

BJP faces embarrassment Mamata calls for unity

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Governing BJD has caught the opposition BJP in wrong foot.

The incident related to the dishonor of the family members of INA's late Captain Laxmi Indira Panda.

The family members comprising late lady Captain's son Surendra, daughter-in-law Sujata and grandson Babuli, had come to the state capital to get felicitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Raj Bhavan on April 16.

On the same day, Mr.Modi felicitated family members of 16 freedom fighters family members at a function.

Though the BJP brought Panda's family to the state capital, they simply forgot about them and never made any arrangement for their return to their native at Jeypore in Koraput district.

The family members while boarding train to Jeypore were separated. While Panda's son Surendra

reached home, his wife and Panda's daughter-in-law Sujata caught a wrong train and reached Balasore. She was ousted from



the train by the ticket collector at Balasore station.

The hapless woman, who did not had any money at hands, was roaming by side of the railway track after getting lost in the crowd.

She allegedly attempted suicide when a local youth Debipriya Samal found her in distress

condition.

He rescued the woman. Samal's work has been appreciated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik who felicitated the

young man at the secretariat.

However, Panda's grandson Babuli is still missing. Chief Minister has directed the police DGP to trace out Panda's grandson as soon as possible.

When enquired, it came to the knowledge that Nalco was given responsibility to make arrangement

for Panda family's visit and return to Jeypore.

A Nalco official said they have given Rs 6,000 as taxi fare to the family for their return journey. However, Panda's son Surendra alleged that they were ignored after the Prime Minister's function.

Sujata, the daughter in law said she would never receive any felicitation in future.

The matter has taken political turn when the ruling BJD and opposition Congress blamed the BJP for disrespecting the freedom fighter's family by inviting to felicitate.

BJP state vice-president Samir Mohanty as termed the incident as unfortunate.

But, one thing that came to the light was that Nalco was engaged by the BJP to ensure journey of Panda family to get felicitation.

Late Panda was a member of the of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad

Puri(KCN): West Bengal Chief Minister and AITMC Supremo Manata Banerjee today said all regional parties must work together for a better system in the federal polity of the country.

Ms.Banerjee accused the BJP of indulging in "divisive" politics to defame Hindutva.

"Our effort will be to ensure that all regional parties work together for better federalism in the country. They should be strong," Ms.Banerjee, also the President of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC) said to Media Men.

Ms.Banerjee, who is on a three-day visit to Odisha since last night, came down heavily on the BJP and accused it of indulging in divisive politics.

"They (BJP) wanted to divide the nation in the name of religion, region and caste. They pit Hindus against Muslims, Christians against Hindus, Odias

against Bengalis, Biharis against Bengalis, and so on... This is not Hinduism," she alleged.

Claiming that she was a real Hindu who believes in taking everyone together, Ms.Banerjee said the BJP's attitude towards others was not

acceptable.

"According to BJP, the Governments in Odisha Bihar and West Bengal are bad along

Ms.Banerjee said.

On the FIR filed against her party leaders in connection with Narada chit-fund case, she said, "These deci-

For us Kali Ghat, Dakhineswari Mandir or Jagannath Mandir, are all the same. In Digha or Puri, the beaches are



with all other Non BJP run States, she said.

Ms.Banerjee claimed that Hinduism was not something practiced by the BJP and dubbed the BJP members as "black spot" on Hinduism. She alleged that they divide people instead of taking everyone together.

"I am Hindu but not the one who defames religion, while the Hindu belief talks about the ideology of moving forward and taking everyone along, the saffron party is acting against the ideology and defaming Hindutva,"

sions are taken with evil intentions and are politically motivated. The AITMC is against the BJP ideologically but they are fighting against us at a personal level. We will take up the challenge and handle the matter legally."

Asked about her remark on beef eating, Ms.Banerjee said, "I'm a devout Jagannath lover and we worship the Lord in our houses in Bengal".

On relations between Odisha and West Bengal, she said, "In my state, every person worships Lord Jagannath with reverence and visits Puri at least six times a year.

equally captivating." On plans to meet Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Banerjee said, "I want to meet him tomorrow before leaving for Kolkata."

AITMC President Ms.Banerjee held discussion Odisha President Arya Kumar Gyanendra at the Circuit House in Puri and held discussion. Mr.Gyanendra later told newsmen that the discussion centered around strengthening the organizational structure of the party in the State.

"She suggested strengthening TMC in Odisha from the grass root level," he added.

PM Modi, Paytm founder in Time's 'most influential people list'

New York (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' this year released by the Time magazine on Thursday. The list features pioneers, artists, titans, leaders and icons from around the world honoured for "the power of their inventions, the scale of their ambitions, the genius of their solutions to problems that no one before them could solve."

The magazine has also included US President Donald

Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and British Prime Minister

seemed conceivable as a US president – Modi became the prime minister of the

well, this Hindu nationalist used Twitter to bypass traditional media and speak di-



Theresa May in the new list of 100 most influential people. The profile of Modi, 66, written by author Pankaj Mishra, said that in May 2014 – long before Trump

world's largest democracy.

"Once barred from the US for his suspected complicity in anti-Muslim violence, and politically ostracised at home as

rectly to masses feeling left or pushed behind by globalisation, and he promised to make India great again by rooting out self-serving elites," it said. **See page-7**



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Congratulations and Celebrations!

For obvious reasons, film personalities, especially female stars maintain a low pro-

preciated in the recent commercial and critically acclaimed film, Kiragoorina Gayy-

Also, another film which Shwetha had signed a few months, is also very

Women's Day, I would love to celebrate it by thanking a very special man in

says that she is very happy to formally announce that 'WE' are PREGNANT and ex-



file when it comes to their personal life. Many choose to purposefully stay away from the limelight to avoid any after effects concerning their career, which is very short-lived as compared to their male counterparts. However, with the change in the mindset among the current crop of stars, a few do not mind openly talking about their personal relationships.

Shwetha Srivastav, a popular Kannada actress, whose performance as Danamma was ap-

praised, has publicly thanked her better-half Amit Srivatsav for all his support.

Yes, the popular actress is married, which many are unaware of. Taking it a step further, Shwetha formally announced that 'they' are pregnant and expecting their first child very soon.

What is more exciting is that she has signed a movie which is all about dance even at this stage of her life, when she is ready to welcome a new member into the family.

much on the cards for her. The film team has decided not to go ahead without their best actress. The film in which she plays an actress has been postponed, and shooting will resume after the actress gets back to work.

Shwetha has divulged this information on her facebook wall, directly connecting with her fans including her family and friends. She confessed about how exciting it has been so far. "On the occasion of this year's (a special one for me)

my life, one who understands me like none other, supports my every dream, the partner of my life - my husband. Thank you, Mr. Amith Srivatsav for letting me be 'that I am'!", says Shwetha, the same words which she has shared it on the social networking platform too.

The actress shot to fame with her film (opposite side Rakshit Shetty) Simple AagOnndh Love Story, which turned his fortunes in the coming days. The glowing actress also

pecting our FIRST baby very soon! Her husband, Amit Srivatsav, works with Ernst & Young.

"As for the movie, which I signed after Kiragoorina Gayyaligalu, it has been postponed as they want to wait for me, and hence have not even decided on the title of the film. And, I have signed one more movie even at this stage. It is about dance and that is all I can share right now," says Shwetha as she sums up. Congratulations, mom to be!

Katy Perry's witty reply to dating rumours

Ryan Phillippe had recently taken to Twitter to address rumours that he and Katy Perry were dating. In his tweet, on a light note, the actor made sure that he communicated to his fans that the singer-songwriter was not in his house. JustJared.com reports that he wrote, "I am not dating Katy Perry. Barely know her. Please stop flying helicopters over my house. She is not here." One of the comments that the



Shooter actor received, read, "That's what someone who has Katy Perry in his basement would say."

To this, Katy Perry responded hilariously. "Can u let me out of this basement pls? (sic)" she wrote, tagging Ryan, and the 42-year-old actor also played along saying, "Never". The dating rumours between the duo started last month, when they were allegedly spotted flirting with each other at Elton John's birthday party.

Malaika Arora and Amrita Arora's new photoshoot is so hot, it'll make your head spin. See pics

Malaika Arora and Amrita Arora are two hot sisters of Bollywood who have never failed to entice their fans with their drool-worthy pictures. They are a muse for every photographer because we bet they do not need to put on much effort as the two stunners can scorch up the temperatures just by striking a pose. In the new photoshoot for the magazine Hi Blitz India, Malaika and Amrita have been tagged as women who are 'two hot to handle' and we would



Restraining order by Mel B

Singer-songwriter Mel B has slapped a restraining order against the nanny who she alleges was having sex with her then husband Stephen Belafonte, and even got pregnant by him.

Now, Mel says, the nanny, Lorraine Gilles, has also started extorting from her. TMZ.com reports that Mel B's lawyers got a court order to gain access to a locker that was

rented out by Lorraine, which is said to contain some of Mel B's sex tapes and photographs. The singer says that Stephen and Lorraine had allegedly threatened to make the vid-

eos public, in an attempt to ruin her life. Back in 2015, Mel had fired the nanny, but Stephen had apparently threatened to release the sex videos unless she hired the nanny back, with a

not disagree even a bit.

If we take a look at their public appearances, the two have never turned us down. Malaika and Amrita were in Maldives for the birthday celebration of Salman Khan's nephew Ahil. While everyone had their eyes on the little one, we could not get over how sexy these two looked as they stunned in their beach wear in all the clicks. Don't miss Malaika's hairdo which she has been sporting for quite some time now. raise. A judge passed an order which restricts Lorraine to 100 yards away from Mel, and warned the nanny not to harass her. He also ordered that no property from the locker will be removed.

Banks have room to lower lending rates: Patel to Monetary Policy Committee

RBI Governor Urjit Patel told the six-member MPC, headed by Patel, had that interest rates on small savings are not only by 0.85-90 per cent as against a 1.75



etary Policy Committee (MPC) that there is room for banks to further cut interest rate while sounding a note of caution on inflation front in the coming months. The

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Nearly three years after he came to power, Modi's vision of India's economic, geopolitical and cultural supremacy is far from being realised, the profile read, but his "extended family of Hindu nationalists have taken to scapegoating secular and liberal intellectuals as well as poor Muslims." "Yet Modi's aura remains undimmed. He is a maestro of the art of political seduction, playing on the existential fears and cultural insecurities of people facing downward or blocked mobility," it said.

Modi's elections victory in Uttar Pradesh, India's most politically significant state, by a landslide confirmed that "elected strongmen are the chief beneficiaries of a global revolt against elites."

For 43-year-old Sharma, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani wrote that when India's government unexpectedly scrapped 86 per cent of the country's currency notes in November, Sharma "seized the moment". As Indians

opted for status quo on the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) on April 6. "There is still room for banks to cut lending rates. For efficient transmission, it is important

scrambled to exchange the banned notes for new currency, Paytm, Sharma's digital payments startup, went on a promotional spree, inviting Indians to start using Paytm's digital wallet to pay for everyday goods and services. "It worked. By the end of 2016, Paytm had 177 million users, compared with 122 million at the beginning of the year," Nilekani wrote.

Sharma had "catapulted himself into a nation's consciousness. It was a masterstroke by a small-town boy who studied in a Hindi medium school before conquering the country's Anglo-phone startup world," he wrote. Paytm is now backed by the chief of China's Alibaba, Jack Ma, and Sharma is branching out into the more heavily regulated world of banking, with plans to offer digital accounts. "He will face new challenges from deep-pocketed and more-experienced competitors. But knowing Vijay, he will win the next time around too," his profile read.

out of line with interest rates on other comparable instruments in the financial system," Patel said as per the MPC minutes released by the RBI on Thursday.

The weighted average lending rate of banks has come down

per cent cut in policy rates since January 2015. Lower lending rates encourage economic activities, but they also have the potential to fuel inflationary expectations. The RBI's mandate is to contain inflation without hurting eco-

has approved the 8.65 per cent interest proposed earlier this month on employee provident fund (EPF) for the 2016-17 fiscal, Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya confirmed on Thursday. The move is expected to benefit an estimated four crore

economic growth. Referring to the price situation, Patel said that notwithstanding likely favourable base-effects in the next few months, "the outlook for inflation calls for close vigilance". The vigilance, he said, was required with a view to ensuring that inflation remains closer to the target of 4 per cent.

Another member and RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said that on the growth front, the remonetisation is continuing apace and many sectors of the economy are recovering steadily after the transient slowdown. "There are signs though that the recovery is somewhat uneven. Private investment, given the high indebtedness of several stressed sectors,

remains a particularly weak spot," he said. RBI Executive Director and MPC member Michael Debabrata Patra said high frequency indicators may be indicating that demonetisation affected actual output rather than potential. "With remonetisation, therefore, the output gap may close sooner than expected – perhaps at a sub-optimal level since there is slack in several industries – and demand pressures could soon confront the path of inflation in the months ahead," he said.

In a surprise move, the government on November 9, 2016 had demonetised old Rs 500/1000 notes with an aim to check black money, fake currency and terror financing.

day visit to the United States on Wednesday night to attend the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF as well as deliberations of G20 nations. During his stay in Washington and New York, he will hold meetings with American CEOs and institutional and pension fund investors, where he will pitch India as a favourable investment destination. The finance minister is also slated to hold a meeting with the US Treasury Secretary. Industry body Nasscom warned that the US' move to replace the lottery system for issuing H-1B work visas with a merit-based approach could have "unintended consequences" even as it sought to downplay any immediate impact on IT companies this year. "No new changes are being implemented immediately ... Nothing is being proposed that would impact or change the FY18 H-1B lottery that is currently underway," Nasscom said in a statement on Wednesday. The proposed changes are forward-looking and non-specific, it contended.

registered members of the EPF. Now, the communication will come. The Our ministry keeps on discussing with rate of 8.8 per cent to 8.7 per cent, as approved by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT). However, it had not fallen through with any of the concerned stakeholders, following which the decision was scrapped. The initial approval for the 8.65 per cent EPF rate was

H-1B visa issue: Arun Jaitley may take it up with US authorities

New Delhi (KCN): India may take up the work visa issue with US authorities during the visit of finance minister Arun Jaitley to the US. Jaitley on Wednesday indicated that he would take up the visa issue with the US authorities during his visit. "These (IT industry issues) are matters of discussion with the appropriate authorities there. Once I do discuss and get an opportunity, I will let you know," he told reporters when asked whether he would take up the concerns of the Indian IT sector with the US administration. The Indian IT industry has expressed concerns over the US government's clampdown on the rules for H-1B visa, which is primarily used by domestic IT professionals for short-term work. US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order for tightening the rules of the H-1B visa programme to stop its "abuse" and ensure that the visas are given to the "most-skilled or highest paid" petitioners.

Jaitley was scheduled to leave on a five-

Finance Ministry approves EPF interest rate of 8.65% for 2016-17: Labour Minister Dattatreya

New Delhi(KCN): The Finance Ministry

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