

## Cutting own roots

**Bhubaneswar (K-CN):** With fresh electoral victories in rural polls, a resurgent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is getting ready to take on the mighty Biju Janata Dal (BJD) for political supremacy in Odisha. However, BJP is sending a confusing signal by cutting its roots in different parts of the State, when the political climate for the saffron party seems to be favorable across the State.

In fact, Odisha has been focus of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his call for "Look at the East". However, if

the party goes on uprooting its roots at the local level, can its desire of ousting Naveen Patnaik's BJD be fulfilled?

The recent development relating to panchayat elections has brought both joy and worries for the people opposed to both Congress and BJD. The people, who see a lot of hope in BJP, are in fact worried over the elimination process of leaders at the grassroots level.

Over the dispute on Zilla Parishad President election in Sambalpur, the BJP State leadership suspended former Min-

ister and senior leader Jayanarayan Mishra and 10 others for allegedly assaulting BJP State Vice President Sameer Mohanty.

BJP State President Basant Panda announced suspension of Mishra, State Executive Member Nauri Nayak and nine newly elected ZP members for six years. When Panda announced six-year banishment term for the 11 Sambalpur leaders including Mishra, he clearly forgot that 2019 general elections were barely two years away.

Can the saffron

party go ahead without the help and assistance of these 11 leaders who built saffron base in the region?

Mr. Mishra, however, said he had no role in the incident and he condemned the attack. In fact, he admitted that Mr. Mohanty is his close friend. Sameer was attacked by a group of BJP supporters and local leaders over selection of Zilla Parishad President candidate.

"The party had unanimously decided a candidate for the post of ZP President, but some party activists wanted their

nominee to be considered for the post," Mr. Mohanty said adding that though

BJP state leadership did requires postmortem. The party should have verified who

take the people, who made it possible against the ruling BJD, into confidence

Mishra and not anybody else, who ensured the lotus bloom in Sambalpur. There-



## Did Pyari Made Coup?

**Bhubaneswar (K-CN):** Chanakya of Odisha Politics, as Pyari Mohan Mohapatra would be remembered and his so-called May 29, 2012 Mid-Night Operation would certainly remains as a matter of research for the political science students and scholars in years to come.

With Pyari Babu's body was consigned to flames at Satya Nagar crematorium, people aware of his contribution towards the regional party and its Supremo Naveen Patnaik, suspect

Did Pyari Babu really wanted to become Chief Minister of Odisha after ousting Naveen Patnaik when he was in London in May, 2012?

A series of questions now haunts the mind of many people including political analysts who have witnessed Pyari Babu gathering BJD MLAs for a revolt.

It is a fact that Pyari Babu was not pulling well Naveen days before the eventful mid-night operation. Even the Chief Minister had asked party MLAs not to meet Pyari Babu,

There should be no doubt that Pyari Babu was annoyed with Naveen over the latter's instruction to MLAs not to meet him.

Defying Naveen's direction, as many as 33 MLAs including some Ministers met Pyari Babu at his 111 Saheed Nagar residence.

Later, Pyari Babu had admitted that he wanted to show Naveen his strength within the BJD and therefore called MLAs to meet him. But Pyari rejected the possibility of a coup and topple Naveen's

MLAs including the leaders like Damodar Rout, Bijayshree Routray, A U Singh Deo and others were loyal to Naveen.

"Had I have any aspiration to become Chief Minister, I would have taken the post in 2009 after elections. I have never attempted to become the CM. My May 29 exercise was totally intended to show Naveen my strength," Pyari Babu had said during his life time.

Pyari Babu, who was also known as the Master Political Strategist, had admit-

therefore I called MLAs to meet me at my residence. Had I ulterior motive, I could have done it in some other place," Pyari Babu had clarified.

However, nobody including Naveen Babu received Pyari Babu's clarification. Even Naveen never minced the word like "beiman" (betrayer) against his one-time mentor.

The students of political science and scholars have a tough job ahead to clear the air. What actually

## CBI nabs seven over Rs 10 Lakh bribe deal in Bhubaneswar

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested CMD of Engineers Project (India) Limited (EPIL) SPS Bakshi, two Executive Directors of the PSU and four others for demanding Rs 10 lakh bribe related to a project being implemented in Odisha.

The staff of a Raipur-based firm which was allegedly offering the bribe seeking a favour from the EPIL have also been arrested. The two senior executives are ED (Contracts Division) Harcharan Pal and ED (Mumbai Re-

gion) Kapil Tara.

An official spokesperson of the premier agency said it was alleged that the CMD of EPIL, in conspiracy with others, had deputed his staff to collect Rs 10 lakh as a part payment of the total agreed amount of gratification from one hawala operator based at Chandni Chowk in Delhi. The staff were intercepted by the CBI sleuths while allegedly receiving the tainted money.

They allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy with a representative of the Raipur-based private

firm and its partner for favouring the work award of the project. The CBI has registered a case under Section 120 (B) of Indian Penal Code and Sections 7, 12 & 13 (2) read with 13 (1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against Bakshi, Pal, Tara and the Raipur-based firm as well as its representative and others.

"The Rs 10 lakh bribe was only a part of the whole demand. We are investigating into the entire episode and the money transaction part too," said the CBI sources.

## RTI activist asked to cough up Rs 50,000 for information in Odisha

**KENDRAPARA(K-CN):** An RTI activist was recently asked by a Public Information Officer (PIO) to pay Rs 50,000 to the office of Integrated Child

supervisor of anganwadis of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) on March 13 asking me to pay Rs 50,000 for getting informa-

pages the information he was seeking would comprise which is major lapse on the part of the PIO.

Public Information Officer Rajani



whether the former bureaucrat had actually attempted to topple the BJD Government.

who brought most of them to politics and get them elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Government. Of the 103 BJD MLAs, 85 were hand-picked by Pyari Babu. Remaining 18

ted that he had a "wrong strategy" on May 29.

"Since I had no Secret Mission,

happened and whether Pyari Babu was given a bad name before being sacked from the party?

Development Services (ICDS), Rajnagar to get information about the quality and quantity of 'chatua' distributed in anganwadi centres of Rajnagar block. "I filed an RTI application on February 28 and received a letter from PIO-cum-

tion on the quality testing report of 'chatua' and quantity of the food powder provided to anganwadi centers in the block," said RTI activist Aniridha Sethi of Rajnagar.

In contravention of RTI laws, Sethi was not told how many

Roul said, "As per the provisions of RTI Act and rules, we sought Rs 50,000 from the applicant to furnish detailed information. If the applicant will not deposit the amount within a week he will not get any information from us".



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Koffee With Karan: Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma have a fan in Deepika Padukone

If you are of the same view that the latest

Deepika Padukone thinks on the same

sassiest best, leaving host and filmmaker

of a kind ever seen on the celebrity chat

from calling Deepika Padukone their

to our head – Ranbir Kapoor. Now that Ranbir is out of both Deepika and Kat's lives, looks like our Piku has extended an olive branch towards Katrina, by posting a tweet praising the two girls and the episode. Deepika Padukone has always stayed away from both Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma, due to the connection of her former and current boyfriends Ranbir Kapoor and Ranveer Singh, with the two girls.



episode of Koffee With Karan was one of this season's best, and both Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma were on fire, there is someone else who agrees with us.

lines too. This, when neither Kat nor Anushka preferred to call Deepika their 'friend' on the show. Surprised? Katrina and Anushka were at their

Karan Johar in total 'meltdown'. So much so, that it even left the viewers sweating due to their hysteric connotations and reactions on every petty thing – definitely one

show. The two beauties accepted that they are not like the typical actor-friends in the industry and comfortably give each other space. They, however, refrained

'friend'. While we never saw Deepika and Anushka bonding (one word: Ranveer Singh), and keeping distance, her cold vibes with Katrina only brings one name

There was a time when Deepika and Katrina were never seen under the same roof and shared cold vibes. But after years of rivalry, they reportedly buried the hatchet at a recent awards night with Shah Rukh Khan being the pacemaker. Sometimes, heart-breaks help in mending ties. And these two girls are the latest example.

Bigg Boss 10: Who will win the show? Cast your votes

Bigg Boss 10 will come to an end on January 29 with Salman Khan an-

ment: From the beginning of the season, Manveer Gurjar at-

herself with dignity on the show and unlike many other contestants, she never

Manu Punjabi entertained the audience from the very first day. His mimicry

Lopamudra Raut became everyone's favourite inside the house because of her

In tax clarity bid to foreign entities

**NEW DELHI(K-CN) :** In a bid to bring clarity in tax rules for foreign entities in India and their transactions, the Central government on Friday said the General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) aimed at plugging taxation loopholes, yet recognising genuine players, will be applicable from 2017-18.

"Stakeholders and industry associations had requested for clarification on implementation of GAAR provisions and a working group was constituted by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to examine the issues raised," an official statement said.

"Accordingly, CBDT has issued the clarifications on implementation of GAAR provisions today," it added.

Among the provisions, if the jurisdiction of a foreign portfolio investor is finalised based on non-tax commercial considerations and the main purpose of the arrangement is not to obtain tax benefit, these rules will not apply.

They will also not interplay with the right of the taxpayer to select the method of implementing a transaction. Further, grandfathering (or the application of old rules on certain transactions) will be available in investments made prior to April 1 this year.



nouncing the winner of the show. The commoners, Manu and Manveer, have been giving a tough competition to celebs Bani and Lopamudra. Manveer's humongous fan following is no news whereas Bani's supporters have already declared her a winner of the show.

However, Manu Punjabi and Lopamudra are still trying to catch up on the votes by keeping themselves available for the cameras all day long. With only a few hours left for the voting lines to close, we ask our readers to cast their votes for their favourite contestant.

More from the world of Entertain-

tracted all the limelight with his rough and tough personality. But, he managed to get into action only after teaming up with fellow commoner Manu Punjabi. He emerged as the only contestant who never indulged in back-biting. The short-tempered man surprisingly never lost his temper with infamous Swami Om. He also became a topic of discussion for his link-up with Nitibha Kaul. Manveer has managed his journey by staying true to his friends and his beliefs.

Also read | Bigg Boss 10: Manveer Gurjar is a potential winner of the show. Here's why banijudge Bani J carried

stoopt to win. Despite having ugly fights with Lopamudra, Priyanka Jagga, and Swami Om, she never let her confidence go. But she disappointed her fans when it came to performing physical tasks. The fitness freak left many tasks in between and was even heard saying that she does not have that passion for performing the tasks wholeheartedly. But her popularity worked in her favour and she managed to survive despite being nominated many times. The star host of the show, Salman Khan too supported her, which didn't go down well with other contestants who found Salman biased.

skills brought a smile on many faces and his friendship with Mona Lisa became a topic of discussion not only inside the house but also in the outside world. His popularity got affected after he had to make an unceremonious exit because of his mother's demise. He returned to the house as a changed man and was seen back-biting about his dear friend Manveer many times. His changed attitude didn't go down well with the audience and with Salman Khan. Though he tried to get back on track in the last few days but his scuffles with Manveer has portrayed him in a bad light. lopamudra-raut-1

habit of taking a stand against the wrong. Salman Khan too praised her for standing up against all the wrongs that were happening inside the house. She was the first one to warn Swami Om to watch his words. Her strong will power and confidence made her the winner of many tasks. But the beauty queen lost the track in last few weeks. Her shrieking voice and her crude comments left a negative impact on her dignified personality. Even Manu and Manveer who always looked her in a good light developed a dislike turned against her. Things got worse after she questioned the decisions of Bigg Boss.

## Indian companies not using mobile

**NEW DELHI(KC-N):** Although strong in applicant tracking system and video interviewing, many companies in India are not using mobile recruiting tools that help make the talent acquisition process more efficient, says a survey.

According to the Korn Ferry Futurestep Survey, in India professionals are not taking advantage of tools, technology and business strategy as 4 out of 5 (81 per cent) talent acquisition leaders do not use mobile recruiting tools.

"Young people are searching for positions using their phones and they expect to be able to apply via their smartphones, however 81 per cent Indian talent acquisition leaders do not use mobile recruiting tools," said Sue Campbell, managing director, Asia, Korn Ferry Futurestep.

The survey further said that only 50 per cent of India respondents report that their recruitment team is aligned to their organisation's business objectives, and 19 per cent admit

they don't have a strategic workforce plan, which helps them map future talent needs to business strategy.

"It's critical that talent professionals work closely with the company's business and hiring managers to define and communicate the employer value proposition - why a candidate would choose their organisation over a competitor," Campbell said.

Regarding recruitment process outsourcing (RPO), it said that in India employers work with

RPO partners mainly for sourcing and screening candidates.

Relatively few organisations use other services that RPOs offer, such as employer branding, building talent communities, or creating metrics for reporting and decision making.

Only 10 per cent of respondents in India are using employer branding services from RPO partners. This is low when compared to global at 13 per cent and APAC at 16 per cent, the survey said.

## Sensex closes weak, banking, pharma face squeeze

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Pressured by banking and pharma stocks, the market stayed in

ending down 5.35 points, or 0.06 per cent, at 9,121.50.

"While FDA ob-

largest mobile phone operator.

Avenue Supermarkets, the owner of

kets fell after investors locked in gains, pulling down both mid cap and small



a state of weakness for the second consecutive day today, coming on the heels of last week's stellar rally.

Data showing that domestic investors were net sellers yesterday proved to be a dampener.

The market, according to traders, is in a phase of consolidation after scaling record highs following BJP's mammoth win in UP and Uttarakhand and formation of its governments in Goa and Manipur.

After hitting the day's high of 29,585.05, the 30-share Sensex closed at 29,485.45, down 33.29 points, or 0.11 per cent. The gauge had fallen 130.25 points in the previous session.

The NSE Nifty slipped below the 9,100-mark before

servations kept pharma space depressed, banking stocks were also under pressure from potential farm loan waivers," said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

But the rupee's rising clout against the dollar on robust capital inflows restricted the losses.

Divi's Laboratories today slumped 19.77 per cent to a 52-week low of Rs 634.35 after the company said the US health regulator has issued an import alert on the products manufactured at one of its units in Visakhapatnam.

Idea Cellular tumbled 4.76 per cent, falling for the second session in a row, after announcement of its merger with Vodafone India to create the country's

D-Mart, made a stellar debut on the bourses today by surging 114.30 per cent.

Healthcare dropped 1.44 per cent followed by bank, auto, PSU and oil and gas. However, realty rose by 1.35 per cent and FMCG 1.01 per cent.

While foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth a net Rs 56.67 crore yesterday, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares worth a net Rs 536.21 crore, as per provisional data.

Drug major Dr Reddy's topped the loser's list by slumping 4.36 per cent while Axis Bank shed 3.28 per cent. Other major losers were GAIL, Maruti Suzuki, RIL, Sun Pharma and ICICI Bank.

The broader mar-

cap indices.

Major Asian indices ended on a mixed note. Europe displayed a similar trend.

"Nifty found value buying towards close, though limited, and with few domestic triggers before Q4 numbers, markets should keep its ear on global cues, especially with Brexit being triggered on March 29," added James.

In the domestic market, 17 scrips out of the 30-share Sensex pack ended lower while 13 rose.

The market breadth remained negative as 1,692 stocks ended lower 1,089 higher while 193 ruled steady.

The total turnover fell to Rs 5,206.02 crore, from Rs 56,820.64 crore yesterday.

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veteran. But, for some reason or the other, Mr.Panda preferred to go by the words of Suresh Pujari, who has never been successful in electoral politics.

While Jayn-arayan is firmly rooted among the people of Sambalpur, Mr.Pujari has not been able to become an MLA or an MP though he contested polls several times.

And forcing the local leaders to accept someone as their leader may not be possible in the present situation for the BJP because the party is not in power. People who can help BJP come to power need to be handled with care, otherwise, they may turn hostile. The recent development in BJP in Sambalpur has been a peculiar case in the BJP politics where grassroots level leaders are ignored and the people who worked for the party got a slap.

Similarly, in case of Sundargarh, BJP lost the Zilla Parishad President's chair to BJD, only due to lack of coordination between the party leaders. Sundargarh was the lone Lok Sabha seat in Odisha where BJP could win the last general election. BJP won in the Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat for which Jual Oram could become a Union Minister.

People who understand politics know for sure that it was Rourkela MLA Dilip Ray, who played a vital role in the victory of BJP's Jual Oram in Sundargarh. However, this time round during the Zilla Parishad elections, Dilip Ray, who made Mr.Oram win, was clearly ignored.

Mr.Ray preferred to keep himself away from the panchayat elections while Oram camped for several days in the district. But his attempts failed to yield any result despite announcing that BJP would support any candidate who helped it in the Zilla Parishad President elections. In the process, the ruling

BJD captured Sundargarh Zilla Parishad with help of a Congress member and three others belonging to CPI, CPI (M) and George Tirkey.

Mr.Oram failed to garner support of others which ensured the defeat of the BJP candidate. Had the party leadership kept Mr.Ray in good humour, BJP could have formed Zilla Parishad in Sundargarh also. This is because Mr.Ray has the ground touch and knows how to take others along. Notably, Mr.Ray was instrumental in the formation of an alliance between BJD and BJP in 2000.

Moreover, Bijay Mohapatra and many other senior leaders who have organizational skill could have been utilized in the panchayat elections. Though BJP secured 297 Zilla Parishad seats this time, it could have been much more had the party utilized its senior leaders reserve. The party mostly got the anti-BJD votes and people have expressed their anger against the sitting BJD MLAs which helped BJP win so many ZP seats.

Now BJP is trying to penetrate to booth level as the leadership knows that it has little strength at the grassroots level. Against this backdrop, State BJP leadership need to be very articulate as the party aspires to come to power in 2019.

BJP, under the leadership of Dharmendra Pradhan, is taking on BJD on the issues of corruption, inefficiency and non-development. But the saffron brigade needs to fight the mighty BJD with a unified spirit.

However, these incidents reveal the weakness of BJP at the grassroots level, which is trying to channelize the energy in the State in a positive way. Impulsive actions of shortsighted and superficial elements will certainly harm the interest of BJP by cutting its own roots, feel political observers.

## Focus on supply of Rs 500 and lower denomination notes, says Shaktikanta Das

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** The focus of the government is to print and supply Rs 500 and lower denomination notes to avoid accumulation of high value currency, said Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das.

"The approach which is now being followed is greater focus on manufacturing and supply of Rs 500 and other lower denomination notes

said this was primarily to ensure faster remonetisation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 announced the scrapping of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, which formed about 86 per cent of total currency in circulation, with an aim to curb blackmoney and corruption.

Besides, the government reduced the size of notes in line

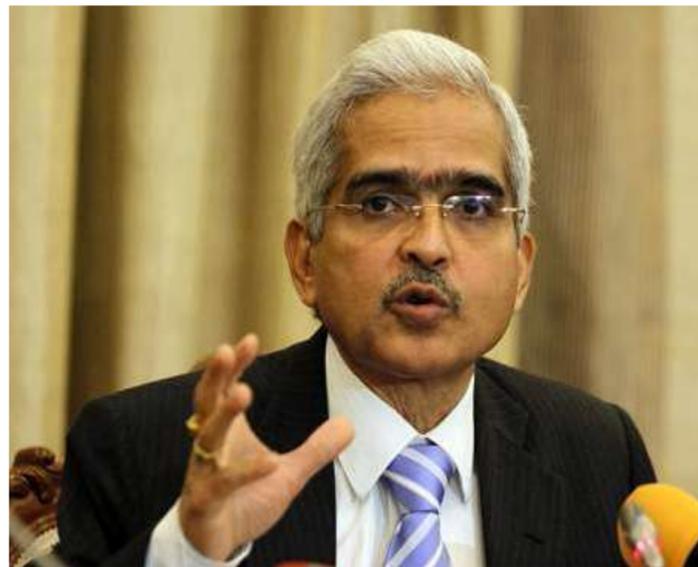
The panel was tasked with the review of the FRBM Act in view of suggestions that there should be a broad range for the government's fiscal deficit in place of the current practice of having a fixed target.

The major recommendations of the committee have been factored into the Budget 2017-18, he said, adding that the government is examining other suggestions of

Enforcement Directorate arrests two in action against shell firms worth Rs 8,000 crore

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Cracking down on shell company operations, the ED has arrested two Delhi-based businessmen in connection with its probe in a Rs 8,000 crore money laundering and black money racket. The ED's action is part of its crack-down against shell or bogus companies active across the country to launder money and generate black money. The central government had sometime back created a special task force of investigative agencies like ED, Income Tax department, SFIO, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and others, in this regard.

The task force is headed by the two Secretaries of the Department of Revenue and Corporate Affairs under the Union Finance Ministry. Shell companies can be defined as those entities which are characterised by nominal paid-up capital, high reserves and surplus on account of receipt of high share premium, investment in unlisted companies and no dividend income. Also, shell companies are identified as those with high cash in-hand, private companies as majority shareholders, low turnover and operating income, nominal expenses, nominal statutory payments and stock in trade and minimum fixed asset.



so that you have more Rs 500 notes... the apprehension is being expressed that Rs 2,000 notes would again lead to accumulation, (but) that should not happen," he said today.

Explaining the reason for coming out with Rs 2,000 notes soon after demonetisation, Das

with international currency specifications and that resulted in 20 per cent increase in printing of notes, he said.

On the FRBM Committee headed by N K Singh, he said the government received the committee's report a few days ahead of the Budget.

the report.

"The committee has broadly said the fiscal deficit road map will have the debt to GDP as its principal anchor. So, we are targeting debt to GDP ratio of 60 per cent by 2023," he said.

The panel has suggested 3 per cent fiscal deficit for the next three years.

# Jadeja grabs top spot in bowling, Pujara second in batting at latest ICC rankings

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** India's Ravindra Jadeja pipped spin twin Ravichandran Ashwin to grab the pole position in the latest ranking for ICC Test bowlers while Cheteshwar Pujara reached a career-high

Jadeja, who grabbed five for 124 and four for 52 in Ranchi, has gained seven points after starting joint-first with Ashwin at 892 points. The left-arm spinner has become only the third Indian player after Ashwin

The Saurashtra batsman has replaced New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who is now in fifth place, also slipping behind Joe Root and Virat Kohli, who remained static at fourth position. Top-ranked Australian

only the second Indian bowler after Ashwin to touch the 900-point mark, Ashwin, who had a highest rating of 904 points, has slipped 37 points behind Jadeja to 862 points after finishing with just two wickets in

ishing first and getting a cash award of USD 1 million.

Australia will finish second and get a cash award of USD 500,000 with at least a draw in the last Test in Dharamsala while South Africa can finish second if Australia

## Dinesh Chandimal lifts Sri Lanka against Bangladesh in Colombo Test

**COLOMBO(KCN):** Dinesh Chandimal rode his luck to score an unbeaten half-century for Sri Lanka against Bangladesh in Colombo Wednesday after the tourists made a dream start to their 100th Test match.

The home side reached 238-7 before bad light stopped the opening day's play, recovering from 70-4 on a turning pitch at the P. Sara Oval, owing mainly to Chandimal's patient 86 not out.

Chandimal shared a 66-run stand with Dhananjaya de Silva and then added 44 and 43 runs with Niroshan Dickwella and captain Rangana Herath to halt what had been a quick procession of wickets.

Chandimal, who faced 210 balls and hit four fours in his knock, was given out lbw on 38 off the bowling of left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan but the decision was overturned following a review.

He then topped another left-arm spinner Taijul Islam to fine leg on 46 but was given a benefit of the doubt by the third umpire as TV replays on whether Mehedi Hasan had caught him cleanly were in-

conclusive.

Coming into the side for Lahiru Kumara as Sri Lanka's only change from their 259-run win in the first Test in Galle, de Silva gave Chandimal good support before he was bowled by Taijul for 34.

Wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella chipped in with 34 after de Silva's departure before Herath joined Chandimal in his effort to give Sri Lanka innings a decent look.

Herath, unbeaten on 18 at the close of play, also had his share of luck as he had an lbw decision overturned off Shakib.

Bangladesh, sent into bowl first by

Mustafizur put the visitors in good heart in their milestone Test when he forced an edge from opener Dimuth Karunaratne, having cranked up the pressure by bowling three successive maidens.

Mehedi took a brilliant catch at gully as Karunaratne departed after making just seven runs.

Mehedi then struck in his third over, enticing Kusal Mendis out of his crease before Mushfiqur Rahim completed a stumping. Mendis was the man-of-the-match in the first Test in Galle after scoring 194 but he departed this time having scored just five.

Sri Lanka's



second rank among batsmen. Left-arm spinner Jadeja whizzed past Ashwin after snaring nine wickets in the drawn third Test against Australia, which put the four-match series interestingly poised at 1-1.

and Bishan Singh Bedi to top the bowling charts on his own.

Pujara too has reason to celebrate as his knock of 202 has helped him gain four slots to reach a career-best second ranking with 861 points.

captain Steve Smith has reached a career-high rating of 941 points after scores of 178 not out and 21.

While Jadeja has closed in on a major landmark as his tally of 899 rating points has put him on the brink of becoming

Ranchi.

Meanwhile, the race for the second spot in the ICC Test team rankings has become interesting as Australia and South Africa compete ahead of the cut-off date of April 1, on which India is assured of fin-

lia loses with South Africa either winning or drawing the last match against New Zealand in Hamilton.

The third-placed team on April 1 will receive USD 200,000 while the fourth-placed team, which will be England, will get USD 100,000.



Herath, had taken the honours in the opening session as off-spinner Mehedi struck twice and fast bowlers Mustafizur Rahman and Subashis Roy took one wicket apiece.

**Milestone Test**

troubles deepened when Upul Tharanga edged Mehedi to Soumya Sarkar at slip for 15 after earlier being given a reprieve by a television replay when he was given out lbw off Mustafizur for six.

# Schweinsteiger signs for Chicago Fire: Report

**CHICAGO(KCN):** Former Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger has signed for Major League Soccer side the Chicago Fire, the Chicago Tribune reported on Monday.

Schweinsteiger, a key member of Germany's 2014 World Cup-winning team, heads to the United States after an unhappy stint with Manchester United, where he has been frozen out by manager Jose Mourinho.

The 32-year-old could finalize his move to the United States by next week pending a visa application, the Tribune reported on its website.

"We're adding someone who has won at every level, including the very highest levels, and has done so in a way that is consistent with

our values," Fire general manager Nelson Rodriguez was quoted as saying.

"We as a club will now be forced to hold ourselves to a higher standard, an accountability level.

"Previously, I think we could satisfy ourselves with what is known domestically. Now we need to rise to a standard that is set more internationally."

Schweinsteiger played his entire club career with German giant Bayern Munich before joining Manchester United in 2015.

The Tribune cited an unidentified club source as saying that Schweinsteiger had signed a one-year deal worth \$4.5 million, a salary that makes him one of the highest-paid players in the MLS.

"Throughout my career, I've always

sought opportunities where I hoped to make a positive impact and to help make something great," Schweinsteiger said in a statement quoted by the Tribune.

"My move to Chicago Fire is no different. Through my conversations with Nelson and (Veljko Paunovic), I'm convinced by the club's vision and philosophy and I want to help them with this project."

Chicago head coach Veljko Paunovic said the seeds of Schweinsteiger's move had been sown by a lunch with the German star in Manchester last year.

"The conversation was so spontaneous, so natural and so inspiring for both sides," Paunovic said.

"At one point it became a very per-

sonal conversation. I think that also helped for both sides to understand how we can help each other and

how much value we can get from this for both sides."

The Chicago team has endured a

mixed start to the new MLS season, taking four points from their opening two games before suffering a 4-

0 thumping by expansion side Atlanta last weekend.

Chicago's lone success in the MLS

Cup came in 1998 and for the past four seasons the team has failed to reach the playoffs.

