

Anti-corruption march at week-end street fest in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State-wide anti-corruption campaign was launched at the street event, Patha Utsav, here on Sunday. Social organisations working in different sectors exhibited an array of performances based on the theme of

a corruption-free society by mobilising public opinion.

Taking the lead during the inaugural session, Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi said the State Government has been vigilant to root out corruption and called for a massive people-

based participatory approach to weed out the menace.

DG Police KB Singh hailed the initiative of the Vigilance Directorate and said more people-centric activities should be cultivated to motivate the public to report and

check corruption. Police Commissioner YB Khurania exhorted people to make maximum use of social media to bring incidents of corruption to the notice of the Vigilance.

Police DG, Vigilance Dr RP Sharma said the campaign

will be extended to all parts of the State. Special camps will be organised to sensitise citizens to report incidents of graft in Government offices. The Vigilance helpline 1064 and social networks have been very effective in providing leads to the

anti-corruption agency, he added.

human chains, street plays and stand-up

numbers was a big crowd puller.



Kashmir bypolls: Farooq Abdullah says country belongs to all faiths; files nomination papers

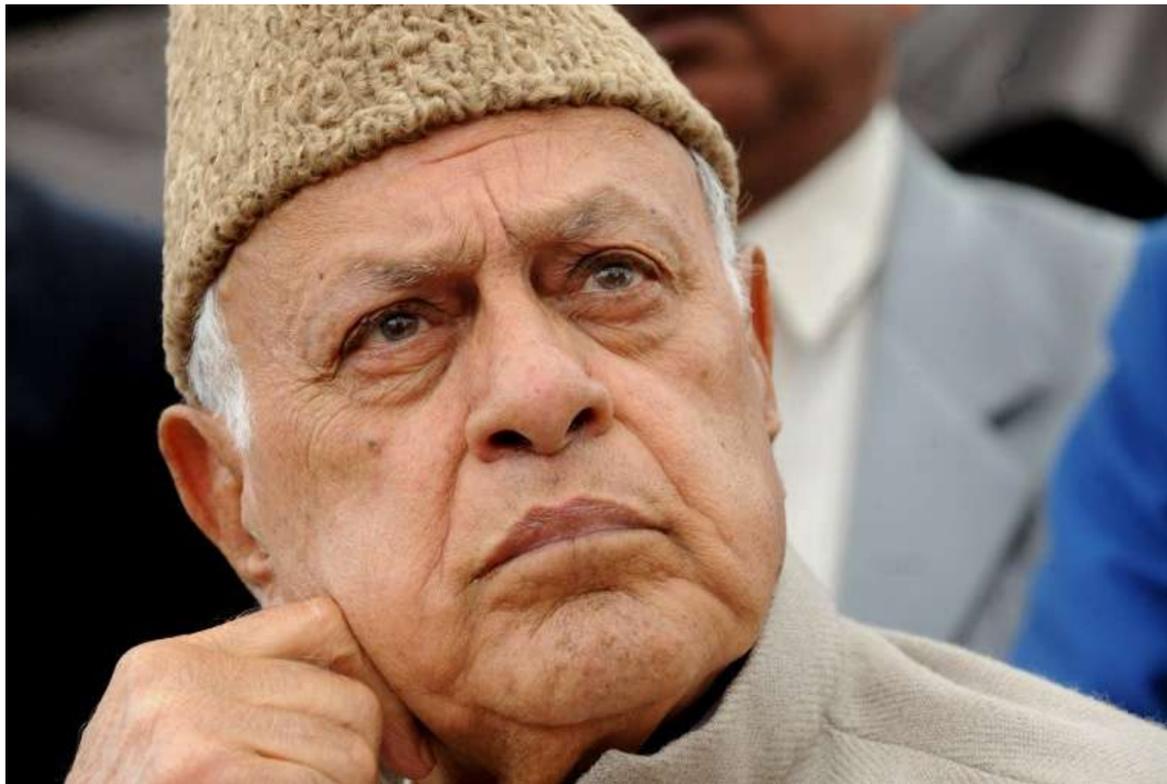
SRINAGAR: The opposition National

cinematographer brother Tasaduq

five months of unrest last year following

mighty knows what storm is in store,"

as a "discredited politician" and said NC is



Conference president Farooq Abdullah and ruling PDP candidate Nazir Ahmad Khan filed their nomination papers for bypolls to Srinagar Lok Sabha parliamentary seat on Monday with Abdullah saying the country belongs to all faiths and J&K cannot survive without friendship between India and Pakistan.

Mufti is PDP candidate.

The by-election to Srinagar constituency was necessitated by resignation of Tariq Hamid Karra from the Lok Sabha and from ruling PDP in September last year to protest mishandling of situation during unrest in the Valley by Mehbooba Mufti led government.

The bypolls for the Srinagar seat in central Kashmir comprising 15 Assembly segments will be held on April 9.

The NC, Congress and PDP have started election campaign in favour of their respective candidates. But the campaign has remained confined to indoor only due to situation in the Valley, where 92 civilians were killed and over 13000 injured in security forces firing in over

killing of 21-year-old Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani on July 8, 2016.

Both Abdullah and Khan addressed the party workers meet at their respective party headquarters, here.

"The fire of communalism and polarization that is being fanned and spreading across country needs to be stopped before it engulfs our values and robs us of our rights, sense of dignity and special constitutional status," Abdullah said while addressing NC and Congress workers at the party headquarters, here.

He said the country belongs to all faith and not just to people of a single religion.

"Till the nation remains for everyone, we are associated with it. However, if this thing does not remain, then only Al-

Abdullah said adding, "We have to save this nation from the disaster and the fire that is engulfing it".

Urging people to vote for NC-Congress candidates in the bypolls, he said there should be no doubt in minds of people that PDP is now almost officially an affiliate of RSS and any remaining doubts were cleared by the open campaigning and support being offered by the BJP to the two candidates being fielded by PDP.

Referring to tension between India and Pakistan, the NC president said J&K cannot survive unless there is friendship and talks between the two countries.

The PDP's candidate for Srinagar seat Nazir Khan while addressing workers at party headquarters describing Abdullah

now only surviving because of support from the Congress.

Appealing people to vote for PDP candidates, Khan reminded them that Muslim voters of Deoband in Uttar Pradesh had voted for BJP and the voters here should vote for PDP candidates.

Speaking on the occasion, senior PDP leader and MP Muzzafar Hussain Baig lashed out at separatist leaders and accused them of building their houses on graves of young boys of the valley, who have been victims of their politics of deceit.

"I crave for facilities as an MP and pray that I be bestowed the facilities enjoyed by the Huriryat leaders," he said and took a dig at them for inciting youth to pelt stones on security forces.

Two kiosks of the Vigilance Directorate were set up to disseminate materials on Vigilance awareness while film actors Sabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu addressed the participants on corruption-free Odisha. This apart, Janpath witnessed several artists, bureaucrats, children and general public taking a mass oath to fight the evil.

Besides, the stages were decorated with live performances by the artists on patriotic genres. Rangoli street art,

events organised by children were eye-catching and attracted a huge audience. The band of Odisha Police marched through the entire 1.2 km stretch and played the music.

Bollywood singer and Sufiana expert Krishna Beura mesmerised the audience with 'Moula mere moula', 'Teriyaad sath hai' and Odia songs 'Nijhum ratire' and 'Abhimanyu'. His remix number with initial lines on the ever-green Rangabati with other Hindi and Odia

Among others, Lok Sabha Member Prasanna Patsani, Tourism and Culture Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Development Commissioner R Balakrishnan, Bhubaneswar Development Authority Vice-Chairman Dr Krishan Kumar and MCL Chief Vigilance Officer Munavar Khursheed also spoke. During the celebration, prizes were distributed to winners of essay, cartoon-cum-caption writing and slogan writing competitions.

UK to formally trigger Brexit on March 29

LONDON(KCN): Britain said Monday it will trigger its exit from the European Union on March 29, nine months after the country voted to leave the European Union.

Triggering Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, the formal procedure for leaving the bloc, will open a two-year timetable for difficult negotiations, meaning Britain could be out of the EU by 2019.

"The UK's permanent representative to the EU informed the office of (European Union President) Donald Tusk that it's the UK's intention to trigger Article 50 on March 29," Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman told reporters. The spokesman said May would notify Tusk in writing and then give a speech to the British parliament.

"We want negotiations to start promptly," he said.

Britain voted in a June referendum by a 52 percent majority to leave the EU -- the first member state ever to do so.

Monday's announcement comes just days before the European Union celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which created the bloc.

The European Commission, whose chief negotiator Michel Barnier will spearhead the talks with London on behalf of the other 27 member states, said it was ready for the Brexit process.

"Everything is ready on this side," Margaritis Schinas, the spokesman for European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker, told a briefing.

"We are ready to begin negotiations," he said.

Britain's Brexit minister David Davis said in a statement that Brit-

ons had approved a "historic decision" to leave the EU after four decades of membership.

"Next Wednesday, the government will deliver on that decision and formally start the process by triggering Article 50," he said.

"We are on the threshold of the most important negotiation for this country for a generation."

May has said she wants to leave the European single market in order to be able to control immigration.

The European Commission is expected to provide an initial answer to Britain's Article 50 notification within 48 hours but negotiations are not expected to start for several weeks or even months.

The British government has insisted the Brexit process is irreversible once Article 50 is triggered, although experts have said there is no legal ban on member states changing their minds before they have actually left the European Union.

May's preparations for Brexit have been hit by Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's announcement last week that she planned a new independence referendum in order to keep EU ties.

Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland, which made major gains in regional elections earlier this month, has also called for a referendum on breaking off from the United Kingdom and uniting with the Republic of Ireland.

Of the United Kingdom's four nations, Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU in the June 23 vote while England and Wales voted to leave. May on Monday began a tour of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland aimed at boosting support for Brexit.

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



NEW DELHI (KCN): 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 Pwani Kalyan. Directed by Rahul Dholakia, 'Raees' is all set to release on January 25 next year.

Working with Mani Ratnam very nourishing: Aditi Rao Hydari



CHENNAIKCN): Actress Aditi Rao Hydari on Monday said working with ace filmmaker Mani Ratnam in forthcoming Tamil romantic drama "Kaatru Veliyidai" was very nourishing.

At the film's audio launch here, Aditi told media: "It's a very special film. My

life-long dream to work with Mani Ratnam has come true." She went on to add that to work with the "Roja" filmmaker was like "taking a booster shot of vitamin". "It was nourishing," she added. On a funny note, she also said that

Ratnam can't get rid of her and that she would love to collaborate with him again. Paired with Karthi, she plays a doctor in the film. Produced by Sri Thenandal Films, the film is slated for release on April 7.

Sofia Vergara's son Manolo Gonzalez makes modelling debut

WASHINGTON(KCN): 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.

Shameful, says Aparna Sen on 'Lipstick...' censor certificate controversy

KOLKATA(KCN): Acclaimed film-

from the Central Board of Film Certi-

"Lipstick Under My Burkha", which is di-

Appellate Tribunal has enough sense to

tion," Aparna told IANS on the sidelines of the trailer launch of her next directorial venture "Sonata".

Revolving around four women -- a burqa-clad college girl, a young beautician, a mother of three and a 55-year-old widow who rediscovers her sexuality - "Lipstick Under My Burkha" also features actors like Ratna Pathak Shah and Aahana Kumra.

"Lipstick Under My Burkha" has been deemed too "lady oriented" in content and according to the censor board, it is laced with sexual scenes and abusive words.

The film won a gender equality award at the Mumbai film fest last year, and recently won the Audience Award at the Glasgow Film Festival.

Mahesh Bhatt looking for reinvention with Begum Jaan

NEW DELHI(KCN): Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt



says producing Vidya Balan-starrer "Begum Jaan" is a conscious decision with a motive to reinvent.

After churning out content running high on sex and thrill, Mahesh asserts that he has come back to subjects that he explored during his formative years in Bollywood.



maker Aparna Sen says it is shameful that "Lipstick Under My Burkha" is not getting a certificate

fication (CBFC) in India. Aparna's actress-daughter Konkona Sensharma stars in

rected by Alankrita Shrivastava. "It's shameful. I hope the tribunal (Film Certification

say 'yes we will give it a certificate'. It is a breach of our democratic right to our freedom of expres-

Ongoing rupee appreciation short-lived, RBI intervention required

MUMBAI(KCN): Rating agency Care Ratings today said the ongoing rupee appreciation is short-lived and the Reserve Bank

state of UP. Analysts and market expect that the huge victory margin will help the government accelerate reforms. "The

banks to tone down the level of enthusiasm. Forex assets continue to remain stable at USD 364 billion which does



will soon have a role to play in correcting the sentiment.

The rupee traded in the range of 66.70 and 65.41 between March 1 and March 16, but has appreciated by nearly Rs 1.23 against the US dollar since March 1 making it the best performing unit in the whole of Asia this year. "We do believe that the current trend of rupee appreciation will get corrected in the next few trading sessions. The fundamentals do not signal any sustained strengthening of the rupee and the RBI will have a role to play in correcting the sentiment," Care said in a report.

The rupee has started appreciating quite sharply following the BJP win in the recent state elections, especially in the key

election outcome has caused a rally in the forex market with the rupee strengthening sharply," the report said. FPI onflows have been stronger at USD 2.289 billion this month with equity flows being very strong.

The February data showed exports jumped 17.5 per cent - an all-time high since Sept 2011. Though this is a one-off case, the markets today have perceived it positive. The agency said the ongoing rupee appreciation is not sustainable unless the fundamentals alter sharply to justify this rally. "The range of 66-66.50 looks more likely to prevail once the noise factor in the market diminishes," it said.

Quoting market sources, the report said RBI is talking to

not warrant a sharp appreciation on a continuous basis.

The Federal Reserve yesterday raised interest rates on expected lines but hinted at gradual increases during the year. The Fed move follows a strong pick up in the US economy and strong jobs creation.

As monetary policy has to be forward looking the Fed may be expected to raise rates two more times this year by 25 basis points each. It said in the current scenario, RBI will view these developments more from the forex angle rather than interest rate consideration as monetary policy will be determined by CPI inflation and hence be data-driven.

NITI to lend support in development of 10 big infrastructure projects

NEW DELHI(KCN): Aayog will prepare a list of 10 big infrastructure projects that can be developed under the public private partnership (PPP) mode.

The proposal to short list 10 big projects on priority basis was discussed during a meeting of NITI Aayog officials and representatives

Infrastructure is a top priority for the government and various efforts are already on to attract more investments into the sector, especially from foreign players.

The official said NITI Aayog would identify "ten big infrastructure projects" across sectors which can be developed through the PPP

details of such big projects that would be provided by the states in the coming weeks, he added.

Further, he said that having a list of big projects would help in extending all possible "developmental support" to the states concerned on a priority basis.

According to the official, the specific

information from the states.

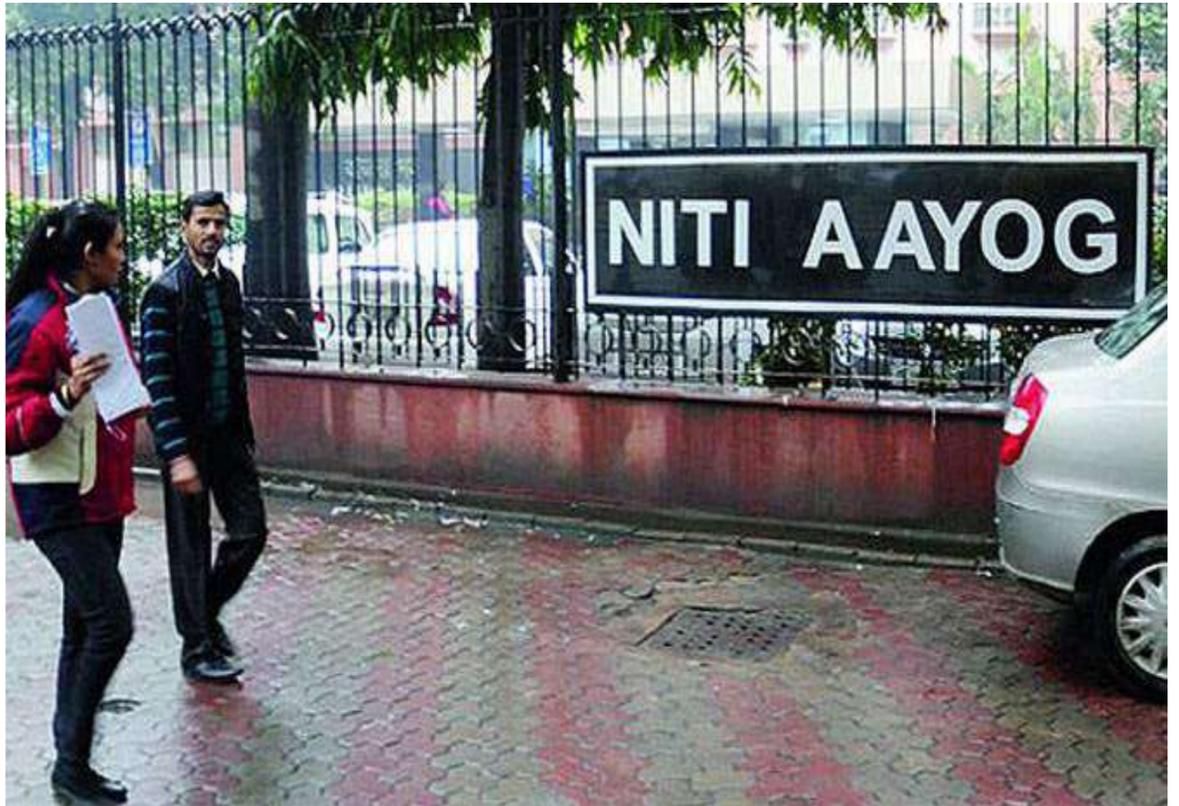
"NITI Aayog will provide its expertise in advising the states on developing infrastructure, especially big projects. This will also help in streamlining the process and ensure timely completion of big projects," the official said.

The government

Budget 2017-18.

In his Budget speech, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said the magnitude of investment in the space is bound to spur growth.

Infrastructure is the thrust area of the government for efficiency, productivity and quality of life and approach was to spend more on infra-



from various states on March 7, a senior government official said.

mode. The list would be prepared after taking into consideration the

sectors where such projects can be pursued would be decided after collating

has allocated Rs 3.95 lakh crore for infrastructure development in the Union

structure development, he had said in February

No FDI in defence, ports, coal in April-December: Sitharaman tells Lok Sabha

As many as five sectors including defence, ports and coal have failed to attract any foreign direct investments during the April-December period of the current fiscal, Parliament was informed today.

The other two segments which were not able to attract the foreign inflows are - photographic raw film & paper and coir, according to the data shared by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

Barring defence industries, the other four sectors had not received any FDI in 2015-16 either.

Related Article



Government considering FDI norms relaxation in multi-brand retail policy. Government actively studying proposal for FDI in non-food items. Centre working on 'appropriate policies' for 100 per cent FDI in airlines in India: Minister

Last year, the government relaxed FDI norms in several sectors including defence. India imports 70 per cent of its military hardware from different countries.

As per the current policy, foreign investment beyond 49 per cent has been permitted in the defence sector through the approval route in cases resulting in access to

modern technology in the country or for other reasons.

However, the sectors which have attracted maximum FDI in the April-December period of this fiscal include services (USD 7.5 billion), trading (USD 2 billion), metallurgical industries (USD 1.25 billion), electrical equipment (USD 2 billion), telecommunications (USD 5.54 billion) and computer hardware & software (USD 1.81 billion).

During the 9-month period of 2016-17, India attracted a total of USD 35.84 billion in foreign inflows.

Inability to bowl us out will be hurting India: Steven Smith

RANCHI(KCN): Steve Smith today said India's inability to bowl Australia out on the final day of the drawn third cricket Test will be hurting the hosts and the momentum will be with the visitors going into the series deciding final Test in Dharamsala.

"If there's anything called momentum in cricket it's probably with us at the moment. India coming today would have expected to bowl us out. I'm sure they're hurting a little bit," Australia captain Smith said at the post match press conference.

Peter Handscomb scored a gritty unbeaten 72 and Shaun Marsh made 53 as the middle-order duo put on a match-saving fifth

wicket partnership of



124 runs to bail Australia out under testing conditions in little less than four hours to force a draw.

"I'm very proud. They had magnificent plans. They backed their defence for a long period of time and to see the game out for as long as they did, it was an outstanding performance," Smith said.

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"Everyone is in good form, we've have a good three Test matches but to be honest we probably left ourselves 100 runs short in the first innings," Smith said.

"We probably should have got ourselves 550 and been able to get in front of the game from there. Things could have ended a bit differently. "But that's the game of cricket. It's great to see all the batters working very hard on their plans and are contributing and scoring runs."

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Government designates 12 Olympians as National Observers

NEW DELHI(KCN): The government of India has des-

Devvarman (tennis), Karnam Malleshwari (weightlifting),

Camps, long term athlete development plan, coaching devel-



ignated 12 Olympians, including Beijing Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra, as National Observers in their respective disciplines to assist in preparation and implementation of the long-term development plan.

Besides Bindra, other named as National Observers are P T Usha and Anju Bobby George (athletics), Sanjeev Kumar Singh (archery), Aparna Papat (badminton), MC Mary Kom and Akhil Kumar (boxing), Jagbir Singh (hockey), Somdev

Sushil Kumar (wrestling), I M Vijayan (football), Khajan Singh (swimming) and Kamlesh Mehta (table tennis). "The National Observers will assist the Government, Sports Authority of India, and National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned including Indian Olympic Association in the preparation and implementation of the long term development plan with respect to high priority and priority sports covering all aspects including selection policy, quality specifications for National

opment, development of technical officials and monitoring & evaluation of athlete performance," said a Sports Ministry statement. "Apart from providing inputs for their respective disciplines, the National Observers would also to be consulted as a group on crosscutting issues impacting sports development in the country."

According to the statement the National Observers would be playing a key role in implementation of action plans for Mission Olympics 2020, 2024 and 2028.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Dinesh Karthik, bowlers guide Tamil Nadu to triumph

NEW DELHI(KCN): Senior pro Dinesh Karthik produced an innings of character before Tamil Nadu's disciplined bowling effort saw them beat Bengal by 37 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final, here today. This was the third time that Tamil Nadu prevailed over Bengal in the National One-Day meet having beaten them in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Karthik (112) was the only signifi-

Jharkhand into Vijay Hazare semis with a six But Tamil Nadu bowlers showed unbelievable discipline restricting Bengal to 180 on a pitch that didn't have any demons.

Off-spinner MS Washington Sundar (0/17) didn't get wickets but kept the Bengal batsmen on tenterhooks in his eight overs spell.

Rahil Shah, Aswin Crist and Mohammed all did what was required

opposite number Vijay Shankar while trying to play across the line. It was a delivery that needed to be played in front foot and he committed on backfoot.

Sudeep Chatterjee (58) and Anushup Majumdar (24) added 65 runs for the fifth wicket for Bengal but a dodgy leg before off left-arm spinner Rahil Shah started another collapse.

Chatterjee then played an atrocious

The former India stumper played shots all around the wicket playing the drives and pulls with equal ease. He lost partners at the other end but never

stopped attacking as 91 runs from 20 overs bowled by Amir Gani (0/42 in 10 OVERS) and Pragnav Ojha (0/49 in 10 overs) proved crucial.



cant scorer for Tamil Nadu en route to their meagre total of 217 in 47 2 OVERS as Mohammed Shami bowled with a lot of fire, scalping 4 for 26. Ashok Dinda (3/36) also rattled the top order.

Related Article Dhoni takes

to defend a small total. Trying to be extra cautious, Shreevats Goswami (23) consumed a lot of deliveries at the onset increasing the pressure. A poor call led to Abhimanyu Easwaran (1) run out.

Manoj Tiwary (32) was bowled by

sweep shot to get bowled round the legs off left-arm spinner Sai Kishore as Bengal's hopes ended.

Earlier Karthik hit 14 boundaries to score more than 50 per cent of Tamil Nadu's runs despite a good effort by Bengal bowlers.

RANCHI(KCN): Allegations and denials flew thick and fast between rival captains Virat Kohli and Steven Smith with the India skipper claiming that the home team physio Patrick Farhart was "disrespected" by visiting players.

Kohli alleged that some Australians unnecessarily taunted the Farhart but Smith denied the claim. "They (four-five of them) started taking Patrick's name. I don't know why. He's our physio. His job is to treat me. I don't find the reason behind it. I could not understand. You must ask why they have started taking his name," said Kohli at post match press conference.

While saving a run on the first day of

the third Test here, Kohli hurt his shoulder and Farhart rushed onto the field

Kohli Later Glenn Maxwell was seen mocking Kohli's injury when

incident involving himself and Glenn Maxwell, an upset Kohli said: "It's funny

"It was a bit disappointing. I didn't actually do anything. Virat was having a go at me saying I was disrespecting Patrick Farhart. I was probably the exact opposite.

"I think he probably did a pretty terrific job to be able to get Virat back on the field after that shoulder injury. He's a terrific physio and he obviously does a great job for them," said Smith. Asked about his take on the spirit of the game, Smith said: "There's always a bit of tension when you're playing India in Test matches. As far I'm concerned it's being played in the right spirit on the field and it's a hard and tough grind. That's how I would explain it and no issues with that."



to attain to his injury. Kohli eventually left the field with the physio.

Related Article Lack of hardness in ball in middle session hurt us, says Virat Kohli Cheteshwar Pujara-Wriddhiman Saha partnership best I have seen: Virat

he imitated his action by clutching his right shoulder after his dive to save a boundary. The Indian skipper, too, gave it back with a similar gesture when David Warner got out yesterday.

When an Australian scribe asked about the mocking

all our guys ask about cricket as the first thing and you ask about something controversial. But it's okay. These things happen on the field."

However Smith insisted that they never disrespected Farhart, who himself is an Australia.