

## Triple talaq hearing: Issues of polygamy, 'nikah halala' to remain open for future adjudication, says SC

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme

"It may not be possible to deal with

Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Cen-

"The scope of referring had all the

nificance in the backdrop of the remarks of the apex court that it will only deal with the issue of triple talaq that too if it was fundamental to Islam.

The AG asked the bench also comprising Justices Kurian Joseph, R F Nariman, U U Lalit and Abdul Nazeer to make it clear that the issues of polygamy and 'nikah halala' are still open and would be dealt by other bench in future.

"It will be dealt in future," the bench clarified.

The bench is hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the practice of triple talaq among Muslims. The Centre has resumed its arguments in the case today.

## Delay hits port roads

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Ports facilitators in Odisha Administration are in a worried state as several major road and rail connectivity to the upcoming ports in the state are pending with Union Government.

This will be a major bottleneck in providing infrastructure to the Non Major Ports of this Eastern State, pointed out Sanjay Rastogi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport with Government of India, said sources.

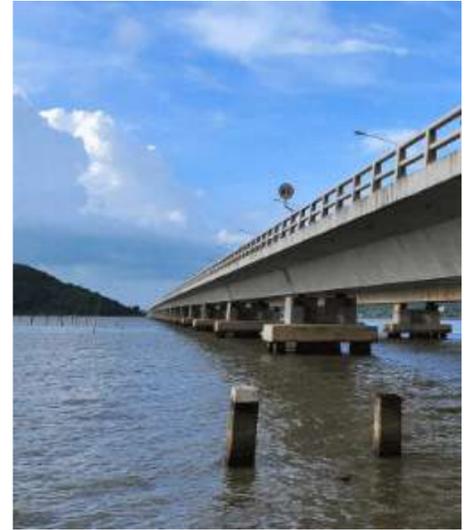
In the recent meeting held by NITI Aayog, Mr.Rastogi raised the pending issues and urged the Centre to clear the proposals, said official sources. Both road and rail connectivity is crucial for the port development in the state, said he.

Out of 13 major project proposals only two have been included in ambitious

National Perspective Plan under Sagarmala and rest are facing uncertainty.

Several up-coming Non Major Ports

road connectivity from Chhatrapur to Gopalpur Port and Rail Connectivity to Dhamra Port has been included in Sagarmala Projects



like Dhamra, Gopalpur, Kiratania, Chudamani, Astarang, Balih-archandi in Odisha would have been benefitted under the scheme.

While development of four lane

other 11 Projects have been pending with the Centre.

A major road connectivity like Construction of four lanning of road from Jamujhadi on National See page-7



Court today said it was keeping open for adjudication in the future the issues of polygamy and 'nikah halala' among Muslims as the Centre insisted deliberations on these aspects as well.

all the three issues in the limited time we have. We will keep them pending for future," a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar said.

The observation was made when Attorney General (AG)

tre, said that the issues of polygamy and 'nikah halala' were also part of the order of a two-judge bench which had referred to the Constitutional bench the three issues, including the practice of triple talaq among Muslims.

three issues that was divorce, nikah halala, polygamy. All these three issues are before this court by virtue of the reference order of the two-judge bench," Rohatgi said.

The Centre's assertion assumes sig-

## Dissidence rise in BJD

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Though Naveen Patnaik is not worried about the turmoil in Biju Janata Dal (BJD), he is slowly trying to contain dissidence, which is on rise. The issue is discussed in political circles as Biju Patnaik's younger son goes slowly on the dissident leaders.

The rumblings, which originated in the BJD Parliamentary Party has now spread to the Legislature Party, particularly after the 8 May Ministry reshuffle.

BJD workers and leaders in different districts have expressed their resentments for not getting a berth in the Council of Ministers. Naveen has started pacifying them by making them understand that he cannot accommodate MLAs from all the districts as the maximum number of Ministers is limited to 22.

While some leaders have realized Naveen's compulsions, others are silent and a small section of the party is busy in scheming and looking for an opportunity to speak out.

In a bid to give a message to the leaders crossing 'Laxman Rekha' Naveen removed Kendrapara MP Baijayant Panda from the position of the Spokesman of the

Parliamentary Party without asking him to explain as to why he defied the party President.

Mr. Panda, though a four-time MP with the blessings of Naveen, has started making noise through newspaper articles and Twitter posts. He has given least importance to the call given by the party supremo.

Naveen had categorically said that the leaders should come forward for discussion and refrain from giving comments on media. However, Mr.Panda did not stop.

The latest one came when Mr.Panda expressed his views on the ministry reshuffle and also on former Koraput MP Jayaram Pangi joining BJP. Pangi from Koraput and Amar Nayak of Jajpur have joined BJP after being suspended from the BJD some time ago.

Though Naveen is not worried over Jairam Pangi and Amar Nayak, he, however, has been careful in not antagonizing dissident leaders in general.

Naveen, known for his image of "Leader Killer" has once again struck and preferred to remove Mr.Panda from the post he was holding in Delhi.

While attempting to pacify MLAs to ensure that the dissidence disease did not spread to the Legislature Party, Naveen has given a strong

ate indiscipline. Another senior MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, who is also the BJD leader in the Lok Sabha, often creates problem for

Rekha though he invited a notice earlier for giving a statement on the BJD's possible relationship with Congress.

Nobody knows when Mahtab would also be removed from the BJD's leadership in the Lok Sabha. Though Mr.Patnaik does not hesitate to throw away leaders from the party, he is giving opportunity to leaders to rectify.

Everybody in Odisha politics including Mr.Panda and Mr.Mahtab know that people vote for Naveen and not for them. However, senior leaders feel that they are not getting the importance due to them in the party.

Though Naveen has now agreed to lend an ear to the dissident leaders, earlier he used to engage his official to note down the grievances of the MPs or MLAs. Senior leaders hesitate to record their grievances before any officer and wanted that the Chief Minister himself listen to them.

However, keeping in view the dissident activities, Naveen has now been inviting leaders to come for discussion.

What could be another reason behind the dissidence in the BJD is that the leaders now find an alternative See page-7



message to the party's Parliamentary Party that he will not toler-

Naveen. However, Mahtab has not crossed the Laxman

## India demands suspension of Jadhav death penalty at ICJ; Pak calls plea unnecessary

NEW DELHI(KCN): Expressing apprehensions about the execution of former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, India on Monday demanded consular access to him at the International Court of Justice contending that a Pakistan's military court has awarded him death sentence through a "farical trial".

Eminent lawyer Harish Salve and Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary Deepak Mittal led India's charge against Pakistan in the UN's highest judicial body. India contended that the situation was urgent as it was afraid that Islamabad might hang Jadhav even before the hearing was over. The charge was denied by Pakistan in its arguments later in the evening where it contended that the hearing was "not necessary" as Jadhav was found guilty on charges of espionage and subversive activities and hence does not fall under ICJ's jurisdiction.

"Jadhav has not got the right to get proper legal assistance

and the right to consular access. There is an immediate threat to him to be executed even before a decision is passed," Mittal told the court in his open-

consular access 16 times. Highlighting this and invoking Article 36 of Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Salve said: "The graver the



ing remarks. India's decision to move ICJ over an issue with Pakistan has come after nearly after four decades. India's main contention is that it was denied its consular rights to its national and accused Pakistan of violating the Vienna convention and conducting a "farical trial" without a "shred of evidence".

"The execution of the death sentence cannot be done while this court is hearing the appeal. Else, it will be a violation of the Vienna Convention," lead attorney Harish Salve said. Pakistan has turned down India's requests for

charges, the greater the need for continued adherence of the Vienna Convention. Jadhav has been in judicial custody without any communication with his family." India has called the trial 'farical' as it was not provided chargesheet against Jadhav, neither was he provided with defence counsel; and New Delhi came to know about his death sentence from the media. Human rights treated as "basics" all over had been thrown to the wind by Pakistan and the trial had been vitiated, India argued. Islamabad said that the Permanent-5 was informed about the case.

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**Gigi and Bella Hadid join anti-Trump rally**

**NEW YORK(K-CN):** Models and sisters Gigi and

Trump's ban on entry of citizens from seven Mus-

Mohamed Hadid is Jordanian-American, Muslim and of

no fear, immigrants are welcome here", reports

up a sign which read: "We are all Hindus, Buddhists,

denomination written in the protest sign were highlighted to spell out: "We are all humans."

Bella flashed her tummy in a cream coloured knit turtleneck which cropped above her pants. She donned a pair of skin-tight jeans and sneakers.

Gigi sported a cropped pair of denim with a red stripe on the sides, completing her look with a red puffer jacket. They were joined by their mum 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.



Bella Hadid took to the streets here against US President Donald

lim-majority countries. The sisters, whose father

Palestinian descent, were seen at the Battery Park shouting "No hate,

aceshowbiz.com When marching down a blocked-off roadway, they held

Muslims, Atheists, Christians, Jews." Certain key letters from each

**Actors Samantha, Chaitanya get engaged**

Actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Chaitanya Akkineni got engaged in a private ceremony in Hyderabad on Sunday. Actor Nagarjuna took to Twitter to announce the good news about his son Chaitanya saying: "#Chaisam It's official now. My mother is my daughter now.

Couldn't be happier!! more pics to come" (sic) a few hours after the event. The actor was hinting at Samantha (who



played his mother in the Akkineni family magnum opus Manam in 2014), turning his daughter once she steps into the household as his eldest daughter-in-law. He shared photographs of the couple exchanging rings and a family photograph too, featuring the new couple, his younger son Akhil Akkineni and soon to be daughter-in-law Shriya Bhupal, along with wife Amala. The date for the high-profile wedding is yet to announced.

**Sunny Leone is the perfect seductress in 'Laila main Laila'**

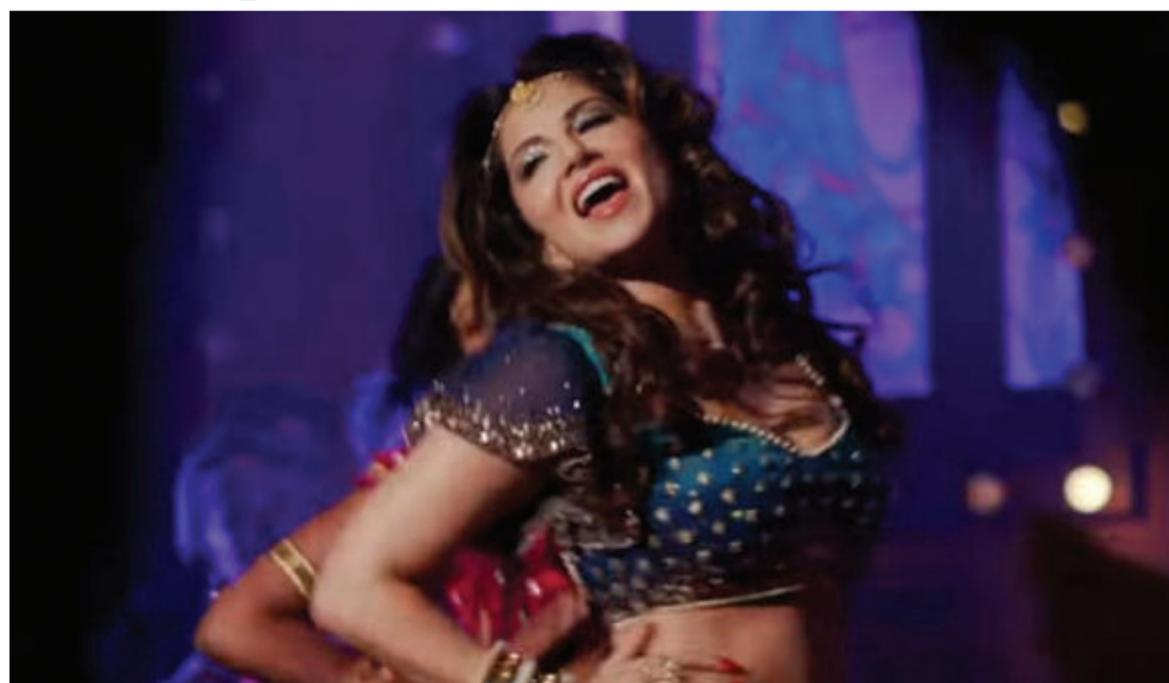
**NEW DELHI (K-CN):**Sunny Leone's much-awaited song from 'Raees' is out and it has all the ingredients to make it to the top of every chartbuster!

From Sunny's sexy dance moves to Shah Rukh Khan's killer looks, the remixed version of Zeenat Aman's 'Laila O Laila' is sure to make you groove.

Set in a dance bar, it seems the song is an important part of the development of SRK's character of a liquor baron in Gujarat.

The 70's classic rendition has been recreated by Ram Sampath and sung by Pawni Kalyan.

Directed by Rahul Dholakia, 'Raees' is all set to release on January 25 next year.



## From Page-1

in BJP. The saffron party has been growing in the State and lotus has bloomed in different areas.

People, who feel suffocated in BJD, now prefer to join BJP. Jayram Pangi is an instance. Veteran BJD leaders like Bijay Mohapatra, former Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang of Congress and Dilip Ray had earlier joined BJP.

But all of them are sidelined in the saffron party as Dharmendra Pradhan is not ready to accommodate any leader of substance. "The leaders who quit BJD feel like fish out of water," said senior BJD MLA and former Minister Mangala Kissan after meeting Naveen on May 12.

Mr.Kissan was among the people who were not happy for not getting a berth in the ministry. However, he has rejected the possibility of leaving BJD.

Naveen Niwas sources said that BJD supremo is just not bothered as to who leaves the party or not. According to sources, all the expelled leaders are joining BJP, so let the dead woods leave suo mou, said one Naveen acolyte.

It is not that Naveen is not trying to pacify the dissidents but he has his own style. He quietly picked up a former Minister and senior lawmaker, Amar Satpathy of Badachana in Jajpur district, and chose him as Government Chief Whip in the Assembly, thus giving him Cabinet status.

Jajpur was among over a dozen of districts not getting representation in the Council of Ministers. Similarly, to appease the party rank and file in Kendrapara district, Naveen named Pratap Kesari Deb as BJD's Rajya Sabha candidate and also Pradip Kumar Amat as the Speaker of Assembly to make the party workers happy in Boudh district.

However, BJD Supremo was surprised when first time MLAs like Raseswari Panigrahi of Sambalpur and Dibya Shankar Mishra of Junagarh in Kalahandi were aspiring to become Ministers when Kalahandi performed worst in the panchayat elections.

Dr Panigrahi made her supporters hit the streets, even as she utterly failed to contain the growth of BJP in her area. However, Patnaik has not so far addressed the grievances of Padmanav Behera, a senior MLA and former Minister from the Dalit community. However, Naveen has taken Niranjana Pujari from Sonepur district in the Ministry.

Political analysts feel that Naveen's response to contain the growing dissidence and scheming by the disgruntled elements is slow.

And things are fast getting worse for the ruling party. Leaders now see a future in BJP as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is getting more endeared to the people of the State. The smartest saffron strategist, Amit Shah is out to capture Odisha.

## From Page -1

Highway (NH)-16 to Dhamra Port via Basudebpur with a length of 58 Kilometer with a cost of Rs.600 Crore is not included in Sagarmala.

Similarly four lanning of road from Phulnakhara on NH-16 to Astaranga Port via Charichhak- Kakatpur-Astaranga with a length of 74 Kilometers will cost Rs.682 crore is also not considered.

Four lanning of the road from Rameswar on NH-16 to Baliharachandi Port via Birapratappur-Atharanala-Brahmagiri-Sunamuhi will entail an investment of Rs.500 crore is not included

Development of four lanning of road from Basta on NH-16 to Choumukha connecting Subarnarekha Mouth Port via Putura, Baliapal and through village road length 43 Kilometer will be Rs.494 crore is pending .

Similarly Rail connectivity to Subarnarekha Port length of 45 Kilometer having cost of Rs.900 Crore and similar Rail connectivity to Astarang Port length of 74 Kilometer having cost of Rs.1480 Crore is pending for approval.

Rail Connectivity to Gopalpur Port having a length of only 7 kilometers with a cost of Rs.160 Crore is also pending.

An official said that development of four lanning from Jamujhadi on NH-16 is likely to be covered by NHAI in Bharatmala Project.

And Gopalpur Port Rail Connectivity will be considered by the Indian Port Rail Corporation Limited (IPRCL) under Joint Venture Model, said sources.

However as these major projects are missing the Sagarmala list, it will be difficult to take up by other Ministries as Port Connectivity is one of the major mandate the ambitious Sagarmala Program.

## Onion tears for farmers

**Bhubaneswar (KC-N):** With more production of Onion and less facilities for storage and marketing, the farmers of Western Odisha are forced to sell their products to the neighboring Chhattisgarh with much lesser price, thanks to callous approach of the Agriculture Marketing System in the State.

Odisha onions are being procured by the traders of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in an organized manner, while the Odisha State Agriculture Marketing Board (OSAMB) looks other way round, said Dhenu Kharia, a onion farmer of Kalahandi.

While farmers in Kalahandi, Nuapada, Koraput are producing more and more onions, benefits are

reaped by the traders of Chhattisgarh, alleged Kharia.

At times, onion prices touch Rs.45 per kg in retail market in the State, but the OSAMB hardly takes any steps for to go for an organized move to help out the farmers, who are selling their farm products at a throw away price, admit senior officials in the Directorate of Horticulture.

Absence of streamlining the agriculture marketing system, the farmers are at receiving end, admit officials.

Odisha needs at least 4 Lakh MT of onion per annum to meet its internal requirement and the State is producing 3.95 Lakh MT.

Cold storage facilities are poor as out of 115 cold storages only 35 are function-

ing in the state with a capacity of 1.68

the people of the state.



LakhMT. So more production of onions are not helping out

However the State is forced to import onion from the

neighboring states to an extent of 2.5 Lakh MT as the onion produced in the state finds its way to Chhattisgarh, thanks to insensitivity of the Agriculture Marketing system, officials attest.

This year the farmers of farmers of Kalahandi, Koraput, Sambalpur and Kandhamal have reaped bumper crop and they are lured by the traders of Chhattisgarh to sell their products as there is hardly any move by the State Government to buy onion at a fair price.

Nuapada farmers are forced to distress sale as these farmers are not able to sell their products to Government run organizations.

While they are approaching the Re-

gional Cooperative Marketing Societies, which are operating under the control of OASM Board, these institutions are hardly showing interest in helping out the farmers.

Chhattisgarh traders are advancing money to the farmers before they go for crop and taking their products @Rs.4-5 per kg, alleged Sunil Bhatra, another farmer in Nuapada.

While the State Government had announced to set up Onion Mission to promote production of onion and help out the farmers, it is likely to take the route of Potato Mission, which has miserably failed to achieve the much hyped vision to make the state surplus in potato.

## Some businesses in Asia disrupted by cyber attack, authorities brace for more

**SINGAPORE / WASHINGTON(KCN):** Asian governments and businesses reported some disruptions from the WannaCry ransomware worm on Monday but cybersecurity experts warned of a wider impact as more employees turned on their computers and checked e-mails.

The ransomware that has locked up more than 200,000 computers in more than 150 countries has been mainly spread by e-mail, hitting factories, hospitals, shops and schools worldwide.

"Most of the attacks are arriving via e-mail, so there are many 'landmines' waiting in people's in-boxes," said Michael Gazeley, managing director of Network Box, a Hong Kong-based cybersecurity company.

In China, the world's second-largest economy, energy giant PetroChina said payment systems at some of its petrol stations were hit, although it had been able to restore most of the systems. Several Chinese government bodies, including police and traffic authorities, reported they had been impacted by the hack, according to posts on official microblogs.

The official China Daily newspaper, citing Chinese tech firm Qihoo 360, said that at least 200,000 computers had been affected in China, with schools and colleges particu-

larly hard-hit.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, one of the region's biggest bourses, said all systems were so far working normally. "We remain highly vigilant," he said.

Companies have warned users and staff not to click on attachments or links. One school in South Korea barred its pupils from using the internet. Taiwan's government appeared to have escaped major infection, possibly because regulations there require all departments to install software updates as soon as they are available.

South Korea's presidential Blue House office said nine cases of ransomware were found in the country, but did not provide details on where the cyber attacks were discovered.

In Australia, Dan Tehan, the government minister responsible for cybersecurity, said just three businesses had been hit by the bug, despite worries of widespread infection. There were no reported cases in New Zealand.

## BRIEF RESPITE

Cyber security experts said the spread of the ransomware had slowed since its appearance on Friday but that the respite might only be brief.

For one thing, the attackers or copycat attackers may have developed new versions of the worm, al-

though a British-based security researcher who thwarted an earlier version of the worm told Reuters most of these reports had been proven false.

In Hong Kong, Gazeley said his team had found a new version of the worm that didn't use e-mail to lure victims.

Instead, it loaded scripts onto hacked websites where users who clicked on a malicious link would be infected directly. He said it was too early to tell how many websites had been affected.

Gazeley added that several major companies in Asia had been hit by the ransomware, but "the last thing they want to do is come out in public and admit it." He declined to elaborate.

In a blog post on Sunday, Microsoft President Brad Smith appeared to tacitly acknowledge what researchers had already widely concluded: The ransomware attack leveraged a hacking tool built by the U.S. National Security Agency, that leaked online in April.

The non-profit U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit research institute estimated that total losses would range in the hundreds of millions of dollars, but not exceed \$1 billion.

Most victims were quickly able to recover infected systems with backups, said the group's chief economist, Scott Borg.

Infected comput-

ers appear to largely be out-of-date devices that organizations deemed not worth the price of upgrading or, in some cases, machines involved in manufacturing or

hospital functions that proved too difficult to patch without possibly disrupting crucial operations, security experts said.

Microsoft released patches last

month and on Friday to fix a vulnerability that allowed the worm to spread across networks, a rare and powerful feature that caused infections to surge on Friday.

## Vedanta posts fourth-quarter profit helped by higher revenue

Vedanta Ltd, the Indian unit of diversi-

the fourth quarter ended March 31,

26.67 billion rupees, according to



fied energy group Vedanta Resources PLC, reported a consolidated quarterly profit, as revenue surged, driven by improved commodity prices and higher zinc volumes.

Consolidated net profit stood at 29.88 billion rupees (\$466.09 million) in

compared with a loss of 211.04 billion rupees a year earlier, the metals and mining group said on Monday. (<http://bit.ly/2rh8ncs>)

Analysts on average expected Vedanta, which recently completed the buyout of Cairn India Ltd, to post a profit of

Thomson Reuters data.

How Vedanta-owned Balco managed aluminium price crash

Consolidated revenue surged about 35 percent to 246.12 billion rupees. Shares of the company were up 1.8 percent as of 0941 GMT.

# Arsene Wenger urges Arsenal fans to ignore boycott call

**LONDON(KCN):** Arsene Wenger has called on Arsenal fans to turn out in force for Tuesday's game against Sunderland rather than take part in a boycott designed to hasten his removal as manager of the London giants.

The veteran French boss has still to announce if he will be staying at the Emirates Stadium when his current contract expires after the end of the season.

The Gunners have just three games left before their campaign concludes -- two in the Premier League against Sunderland and Everton before an FA Cup final newly-crowned champions and London rivals Chelsea.

In marked con-

## India will have edge over Pakistan at Champions Trophy: Chris Gayle

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Star West Indies batsman Chris Gayle said on Monday that India will have the edge when they take on arch-rivals Pakistan in a much anticipated group match at the upcoming Champions Trophy cricket tournament.

The 37-year-old made it clear that both India and Pakistan are his favourites for winning the eight-nation tournament which starts from June 1 in England and Wales.

"That will be the biggest match of the tournament and to be frank that's my two teams as well. So, it will be a nice match. And yes, India is holding an edge against Pakistan when it comes to an

trast to the Blues, Arsenal have not won the English title since 2004 and Wenger has come under renewed pressure this season with his side in danger of failing to qualify for the Champions League.

Arsenal have finished in the top four of every full season since Wenger took charge 21 years ago but, after Liverpool's 4-0 win at West Ham on Sunday, they now need slip-ups from either the Merseysiders or Manchester City to help them maintain that proud record.

This season has already seen a number of 'Wenger out' protests by supporters groups, including planes flying over grounds carrying mes-

sages urging the 67-year-old to quit and marches before games, with some empty seats visible at recent Emirates fixtures.

Now there are calls for mass boycott of Tuesday's match at home to Sunderland.

But Wenger, who yet again refused to comment on his Arsenal future, said Monday: "My message is always the same, it is to support the team.

A statement on onlinegooner.com suggested that Atletico Madrid's Diego Simeone or Juventus's Max Allegri would now be better at managing Arsenal than Wenger.

The statement then asked fans not to turn up at the game

against the Black Cats. cott. Don't sell your same old.



"We are calling on fans that feel the same way to boycott tomorrow evening's match against Sunderland," the statement said.

"Please consider joining us in this boy-

seat to a tourist or give it to a mate. Let yours be one of the many gaps in the stands that send a direct and unarguable message to the directors. You do not want to watch any more of the same old

"If you are in any doubt, look at our season and compare that to Chelsea, Juventus and Atletico Madrid. We are a bigger club than all three of them but we are being held back by a greedy owner and a past it

manager.

"By doing this, we can send a message to Stan Kroenke (Arsenal's US-based owner) and Arsene Wenger that Arsenal should be doing so much better."

Arsenal have won six of their last seven games with their only defeat coming against north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, who on Sunday beat Manchester United in the last match at White Hart Lane to ensure they would finish runners-up behind Chelsea.

Arsenal, second to shock champions Leicester last season, could win more points this term but fail to qualify for the Champions League.

"Our chances depend on winning our

games. We have 69 points, we can get to 75," said Wenger. "That will be four points more than last year, so let's focus on finishing as well as we can."

Arsenal won 4-1 away to Stoke City on Saturday but they are now waiting on the fitness of Laurent Koscielny (calf) and Alexis Sanchez (thigh) ahead of the match against bottom-of-the-table Sunderland.

"Sanchez will have a test today (Monday)," said Wenger. "Yesterday it didn't look too good, but with him you never know. He's so keen. Maybe it was just a kick. It could be a possibility that he recovers for tomorrow."

## Delhi Daredevils's young batsmen need consistency, says Rahul Dravid

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Disappointed after Delhi Daredevils failed to make it to

"We are disappointed obviously. We had the expectations of qualifying for

back some young Indian talents, mixing them with experienced overseas play-

seven last year, six this year and I think the close games we lost probably cost

Dravid refused to pick a favourite out of Mumbai Indians, Rising Pune Super-



the play-offs of the Indian Premier League (IPL) yet again, team mentor Rahul Dravid felt that young batsmen need to be more consistent with their performances.

Delhi finished sixth with 12 points from 14 games, with their batting line-up, leargely boasting the likes of Rishabh Pant (366 runs), Sanju Samson (386), Shreyas Iyer (338) and Karun Nair (281) floundering to deliver up to their potential.

Dravid said that the batsmen, picked at the auction as part of a "larger context" despite not having experience, have shown brilliance but lacked consistency.

the play-offs," Dravid said after his side lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore by 10 runs in their last league game on Sunday here.

"The youngsters played brilliantly for us and I believe that they have the potential to become huge stars. Players like Rishabh (Pant) and Sanju (Samson) have really proved their mettle against good bowling line-ups. They need consistency, though. But there is no question about ability and talent in them."

"All are very talented. Nobody releases experienced Indian players in the auction. We honestly took the decision to

ers and experienced bowling attack. Couple of guys didn't kick on at the right time. But no excuses, we had opportunities and we haven't taken them."

Dravid also bemoaned Delhi's inability to pull off close matches as the main reason behind their disappointing run.

"We were unable to win a lot of games from close situations and that proved to be our downfall this season. Including today, out of around eight close matches, we could manage just 2-3 wins from those positions," he said.

"You need eight wins to qualify in this tournament, we got

us."

The former India captain also felt that the loss of experienced batsmen like J.P. Duminy and Quinton de Kock due to injuries before the start of the league derailed their plans.

"Few of the changes were obviously forced due to injuries. Unfortunately for us at the start of the season, after the auction, Quinton and JP, who were probably our two experienced players, pulled out of the IPL because of injury and we had to look for replacements at the last minute and, which, I guess, isn't easy when most of the players are taken," he reasoned.

giant, Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad -- the teams who have made the play-offs.

"Mumbai (Indians) finished top of the table and are looking quite strong. But, Kolkata Knight Riders have shown they have got dangerous players, while Sunrisers too have got quality players like David Warner, Shikhar Dhawan, Yuvraj Singh, Rashid Khan... Pune have been performing really well collectively. So, we can expect quite a few exciting matches in the play-off stage," he said.



ICC event," Gayle told reporters in a promotional event.

"In white ball cricket, you cannot call for one team. Everyone will have a chance, especially in England where the conditions will be different. So, you have to see the conditions before you can pick that one team as your favourite," he added.

in England," the explosive opener said.

Playing for Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL), Chris Gayle has this season failed miserably with the bat unlike earlier editions of the tournament.

In the nine league matches that he has played this year, Gayle has

cluding the fastest ever half-century in the IPL when he plundered 54 runs off a mere 15 balls against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Commenting on Narine's form, Gayle said: "Sunil is doing great. It's good to watch him like this. I love how he is hitting those sixes. So, no tips from my side."