

Lawmakers boycott Prasad

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Opposition Congress which has been witnessing massive implosion in it in recent days was inflicted with further dents as some of the Lawmakers who are District Presidents refused to attend the meeting convened by OPCC President Prasad Harichandan.

Even as two of the MLAs who are also the District Presidents, Jharsuguda's Naba Kishore Das and Cuttack's Prakash Chandra Behera never turned up for the meet convened by OPCC President Harichandan.

They abstained showing personal reasons, the statements they made about the growing indiscipline in the party exposed the cracks the party is suffering from. Both Mr. Das and Mr. Behera expressed concern about the growing dissensions in the party.

They defied the

OPCC Chief and some of them pointed out that there is lack of coordination in the Party and the Presi-

on Lulu Mohapatra. A section of the youth and students leaders of the State Congress today is-



dent has failed to unite the party members.

And to add salt to injury, some angry students and youth congress workers demanded unconditional apology from State-in-Charge BK Hariprasad for making false statements

sued an ultimatum to AICC General Secretary and Odisha-in-charge BK Hariprasad to tender unconditional apology within seven days for not making false statements on Lulu Mohapatra who died recently.

While taking part

in a condolence meeting at Cuttack, Mr. Hariprasad had stated that Lulu who was offered the post of President OPCC ahead of Prasad Harichandan had declined it on health ground.

"We have taken strong exception to the untrue assertions made by Mr. Hariprasad on Lulu Mohapatra and the latter must apologize for the mistake to avoid embarrassing situations later", said an irate Congress Student Leader.

Some of the young leaders also barged into Congress Bhawan when OPCC President Mr. Harichandana was busy in consulting with some of the District Presidents to chalk out strategy for the ensuing Panchayat poll.

Lulu was never offered the post of OPCC President and Mr. Hariprasad is making this face saving statement to assuage the feelings of hundreds of Lulu supporters who are upset at AICC shabbily treating the deceased leader, they said.

These students and youth leaders have also demanded the suspension orders issued against some of them be withdrawn.

It may be recalled that State Student Congress's Vice President Kiran Sahoo and Spokesperson of NSUI's Odisha unit Ajay Panda were suspended for heckling BK Hariprasad while he was busy in a meeting with OPCC President Harichandana and AICC representative Subhanakar Sarkar in a room in a city hotel couple of days after Lulu's death.

The walls of the Congress Bhawan were littered with posters with anti-Hariprasad slogans.

Naveen waits reply

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Governing BJD President and Chief Minister Mr Naveen Patnaik has said that he has not received the letter of explanation from the party MP Bhartuhari Mahatab.

Mr. Patnaik, three days ago had served a letter to Mahatab for his alleged antiparty statement on the BJD's relationship with other national parties.

Mr. Mahatab, who had not received the letter till date, said: "Naveen Patnaik is my leader and I will reply his letter after receiving it.

The letter issued to the Cuttack MP has two charges: one, he had given statements to a certain Media regarding BJD's relations with other political parties which was against BJD's political principle.

Two, the five-time MP has been giving anti-party statements to the media without any permission of party Chief and Mr. Mahtab has been asked to give an explanation on what basis he had spoken about the alliance to the private news channel.

Recent statements by Mr. Mahtab on forging an alliance with the Congress

have kicked up a storm within the party. The Odia me-

perience as the parliamentary party leader in the lower house,



dia house recently published a report where Mr. Mahtab was quoted as saying that his earlier statement on a possible tie-up was in consultation with the Chief Minister.

Naveen getting furious over the alliance remarks is nothing surprising and his expressing the anger conforms to a pattern: if something comes on you dagger others.

Whether Mr. Mahtab had actually consulted his party boss before the alliance statement or whether the party president is now feigning ignorance is difficult to make out.

But, given Mr. Mahtab's vast ex-

perience as the parliamentary party leader in the lower house, his being a senior leader and the one who is on familiar terms with the sophistication and shrewdness of Naveen Patnaik, the M a h t a b - h e i r wouldn't have gone for the jugular.

Mr. Mahtab's back-to back statement October 31 and the one last week saying that the party is resorting to double-speak while dealing with the Modi Government may have put the ruling party in a very embarrassing situation. But, there is no denying the fact that the ruling party has been ambivalent when it came to various issues concerning the State and its approach to other politi-

cal dispensations.

Naveen who had been tolerating public criticisms of party leaders and unbridled utterances by many from within BJD in recent past especially after the exit of Pyari from the BJD system seems to have recalibrated the threshold of tolerance, as is evident from his action against Mahtab.

He was unusually quiet when his Ministers Bikram Arukha, Arun Sahoo, Pushpendra Singhdeo and few other Lawmakers were subjected to severe public criticism due to mishandling of sensitive issues or getting entangled with acts of impropriety.

Similarly, his equanimity vis-à-vis acerbic comments aired by Tathagat Satpathy and the voluble Damodar Rout was hard to comprehend.

Nagendra Pradhan, Prasanna Patsani, Baishnab Parida and Pradip Maharathy have also got away with making unpalatable statements.

True, none of them directly involved Naveen Patnaik as Bhartruhari did this time.

Mock drills on accidents

Bhubaneswar (KCN): G Srinivas, Principal Secretary Labor and ESI and

Hazard and High Risk Factories.

This has to be done to find out if the

stake holders including the communities living in the vicinity so that losses can be minimized during real emergencies, said he.

Mr. Srinivas was present at a Mock Drill recently organized at HPCL's LPG Bottling Plant in Jatni, which has been identified as a major accident hazard factory due to bulk handling of LPG.

The mock drill was carried out involving authorities of the LPG bottling plant of HPCL, other stake holders such as mutual aid partners, State Authorities from Fire, Health, Police, Transport, Directorate of Factories and Boilers along with the Members of District Crisis Group (DCG), Khurda and Representatives from

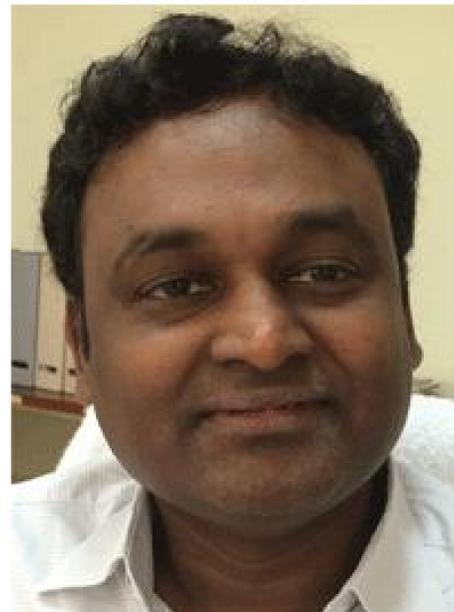
State Crisis Group.

This was done as part of the Regional Conference on Chemical (Industrial) Disaster Management with the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction in Chemical, Metallurgical, Gas and other Industries".

The Conclave was jointly organized by State's Labor & ESI Department, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) during 17-19 November at Mayfair Convention Centre.

Nearly 200 delegates who attended the Conference from four States - Odisha, West Bengal,

See page -7



Member Secretary, State Crisis Group said Mock Drills be held periodically in all Major Accident

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BT Exclusive! Nadira Zaheer Babbar

Bombay (KCN): Nadira Zaheer hasn't done till date in her life. In an exclu-



Babbar will soon be seen enacting both her mother and herself in a play to be featured at the Prithvi Theatre Festival. The soon-to-be 70 actress wishes to do everything she

sive chat with Bombay Times, she opens up on finally being able to write a play on her mother and work with Makarand Deshpande at the same time.

RBI Pumps 5000 CR

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Both the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Government is trying to help out the hapless people in the State in the Post-Demontization scenario in the State.

While RBI has pumped over Rs 5,000 crore new currency notes into banks in Odisha, for the Unbanked areas of 4400 Gram Panchayats the State Government's making alternative arrangement for the people.

"Around 50 per cent of the unbanked Gram Panchayats have been provided with the banking services during last couple of days. However, about 2,000

more GPs await banking service," General Manager RBI, Prasanna



said Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi after talking to the Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha on the prevailing situation.

Principal Secretary Home Asit Tripathy, Principal Secretary Finance, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Special Secretary Finance Ashok Kumar Meena and others were present in the meeting.

Kumar Das, who attended the review meeting here, said above Rs 5,000 new currency notes have been given to the banks.

He also assured the state government of additional cash supply to respective chests for issuing notes to Branch Post Offices.

In far flung areas there is hardly any

cash available in Post Offices, so people are facing hardship.

There are 120 currency chests out of which 79 belongs to State bank of India. All these currency chests are not provided enough money and in some of the district big denomination notes are not provided, leading to hardship for the people.

Reviewing the progress, Mr.Padhi asked the banks to cover the rest unbanked GPs through Branch Post Offices, Self Help Groups and Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) Bank Mitras engaged by Panchayati Raj department.

Since Bank

Mitras are already familiar with banks, their services can easily be utilised for the purpose, Mr.Padhi told the bank authorities.

He also suggested the Post Master General to focus on the uncovered 2,000 GPs through their branch post offices (BPOs).

The State Government also suggested the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide sufficient cash to the BPOs as per their requirement.

The BPOs would allow deposit up to Rs 25,000 and withdrawal up to Rs 5,000 per day in one single account, Mr.Padhi said.

Around 1,000 OLM Bank Mitras

are now working at GPs and village levels. Almost each village has one or more SHGs linked to the bank. Most of the branch post offices are located in rural areas.

"It is expected that utilization of their services as bank correspondents will be of great help in covering the unbanked GPs," said Mr.Pandey, Principal Secretary Finance.

The meeting also decided that since the cash flow has increased, Special District Coordination Committee Meeting would be convened under the Chairmanship of District Collectors to monitor the ground level situation closely.

ODISHA FILES MAHA COMPLAINT

New Delhi (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik asked the Prime Minister to issue direction to the Government of Chhattisgarh to stop further construction on the river and act expeditiously to protect the interest of Odisha.

Speaking to Media after the meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr.Patnaik said it was "Positive. The Prime Minister said he would look into the issues raised by him."

Earlier on the day the State Government filed a complaint petition before the Ministry of Water

Resources (MoWR) for formation of a tribunal to resolve the ongoing Mahanadi row between Odisha and

Chhattisgarh.

"The State Government has filed a complaint petition before the Ministry under Section 3 of Interstate River Dispute Act for formation of tribunal and direction to Chhattisgarh government to stop construction of ongoing projects on upper Mahanadi". Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik informed Media.

"I requested Union Government to expedite the same," Mr.Patnaik said informing further that he too took up Polavaram issue with the Prime Minister.

With filing of this petition, the State Government is hopeful of getting favorable ruling for formation of a tribunal to

resolve the ongoing Mahanadi dispute, Principal Secretary

Water Resources Pradeep Kumar Jena said.



"Odisha Government has filed a complaint petition under "Invoking Section 3 of the Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 the State Government today has filed a complaint petition in which the Centre has been urged to constitute a river dispute tribunal", said Mr.Jena adding that Section 3 of the Act is important because it has a provision wherein one affected party or both can request the Government of India to set up a tribunal to settle the rights of the individual states.

While following due process in submitting the petition, the State Government has also urged the Centre to prevail upon the Chhattisgarh Gov-

ernment for immediate stopping of the work on the ongoing projects during the pendency of the petition, Mr.Jena said.

"The petition also contains detailed information in a 700-page document elucidating all historical facts and data over the past 30-40 years. The document also highlights how the projects undertaken by Chhattisgarh would impact Odisha and hence the apprehensions", Mr. Jena pointed out.

Stating that filing of the petition is the beginning of legal measures and the State government is optimistic about Centre's response, Mr.Jena asserted that as Odisha's case of Mahanadi was quite strong, as its water is lifeline of the State and it would soon get due Justice.

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India to emerge as economic superpower in 15-20 years: Rajnath

LUCKNOW(KCN): Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today exuded confidence that India will emerge as economic super power in 15 to 20 years following the steps being undertaken by the Centre to strengthen the economy. "I cannot speak about a couple of years but on the basis of my limited understanding I can confidently say that no one can stop India from becoming an economic super power in 15 to 20 years if the economy continues to move in the direction it is being taken by the central government", Singh said addressing the meeting of Indian Commerce Association here. "We can proudly claim that India's economy is progressing the fastest in the world and its GDP growth rate has reached 7.9 per cent ..I have full confidence

that it will be in double figures in a couple of years", he said. Investors from world over are coming to India despite slow-down and the highest investment has taken place in India in 2015-2016, he said. The country has emerged as a favourite investment destination, he added. Citing various achievements of the Narendra Modi government on the economic front, Singh said GST will come into force from April 2017 which will start a new taxation system. The problems arising out of different taxation system will come to an end and tax realisation will go up resulting in increase in government income and GDP growth will also go up by 1.5 to 2 per cent, he said. Stressing that not a

single minister in the Narendra Modi government is facing corruption charge, Rajnath Singh said that though he cannot claim that the entire administrative structure has been cleaned up but one thing is clear that there is no corruption at the top. "When the Gangotri has been cleaned, the Ganga coming out from there will automatically be clean ...efforts were on to ensure maximum transparency", he said. Speaking about foreign trade, Singh said that it is facing slow-down which is being experienced by all the countries and India is no exception. The Home Minister said that soon after coming to power it was decided that export has to be increased and India's share in world trade should be taken up to some 2.5 per cent from its present 1.6 per cent.

India to emerge as economic superpower in 15-20 years: Rajnath

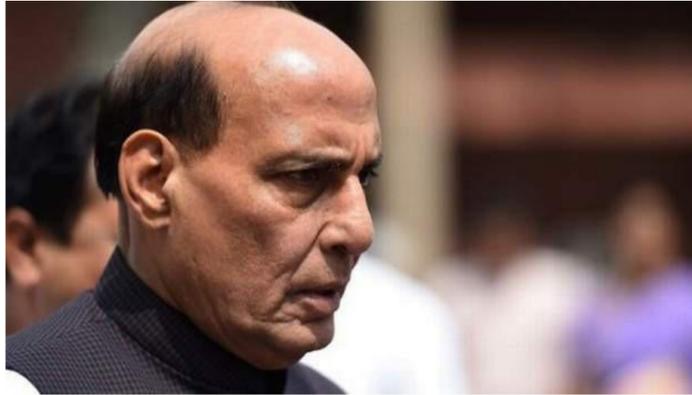
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From Page-1
Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand - were associated in the mock drill with a LPG leakage scenario inside the bottling plant. Officials in HPCL said the emergency could be safely contained within the factory premises due to timely action by all agencies. The emergency preparedness of HPCL bottling plant in terms of personal Protective gears, fire tenders, skill of personnel to act during emergency was assessed. And response was gauged by the combat team, rescue team, auxiliary team and various State agencies was evaluated keeping in mind the role specified for each team or agency in the On-Site and Off-Site Emergency Plan. While the mock drill was conducted under the supervision of Khordha Collector Niranjan Sahoo, and the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Bhubaneswar; State Director of Factories and Boilers; P C Das, Consultant, FICCI & Former Senior Consultant, NDMA Brigadier B K Khanna, and other Senior Officials of the Union Government witnessed the Mock Drill.



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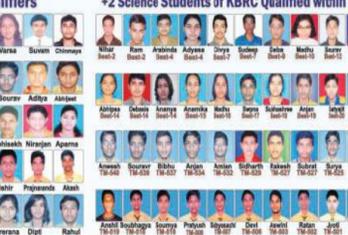
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South Africa's Du Plessis charged with ball tampering

Towering Head & shoulders above

SYDNEY(KCN): The ICC on Friday charged South Africa captain Faf du Plessis with ball tampering after footage emerged of an incident during the second Test against Australia this week.

Footage, which came to light on Wednesday, appears to show him with a sweet, or mint, in his mouth and rubbing saliva into the ball, with the International Cricket Council alleging he broke their code of conduct.

"The alleged incident happened on Tuesday morning when TV footage appeared to show du Plessis applying saliva and residue from a mint or sweet, an artificial substance, to the ball in an attempt to change its condition," it said.



Du Plessis, the acting skipper with AB de Villiers out injured, pleaded not guilty.

A hearing will now be held by Andy Pycroft of the ICC match referees panel. The results will be

course, the ICC statement said. The South African squad appeared

Melbourne on Friday to defend him. "The reason everyone is here is to

stand together, really, and to show solidarity to something... we thought was actually a joke," veteran batsman Hashim Amla told reporters.

Under cricket rules, a player may shine the ball provided no artificial substance is used with du Plessis potentially facing a fine of up to 100 percent of his match fee.

South Africa easily won the Hobart Test by an innings and 80 runs, plunging Australian cricket into crisis. It was a fifth straight defeat for Australia, which saw chairman of selectors Rod Marsh quit and Trevor Hohns temporarily replace him.

The third and final Test starts on November 24 in Adelaide.

Indian cricket team (KCN): India will be on a high after winning the last four series, including two away from home. On the other hand, England have just suffered a first ever Test loss to Bangladesh and even the one they won wasn't without a lot of drama. Their tour of Bangladesh can be seen in two ways. It could either dent their confidence completely or possibly prepare them for challenges lying ahead. Since the Bangladesh failure was about the skill and not the will, it's fair to assume that they might find it tougher in India.

In happy space Even though Kohli's is a young side, it has started working like a well-oiled machine. Batting has started blossoming as a unit with different players assuming key roles at different times. Batting in Tests is all about battling the tough sessions and all good teams find different heroes in these dif-

ficult times. India is no different in this respect. Murali Vijay in Brisbane, Rahane in Lord's, Pujara in Colombo, Kohli in Melbourne and Saha in Kolkata — everyone has stood up at different times and that shows character.

Since this series is in India, bowling is the least of India's concerns with Ashwin donning the role of a leader nonchalantly. On turning pitches, bowlers who bring the ball back in are more lethal because they can take both edges. Ashwin has exposed the technical frailties of modern batsmen like never before.

Test cricket was always a format for specialists. Most teams would play 5-6 batsmen, a proper wicketkeeper and four bowlers. Teams that did better always had a batsman in the top six who could bowl 15-20 overs a day and their wicketkeeper almost always contributed with the bat.

Would like to stay at the top, says Andy Murray

London (KCN): Andy Murray believes the best years of his career could still be ahead after confirming his status as world No. 1 by beating Novak Djokovic to claim the ATP Tour Finals crown on Sunday.

Murray, 29, became the oldest man since 1974 to reach the top of the rankings for the first time last month and the way he dominated the final months of the season, winning five titles and 24 matches in a row, suggests he could be right.

"I obviously want to try and achieve as much as I can these next few years because I'm not going to be around forever," Murray, who won a second Wimbledon title and the Rio Olympics this year, told reporters after his 6-3, 6-4 win at the O2 Arena.

"These next few years, I want to try and make them the best of my career. But it's going to be tough." Had Murray lost to Djokovic on Sunday and relinquished top spot two weeks into his reign the chances are he would have overhauled the Serb again next year as he has

fewer ranking points to defend in the months after the Australian Open.

Having scaled the summit earlier than he expected, Murray may well take some shifting.

"I would like to try and stay there at the top. It's taken a huge effort the last five, six months," he said.

"I'm aware that's going to be extremely difficult. But now that I've got there, I obviously would be motivated to try and stay in that position."

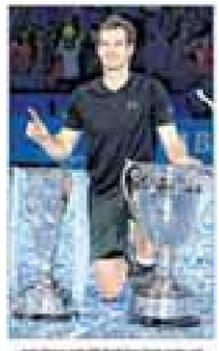
"But the majors are what gets me working hard and what really, really motivates me." First, however, Murray will afford himself the luxury of a short rest after a gruelling week in London where he twice set a new record for the longest match in the tournament's history.

On Saturday he spent three hours 38 minutes defeating Canada's Milos Raonic, having beaten Kei Nishikori in another three-hour epic in the group stage.

He admitted he was running low on energy late on against Djokovic as the Serb staged a late rally.

"I didn't feel

great this morning. The practice, the warmup for the



match, I was hitting the ball fine, but just a bit sluggish, a bit heavy-legged," Murray said.

"Thankfully the first sort of seven games of the match, there was no long rallies, which for us is strange. It wasn't until the middle of the second set when the rallies started to get extended and longer that my legs were starting to feel it." I knew that the longer the match went, the worse I was going to feel, and probably the better he was going to play, I was lucky I got it finished in two sets." It was only five months ago that talk of Djokovic becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to complete a calendar Grand Slam gathered momentum after he won the French Open

for the first time to complete a career slam and become the first man in nearly half a century to hold all four majors at once. However, the emotional toll of fulfilling that lifelong dream at Roland Garros appeared to knock him sideways and Djokovic has not recovered since. "The last six months have not been ideal," he said. "There were things I could have done better on the court. I know that. It was a tough season... I'd just been through so much emotion in the first six months with Roland Garros. "I needed some time to really take it all in, digest it. But I didn't have that time. I had to... be on the court right away. I guess that all had its toll." That toll meant Djokovic's calendar Grand Slam hopes were dashed in the Wimbledon third round by American Sam Querrey. It left him a tearful wreck after he lost to Juan Martin del Potro in the first round of the Rio Olympics. And it allowed Murray to nibble away at his 9,000-point lead in the

rankings before dethroning him. "It's required... To come out on the court in these particular occasions, playing top guys, to come out with (your) top game," said Djokovic.

"I wasn't close to that. There was no serious chance for me to win today's match. From the very beginning we could see that." For a player who had built an aura of invincibility around him in the year from June 2015 such a slump was hard to digest.

But rather than looking forward after Sunday's defeat to rectifying that disparity next season, Djokovic simply wanted to turn the lights out on his 2016 season. "It's hard to expect to repeat all these things forever. Nothing is eternal," he said slumping his shoulders. "Right now the goal is just to rest. It's been a long season. I'm actually looking forward to have a month and a half with no tournaments." (REUTERS) Novak Djokovic

RAJKOT(KCN):It may not be all alien for the England team on this discovery of India. With unknown

Beer-less Rajkot welcomes Barmy Army

brought him back. "We've been to all Test nations. People in India are very welcoming and friendly."

spectators at Eden Gardens. Victory or defeat, some will be around this time too. **Matchbox Pros &**



They are part of a group called Addis Army. Feeling a bit out of place because of the absence of beer in the dry state of Gujarat, they are also missing meat in the predominantly vegetarian restaurants of the region. But that hasn't taken much away. "We'll visit museums and other places of interest" said Glenn Brown, a cricket equipment dealer. Simon Tremlin was in Mumbai and Kolkata in 2012 and informed that former England players Simon Jones and Gladstone Small are in the business of conducting cricket tours. "You can expect 500-600 English fans in different venues this time." Last time England went 2-1 up, a few hundred English were the only

Cons India: Since they lost to England at Kolkata in 2012, India are yet to lose a Test match at home and in that period have won 12 out of 13 matches, which shows how formidable they are in their own conditions. They showed against New Zealand that there are no weak links and have players who can dig them out of hole.

England: Though they have not lost a Test series to India since 2010, this England side is short on experience when it comes to playing in India. **Pitch and Conditions** Rajkot is hosting its debut Test, but if one goes by what the track has dished out for domestic matches, expect spinners to have a field day.