better. Slight discomfort and an irritating back pain (sic)," the latest tweet on Kumar's Twitter handle reads.

**Scott Disick needs to be consistent: Kourtney Kardashian**

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian wants her on and off partner Scott Disick to be "consistent" before she agrees to give their romance another try.

Kourtney and Scott, who have three children together, called time on their relationship in 2015,

"Keeping Up With The Kardashians", Kourtney said: "I've told him, I'm living my life and you're working on you. You've never been better, but you're so inconsistent. I need to see if you can be consistent." Her comments came after a clip which was broadcast last week



and have since then made various attempts to reconcile.

She says she is not prepared to get back with him again until she is convinced he has completely given up his partying lifestyle, reports online.com.

Speaking on the Sunday night episode

as the preview for the episode, in which Scott said he is still in love with Kourtney.

"I feel like I will never be over her. She's the love of my life, but I just try to do everything to be there for her, but there's literally no appreciation for anything ever," he said.



**Medha Ghosh**

Another Ollywood actress Riya, who is also ruling the silver screen with her fascinating acting and appealing physique, is not behind to other actors when it comes to remuneration. Ollywood industry sources said Riya is getting above Rs 8 lakh for an Odia movie.

# Softbank-backed Ola ramps up electric vehicles push in India

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Indian ride-hailing firm Ola, backed by Japan's Softbank Group, is preparing for a large-scale rollout of electric vehicles by next year even as it runs trials on the viability of the business model, Chief Executive Bhavish Aggarwal said.

Ola will pilot a few thousand electric vehicles in several Indian cities this year and, "after that we will be scaling it up in a major way," Aggarwal said in an interview on Friday.

The company will also invest in setting up charging sta-

tions in the pilot cities, he said, without



saying how much Ola would invest in its electrification drive.

Ola's push comes as sales of electric vehicles in India have remained slow, despite government incentives to curb pollution.

In the year ended March 2016, 22,000

electric vehicles were sold in India, whereas

Softbank. In December, Softbank Group chairman Masayoshi Son said Ola may introduce one million electric vehicles in India over the next five years, according to local media reports.

"We're able to leverage their (Softbank's) network and scale of operations around the world," Aggarwal said, adding that Ola was also talking to automakers globally about strategic tie-ups.

In India's \$12 billion taxi market where Ola vies with ride-hailing giant Uber, the push into electric vehicles is also a way for the Indian start-up to lower the cost of car ownership, once battery

sales of conventionally fuelled vehicles crossed 20 million units in the same period.

India is targeting 6 million electric vehicles on the road by 2020, but high battery costs, a lack of charging stations and the limited range of the vehicles is still a deterrent.

Aggarwal, however, has the backing of one of Ola's biggest investors -

ply management will play a critical role in staving off pressures on headline inflation, it added. RBI further said that a prominent risk could emanate from managing the implementation of the allowances recommended by the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC).

Also, upside risk arises from the one-off effects of the GST, said the policy statement. The new indirect tax regime is likely to be implemented from July 1. On the downside, RBI said international crude prices have been easing recently and their pass-through to domestic prices of petroleum products should alleviate pressure on headline inflation.

A proactive sup-

costs start to come down.

The company is expected to be profitable in 18-24 months, Aggarwal said.

## LEAP OF FAITH

In the next few weeks the first wave of electric vehicles under Ola's pilot scheme, including two-wheelers, rickshaws and cars, will roll out in the southern state of Telangana and Nagpur city in central India.

The main challenge for Ola is the lack of charging stations and the limited range of vehicles given taxis travel about 150-200 km daily.

Aggarwal said for the pilot Ola was using modified versions of existing models, but its goal

remained to operate a vehicle for an entire day without a recharge and it is working with automakers to co-design such vehicles.

For the pilot, where infrastructure is inadequate Ola will invest in setting up charging stations but for the longer term it is talking to power and fuel companies to form partnerships.

Charging stations would include a battery swapping facility for some vehicles and quick recharges for others, Aggarwal said.

"We're taking a leap of faith ... The economics are still not there so we're taking a bit of a risk," said Aggarwal, alluding to Ola's investment in the pilot.

Failing to act tough with Toshiba would bring into question authorities' credibility in maintaining standards for investors but a delisting would complicate the crisis engulfing the firm, increasing financing costs and exposing it to further lawsuits from angry shareholders.

Toshiba executives are set to hold a news conference at 0945 GMT.

Accountants have been questioning the numbers at U.S. nuclear subsidiary Westinghouse Electric Co, where massive cost overruns at four nuclear reactors under construction in the Southeastern United States have forced its Japanese parent to estimate a \$9 billion annual net loss and take drastic measures.

PwC is questioning not only recent results but also probing the books at Westinghouse for the business year through March 2016, sources have said, declining to be identified as they were not authorised to speak on the matter publicly.

Toshiba has put up its prized memory chip unit and other assets for sale, Westinghouse has filed for Chapter 11 protection from creditors and may also be sold.

The company

also said on Tuesday it was considering an initial public offering for smart meter group Landis + Gyr. Reuters last month reported that it was preparing a potential \$2 billion divestment of the Swiss-based business.

The decision on whether to delist Toshiba or not now rests with the bourse. Toshiba has been on its supervision list since mid-March after failing to clear up concerns about its internal controls a year and a half after a 2015 accounting scandal.

There are no set rules governing how long the bourse should take to come to a conclusion.

Separately, Taiwan's Foxconn has offered up to 3 trillion yen (\$27 billion) for the chip business, nearly \$10 billion higher than Toshiba's own estimate, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Such a proposal by Foxconn would also put Japanese regulators in a tough position as they have vowed to vet bidders to block a sale to investors it deems a risk to national security.

Foxconn is considered such a risk because of its close ties to China.

Japan's trade minister Hiroshige Seko repeated on Tuesday that Toshiba's chip technology was important, not only for Japan's growth strategy, but also in terms of jobs and information security.

"For those reasons, we continue to carefully monitor Toshiba's business conditions and sale of its chip business," Seko said. Toshiba declined to comment on its chips business and Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry, also declined to comment.

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## RBI projects inflation to rise to 5 percent

**MUMBAI(KCN):** The Reserve Bank today projected retail inflation to increase to 5 per cent in the second half of the current fiscal citing risks of El Nino impacting the monsoon and one-off effects of the Goods and Services Tax.

"For 2017-18, inflation is projected to average 4.5 per cent in the first half of the year and 5 per cent in the second half," said the RBI's first bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2017-18. Risks are evenly balanced around the inflation trajectory at the current juncture and there are upside risks to the baseline projection, it said.

A proactive sup-

## Wall Street down after weak jobs, Fed comments on banks balance sheet, Syria airstrikes

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street's three major indexes edged lower on Friday in a choppy session as investors grappled with a weaker-than-expected job report, the U.S. airstrike in Syria and a top Federal Reserve official's comments on trimming the U.S. central bank's balance sheet.

Investors were trying to work out how the developments would affect U.S. President Donald Trump's ability to proceed with his pro-business agenda.

The market rallied sharply after Trump's Nov. 8 election on his promises for tax cuts, spending and lighter regulation, but investors increasingly have been questioning whether the proposals would ever materialise.

"You had so many confusing things happening today. The employment number was certainly surprising. The U.S. airstrike was surprising. People were trying to figure out what that meant," said Rick Meckler, president of investment firm

LibertyView Capital Management in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 6.85 points, or 0.03 per cent, at 20,656.1, the S&P 500 lost 1.95 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 2,355.54 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 1.14 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 5,877.81.

All three indexes ended slightly lower for the week. Six of the S&P's 11 major sectors ended down on the day.

U.S. employers added about 98,000

jobs in March, the fewest since last May and well below economists' expectation of 180,000, as bad weather hit construction hiring. However, wage growth edged up and unemployment fell.

New York Fed President William Dudley on Friday shed more light on the U.S. central bank's developing plan for when to stop replacing bonds that expire in its portfolio, how to execute it, and how far it would ultimately shrink its balance sheet.

U.S. Treasury yields rose after Dudley's remarks, which helped push equities lower, according to Paul Zensky, chief investment officer, Multi-Asset Strategies and Solutions, at Voya Investment Management in New York.

LibertyView's Meckler said Dudley's remarks were not earth-shattering but "small statements are having a magnified affect because investors are worried."

The United States, in a pre-dawn

strike, fired missiles at an airfield from which it said a deadly poison gas attack was launched this week.

In the coming days it "will be interesting to watch to see if (Syria) does grab more attention from the White House and delay some of these other issues and programs they are trying to get passed through here," said Sean Lynch, co-head of global equity strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute in Omaha, Nebraska said.

## Mining group Vedanta completes buyout of Cairn India

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Indian metals and mining group Vedanta Limited said on Tuesday it had completed its buyout of oil and gas explorer Cairn India Ltd, consummating a deal that was delayed for months by investor opposition.

Cairn India said in a separate statement its board had made the merger effective as of Tuesday.

The deal gives Vedanta Limited, the Indian unit of diversified energy group Vedanta Resources PLC, access to Cairn's \$3.5 billion cash pile, boosting its finances. It was delayed due to opposition from some big minority shareholders, leading Vedanta to sweeten



the offer last August. "This merger will increase the appeal of Vedanta Ltd to global

investors as it simplifies the structure and increases the size and free float of the company,"

Vedanta Limited's Chief Executive Tom Albanese said in a statement.

## India to take on Canada in Davis Cup World Group Playoff

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** India will take on Canada in the Davis Cup World Group Playoff in what would be an away tie from September 15 to 17.

"#DavisCup World Group play-off draw: Canada v India in Canada," Davis Cup posted on its official Twitter page.

India have qualified for the playoff after beating Uzbekistan 4-1 in a home tie last week.

The triumph was India's first under non-playing captain Mahesh Bhupathi.

The victory also came without the services of veteran



Leander Paes, dropped from the team for the first time

despite being available, since his Davis Cup debut against Ja-

pan in 1990. Canada, on the other hand, had lost to

Great Britain 2-3 in the World Group first Round in February.

## Sports minister offers to play peacemaker in Leander Paes-Mahesh Bhupathi war

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Sports Minister Vijay Goel today said he will try to sort out



the differences between Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes if he gets a chance to meet the feuding tennis stars.

Bhupathi and Paes were engaged in an ugly public spat during the recently-concluded Davis Cup tie against Uzbekistan.

Paes had accused Bhupathi of being disrespectful towards him by not telling him that he would not be in the playing squad for the tie, while Bhupathi had asserted that he never promised a certain spot to Paes.

"I think it is captain's prerogative how he selects the team. But as far as the spat between the two players, I will meet the players and if there are any differences, I will try to sort them," Goel told reporters.

Asked if the acrimonious episode had taken the sheen off the 4-1 win over Uzbekistan, Goel said: "I don't think so but I would want to meet them and know why there is this pub-

lic view that there is some difference somewhere between the two and I would try to sort it. "But as far as the sport is concerned, I don't think I should interfere because it is the decision of the captain to do what he feels is good for the game."

Goel said India will sign a sports partnership deal with Australia tomorrow.

"I will meet the Australian PM tomorrow and sign the India-Australia sports partnership under which there will be exchange of coaches.

"We will tie up with Canberra and Victoria university and take their help for the National Sports University that we are constructing at Manipur. So there will be an exchange of technical know-how," Goel said.

Former India tennis player Vijay Amritraj today called on the Sports Minister to discuss the roadmap for development of tennis in the country. "I have been meeting a lot of former players after Rio Olympics to understand their views and seek their help in the development of sports. So I met Vijay Amritraj, he is a great tennis player and we discussed how can we help tennis grow in the country," he said.

## Indian women beat Hong Kong 2-0 in Asian Cup Qualifiers



**PYONGYANG(KCN):** After three defeats, the Indian women's football team notched up a consolation win as it beat Hong Kong 2-0 in their final group match of the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers here today.

Sasmita Malik (68th) and Ratanbala Devi (70th) scored as India ended their campaign with this lone win and finished the five-team Group B at fourth position with three points.

India had already crashed out of the tournament after suffering heavy de-

feats at the hands of North Korea, South Korea and Uzbekistan.

India largely dominated the match at the Kim II Sung Stadium but they could not break down the Hong Kong defence often. But they were able to pump in two goals in the later part of the second half to end their campaign on a high.

It was India who carved open the first opportunity of the match in the fifth minute with Ratanbala Devi finding Bala Devi in the

area, but the captain's thundering drive was well saved by Hong Kong custodian Leung Wai Nga.

Hong Kong could have taken the lead seven minutes later after Yiu Hei Man threaded a perfectly timed pass to release Ng Wing Kum only for the midfielder to blast her shot over the bar.

Ratanbala and Bala Devi formed a lively partnership, combining effectively to create another decent chance from the left, before the former squan-

## Better than David Beckham? England swoons over Tottenham's Dele Alli

**LONDON(KCN):** Dele Alli's goal-scoring feats with Tottenham Hotspur were put into perspective by an arresting statistic that emerged after he scored in his side's 4-0 victory over Watford.

Having scored or set up 40 Premier League goals, Alli has had a hand in as many goals before turning 21 as Frank Lampard (15), Steven Gerrard (13) and David Beckham (12) combined.

Alli, who turns 21 on Tuesday, has emerged as the most exciting talent in English football and Chelsea great Lampard believes he

could go on to surpass his Premier League record of 177 goals from midfield.

Alli's opener against Watford on Saturday, a glorious, curling effort from 25 yards, was his 16th in the league this season -- more than any player below 21 in Europe's top five leagues -- and 19th in all competitions.

With Kyle Walker, Eric Dier and Danny Rose also in the first XI, Spurs have a strong English core and Alli demonstrated his attachment to the club by signing a six-year contract in September.

"First of all he is a great kid, a lovely person, and then he is

a great player," says Pochettino.

"And then he is so young he can improve a lot, learn a lot. His potential is massive. But every day he's improving and every day he gets more mature.

"He's improving in his skills, but in his character as well."

Character is one thing Alli does not lack, but his fieriness occasionally spills over into excessive aggression.

He was sent off for swinging a punch into the midriff of West Bromwich Albion's Claudio Jacob last April, landing him a three-game suspension that ended his season.