

## Patnaik ahead of Shah Court rejects rule change

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Debacle "Kyoon Hua" (Why BJD was defeated)?

The question was asked to a party leader in Kalahandi district by BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The leader, who met the Chief Minister with a sore face, however, blamed lack of coordination as the cause of BJD's debacle.

Naveen instead asked the leader to work hard in future to avoid such situation.

However, he was not convinced over the reply of the senior leader and decided to meet the grass root level leaders like elected Sarpanchs, Samiti member and Zilla Parishad members with hope of getting the actual feedback.

And the BJD Supremo found the April first week most suitable to meet the grass root level leaders because he was in a hurry to go a step ahead of BJP President Amit Shah, who also planned to meet the booth level lead-

ers sometime in April.

"The party president would meet



grass-root level leaders starting from sarpanch, samiti members and Zilla Parishad members. The exercise would start from Jajpur district on April 2," said BJD Spokesperson, Amar Prasad Satpathy.

Asked if Mr.Patnaik's meeting with grass root level leaders was called in the wake of Mr.Shah's proposed interaction with

booth level leaders some time in April, Mr.Satpathy said, "Mr.Patnaik will only

discuss on how to make people aware of various developmental programmes of the Government." He said Mr.Patnaik would meet grass root level leaders of various districts on different dates.

On April 2, the BJD Boss would meet leaders of Jajpur district first and then those of Koraput district.

Mr.Patnaik, who for the first time in-

vited grass root level leaders for discussion, will enquire reasons of defeat of BJD candidates in certain areas, party insiders said adding that he was worried about the party losing around 180 Zilla Parishad seats in the recent Panchayat election.

Though the BJD claimed that party candidates have captured about 72 per cent of the state's 314 blocks and maintained its status of being the single largest party in Odisha, the leadership was worried as BJP has won 297 Zilla Parishad seats in this year's rural polls compared to its previous performance of 36 Zilla Parishad seats in 2012.

Mr.Patnaik, party insiders said, was expected to know from grass root level leaders on how BJD could improve and why BJP rose substantially in Zilla Parishad level.

The Governing BJD is in power since 2000.

**Cuttack(KCN):** The Orissa High Court today scrapped the amendment to Odisha Zilla Parishad Election Rules 1994 by the Department of Panchayati Raj, which the State Government had effected ahead of election of Zilla Parishad Chairmen after the three-tier rural polls.

The High Court rejected the amendment saying it was done when the election process was on and accepted all the three arguments of the petitioner. Hearing the appeal petition of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Zilla Parishad Member from Mayurbhanj challenging the Government's decision, the HC stated that any change to existing rules during poll process is unconstitutional.

Senior Counsel for the petitioner, Ashok Mohapatra told Media that as per article 243K sub clause 1, at the time of elections all powers are vested with the State Election Commission.

The Bench by acknowledging that amendment of the rule by the Department of Panchayati Raj on March 8, 2017, while the election process was on, was totally illegal and was against the Constitution, scrapped it, Dr.Mohapatra added.

"The bench acknowledged that the amendment was in contravention of section 51 (1) of the Odisha Zilla Parishad Act since the State Government which is

required to make a prepublication of the amendment for the knowledge of all stakeholders before issuing a notification which was not done in this case," he added.

"Further, the Bench acknowledged-



ing Supreme Court's directives in the M S Gill case said that after the start of election process Election Commission of India or State Election Commission as the case may be has all the powers, so neither the Assembly nor the Parliament or an executive do not have powers to enact laws at this time," Dr.Mohapatra said.

However, the Court did not make any comment on the validity of the elections held to the posts of chairpersons and vice chairpersons of Zilla Parishads conducted after the notification pertaining to the amendment.

"But since the amendment made by

the State government on March 8 is illegal and unconstitutional and contravenes Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, therefore it is primarily illegal since the rule on which it has been done is invalid," he said.

As per the

amendment, every elected member was supposed to cast his or her vote through open ballot after showing it to the agent of the political parties present during the election.

Opposition Congress and BJP hailed the order and claimed their stand has been vindicated.

Notably, the State Election Commission too had not favoured the amendment as it was done during the process of rural polls.

Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra, who is also a senior advocate too, said with the High Court the election of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen has become infructuous.

Congress Chief Whip Taraprasad Bahinipati said the order is a major jolt to the Government.

"The Government was not in favour of impartial election. It was scared of the possible outcome. Hence it resorted to the amendment," Mr.Bahinipati added.

Veteran Saffron leader Biswabhusan Harichandan describe the High Court verdict as victory of democracy and demanded resignation of the Chief Minister over the issue.

"The State Government attempted to make democracy a farce," Mr.Harichandan told Media Men.

He said the State Government will be in a difficult situation if any elected Member approaches the High Court over breach of secrecy of his or her ballot in the Zilla Parishad elections.

"The Chief Minister will be in a precarious situation if any member approaches the High Court alleging that his or her right to secret ballot has been breached," former Minister said. The Chief Minister has committed a grave error by circumventing the election rules," he added.

BJD Spokesperson Dibyashankar Mishra said that the party is waiting for the order.

"Once we get the order we will analyze it and if necessary may approach Higher Court," he added.

## 24 killed, 100 injured in Taliban bombing in northwest Pakistan

**PESHAWAR:** The Pakistani Taliban today targeted a Shiite imambargah with a powerful car bomb, killing at least 24 people and injuring nearly 100 others at a crowded market in northwest Pakistan's restive tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

An army medical helicopter has been sent to Parachinar to evacuate the injured, said a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement. Hours after the blast, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway faction of

the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack in the tribal region, which was once a stronghold of the group and has witnessed several sectarian attacks in the past.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has condemned the attack and reiterated his government's resolve to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country "at all costs". "It is our responsibility to continue the war against terrorists," he said. "The network of terrorists has already

been broken and it is our national duty to continue this war until the complete annihilation of the scourge of terrorism from our soil."

Pakistani security forces retaliated with a crackdown, killing dozens of terrorists and destroying mili-

tant hideouts along the border with Afghanistan. Pakistan army has launched operation 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' (elimination of discord) to defeat terrorists and consolidate the gains of its counter-terrorism operations across the country.



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**Befikre's new song Je T'aime proves French is language of love**

After giving us songs to groove on, Befikre filmmakers have released a romantic song with flavours of Paris in it. French is the language of love and this song proves the dictum all over again. The song explores the bond between the characters of Ranveer Singh and Vaani Kapoor, which is shown transforming from a casual relationship into love and commitment. The lyrics, which have been written by Jaideep Sahni, are poetic, relatable and beautiful. He has penned down all those sweet miseries

that you will experience being in love. The music, which has been given by the very talented duo Vishal- Shekhar, sets you free from the notion that one cannot dance on a romantic number. If you know even a bit of Salsa, you have your moves ready too. Unlike other lovey-dovey songs which made you a bit uncomfortable to dance with your partner, this number will make the entire ambience a bit more romantic. And don't miss the chemistry between Ranveer and Vaani too.



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able to dance with your partner, this number will make the entire ambience a bit

more romantic. And don't miss the chemistry between Ranveer and Vaani too.

**Sofia Vergara's son Manolo Gonzalez makes modelling debut**

WASHINGTON(K-CN): Manolo Gonzalez Vergara, the only child of Sofia Vergara, recently made his plunge into modelling industry following in his mother's footsteps.

The 24-year-old son made his modelling debut in a photo spread for Paper magazine's latest issue, inspired by the films of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, reports E! Online.

In one photo, Gonzalez Vergara wears a black suit and poses along model Stevie DeFelice who is sporting a red top, skirt and blazer as the duo hold a Bloody Mary each and sit on the floor that has a



shattered mirror reflecting them.

The young model also took to his Instagram handle to thank the magazine.

"And for allowing me to sit next to Stevie DeFelice. I hope she wasn't too traumatized," he added.

Vergara's 44-year-old mom had modelled for years before she moved from her native Colombia to the United States to concentrate on an acting career. Her son, who she raised as a single, working mother, has also dabbled in acting and appeared with her in a Head & Shoulders commercial in 2014.

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

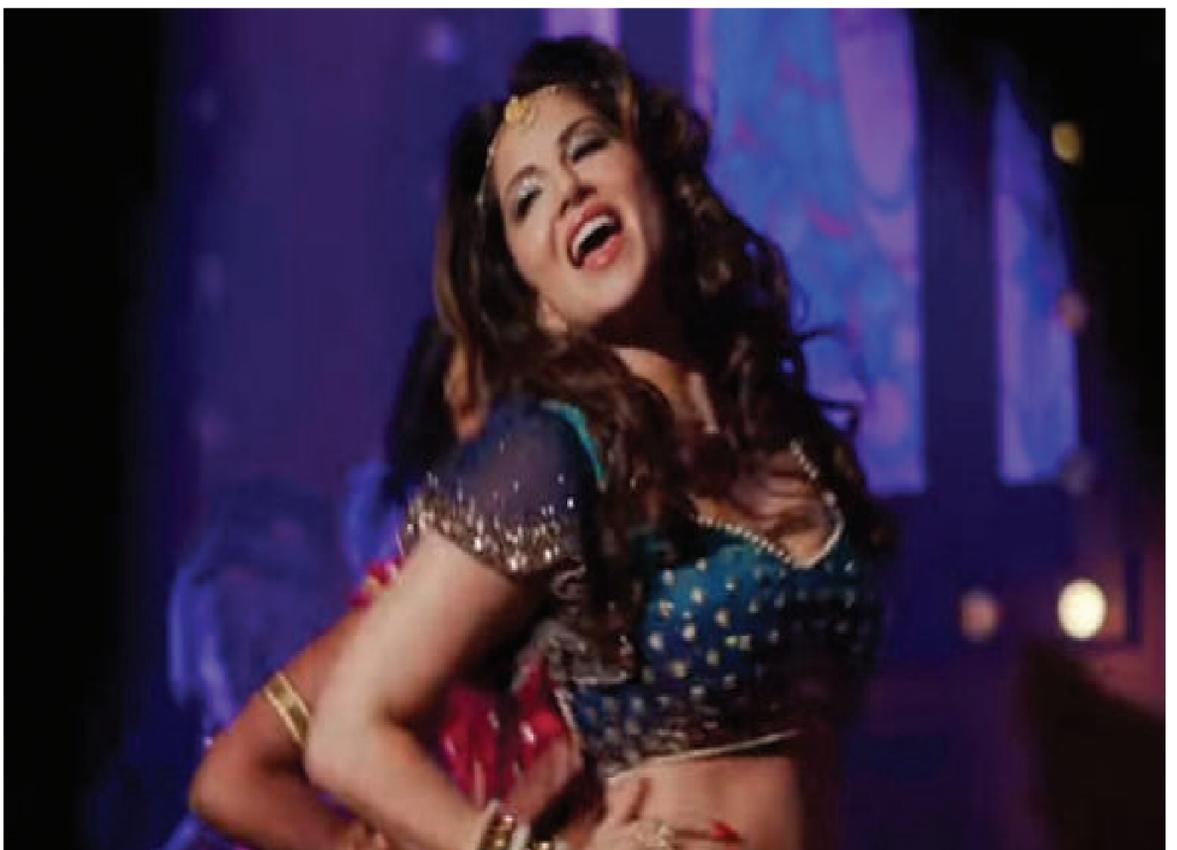
NEW DELHI (K-CN): Sunny Leone's much-awaited song from 'Raees' is out and it has all the ingredients to make it to the top of every chartbuster!

From Sunny's sexy dance moves to Shah Rukh Khan's killer looks, the re-mixed 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.



## THE KALINGA CHRONICLE

## Editorial

Back to square one:  
Egypt's restive politics

For most of those who hit Cairo's Tahrir Square in 2011 demanding democracy and a freer society, President Hosni Mubarak was a symbol of repression. After his ouster, the dictator was tried for corruption and causing the death of hundreds of protesters. Still, his release last week, after six years of detention at Cairo's military hospital, was received by Egyptians as just a routine development. There were no major protests against his release, nor were there any rallies in support — an indication of what Egypt's state and society have become six years after the Arab Spring. The release was long expected. Most of his associates and family members, who also faced serious charges, were already released. His sons, Alaa and Gamal, accused of embezzlement of public funds, were released in October 2015. Corruption charges against Mr. Mubarak were overturned in January 2015. Earlier this month, he was acquitted by Egypt's highest appeals court of conspiring to kill protesters, paving the way for his release.

It may appear ironic that Mr. Mubarak, who ruled the country with an iron fist for almost 30 years and was toppled by public protests in which hundreds were killed, is now a free man, while Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected President, is in prison. But this irony also symbolises Egypt's complex contemporary politics. Though the government of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi claims the legacy of the 2011 revolution, it took a lenient view of Mubarak-era crimes while cracking down on Mr. Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood. It is difficult to gauge the political mood in Egypt. Despite large-scale concentration of power in the hands of the military, the Sisi regime doesn't face any existential threats. For ordinary Egyptians, who went through the instability and chaos of the post-Mubarak months and the threats of Islamisation and economic miseries during the Muslim Brotherhood rule, General Sisi at least provided stability and order. The belief is that compared to other countries that were hit by popular protests in 2011 such as Libya, Yemen and Syria, Egypt is doing better, thanks to the army's intervention. Tunisia is the only country that internally transformed itself into a democracy after protests. Gen. Sisi projects himself as a guarantor of order and enjoys support among the minorities and secular sections. But the question is if the status quo is sustainable. Order was restored at a brutal cost. Hundreds were killed when security personnel forcibly removed Islamist protesters from Cairo. There is no substantial political opposition. Personal freedoms are being curbed again, while media groups and journalists are targeted. In effect, what hundreds of protesters at Tahrir Square risked their lives for was never achieved. Gen. Sisi has taken the country back to square one.

## In the land before time

The birthplace of German watchmaking: that's what

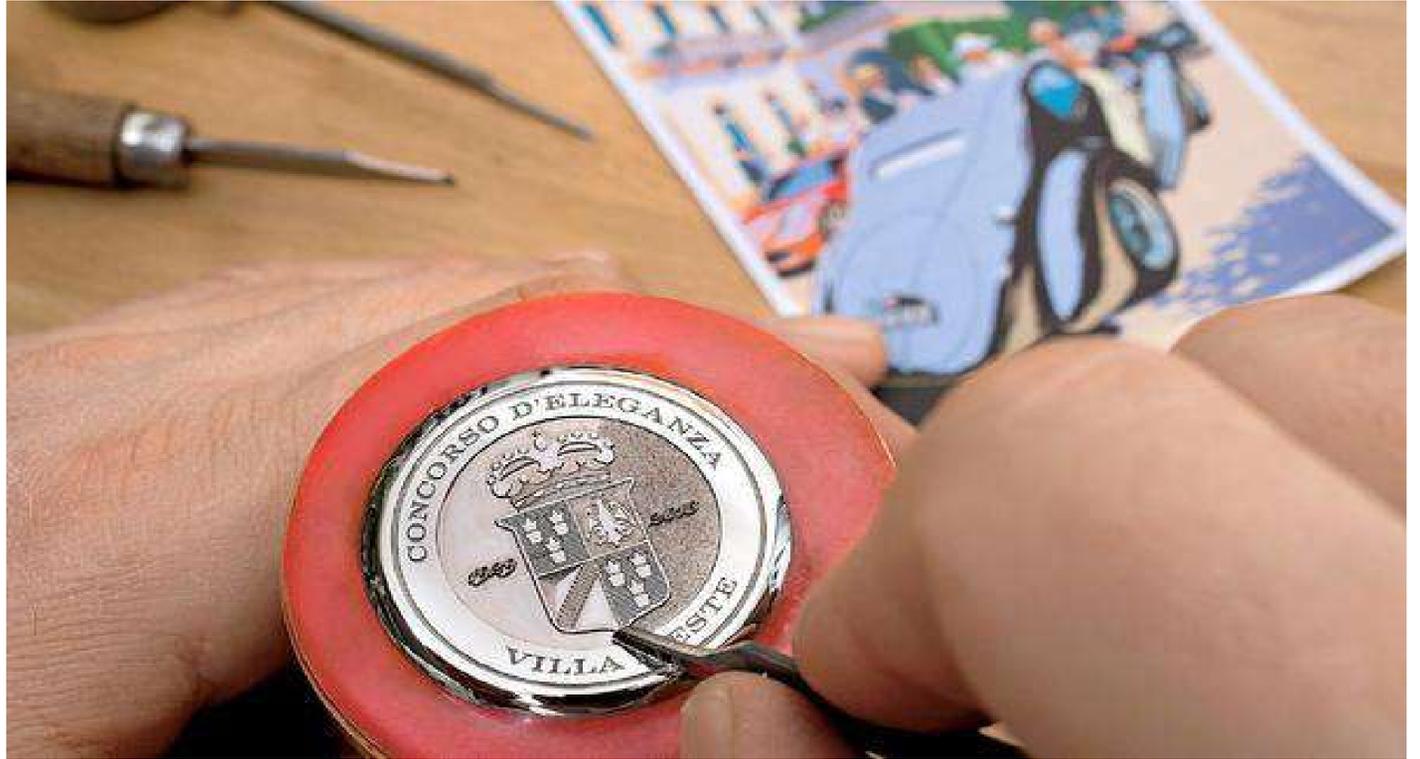
genially. The timeline and photos of the company's highlights

square-metre production area, with a bright and clearly-

downhole heat exchangers extending to a depth of as much

by the engraving department (more on that later), and then

PR director Arnd Einhorn at Lange's older manufactory,



Glashütte is called. Not surprising, considering the number of watchmakers in this picturesque little town that's a 45-minute drive from Dresden. It's cold and drizzling as we reach the manufactory of A. Lange & Söhne, a 121-year-old high-end watch manufacturer.

I, along with a couple of other journalists, am here for a look at the new premises. Right from the foyer, the place is steeped in tradition and celebrates the history of the brand. A bust of founder Ferdinand Adolph Lange, the Dresden watchmaker who started precision watchmaking in the Saxony region, looks out of the entrance

adorn one wall.

In a statement, CEO Wilhelm Schmid says, "The new building is a response to employment growth in recent years, and represents an investment in the manufactory's future. The focus was on a modern, energy-efficient building that would offer appealing surroundings and ideal working conditions. This will help us further enhance the quality of our watches and optimise our production processes. All the while, we strive to minimise our ecological footprint and resource consumption."

The two-part complex, inaugurated by Chancellor Angela Merkel in August 2015, has a 5,400-

structured façade. Slightly-inclined atelier windows ensure ample lighting without direct sunlight affecting temperature. A corridor — called a double-skin walk-in façade — helps in climate control. Conditions are virtually dust-free: they even have specially-designed jackets to be worn in certain sections. Machines and equipment used to manufacture movement parts are located in the lower-slung front part of the building, while departments in which small components are manually engraved and decorated are housed in the new building. The building houses Saxony's largest geothermal energy plant, with 55

as 125 metres. The electricity used to operate the pumps is green, making the place a CO2 emission-free facility.

After stashing our bags and jackets, we start at the finishing department. It's where the minuscule parts of the inner working of the watches are put together. Everyone works with a magnifying lens strapped over one eye and bright lights at their desk. It's quiet and there's an air of efficiency about the whole place. We line up carefully, making sure not to bump into any of the tables, and observe them as they pick up barely-visible parts and deftly assemble them.

This is followed

the milling centre, where huge machines precisely cut out holes in the base plate of the watches. It's mesmerising: the drills change automatically, the drill bits turn red-hot and are cooled constantly by a jet stream of water, and it's pretty much the definition of clockwork.

The final assembly, chronograph and zeitwerk construction departments are a whirlwind of technical terms. But it is awe-inspiring to see how these wrist-watches are assembled from scratch. Each watchmaker shows immense dedication and involvement, no matter which part of the process he works in.

After lunch with

we walk back down the cobbled pavement to the engraving department.

Here is where some elaborate engraving and design work is done by the smallest team — there are only six people. One of them gives us a basic class in engraving.

With one tool, a magnifying lens and a disc of german silver, we are taught to make straight lines within a border. It's harder than it sounds, and we are eons away from being anywhere near as good — or patient — to be on this team. But it's a great way to wrap up the tour, as we get a first-hand experience of being part of the great watchmaking tradition.

## A trip to the museum

We don't go to museums. We prefer malls, cinema halls and restaurants. Visiting a museum is best left to schools which make it mandatory. After all, it is an academic exercise. And what entertainment can these places possibly offer? I agree India doesn't boast the greatest of museums, but you can't doubt the collection of artefacts in these repositories of heritage, even for a second. Our eventful history has bequeathed us numerous masterpieces, but unfortunately, we don't find them compelling enough. Cultural historian and museologist Jyotindra Jain says that the habit of going to museums has just not been inculcated in us.

Strangely though, whenever abroad, Indians enthusiastically visit The Louvre (Paris), Victoria and Albert Museum (London), Tate (London), Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) (New York). While a few of them offer free admission to visit their permanent collection, visitors are charged for special exhibitions. At The Louvre and MoMA, tickets are priced at 15 Euros and \$25 respectively. Back home, one of the best museums of the country, National Museum in Delhi charges a mere Rs. 20.

According to Joyoti Roy, outreach consultant, National Museum, it receives between 6,00,000 to 7,00,000 visitors each

year and anything between 2,500 and 3,000 per day. The mix includes Indians, foreigners and school students. For an Indian museum, it is an astounding figure, but still nowhere close to the footfalls museums, we consider the finest, get.

In its annual report for 2014-15, Tate declared it the 'best year ever for visits' with 7.9 million in all and a record 5.7 million visits to Tate Modern. Tate had the highest number of visits by young people for any art museum in the world, with over 3.5 million under the age of 35.

It has not been many days since National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore,

hosted A. Ramachandran's expansive retrospective covering five decades of his artistic journey. As we sat outside the first-floor gallery after



Ramachandran walked me through his sketches, sculptures and paintings, the senior artist, a tad disappointed said, "Had an exhibition of this scale taken place

abroad, people would have come in thousands."

There were about three-five visitors inside the gallery at that time. Jain, who has also

helmed institutions like the Crafts Museum and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Delhi, puts the onus on museums. "We developed the museums but

didn't evolve the infrastructure around it. And it is the museum's responsibility to do it. When you know people are not going to come to you, you have to go to them. Crafts Museum shares its wall with India Trade Promotion Organisation. It receives lakhs of people during the trade fair. I fought tooth and nail to get that door opened during my tenure (1984-89) so that the visitors spill over to the Crafts Museum as well. Museums need to rethink their strategies and outreach should be a major point of concern for them."

In 2010, UNESCO brought out a report on the terrible conditions at India's top eight museums, citing sub-standard

maintenance, lighting and signage, among other issues. The Ministry of Culture put together a 14-point museum reforms agenda and things have moved forward since then.

Things took a 360-degree turn for the National Museum with the appointment of IAS officer Venu Vasudevan as its director general in 2013. According to the information provided to us by Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, the oldest museum in Mumbai has received 3,00,000 visitors over the past year. On an average, the museum witnesses 500 visitors every day, with an average of 2,000 visitors over weekends. Not big numbers again, but impressive enough in the

Indian context. And this is when the museum re-emerged after a revamp in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme. Collaborations, screenings of movies of different genres and workshops for adults and children contributed to the increase in the number of footfalls. The public-private partnership model of the museum is unique and can be replicated in other cases as well.

Entry of private players like Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in 2011 has upped the game. In the last six years, KNMA has been visited by around 1,20,000 visitors from all over the world.

# Banks go for cuts, lending rates down by up to 90 bps

**Mumbai (KCN)** ROLLING OUT one of the steepest cuts in borrowing rates in recent times, leading banks lowered their lending rates on Sunday by up to 90 basis points, or a little less than one per cent, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested that they should focus on the poor, lower middle class, middle class and senior citizens, and act in "public interest".

After the deadline for the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes ended Friday, **From Page-1** the Second Floor of the State Secretariat to greet Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi. In fact there was a beeline to meet the Top Mandarin and wish him in the New Year on 2 January. Mr. Padhi was

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest bank, reduced the overnight marginal cost of funds

are 8 per cent against 8.90 per cent for one-year loans, 8.10 per cent for two-year loans and 8.15 per

Rose Valley Chit Fund Scam: Mamata Banerjee Slams PM Modi After TMC MP S u d i p

others can avail of home loans at 8.25 per cent. On November 2, SBI had cut home loan rates to 9.1 per cent — the lowest in six years — as part of a festive scheme.

Delhi-based Punjab National Bank cut the overnight lending rate by 70 basis points to 8.20 per cent while Union Bank of India slashed the rates by 65-90 bps for different tenures. IDBI Bank's three-year loans will now be at 9.30 per cent, down by 40 basis points. However, borrowers may not get the full benefit of the MCLR cut due to the spread that banks charge on loans.

**See page-8**



based lending rates (MCLR) to 7.75 per cent from 8.65 per cent. The new rates sharing good wishes.

And all along jovial and intelligent KBK Chief Administrator S P Thakur was seen cracking jokes and making the environment lively.

Agriculture Production Commissioner G K Dhal was

cent for three-year maturity, SBI said.

Watch what else is making news:

Secretary Labor & ESI G Srinivas, Principal Secretary Rural Development Madhu Sudan Padhi Secretary Health & Family Welfare Pramod Kumar Meherda, Secretary ST & SC Development and I& PR Surendra Kumar,

Bandopadhyay's Arrest

The new loan rates will be effective from January 1. Women home-loan borrowers of SBI will be able to avail loans at interest rates of 8.20 per cent while

## China to ban ivory trade by end of 2017

**BEIJING (KCN):** China will ban trade and processing of all domestic ivory by the end of 2017 in a bid to save the fast dwindling tusk population in the country, a "historic move" hailed as a "game changer" for African elephants.

The decision came after China had imposed a three-year ban on ivory imports in March this year, in an escalated fight against illegal trading of wild animals and plants.

"China will gradually stop the processing and sales of ivories for commercial purposes by the end of 2017," the official Xinhua news agency said, citing a government statement.

The move will impact China's 34 processing enterprises and 143 designated trading venues, with dozens to be closed by the end of March 2017, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted an official statement as saying.

Before that deadline, law enforcement agencies will continue to clamp down on illegalities associated with the elephant's tusk, an official told the agency.

China's move, if implemented, strictly could be a "game changer", specially the African elephant conservation as hundreds killed every year by poachers to feed into the burgeoning markets in China and Hong Kong.

As a result the numbers of Africa's savannah elephants dropped to 3.5 lakh thousand in 2014.

China's move to ban ivory trade fol-

lowed a resolution at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in South Africa in October.

China has the biggest ivory market in the world - some estimates suggest 70 per cent of the world's trade ends up there. Ivory's price can reach USD 1,100 per kg in China.

Conservation group WWF welcomed the latest news, calling it a "historic announcement", signalling an end to the world's primary legal ivory market and a major boost to international efforts to "tackle the elephant poaching crisis in Africa", BBC reported.

Elly Pepper, deputy director of wildlife trade for the Natural Resources Defence Council, praised China for its "great leadership" on the issue.

"Setting such an aggressive timeline to close - once and for all - the largest domestic ivory market in the world is globally significant, Pepper said.

"It's a game changer and could be the pivotal turning point that brings elephants back from the brink of extinction," she said.

While the international market in ivory has been closed since 1989, legal domestic markets have continued in many countries around the world.

A surge in the killing of elephants over the past seven years has seen populations across Africa shrink by a third, according to the recently published Great Elephant Census.

## Send 40 percent currency to rural areas, RBI tells banks

**MUMBAI:** The RBI on Tuesday said the supply of currency

tribution in these areas. "Banks should

bank chests to obtain supply of coins on priority basis and if



notes in rural areas was not adequate and asked banks to send at least 40 percent of the supply to their rural branches.

"The bank notes, being supplied to rural areas, at present, are not commensurate with the requirements of the rural population," the Reserve Bank of India said in a notification.

With a view to ensure that at least 40 percent bank notes were supplied to rural areas, the banks were advised to increase the issue of currency towards the main channels of dis-

advise their currency chests to step up issuance of fresh notes to rural branches of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and commercial banks, white label ATMs and post offices on priority basis which are considered main rural channels of distribution," it said.

RBI asked the banks to issue notes in denominations of Rs 500 and below in rural areas with liberal issuance of existing stock of notes below Rs 100.

It also asked the

required even get it issued from the central bank.

As the rural requirements could vary depending on variations in the rural and urban mix of each district, a certain percentage of allocation has been assigned to each district by RBI to facilitate a need based approach.

"The indicated proportion may be maintained on weekly average basis at each chest level as it may be difficult to stick to the proportion on daily basis," RBI said.

## Adventz group not keen on Paytm stake

**KOLKATA (KCN):** Saroj Poddar-controlled Adventz group today said it

ahead with it," a top official of the group told PTI today. According to sources,

alists Sunil Munjal and Saroj Poddar were in talks for a secondary deal to buy



was approached for buying a minority stake in Paytm, but has decided against it.

"We were approached by a few merchant bankers for a minority stake in Paytm. But we have decided not to go

Saroj Poddar's son Akshay Poddar was negotiating the deal.

Valuation is the key reason for not buying into the leading wallet company, the sources indicated.

According to media reports, industri-

a minority stake from IDFC Securities analyst Nikhil Vora who holds some 0.35 per cent in One97 Communications, the parent of Paytm. Paytm last received funding from Taiwan's MediaTek in August.

## Sensex breaks seven day fall, but logs weekly loss

**Mumbai (KCN):** Breaking a seven-day losing pattern, the Sensex today reclaimed the key 26,000-mark by recovering 61 points, helped by gains in pharma, auto and capital goods, but both indices registered a weekly drop. For the week, the Sensex lost 448.86 points, or 1.69 per cent, while the broader NSE Nifty dropped 153.70 points, or 1.88 per cent.

This is their biggest weekly in five, which is since the week ended November 18. Domestic investors backed up and covering-up of short positions gave equities a push too. But a weak trend in Asia and a muted opening in Europe cast its shadow.

The rupee appreciated 21 paise intraday against the dollar, to 67.78, which had a positive influence too, brokers said. After a subdued opening, the

Sensex dropped as foreign funds liquidated bets ahead of Christmas, but emergence of value-buying later meant it wiped off early losses before settling higher by 61.10 points, or 0.24 per cent, at 26,040.70.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended up 6.65 points, or 0.08 per cent, at 7,985.75 points. Intra-day, it shuttled between 7,942.05 and 8,022.60.



seen warmly receiving the officers, employees, scribes and people of cross section of the society.

Honest and humble Top Mandarin was reciprocating with sweet words with people and wishing for happier times in 2017.

Simplicity is the hallmark of the Chief Secretary, who fondly talked to the Bureaucrats and Visitors, while wishing for a better times.

R Balakrishnan, Development Commissioner received the enthusiastic visitors with a charming smile and wished for a "Happy New Year".

There was good rush for meeting the Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Upendra Nath Behera in the Third Floor. Sweet and suave, Mr. Behera was equally reciprocating the visitors for a bright New Year.

Mr. Behera, seen in a jovial mood in presence of "Intimidating Biggies of 1986 IAS Batch" and

also greeted by Bureaucrats and others and humble Mandarin was seen sweetly reciprocating with them with good wishes.

Great Rush was seen to meet the Special Secretary to Chief Minister V Karthikeya Pandian.

The Powerful Bureaucrat was also seen receiving the officers, employees and others in a friendly manner.

There was rush to meet the Principal Secretary Home Asit Tripathy and Principal Secretary Finance Tuhin Kanta Pandey who were equally reciprocating the visitors.

Meeting the Principal Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies Pradipta Kumar Mahapatra, Principal Secretary Energy, Rajesh Verma, Principal Secretary MSME L N Gupta, Principal Secretary Water Resources, Pradeep Jena, Principal Secretary Steel & Mines Raj Kumar Sharma, Principal

Secretary Women & Child Development Vishal Dev, Secretary Fisheries, ARD & Excise Bishnupada Sethi and Special Secretary General Administration Ashok Meena was a pleasure for the officers and employees.

There was equal amount of enthusiasm to meet Top Mandarins like Principal Secretary Higher Education, G V V Sarma, Principal Secretary Tourism Arti Ahuja and others.

Principal Secretary Works Nalini Kanta Pradhan was also greeted by a large number of officers and engineers.

During the day it was almost a festive look and holiday mood in the State Secretariat. Prasad Sevan was conducted at various floors.

There was a full-fledged puja of Trinity in Department of Works and Department of Commerce & Transport, where Prasad were distributed.

## UN chief at Iraq camp urges more aid for people of Mosul

**HASAN SHAM CAMP:** UN chief Antonio Guterres appealed Friday for more aid and international solidarity for the people of Mosul, as he visited a camp for Iraqis displaced by fighting with jihadists.

"Unfortunately, our programme here is only funded at eight percent; that shows how limited our resources are," he said.

"These people have suffered enormously, and they go on suffering. We need more solidarity from the international community," he said.

Guterres is on the second day of a visit to Iraq, after meeting with top officials including Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad on Thursday.

His visit comes as Iraqi forces battle to retake second city Mosul, which was seized by the Islamic State jihadist group in 2014.

The fighting has sparked major humanitarian concerns, killing hundreds of civilians and displacing more than 200,000 since the operation to retake the city's western side began last month.

## Technology lends a hand as Spain beats France 2-0

**SAINT-DENIS(KCN):** Spain ended France's seven-game unbeaten run as substitutes David Silva and Gerard Deulofeu scored second-half goals to secure a 2-0 win over the European Championship runner-up in a friendly at the Stade de France on Tuesday. It was France's first loss since its 1-0 defeat to Portugal at the same venue in the Euro 2016 final last

summer.

Silva's goal was a reward for a good spell of dominance from Spain that started after Lopetegui replaced Andres Iniesta and Isco with Thiago Alcantara and Silva in the 53rd minute.

Deulofeu then rounded off a fast counterattack with 13 minutes left to make it 2-0 from an assist by Jordi Alba.

## English football club Everton's new stadium plan gets funding boost

**LONDON(KCN):** Everton's bid to build a new £300 million (\$373 million, 349 million euros) stadium received a boost

begin the planning process which will potentially lead to the submission of a formal planning application by the end of the

up to £5 million in an annual security fee.

"This deal is a great step forward for Everton and it's a great deal for the city



on Friday as Liverpool City Council approved the establishment of a funding scheme.

The Premier League club want to leave their historic Goodison Park home and will be allowed to borrow the necessary money, guaranteed by the council, to finance a new arena at Bramley-Moore Dock.

Everton can now

year. The cabinet report claims a new stadium will bring a forecasted £9 million in economic benefits to the city annually and could play a part in its Commonwealth Games bid for either 2022 or 2026.

There will be no financial outlay towards the project by the council but its involvement in supporting the funding model will bring in

of Liverpool," said Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson.

"This new stadium has the potential to kick-start the regeneration of the area and will provide a massive boost to the city's economy.

"The ball is now in Everton's court to sort the finance package and design a stadium that will make the world sit up and take notice."

The result at

# Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho regrets Schweinsteiger treatment

**MANCHESTER(KCN):** Jose Mourinho has issued a heartfelt apology to Bastian Schweinsteiger for the manner in which he brought about the German star's departure from Manchester United.

Schweinsteiger finally left Old Trafford this week, signing a deal with the MLS side Chicago Fire after failing to secure regular first-team football under Mourinho.

The 32-year-old has played just four times since the Portuguese manager took over at Old Trafford last year, following on from an injury-plagued debut season under Louis van Gaal. Mourinho, however, now accepts he was wrong to isolate the popular veteran from his squad and would act differently if he had the chance to make the decision again.

"I do regret it, yeah," Mourinho said on Friday. "What would I do different?"

I would let him be in the squad.

"I knew in that moment we had too many players. If you

"What I knew about him was a season full of injuries, a season where he almost didn't play, a

showed even glimpses of the form that had made him such a feared midfielder. The Ger-

man was unfair in his treatment of the veteran.

As way of an apology, Mourinho

"I don't want to speak about him as a player I would or would not buy. I want to speak about him as a professional, as a human being.

"It was the last thing I told him before he left — I was not right with you once, I have to be right to you now.

"So when he was asking me to let him leave, I had to say yes, you can leave because I did it once, I cannot do it twice.

"I could not stop him to go, even though I know we have so many matches and probably would need him for a few matches or a few periods. "So I feel sorry for the first period with him, he knows that, I am happy that he knows, because I told him.

"I will miss a good guy, a good pro, a very good influence in training. But I had to let him go and now publicly wish him and his wife a very happy life in Chicago."



remember we had many players in a doubtful situation.

"But after knowing him as a professional and as a person, the way he was behaving and the way he was respecting my decisions as a manager, yes I regret, and it is no problem for me admitting it and he knows that because I told him.

season where he was having treatment outside of the club, and I thought that was not right, the mentality was not right. "It was the kind of player who I would not like to have in the club."

Van Gaal paid Bayern £14.4 million (\$17.9 million, 16.7 million euros) for Schweinsteiger in 2015 but he rarely

man still retained cult status among United supporters, even though the sum total of his league appearances for the club amount to 13 starts and five substitute appearances over nearly two full campaigns.

However, Mourinho conceded he did not handle the situation well and

allowed him to leave for the United States this week, even though the United manager admits he could have used his services in Manchester over the remaining weeks of a busy season.

"He is in the category of players I feel sorry for something I did to him," said Mourinho.

## Minus-Messi, Argentina loses another World Cup qualifier

**SAO PAULO(KCN):** Hours after Lionel Messi was suspended by FIFA for four World Cup qualifying matches, Argentina lost 2-0 to Bolivia in the altitude of La Paz on Tuesday and heightened its risk of missing a spot at Russia 2018.

Argentina dropped from third to fifth place, remaining on 22 points in South American qualifying with four games to play and putting coach Edgardo Bauza under intense pressure to step aside.

South America has four direct spots at the World Cup, and the fifth-ranked team goes into an inter-continental playoff against the Oceania qualifying winner for another spot at Russia next year.

While Argentina struggled, Colombia had a 2-0 win at Ecuador, posting its first win in Quito in 20 years and ensuring it will end the round in second or third spot. Ecuador dropped out of the top five for the first time, slipping to sixth with 20 points.

The result at

Quito opened the prospect of a possible early qualification for leaders Brazil, which has won seven straight and has 30 points from 13 matches in qualifying.

If the Brazilians beat seventh position Paraguay in Sao Paulo, they will have enough points to secure a top-five spot in qualifying.

Also on Tuesday Copa America champion Chile beat last-place Venezuela 3-1 in Santiago and climbed back to fourth spot with 23 points.

**ARGENTINA** Argentina's best chance of qualifying for the next World Cup seemingly relies on winning an appeal to have Messi's suspension shortened. The Barcelona star made offensive remarks to a Brazilian linesman in the 1-0 victory against Chile last Thursday and, if the FIFA ruling prevails, will only return to the team in their last match for qualifiers in October against Ecuador.

From a TV set in

the locker room, Messi saw Argentina little by little fade into an average side out-run by the Bolivians at the 3,600 meters of altitude. The last time the Argentines managed to win in La Paz was in 2005.

Of the five defenders Bauza wanted to field against the ninth-place Bolivians, only left-winger Marcos Rojo was available. Still, the Argentinians seemed to be handling the Bolivians, creating the best opportunities in the first 30 minutes. But then striker Juan Arce headed home a cross from Pablo Escobar in the 32nd minute to open the scoring for the hosts.

The Argentina started losing condition at altitude and Bolivia capitalized via striker Marcelo Moreno, who fired home from close range after a cross from Flores to make it 2-0 in the 52nd.

"We are alive and we want to qualify for the World Cup. This is a fight that we will keep fighting," Bauza told

a post-match news conference, before admitting there were big concerns within the squad. "Yes, the players are worried because no one likes to lose."

The coach also said "it is strange" that Messi's ban was decided so quickly. "It is regrettable that he could not play, but even more so that there was no time for me to work with someone else," Bauza said. "I am a little surprised with the time they gave me to make the change."

Argentina's next games will be in August at Uruguay and in Buenos Aires against Venezuela. In October, the World Cup finalists will face Peru at home and Ecuador in Quito.

**COLOMBIA** Midfielder James Rodriguez, the best player of the match in Quito, was only 5-years old the last time Colombia had an away win at Ecuador.

He started to break the Colombian drought at 20 minutes. Almost accidentally, Rodriguez touched the ball with

his back after a low cross from Borja and it slowly went inside. At 32 minutes he started a play that finished in a similar goal scored by striker Juan Cuadrado — with his feet, though.

In the second half, Rodriguez helped Colombia control a match that could have ended with an even bigger goal difference in favor of the visitors.

Ecuador's chances of a comeback were diminished when defender Luis Caicedo was sent off after a rough challenge on the hour. That means Ecuador won't have one of their best defenders against Brazil in August.

Colombia now has 24 points and could end the round in second or third, depending on Uruguay's result in Peru. In August coach Jose Pekerman's team will play at Venezuela and then hosts leaders Brazil. In October, they will play against Paraguay at home and away at Peru.