

## Care for bovine fever Children to read Biju

**Bhubaneswar (K-CN):** Bishnupada Sethi, Secretary Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD) has asked the officials to take immediate steps for prevention of spread of Bovine Brucellosis Disease (Malta Fever) in the State.

As per the norms of Brucellosis Control Program, all CDVOs have been instructed for segregation and cessation of breeding activities of Brucella positive reactors and calf-hood vaccination of crossbred female calves in the age group of 4.8 months as control measures.

A total of 56 serum samples of cattle were found to be positive for Bovine Brucellosis disease in the State after they were tested at the Animal Disease Re-

search Institute, Phulanakhara, Cuttack.



Out of them, 33 samples were from Koraput district only, the ADRI Joint Director reported to FARD Secretary Mr. Sethi recently.

In a letter to Mr. Sethi, the Joint

Director said a total of 2,387 random/RBPT positive bo-

vine serum samples from different districts had been tested at ADRI so far against Bovine Brucellosis by ELISA. Since the incidence of the disease is higher in Koraput,

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**Bhubaneswar (K-CN):** Brave Heart Biju Patnaik will be in the Syllabus of School Children.

They will know that daring Biju Babu and his Pilot wife Gyan Patnaik had once rescued former Prime Minister of Indonesia and had played a major role in the freedom struggle.

The State Government has decided to include the life story of Biju Patnaik in their text books.

School and Mass Education Minister Debi Prasad Mishra said the State Government has planned to include the former Chief Minister's biography in the high school syllabus as part of the State's tribute to the legendary leader on his birth centenary.

Mr. Mishra said inspiring incidents from Biju Patnaik's life will be included in the curriculum from the academic year 2017-18 for students of Class VI to Class X.

The chapters would include the leader's childhood stories, his years of

education, struggles of life and political success and failures, he said.

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Mr. Mishra said Biju Babu's popular stories like his role in India's freedom struggle, the rescue of former Indonesian Prime Minister Sultan Sjahrir, his adventures as a pilot, would all be part of the text books.

Sahitya Akademi Awardee and popular children's writer Das Benhur would pen the stories on Biju Patnaik for the school syllabus.

Apart from Biju Patnaik, the life of other prominent sons

of the soil like Veer Surendra Sai and Netaji Subhash Bose would also be in-

cluded in the syllabus, Mr. Mishra said.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Narasingha Mishra welcoming the State Government's decision of including Biju Babu's life in school books, the life and works of eminent leaders like Nabakrushna Choudhary and Harekrushna Mahtab should also be included in the School Syllabus.

## Demonetisation hits revenue

**Bhubaneswar (K-CN):** With overall revenue collection in the State has nosedived; State Planners are worried over the shortfall. In coming months it is expected to go down, thanks to the low consumption of goods and less utilization of services due to Demonetization Effect, feel senior officials.

While in November as the Government allowed to deposit old currency notes for payment of taxes, somehow situation was saved and Sales Tax, Excise and Taxes on Vehicles registered a positive trend. But collection on Land Revenue, Stamp & Registration nosedived to a great extent, resulting overall negative growth.

While target of

Own Tax Revenue for 2016-17 is Rs.25,700 Crore collection by 30 November was Rs.13,593 Crore, which is nearly 52 Percent of the Target and with hardly four months left, and demonetization impact is being fully felt in the State, achieving the target of revenue collection looks difficult, admits officials.

Sales Tax Collection was Rs.7715 Crore, which received hardly 2.64 Percent growth, where as Excise Revenue registered over 13 Percent growth with a collection of Rs.1732 Crore.

Demonetization has adverse affect on liquor consumption and sale has gone down and it will be difficult to collect Rs.3300 Crore, feel

officials. and Revenue Collection from Motor Tax pegged at Rs.694 Crore registering growth of 12 Percent.

Collection of Stamps and Registration Tax received huge shock with Minus 41 Percent collection of Rs.1075 Crore and Land Revenue Collection also received negative growth of 24 Percent.

On Non Tax Revenue collection front negative growth was registered with Metal Sector resulting in a 23.55 Percent slide than corresponding period of 2015. By 30 November revenue collection from Mining and Metallurgical Sector was only

Rs.2589 Crore and for 2016-17 target is to collect Rs.7000 Crore, which looks a

Herculean task, admits official.

Non Tax Revenue Collection from Metal and Mining Sector is continuously sliding as the market is sluggish since 2014-15 and the State Government officials are worried over the sliding.

Both Tax and Non Tax Revenue collection registered negative growth by 30 November, 2016 as collection was Rs.17,892 Crore, which was Rs.17,967 Crore by end of November, 2015.

While Tax collection has registered negative growth, collection of Share Tax from Centre registered a minor growth of 2.78 Percent as it came to Rs.9957.41 Crore by 30 November, 2016.

However Grants than happy to do that, but I don't think that we are going in the direction which you are suggesting," MEA Joint Secretary (Eurasia) G Srinivas said.

The airbase has been the first and so far the only instance of India developing a foreign military base. However, it is far from being fully operational. **See Page - 7**

from Centre came as saving grace with Rs.9957.41 Crore by 30 November, 2016, which was Rs.8012 Crore during the corresponding period of 2015.

**Bhubaneswar (K-CN):** UNICEF today celebrated the immense contribution it

Prmod Kumar Meherda, Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Director

made for the world's children in the past 70 years and renewed the urgent call to reach millions of children whose lives and futures are endangered by conflict, crisis, poverty, inequality and discrimination.

To mark the Foundation Day, UNICEF Odisha organized an event here that saw participation from prominent personalities. Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority graced the occasion.

Prmod Kumar Meherda, Secretary Health and Family Welfare, Director

children, especially those that are the most marginalized." She further added

Women and Child Development D. Prasanth Kumar Reddy and Chief UNICEF Yumi Bae spoke on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Yumi Bae said, "UNICEF has evolved across seven decades from an agency that provided relief to war-affected European children in the wake of World War II to an organization across 190 nations that works with government and a range of partners to ensure the rights of

children, especially those that are the most marginalized." She further added

change is needed to fuel any kind of good activity and UNICEF has made a lot of

that while we need to keep our to focus to reach the very last child to ensure they survive and thrive, UNICEF today also has to strategically respond to emerging challenges and the risks they may pose to rights of child around the globe - be it climate change or urbanization and technology.

**Keynote Speaker Subroto Bagchi** spoke on the theme of change. "A great needs matching, and colliding force. Transformational

change is needed to fuel any kind of good activity and UNICEF has made a lot of

transformational changes over these golden seven decades," he said.

A photo exhibition displayed glimpses of UNICEF's work globally, in India and Odisha while a short film demonstrating UNICEF's presence and work across decades was also screened on this occasion.

The event was attended by Government officials, legislators, college students, civil society and media.



## Tajik Prez visits India, defence ties to get boost

**NEW DELHI (K-CN):** India would oblige any request for



through Kochi, which is not an offi-

cial part of his visit. The Ayni airbase near Tajikistan's capital

reports. "The Ayni airbase is of Tajikistan and as a strategic partner they have requested earlier for some resources, for example this ALS (Advance Landing System) which was to be replaced, which we did. As and when any such proposal comes to us for helping them out and making it functional, we would be more

than happy to do that, but I don't think that we are going in the direction which you are suggesting," MEA Joint Secretary (Eurasia) G Srinivas said.

The airbase has been the first and so far the only instance of India developing a foreign military base. However, it is far from being fully operational. **See Page - 7**

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# ‘Sonam should’ve got an award for Neerja’

Swara Bhaskar is on a high as she recently won her first award for the year for her film Nil Bhattey Sannata. Swara gets candid about her films, personal life and the kind of equation she shares with her current co-stars Kangana Ranaut and Sonam Kapoor

**How important are awards and recognition for you?**

An award is not so valuable; it is the recognition of your valued work. If you don't win an award it doesn't mean the film was bad and vice versa. Awards do help actors like me. I am an outsider, so it is kind of a recommendation for my work. It adds to my credibility. I don't give undue importance to it, though.

**You were vocal about Sonam not winning an award... I believe that Sonam**

should have won the award for Neerja this year because she deserved it. She was nominated in popular category and the film was one of the most

but I have heard Alia Bhatt was amazing in it; she is a very good actress. Sonam should have got recognition for her outstanding work. Two people can

about friendship, women dealing with their lives, and problems in the context of a wedding. I have to lose some weight for it and I will start diet-

beautiful and I am impressed by how she is doing all her activities like before, in spite of the pregnancy. She is a positive role model for other women. I assume we will start shooting once she delivers her baby.

**Are you planning to tie the knot with**

**Himanshu Sharma?**

There are not plans of marriage in near future; both of us are busy with our work. We haven't had these discussions, but it is being discussed in media. We normally talk about work, what is happening in each other's lives, we discuss story ideas etc. I ask him to help me in rephrasing dialogues; I used to call him a lot during Nil Battey... days, for suggestions.

**Any plans of getting into writing or**

**directing?**

I have written a script, which was selected in Asia Society, new writer's fellowship. I have not attached any producer or director to it. I don't have plan of directing right now, I want to concentrate on acting.

**What are your upcoming films?**

At the moment I am shooting for a untitled film with a new director, Saurabh Sinha. The film is produced by Anand L Rai. It is an urban comedy and it stars Sumeet Vyas along with me. After that I will start Aditya Kriplani's film, it is again a very content high drama. It is an Indie film, it's called Tikli and Laxmi Bomb.



popular films of the year. The entire responsibility of the film was on Sonam's shoulders. Therefore I feel Sonam qualified for the popular category award. I have not seen Udta Punjab,

share an award; I have done it in the past.

**Has your film Veer Di Wedding getting delayed?**

It is very much on, it is starting next year and I am really excited about it. It is a fun film

ing soon. We were doing workshops earlier this year but I don't think there was any major delay. Our workshops and reading sessions were on schedule. Kareena is looking amazingly

## Love stories from Sonagachi

One of India's most successful HIV interventions is currently facing a policy glitch it cannot easily overcome: love affairs.

In Sonagachi, the largest red-light district of South Asia, in the heart of Kolkata, sex is solicited for a price, and the odds of finding an empathetic lover also come with a rider: unprotected sex. For sex workers, the distinction is necessary for specific clients commonly referred to as 'babus' with whom they have an emotional connect. However, for health workers who are working hard to convince the women to insist on condom usage, this is turning out to be a nightmare.

**The babu culture**

As thing stand, the number of HIV positive workers and clients in Sonagachi is at an all-time low, with just over 2 per cent positive cases being reported in 2014, down from 10 per cent in 2005. There are approximately 8,000 commercial sex workers (CSW) here, according to figures put out by the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) which has been working among them for more than two decades. But keeping the gains is proving to be uphill. "I have been informed about risks of unprotected sex by didi (peer educator). But I can't say no to my lover. I also like to be with him without protection," says Saheba Bibi, a 27-year-old CSW with a 10-year work experience as she nervously waited for the results of tests for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD).

Shalini, 30, says that she is scared of losing her lover if she uses does not engage with him without protection. "I am attached to him and there is nothing else

that I can give him. Our conversations also matter... we talk for many hours some times. But sex is important too," she says.

Among the counsellors at Sonagachi, these love affairs are known as the 'babu culture'.

"It is common knowledge that while the sex workers do not solicit a client who does not use condoms any more, they engage with their lovers without protection. Most sex workers have a particular client with whom they engage regularly and they develop a strong feeling of attachment. However, most of these babus have sex with more than one woman, putting both of them at risk of contracting AIDS. We counsel them and encourage the use of condoms despite a love affair," says the counsellor who works with the DMSC.

**Peer educator model**

At the heart of this success story is Dr. Smarajit Jana who, in 1992, initiated a radical intervention programme to control STDs and HIV in Sonagachi. He worked with the Department of Epidemiology, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Kolkata and realised that HIV control is not only about screening and providing condoms but also addressing wider socio-economic challenges. "We asked sex workers to not solicit anyone without use of condoms. But if all women of the red-light area did not agree to it, then the customers would go to those who did not press for condoms. This would put pressure on the others too to earn money. Community or social action had to be initiated," he says. Thus, DMSC took shape in 1999. Through a model

of "peer educators" where elder HIV-positive women counsel sex workers, the DMSC began group discussions and community monitoring.

"We regularly hold group discussions and educate sex workers

Limited was founded in 1995, and merged later with DMSC. It was registered under the Societies Act — which was also a battle fought and won. "Under the Act, people without moral character could not register an organisation as

The hard work has borne fruit. The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) annual report 2015-16 claims that HIV prevalence among sex workers in India is 2.2 per cent. But other studies have found the range in

ing prevention by extending help to target groups such as the acquaintances of sex workers.

**HIV Bill**

The current Bill has also borrowed some features from the Sonagachi project. Chapter II, which is against discrimination, and chapter VII, on welfare measures by the Central and State governments, have been influenced by DMSC's work. The organisation was the first to raise concerns over dual discrimination against sex workers with HIV/AIDS. The Bill protects the rights of employment of HIV-positive people, which DMSC has worked on for the most vulnerable group in the country. Chapter VII has components of child welfare and the spread of HIV-related information without prejudice. These concepts too have been borrowed from DMSC's work.

But the current Bill falls short of expectations of the HIV community; it betrays the movement that led to its drafting in the first place. Clause 14 (1) of the Bill says that treatment will be provided by the government only "as far as possible". It's a truncated position because the mandate of NACO right now is to provide universal treatment.

"We have been demanding that the Bill address problems of shortages and stock-outs of medicines. But in its current form, it will even take way the treatment that exists," says Paul Lungdim, president of Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+).

But there is much more that the Bill needs to learn. Financial protection and extending counselling to social relations of affected population are just a few examples.



about HIV and other STDs. Peer educators teach them the method of using condoms effectively. We emphasise community monitoring. When a sex worker is caught by her colleagues for soliciting without a condom, then it puts pressure on her not to do this again," says Tapasi Kole, a peer educator in Sonagachi, who earlier worked with DMSC in West Medinipur district. The work of DMSC has spread across West Bengal and caters to many areas in Kolkatasuch as Ultadanga, Kalighat and Cossipore. DMSC, which had 20,000 members in 1997, boasts of 60,000 members today.

"No bank allowed sex workers to open accounts due to lack of proper identity cards. It was a struggle for them to keep their money safe. It was common for them to lose money due to stealing, making them vulnerable to customers who paid more money for no condoms. We had to come up with a bank," he says.

Usha Multipurpose Co-operative Society

it was considered that sex workers did not have any moral character," says Santanu Chatterjee, finance manager at Usha. "We met the then Co-operative Minister of State Saral Dev who said that 'character' is a relative term and allowed us to open the bank," says Mr. Chatterjee. With 29,000 members, Usha is one of the biggest success stories in co-operative banking in South Asia. Its turnover last year was Rs.29 crore. "In 2015, nearly 7,000 members took a loan, out of which 48 per cent was for children's education," he says.

**Reducing infection rates**

Usha has played an important role in reducing HIV infection among sex workers of the State. "The bank provides financial backing to its members in the form of savings and loans. Their dependence on immediate cash from customers is now negligible; they are not vulnerable to customers asking for sex without condoms.

different cities to be between 2 per cent and 35 per cent. The figure for brothels in Kolkata are on the lower side.

Another addition is customer care centres, located at positions of entry to Sonagachi. Their aim is to increase a client's risk perception. Every day, nearly 150-200 customers visit these kiosks. Involving babus and using them to counsel other customers has added another dimension to the work of DMSC, which was a pioneer in community monitoring and financial support to sex workers with a vision to reduce HIV infection. "Babus are vulnerable to infection and are major carriers. We ask them to be particular about use of condoms," says the NACO counsellor.

As the HIV/AIDS Bill is discussed among health experts and lawmakers of India, examples of work by organisations such as DMSC show that the community has moved forward. It is no more about discussing only treatment but also help-

# Old notes worth Rs 12.44 lakh crore deposited till Dec 10: RBI

MUMBAI(KCN): "more and more notes" on a daily basis, said Deputy Governor S.S. Mundra. ing and take action against officials found involved in un-



day said that Rs. 12.44 lakh crore of demonetised Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes have been deposited by the public since demonetisation was announced on November 8. Notes worth Rs 12.44 lakh crore have been deposited till December 10, while the central bank has been issuing

error S.S. Mundra. "We have been issuing more and more notes on a daily basis. RBI has printed 1.8 billion notes of Rs 2,000 and Rs 500. It has printed 20 billion of smaller denomination notes," he said. The RBI also said that it has instructed the banks to do central data check-

lawful activities. "Banks have taken action against errant officials. Banks must investigate when the data is suspicious," he said. Mundra said that a junior RBI official has also been suspended and due action will be taken in the matter. "We have sus-

the banks as well as RBI are having an institution of whistle blowers. It is a due process that will be undertaken. Due action has been initiated," he added. However, he also praised the banking industry for carrying out the "good work" since demonetisation.

## India to witness increase in mobile fraud by 65% in 2017: Study

NEW DELHI(KCN): With the surge in digital transactions via e-wallets and

search firm EY, titled 'Strategic National Measures to Combat Cybercrime', said a

"Mobile frauds are areas of great concern for companies as 40-45 per cent of financial transactions are done via mobile devices and this threat is expected to grow to 60-65 per cent," the study noted. Credit and debit card fraud cases top the chart of cyber crimes and there has been a six-fold increase in such cases over the past three years.

"According to the data, about 46 per cent complaints of online banking related to/credit/debit card fraud followed by Facebook-related complaints (39 per cent -- mostly

morphed pictures/cyber stalking/cyber bullying)," the study said.

Other major cyber complaints were cheating through mobile (21 per cent), hacking of e-mail ID (18 per cent), abusive/offensive/obscene calls and SMS (12 per cent) and others. Enforcing data security measures and creating proactive security monitoring capabilities are vital for an organisation to maintain a lead over emerging threats and protect their financial, intellectual and customer-related information, the study said.



other online payment gateways, mobile frauds are expected to grow to 60-65 per cent in the country by 2017, a leading industry body said on Monday.

The joint study by Assocham and re-

secure cyberspace and the government's initiatives in keeping tabs on cyber crime have become important criteria for businesses to establish, operate and flourish in any region.

## Handset manufacturing can be incentivised through GST: Research

BENGALURU(KCN): Broadband India Forum (BIF) in its research paper with Ernst and Young (EY) highlighted the need to increase the production of smartphones and handsets in India as the country embarks on an ambitious project with the 'Digital India' program.

With online media consumption growing in the last few years, mobile devices have taken over as the preferred medium of consuming online media. With most users

accessing internet via mobile phones, mobile devices are expected to reach the masses.

"While Broadband infrastructure is at one end of the issue, Customer Premise equipment is at the other. The Broadband device today is a smartphone. We need to increase Smartphone penetration as India has less than 30% smartphone penetration. This can only happen through local manufacturing and by further increase

of local value addition.



Further, BIF along with EY is proposing

an innovative way using GST to incentivise handset manufacture. This we believe is a win-win formula," said T.V. Ramachandran, President, BIF.

With an expansion of 4G network along with affordability and indigenisation of smartphones there is more scope for mobile broadband penetration to the next level via handsets.

"It is expected that the adoption of smartphone in India

# India's current account deficit at \$3.4 billion in July-Sept: RBI

Rupee hit a record low of 68.86 amid RBI intervention. Image used for representational purpose. (File photo | Reuters) MUMBAI: India posted a current account deficit of \$3.4 billion, or 0.6 percent of gross domestic product, in the July-September quarter, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement on Tuesday.

That compared with a deficit of \$8.5 billion, or 1.7 percent of GDP, in the same quarter a year ago, according to data re-

leased by the RBI. In the GDP.

pared with a deficit of



the April-June period, the current account deficit was \$300 million or 0.1 percent of

Meanwhile, the balance of payments was at a surplus of \$8.5 billion com-

\$900 million a year ago, the RBI data showed.

## ADB slashes India's 2016 growth estimate to 7%

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today

has trimmed the region's growth outlook for 2016," said the new ADB report.

forecast 7.4 percent in 2016 is due to weak investments, a slowdown in the

From Page-1 as there are no fighter jets operating from it. New Delhi had shown interest to deploy a complement of helicopters and fighter jets, but Russian concerns have made it to put the plans in abeyance.

Following the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC 814 and its later force landing in Kandahar, New Delhi has been scouting for an airbase giving it access to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Besides this airbase, India had also helped Tajikistan in setting up a field hospital, known as India-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital, in Farkhor in 1990s, and it is said to have served as India's support base for Northern Alliance in Afghanistan. However, the Indian establishment has been insistent that the nature of India-Tajikistan defence cooperation has training as a major component.

"... Our engagement with Tajikistan is more in terms of training, as I just pointed out to you, and of course not to also miss out on that whole creation of infrastructure, bringing back that airfield of Ayni to such a position that it is one of the best airfields now in the region, so that is the engagement with that country," Srinivas added.

India is also working on tapping the unexplored hydro-power potential of Tajikistan that has 90 percent of the water resources in Central Asia.



trimmed its 2016 growth estimate for India to seven percent from the previous 7.4 percent on account of demonetisation, weak investment and agricultural slowdown. But India's growth forecast for 2017 was kept at 7.8 per cent.

"Economic growth in developing Asia remains broadly stable, but a slight slowdown in India

In a supplement to its Asian Development Outlook 2016 Update report, ADB has downgraded 2016 growth for Asia to 5.6 per cent, below its previous projection of 5.7 per cent. For 2017, growth remains unchanged at 5.7 per cent.

"India's tempered growth projection to seven percent from the previously

country's agriculture sector, and lack of available cash due to the government's decision to ban high-denomination banknotes," ADB said.

The junking of old 500 and 1,000 rupee notes will likely affect the largely cash-based sectors in the country, including small- and medium-scale businesses. "The effects of the transition are expected to be short-lived and the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.8 per cent in 2017," it said.

ADB said South Asia is the most dynamic part of the region, with growth expected at 6.6 per cent this year, down from the previous forecast of 6.9 per cent.

South Asia's growth is estimated at 7.3 per cent in 2017. China, it said, is on course to grow 6.6 per cent this year and 6.4 per cent in 2017.

will go up to 688 million by 2020 as compared to 238 million in 2015. With the introduction of GST, most of the current Centre and state taxes/duties will be subsumed under GST," said Bipin Sapra, Partner EY.

Infrastructure, manufacturing ecosystem, skilled manpower, technology and R&D facilities are the other factors apart from GST that will support manufacturing in India.

India's value addition may touch 32% in 2020

# Inzamam criticises Anderson over comments on Kohli

**KARACHI(KCN):** Pakistan chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq has criticised James Anderson for his uncharitable comments about Virat Kohli's technique, saying that the England pacer should first take wickets in India before questioning the Indian skipper's capabilities.

Anderson had recently said Kohli's technical deficiencies were not at display during the ongoing Test series between India and England because the pitches in India are devoid of bounce and there is lack of movement.

"It is surprising to me that Anderson should question Kohli's runs and ability because I haven't seen him take too many wickets in India," Inzamam said on the Geo Super

sports channel here last night.

batsman. Don't the English and Australia

not matter where you get runs because in

dian batsmen, rated Kohli highly.



"Does Anderson mean to say that if you get runs in England you get some sort of certificate that makes you a quality

lian players struggle when they play in the sub-continent? Does that mean they are bad players or weak teams. To me it does

Test matches runs are runs," the former Pakistan skipper added. Inzamam, who played against the golden breed of In-

"I always judge a batsman by seeing how many times the runs he scores leads to his team winning matches. In my opin-

ion if a batsman scores 80 and it helps his team win, it matters more to me than someone scoring 150 and his team still losing.

"He is a quality player and when he is getting runs his team does well. That is important to judge or classify a batsman's value. There is hunger in him for runs," he said.

The veteran of 120 Tests lamented that the Asians have a habit of questioning their own teams and players while England and Australia always back their cricketers.

"If they don't do well there we start questioning the ability of our teams and players ourselves. We must not forget Australia lost 3-0 in Sri Lanka, we beat England 3-0 in the past

in the UAE."

Meanwhile, Inzamam revealed that during his captaincy he feared Virender Sehwag the most among the Indian batsmen.

"Sehwag was a dangerous player because if he scored 80 odd runs it meant his team would end up scoring 300 or more in a Test or ODI. The more time he spent time at the crease the more he dented the morale of the bowlers, which was worrying for me as captain," said Inzamam.

On the suspension of bilateral cricket between Pakistan and India, Inzamam said it has hurt Pakistan cricket a lot.

"Overall it is not good for cricket and for both countries not

to play bilateral series. But from a Pakistani perspective it has done us more damage as already foreign teams are also not touring Pakistan and our young players are not getting chances to play matches against international sides before playing for the senior team.

"People want to see Indo-Pak matches but there is nothing one can do about it until things are normal at the government level. Personally, I always enjoyed the challenge of playing against India and it made a better player. To me an Indo-Pak series has always been even bigger than the Ashes," concluded Inzamam.

## First day-night Ashes Test set for Adelaide

**SYDNEY(KCN):** Australia will host

and it was a roaring success, with record

contest." While the Gabba

the reasons blamed for Australia suffering a run of five heavy Test defeats this year, before a new-look side ended the slump by beating South Africa last month.

Schedule for the 2017-18 Ashes series:

First Test - November 23-27 at the Gabba in Brisbane

Second Test - December 2-6, Adelaide Oval (day-night)

Third Test - December 14-18, Perth (venue TBC)

Fourth Test - December 26-30, Melbourne Cricket Ground

Fifth Test - January 4-8, Sydney Cricket Ground

Australia v England one-day series (2018):

First ODI - January 14, Melbourne Cricket Ground

Second ODI - January 19, the Gabba in Brisbane

Third ODI - January 21, Sydney Cricket Ground

Fourth ODI - January 26, Adelaide Oval

Fifth ODI - January 28, Perth (venue TBC).



England at the Adelaide Oval in the first day-night Ashes Test during the 2017-18 series, building on the success of the concept, Cricket Australia announced Tuesday.

The series between the arch-rivals opens at the Gabba in Brisbane from November 23 before heading to Adelaide then Perth. Melbourne hosts the traditional Boxing Day Test with Sydney rounding it off.

England will also play five one-day internationals between January 14-28. Adelaide hosted the first-ever Test under lights using a pink ball last year

attendances for the clash against New Zealand.

Buoyed by the public reaction, the same venue was used for a day-night Test against South Africa last month, while Australia face Pakistan under lights in the first Test at Brisbane this week.

"We're really excited to announce that Adelaide will play host to the first ever day-night Ashes Test," said Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland.

"We know how much Adelaide fans love this style of Test cricket. We're expecting a full house next year in what is sure to be a great

has long been the first Test on the Australian summer calendar, it lost that right to Perth this year.

Sutherland said Perth had been pushed back to mid-December for the Ashes to give it more time to complete construction of the new 60,000-seat Perth Stadium.

He added that given the slightly later-than-usual start to the series, the schedule allowed for at least three Sheffield Shield matches to be played before the Brisbane opener as preparation.

A lack of Sheffield Shield cricket was one of

## Sindhu eyes maiden BWF Super Series Final crown

**DUBAI(KCN):** In sizzling form after clinching the China Open and finishing runners-up at Hong Kong, Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu will look to sign off the year with another crown when she competes in the season-ending World Superseries Finals starting here tomorrow.

In Rio de Janeiro, Sindhu became the first Indian woman to win an Olympics silver medal in August, but qualifying for the Dubai World Super Series final still was a far cry as she was placed at 16th in the Destination Dubai Rankings with just two events -- China Open and Hong Kong Open -- remaining.

The 21-year-old had exited early in Denmark and France but she stunned the world with her rumpaging run at the last two qualifying tournaments, becoming the third Indian to win the China Open, her maiden Super Series Premier title last month and then reaching the finals at Hong Kong where she lost to Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying.

Related Article

Shuttler Sindhu rises to Number seven in BWF rankings  
Sindhu, Verma falter

"It's an honour to play in Dubai, it's an event that I have always wanted to

her fiercest rivals. The Indian will have to fight her way for the two semi-final



at final hurdle in Hong Kong Super Series

The victory at China Open earned her 11000 points and a final finish at Hong Kong meant she had earned her maiden ticket to Dubai, surpassing the likes of compatriot Saina Nehwal, Japan's Sayaka Sato and Thailand's Porntip Buranaprasertsuk.

Sindhu then decided to skip the Macau Open Grand Prix Gold, an event she was the three-time defending champion, to prepare for the prestigious event in Dubai and the lanky shuttler is now battle-ready to face off with the best of the world at the Hamdan Sports Complex here.

qualify for. My form is good and hopefully it will continue in Dubai," said the two-time bronze medallist at World Championship, who will open her campaign against second seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

World No. 10 Sindhu has a 2-1 head-to-head record against eighth-ranked Yamaguchi, having beaten her at Uber Cup this year and at the 2015 Macau Open. The only time the Indian had lost to the Japanese was during the 2013 Japan Open.

However, it will be far from easy as only the top eight ranked players in the Destination Dubai Rankings qualify for the tournament and Sindhu has been clubbed with some of

spots up for grabs from Group B which consists of World No. 1 and Olympic champion Carolina Marin, World No.

6 Chinese Sun Yu, whom Sindhu had beaten in the China Open finals, besides Yamaguchi.

Sindhu has a 3-5 record against Marin, the last meeting being the Rio Olympics final. While against Sun, the Indian has a 3-3 head-to-head record.

In Group A, the new World No. 1 and top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, South Korea's Sung Ji-hyun, Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand and China's He Bingjiao will compete for the semi-final spot.