

## 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 remain 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" (betrayal) 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



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".



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?

## 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



there was resentment among some activists, it was purely an internal matter which would be sorted out.

What wrong the

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

was instrumental in the win of the BJP candidates in Sambalpur. State leadership's primary responsibility was to

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

before electing a candidate for the ZP President's post. Everybody in Odisha BJP knew that it was Jaynarayan

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

fore, it was the responsibility of the BJP state leadership to take Jaynarayan into confidence, said a BJP See page-7

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# I was written off by everybody in the south: Taapsee Pannu

Seven years since making her debut as an actress in a Telugu film, Taapsee Pannu continues to seek her own identity. Having worked extensively in the south, the actress has gone on to do films opposite some of the country's biggest stars, including Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar – and yet, she's yet to achieve stardom.

"Even today I'm considered as a newcomer. People always refer to me as an 'upcoming star' or a 'rising star'. I started out with films in the south, and then just when I was slowly getting a foothold, I decided to switch to Hindi films, where I had to begin from scratch all over again. So even though I have been here for six years now, I'm still considered as a newcomer. One day, I just want to wake up and feel like a star," Taapsee shares.

In an exclusive chat with City Express, Taapsee was brazenly honest, unbelievably grounded and extremely articulate in her thoughts and expressions. Having done intense films such as Baby and Pink, Taapsee will be doing a romantic-comedy in Amit Roy's Runninshaadi.com. The film, interest-

ingly, was shot before Baby and Pink, but wasn't released earlier as the filmmakers felt that it may not be the right time to release it since both Amit and Taapsee were 'newcomers'.

"In a way, it made sense because when you know you have the right product in your hands, you wouldn't want to release it too soon. I owe a lot to this film because it was on the sets of Runningshaadi.com when Shoojit Sircar (director of Pink), who's producing this film, saw an edit of my scene and decided to cast me as Meenal Arora for Pink. He did not know who I am or anything about me, but he took that decision based on what he saw," the actress explains.

Taapsee admits that jumping into Hindi films after spending years in the south wasn't an easy task. "Though Hindi is my native tongue, it was suddenly awkward to do a film in Hindi, since I was used to doing films in Tamil and Telugu. I had dubbed my own voice for my films in the south, so to suddenly speak in Hindi felt a bit weird. But it was during RunningShaadi.com that I discovered my true potential, where I realized how much

I can play with my language and nuances," she observes.

Taapsee plays a Sardarni in the film, in a role that the actress says, is exactly how she's like in real life. Taapsee also says

like how it's shown in the movies. So in this film, I made sure I stayed to my true self," Taapsee explains, passionately.

Running Shaadi.com will clash with another of

forward to see how people receive it," she reveals.

With films like Baby, Pink and now Ghazi – Taapsee has been the go-to person in doing intense roles on films dealing with

and pushing my barriers," Taapsee expresses.

And while she's busy with Hindi films, Taapsee says she hasn't completely gone away from doing films in the south. The actress, however, admits that she wasn't treated very well in the south by certain people during her stint in films here.

"It's a bit funny, because when I was here, they had written me off and were extremely mean to me. And now that I've done a few films in Hindi, they ask me why I don't do Telugu films anymore," she quips, sarcastically.

When asked to elaborate, she says, "People from both within and outside the industry had written me off here. I wouldn't like to take names but some people had dubbed me as 'bad luck'. They said I had 'Iron Legs' and were quite mean to me. People in the south are extremely auspicious, and at the time, doing a film with me wasn't very auspicious for them. It hurt because I worked very hard, dubbed my own voice and put in so much effort, only to be treated so harshly."



the film attempts to break stereotypes about the portrayal of Sardarnis and Delhi girls.

"North Indian girls are often portrayed on screen in a very clichéd manner. There is a certain notion about Sardarnis and Delhi girls. They are always shown as these loud, abusive and melodramatic girls. I'm a Delhi girl who hails from Punjab and believe me, we are not at all

Taapsee's film, Ghazi, a trilingual film. While she has a much shorter role in Ghazi, Taapsee says that it was extremely special. "I play a Bangladeshi Refugee in Ghazi. My role is more of a special appearance since it's a war film based on the navy during the 1971 war. There's not much scope for women characters in such a setting. But it was a challenging role and I'm looking

serious subjects. The actress, however, wants to do a few lighter roles as well and is keen to show her versatility as an actress. "I don't want to keep doing the same thing, just because they have been successful. I don't want to take names but there are a few actresses out there, who get comfortable doing the same kind of movies over and over again. I want to keep experimenting

## Hansika in Mohanlal's next

It seems Mohanlal-B new release Bogan. Venkatesh, who has



Unnikrishnan team's untitled film is getting bigger and bigger. After Vishal and Srikanth, another popular south star Hansika Motwani will be making her Bollywood debut through the film. The update was announced by the director himself on his official Facebook page.

"I wish great luck to @Hansika for her

She will have a very special appearance in my Mohanlal film produced by Mr Rockline Venkatesh," posted Unnikrishnan.

According to the director, who had last teamed up with Mohanlal for Mr Fraud, VFX and special effects will have a lot of importance in the big budget project.

While Rockline

made films like Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Linga, is the producer, the project also boasts of an excellent crew.

Manoj Paramahansa, who has cranked camera for films including Vinnaitaandi Varuvaaya and Nanpan, is the cinematographer. 4 Musics, the band behind the hit songs of Oppam, will be scoring the music.

## Tamannaah Bhatia and Shruti Hassan are the new gal pals

Tamannaah Bhatia has been bonding with her contemporary Shruti Hassan.

eryday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on

Shruti.

Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear



for a while now. Tamannaah chose to take some time out last week to meet her new BFF Shruti Hassan to celebrate her birthday.

According to a source close to Tamannaah says, "Tamannaah and Shruti share a special bond, the two actresses may not be able to talk ev-

each other's birthdays. Shruti Hassan, who celebrated her birthday couple of days ago with close friends, had Tamannaah as one of her special guests. It is said that Tamannaah makes it a point to not miss her friend's special day at any cost. She had also brought a special gift for

friend. Since we both have tight schedules, we don't get much time to spend with each other the rest of the year, so I needed to be at her birthday party so that I could be with her. I have been attending her birthday since the last three years and making sure to be with her on her special day."

## Tata Motors director alleges governance

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** An independent director of Tata Motors has alleged governance lapses by the automaker's parent, Tata Sons, and said it wrongly influenced directors, stirring up a public power

Tata temporarily returning to the helm.

Mistry, who had sought to strengthen the firm's governance, remains a director of several group companies such as Tata Motors, Tata Steel and Indian

Tata Motors, owner of luxury automaker Jaguar Land Rover, and Tata Steel.

In a scathing 13-page letter to shareholders, seen by Reuters on Wednesday, Wadia, who has been with Tata for

advice to influence Nov. 14 meetings of Tata Motors' independent directors and its board of directors.

At a meeting on that day, Tata Motors' independent directors gave a tacit nod to Chairman Mistry, but

closed to the stock exchanges, thus preventing Mistry's supporters from issuing any public statement.

Wadia sought legal advice on the company's effective silencing of the independent directors and was told that it was not only inappropriate, but also illegal, he said. He also alleged that Ratan Tata and his close aide, Noshir Soonawala, also a trustee of Tata Trusts, Tata Sons' biggest shareholder, sought, and were given, information and briefings from Tata Motors and Tata Steel about the company's affairs that were material and price sensitive.

As a result, Tata Steel Europe's strategy, financial data, and details on its proposed merger with ThyssenKrupp and other price sensitive information were shared. Tata Sons has called on shareholders to remove Wadia, as well as Mistry, as a director on company boards.

Tata Sons had no immediate comment.

from discussion on demonetisation and raking up issues like AgustaWestland to divert the attention from note ban.

"They (members of Treasury benches) are bringing big, big posters of AgustaWestland in the House. What is this? This is for di-



struggle at India's biggest conglomerate.

In a boardroom coup in October, Cyrus Mistry was removed as chairman of Tata Sons, holding company of the \$100 billion steel-to-autos Tata empire, with family patriarch Ratan

Hotels Co Ltd. Special shareholder meetings have been called by these companies next week to remove him.

Mistry has found support from some independent directors like Nusli Wadia, who sits on the boards of some group companies including

**From Page-1** cropped up in the "diary" of alleged middleman Christian Michel, which was published in a section of the media.

"I would like Parliament to discuss about the serious diary bomb which has been published in newspapers today. Its a very serious issue because it is a matter which was placed before the Italian court and then names of certain people have also been given in alphabets of course.

"The report says six million euros (have been paid) to Air Force officers, 8.4 million to bureaucrats and 16 million to politicians. We must try to reach the bottom of the truth, and as the House is in session, we must discuss this in the House because this is the biggest scam in the recent years that too pertaining to defence deals that happened during the UPA regime," Naidu said.

Alleging that the erstwhile UPA government "successfully prevented" the truth from coming out, Naidu said, "Now that there is a change of government, the inquiry has to be expedited and then nation also has to be told who is behind all this."

"My advice to them is, first face this Agusta heat, respond to these allegations and then discuss other issues also. The government has no problem," he said.

Senior Congress leader A K Antony sprang to Sonia's defence, saying she had no role in the procurement of the helicopters and that BJP will make a "laughing stock" of itself if it dragged her into the controversy.

He also said that the way BJP leaders were claiming that CBI "will nail the culprits in two months" was not good for the agency investigating the AgustaWestland chopper deal. "CBI is working under the directions of BJP, is that what they (BJP members) are attributing. I feel sorry. Dont tarnish the image of CBI like that," the former Defence Minister said.

"Sonijaji has no role. There is no connection with Sonijaji. Helicopters are meant for the use of President, Vice President and the Prime Minister. Sonijaji has nothing to do with that. In the Italian court itself it was mentioned," he told reporters.

Antony said Sonia had no connection with the deci-

about four decades, said Tata Sons "sought to illegally influence events and coerce the directors."

Wadia, head of the Wadia group that has business interests ranging from textiles to aviation, alleged that Tata Sons hurriedly sought legal

debate on the chopper deal.

"We also want a discussion on the alleged currency management (note jugad) at the Congress headquarters. We also want a discussion on AgustaWestland kickbacks. The name of UPA government's



there," he said.

He claimed that the utterances of BJP members showed that CBI is "under their thumb".

"What CBI is going to do within two months if BJP is saying. It is too much. That is, they are attributing that CBI is under their thumb, that is not good," he said.

With a united opposition unsparing in its attack on the government, Ananth Kumar said the government was ready to discuss demonetisation but the opposition should allow a

stopped short of an outright endorsement.

Wadia said that, according to the legal opinion obtained by Tata Sons, if the independent directors were to express their support for Mistry, it could not be considered "material" and should not be dis-

debate on the chopper deal.

from discussion on demonetisation and raking up issues like AgustaWestland to divert the attention from note ban.

first family was also mentioned by Christian Michel. There should be discussion on this in the House," he said.

"We are ready for debate on demonetisation in both Houses since day one. We were ready yesterday and we are ready today as well. But since the first day Rahul Gandhi, Congress and other opposition parties have been running away from debate," Kumar told reporters outside Parliament.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said the government was "running away"

## India to witness increase in mobile fraud by 65% in 2017: Study

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** With the surge in digital transactions via e-wallets and other online payment gate-

'Strategic National Measures to Combat Cybercrime', said a secure cyberspace and the government's

cern for companies as 40-45 per cent of financial transactions are done via mobile devices and this threat is expected to grow to 60-65 per cent," the study noted. Credit and debit card fraud cases top the chart of cyber crimes and there has been a six-fold increase in such cases over the past three years. "According to the data, about 46 per cent complaints of online banking related to/credit/debit card fraud followed by Facebook-related complaints (39 per cent -- mostly morphed pictures/cyber stalking/cyber bullying)," the study said.



ways, mobile frauds are expected to grow to 60-65 per cent in the country by 2017, a leading industry body said on Monday.

The joint study by Assocham and research firm EY, titled

initiatives in keeping tabs on cyber crime have become important criteria for businesses to establish, operate and flourish in any region.

"Mobile frauds are areas of great con-

**From Page-1**

rape and molestation, were required to be debated, and posted the matter for hearing on February 8.

The Bench noted in its order that eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman, who has been appointed as amicus curie for assisting the court in the

by Mr. Khan in his affidavit tendering apology as per the November 17 directions of the apex court.

Mr. Sibal said the Samajwadi Party leader would file a fresh affidavit.

At the fag end of the hearing, Mr. Sibal said that his client in-

tims in the case, he was willing to apologise if the husband/father of the victims felt "insulted or offended" in any manner.

The court said it would deliberate upon the questions framed by it earlier regarding the freedom of speech and



matter, has fairly said that the affidavit furnished by Mr. Khan should be accepted.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was appearing for Mr. Khan, told the Bench that as the questions framed by the court were constitutionally significant, he would like to assist the court.

To this, Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi and Mr. Nariman agreed, saying it would be desirable if Mr. Sibal put forth his points in respect to the questions framed by the court earlier.

**Earlier apology was vague**

On December 7, the apex court observed that the apology tendered by the U.P. Minister earlier for his remark does not appear to be "unconditional."

The observation came after the Attorney General objected to certain words like "if" and "then" used

tended to say remorse instead of apology.

The brutal incident happened on the night of July 29, when a group of highway robbers stopped the car of a Noida based family and sexually assaulted a woman and her daughter after dragging them out of the vehicle at gun-point.

The apex court, on August 29, took note of the remarks of Mr. Khan that the gang rape case was a "political conspiracy."

On November 17, the court directed Mr. Khan to tender an "unconditional apology" for his remarks in the matter while seeking the assistance of the Attorney General in dealing with the issue of statements made by persons holding public office in such cases.

Mr. Sibal had said that though Mr. Khan had not said anything attributed to him against the vic-

expression and probable impact of statements of those holding high offices on free and fair probe in heinous cases, including rape and molestation.

Initially, the FIR was lodged by the Uttar Pradesh Police under various provisions on July 30. The CBI re-registered the case on August 18 in pursuance to the Allahabad High Court's interim order.

The man, whose wife and daughter were gangraped in July on a highway in Bulandshahr, on August 13 moved the apex court seeking transfer of the case to Delhi, besides lodging of an FIR against Mr. Khan as well as several policemen.

The Allahabad High Court had ordered a CBI probe into the incident, besides deciding to monitor the investigation.

# 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."

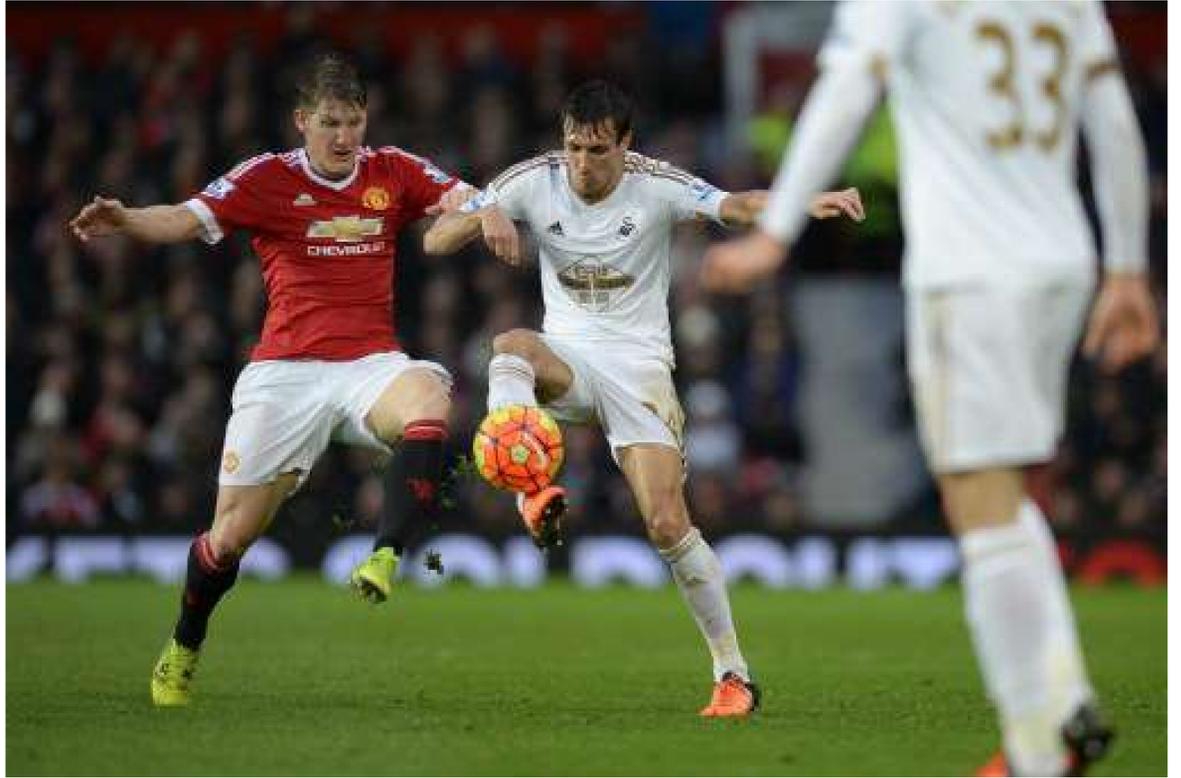
The Chicago team has endured a

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.



## 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 Tajul 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 Tajjul 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.