

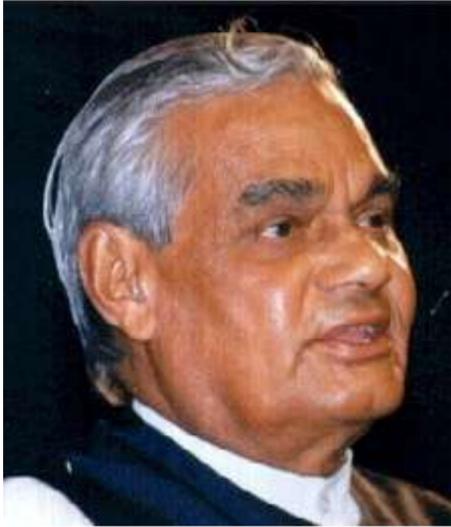
Naveen meets Vajpayee Summer vacation for schools

New Delhi (KC-N): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today said there was no politics behind his meeting with former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Mr. Patnaik, who is on a five-day tour to the national capital, today Vajpayee at his Krishna Menon Marg residence on Monday, a communication received from the Chief Minister's Office here said.

"I was a Minister in the Vajpayee's cabinet and it was a courtesy visit just to inquire about his health," said Patnaik after meeting the former prime minister.

and there is no political significance between Mr. Patnaik also



said the people of Odisha fondly remember Vajpayee

During Mr. Vajpayee's tenure as the Prime Minister, Odisha has got an AIIMS and the Oil Refinery at Paradip.

Mr. Patnaik during his stay attended the NITI Ayog meeting on 23 April, where he demanded Special Category State status for Odisha.

Mr. Patnaik had also demanded free electricity for BPL families and more central funds for the state.

However, the political circle is agog with speculation and tried to connect Naveen's meeting with the ensuing presidential elections.

Naveen, who had been to the national capital several times during last four years during which Mr. Vajpayee was unwell, why suddenly decided to see the former Prime Minister? The political analysts in Odisha are burning mid-night oil to ascertain the motive of Naveen's visit to Mr. Vajpayee when the BJP has been targeting the Governing BJD in the state.

Political Circle feel that Naveen is trying to reach out BJP Leadership, however the Saffron Brigade is on its move to grab power in East with "Look East Policy".

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government announced Summer Vacation in schools from 25 April, a week ahead of schedule.

With the heat wave condition intensified in the State, the School and Mass Education Minister Debi Prasad Mishra said that summer vacation has been advanced in all the schools in the state which would remain closed from tomorrow in view of the scorching heat.

The schools, both government-run and private ones, would reopen on June 18 after summer vacation, which normally begins from the first

Malkangiri, 41.6 de-



week of May, he said, adding steps would be taken to make up for the loss of classes.

The state virtually turned into a cauldron as the mercury breached the 42 degree mark in nine towns and 40 degree mark in at least 14 places. And Titlagarh was the hottest place at 45.5 degrees Celsius today.

Two sunstroke deaths have so far been reported in the state, one each from Bargarh and Angul district, according to the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC).

While Angul town recorded a maximum temperature of 44.1 degrees Celsius, it was 43.8 degrees Celsius at Hirakud, 43.6 degrees Celsius at both Balangir and Talcher, 43.5 degrees Celsius at Bhawanipatna and 43 degrees Celsius at Sundargarh, it said.

According to MET Office, Jharsuguda recorded 42.6 degrees Celsius, while the mercury stood at 42.2 degrees Celsius in Sambalpur, 42 degrees Celsius at

Sonepur, 41.5 degrees Celsius at Keonjhar, 40.6 degrees Celsius at Phulbani and 40.4 degrees Celsius at Dhenkanal, the MET office said.

Capital City Bhubaneswar recorded a maximum temperature of 37.7 degrees Celsius, while the mercury at neighboring Cuttack city touched 38 degrees Celsius. There was little respite from the scorching heat in most places of interior zones.

The MET office said the heat wave like condition is likely to prevail over interior and western districts of Odisha for a week and the temperature may range between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius in western region.

Temperature in some of the coastal districts may increase up to 40 degrees Celsius but sea breeze is likely to prevail in these areas in the afternoon and experts say that Heat Wave condition will prevail.

Tamil Nadu government's bid to declassify highways likely to open Pandora's box

CHENNAI (KC-N): The Tamil Nadu government's decision to bring highways under urban local bodies could open a Pandora's box. For, beyond stiff opposition from political parties, the move has several implications, including excess financial burden, additional workforce to maintain newly-added roads within the local bodies' purview and road safety.

According to

highly-placed sources in the Highways Department, of the 62,000 km highways running across Tamil Nadu, nearly 3,500 km could be converted into urban roads. This includes 246.71 km of highways in Chennai. The Department of Municipal Administration under the State government is yet to come out with the exact length of highways to be renoted. **A See Page -7**

CRPF jawans were having lunch when Maoists ambushed them

NEW DELHI: The 25 CRPF jawans who were killed in a deadly Naxal ambush in Chhattisgarh's Sukma, were having lunch when a hail of bullets and grenades hit them fatally.

A party of about 36 troops, out of the total 99, came under the first assault after

they had ventured out from Burkapal yesterday to sanitise and provide protection to a 5.5-km long road connecting Chitagufa in the said district, officials said. The Maoists squad "very discreetly with the aid of locals" kept tracking the movement of

the troops when one party of 36, out of the total three, sat down for launch, the strong squad of Naxals, possessing sophisticated weapons, took them by surprise and rained heavy gun fire, they said.

Sukma attack: Rajnath Singh says anti-Maoist strategy will be revised, calls

for high-level meet on May 8

300 Naxals take CRPF men by surprise in Sukma

A huge assortment of 22 smart arms, including 13 AK series assault rifles and 5 INSAS rifles, 3,420 live rounds of various rifles, 75 magazines

of AK rifles, 31 of INSAS, 67 live UBGL rounds, 22 bullet proof jackets, two binoculars, five wireless sets and a deep search metal detector were also looted by Naxals, they said.

While a top CRPF officer said the killed troops had "finished their lunch" and may be were not in an absolute alert mode for the next few minutes, other officials said "some of them were having their lunch" when the attack was launched around 12:30 PM.

While the slain 25 men and about six others who were injured, tried to gather their weapons or take aim at the marauding Naxals, the others on the guard duty mounted an effective retaliation and saved about 40 civilians and construction workers who were present in the vicinity of the area during the deadly assault that lasted over an hour.

What has surprised multiple security officials whom PTI talked to, is the fact that the Maoists are understood to have used few under-barrel grenade launchers (UBGL), a smart and sophisticated weapon used by security forces, to inflict fatal casualties on the troops by lobbing grenades in quick succession. "It is very likely that these UBGLs were looted from security forces only. That could be as recent as the incident where 12 CRPF men were

killed in Sukma on March 11," a senior officer said. He added that while no Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) was used in the ambush, the favourite weapon for inflicting damage on security forces, what claimed the lives in the biggest Naxal ambush of the country in the last three years was heavy usage of gun fire and grenades.

Officials said as the troops of the 74th battalion of the CRPF, that came under attack, and few other similar contingents have been going out on the same track for some time and hence there was a possibility that their "presence was being tracked, marked and trailed" by Maoist cadres. "Our men have told us that the villagers were making movements close to them. Villagers were also taken as shields by Naxals and that restricted our fire for some time," the officer said.

At present the troops were securing a culvert that is being constructed on the road and it would have taken about four-five months more to complete this task, the officer said. The area where the deadly blood bath took place is considered the stronghold of the Naxals headed by Maoist commander Raghu and is under the Jagargunda Area Committee led by another red ultra Papa Rao.



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No break for the 'Breakup Song' singer

Bombay (KCN): 'Mental Manadhil' from OK Kanmani, 'Mei Nigara' from 24, and now, 'The Breakup Song' from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil... Jonita Gandhi is on the crest of a wave. Over telephone from Mumbai, the 27-year-old says with a laugh, "My phone has been buzzing with messages ever since the ('Breakup') song released. Many were quite surprised when they came to know that I had sung it. I am not sure why." As for Jonita, it was one of the most fun projects that she had done. "We were partying and recording... it was dramatic," she says.

Jonita has a lot on her plate, from recording for movies to performing live gigs. But she also talks about a dream that she has been holding on to for sometime now. "Writing music... I want to sing something that I have written from scratch. How cool would that be," she

says, a little lost in thought. "I have written in the past, but I am just very picky. So I am not sure whether many of those will see the light of day," she adds after a pause.

Meanwhile, she is consciously making sure that her YouTube channel (Jonita Music has over half a lakh followers) thrives – given that's where she began her journey as a musician. "I used to record my song videos, all covers, on my phone and post them," she recalls. Later, as her channel continued to gain visitors, she started making professional videos, self-produced videos and collaborating with different artistes. "This was way back in 2011, and that's how far I could reach Bollywood from Toronto. But it helped me get a foot in the door, as several music composers recognised me, and next thing I know, I was doing a tour with Sonu Nigam in North America,"

she says. Following the tour, Jonita debuted in Bollywood with Chennai Express.

"Till then, I had only performed in live shows. I hadn't recorded a Bollywood song from scratch. Understanding and learning a composition on the spot was new to me. So I was extremely nervous," she recalls. The first song she recorded was the title song of Chennai Express for Vishal-Shekhar. "The song was already done, and the male voice was by SPB sir. There was a small part in the song that features Deepika Padukone in the visuals and they wanted a female voice. I just happened to be around then, so they told me to try it out, and it all came out well," she says.

She was then spotted by A.R. Rahman, with whom she worked on the album Raunaq and Tamil film OK Kanmani, among others. "I was

in Chennai once, so he asked me to come to

completely on who ever was directing the



his studio and record in Tamil. Thankfully, I had people around me who really supported me. I had no idea how well I was singing the words. I had to rely

videos to visually see everything right," she says with a laugh. "On my first trip to Chennai, while working with Rahman sir, I had no idea who we

were recording for. But I was just happy to be working with him. He is an amazing person and makes people super comfortable, and while most think that he is quiet, in reality, he is a very funny person," says Jonita, who is trained in Western Classical music.

Looking back, while her academic degrees (she has two undergraduate degrees in Health Sciences and Business) did little to contribute to her career as a singer, she says, "Music was always there on the side. I used to come home from school during weekends and perform at events. It was already my part-time job. Even at home, there were always old Hindi songs — those of Rafi, R.D. Burman, Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle — and 90s Bollywood music by Shreya Ghoshal and Sonu Nigam — playing. I grew up listening to them."

'Why should boys have all the fun?'

After performing high kicks in the female dominated Akira and doing sleek action sequences as a RAW agent in Force 2, Sonakshi Sinha is revealing in her newfound images as an action heroine.

Sonakshi Sinha Happy that she and other actresses are slowly getting to perform high octane action scenes in Hindi films these days, Sonakshi asserts with a laugh, "Why should boys have all the fun? I really appreciate such films and I am glad about them. It's about time now."

Ask Sonakshi if she feels the audience is ready to accept leading ladies getting into rough and tough



scenes, and she points out, "I got some great feedback for the action scenes I did in Akira. Even today if I meet someone, I hear,

'Wow! You did such great action sequences.' Whether the audience is taking time to adjust to it or not is yet to be seen

but, honestly, this is the feedback I am getting."

While she is pleased to be associated with action, Sonakshi stresses that her fights are not repetitive. "You will get to see a lot of variety in my action sequences," she says.

"Force 2 does not have the same kind of action as Akira. In Akira my character was different, she was a college girl and the action was very raw. In Force 2, it's much more stylised and sleek with car chase sequences, hand-to-hand combat et al. Moreover, its shot in a very different way, the character is also very different.

From Page -7 Organizations, when bidding has been done e-Commerce Place of the Government.

Procurement on GeM has been enabled by amendment to the General Financial Rules (GFR) of the Ministry of Finance. Further Department of Expenditure has mandated payment within 10 days of acceptance of goods and services to the suppliers.

GeM has already been integrated with Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for all the Ministries in Union Government. And it has been integrated with State Bank Multi Option Payment System (SBMOPS) for direct payment through banking channel.

Under this backdrop, the DG DGS&D Mr.Kumar has urged the State Government to avail the e-Facilities provide by GeM. He has informed that GeM can be integrated with State Payment System.

Mr.Kumar has said that the DGS&D is also willing to provide handholding support to the State Government officials in this regard.

Aman Sharma, Director GeM is coordinating with the State Government officials and will extend all out support for using GeM for their requirements, informed Mr.Kumar.

'We are not promoting sex'

Do you think the film industry is welcoming to newcomers like you?

It's really difficult to get into Bollywood – it's a matter of time and the luck factor counts too. It's tough; and it was tough for me. It has been a very long and difficult struggle for me, I have enjoyed my journey though because it was not like I was just struggling and doing nothing ... I have taken a little long to do the kind of film I really wanted and desired. But it has finally happened and I am here.

Priyanka Chopra's terrible movies come back to haunt her on American TV, watch video

Priyanka Chopra made her debut on popular American television show, Watch What Happens Live. The actress who's presently busy shooting for Quantico, season 2 in New York had a blast at the show where she was accompanied by Scandal actor Tony Goldwyn and the two had a great time.

While discussing her fabulous debut in Quantico, Andy featured a few clips of movies she did in her initial days in Bollywood and let's just say he did not showcase her best performances India has witnessed over the years



which were, Bajirao Mastani, Fashion, Barfi, Jai Gangaajal or Mary Kom to name a few. Rather he played the tapes of Kismat, Andaaaz, Mujhse Shaadi

Karoge where she wasn't really in her best of self. In Quantico, Priyanka Chopra is this woman who can fight her way in even without a gun. With the help of

Quantico, Priyanka Chopra has managed to gain a completely different image for herself globally. The rest of the world may or may not have been very familiar

with Bollywood works of Priyanka Chopra. In India, while we have seen the best of Priyanka Chopra, we have seen the worst too. Here's the good...

India needs globally compatible tax rates: Arun Jaitley

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Mon-

economy. He said gone are the days of

Watch what else is making

"... what you need is a broader

are more competi- tive in character

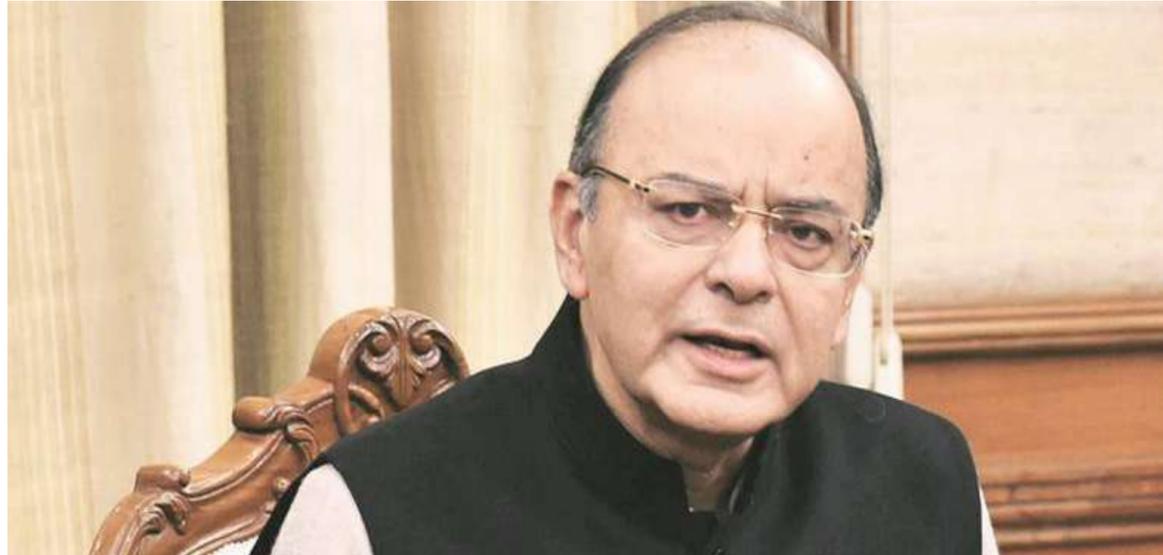
ficers.

He said competition is not merely domestic but global and therefore in the last two-and-a-half decades, governments have been guided by these principles. Tracing the behaviour of people in the last 70 years, the Finance Minister said there has been an impression if avoidance could be done of government revenue, there is nothing "improper or immoral" about it.

This was, he said, considered to be "commercial smartness" and of course some people were visited with very serious consequences. He told the young revenue

service officers that in coming future decades they should see that voluntary tax compliance has to increase in India.

"And the mindset of the tax payer (should be) that payment of legitimate taxes is a responsibility and then it should be reciprocated by you with a confidence in the tax payer. The tax payer is to be trusted, except when it's proven otherwise. And therefore only in those select cases, very objectively selected, you go in for a wider audit or a wider scrutiny itself," Jaitley said.



day said a lower level of taxation that is globally compatible is necessary if the country has to have a broader base of

the philosophy that high taxation will bring greater revenues and that since 1991 the course of economy has altered itself.

news: 'Will PM Modi Resign If Situation Doesn't Improve After 50 Days', Asks Mamata Banerjee

base of economy for which you need a lower level of taxation. You need to manufacture products and provide services which

and therefore your taxes have to be globally compatible," Jaitley said while inaugurating the professional training of IRS of-

Rs 100-cr deposit: Mumbai diamond firm under ED scanner

Mumbai (KCN): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched three locations in Mumbai on Monday in connection with deposits of Rs 100 crore by a city-based diamond firm post withdrawal of the old currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations on November 8.

ED sources familiar with the development said out of the total export remittances of Rs 600 crore, at least Rs 100 crore was deposited after demonetisation. "This deposit has come under the scanner as it is of suspicious nature," said an ED source.

The agency is probing if the amount deposited by the firm is genuine export remittance, the source added.

In a separate development, the ED is investigating the role of four private banks in allegedly aiding a bullion trader to exchange scrapped currency of Rs 150 crore through shell firms.

24 lakh people have income above Rs 10 lakh but 25 lakh cars bought per year since 2011

India has just 24.4 lakh tax payers who declared an annual income of over Rs 10

said. The tax returns when compared with car sales throw astonishing numbers, he

their annual income of being more than Rs 10 lakh and there were 1.47 lakh tax



lakh yet 25 lakh new cars, including 35,000 luxury cars, are being bought every year for last five years, a top official said. A nation of over 125 crore people had only 3.65 crore individuals filing their tax returns in the assessment year 2014-15, the official said alluding to a huge number of individuals being outside the tax net.

Watch what else is making news:

'Will PM Modi Resign If Situation Doesn't Improve After 50 Days', Asks Mamata Banerjee

"Of the 3.65 crore individuals (filing returns in assessment year 2014-15), there were only 5.5 lakh people who paid income tax of more than Rs 5 lakh and accounted for 57 per cent of the total tax kitty. This essentially means that only 1.5 per cent of those filing tax returns (3.65 crore) are contributing to 57 per cent of tax kitty," the official

said.

"Car sales on an average in last five years has been about 25 lakh per year. In the last three years the car sales were 25.03 lakh, 26 lakh and 27 lakh," he said adding the statistics points to a large number of people having income to buy cars are outside the tax bracket. A car normally has a life of seven years and a second car is purchased not before five years by a common man, the official said.

The income tax data collated shows only 48,417 persons reporting income of more than Rs 1 crore in a year. Yet luxury brands like BMW, Jaguar, Audi, Mercedes, Porsche and Maserati sell almost 35,000 cars every year. Of the individuals filing returns, 5.32 lakh were with income of less than Rs 2 lakh per annum, and so not within the tax bracket.

He said 24.4 lakh filers declared

fillers who had an income of over Rs 50 lakhs in a year. Also during the 2014-15 Assessment Year, there were 1.61 crore people whose tax deducted at source (TDS) were deducted but they did not file income tax return (ITR), he said.

India's tax revenue as a percentage of its GDP was 16.7 per cent in 2016, compared with 25.4 per cent in the United States and 30.3 per cent in Japan. The official said the numbers point to a significant number of people who are liable to pay taxes aren't doing so. The government, he said, is shoring up its efforts to check tax evasion.

The November 8 decision to junk old 500 and 1000 rupee notes are one of the steps to tackle the menace, he said adding by mandating people to deposit the old currency in banks was a way to account for the unaccounted money and tax them.

Nifty breaches 9,300-mark for first time

Market benchmark Nifty surged past the 9,300-level for the first time today, fuelled by a rally in Reliance Industries and other bluechips on upbeat earnings. Nifty closes at record 9,306.60, up 88.65 points. Positive Asian cues and a higher opening in European markets also added to the momentum. The 50-share NSE Nifty soared 82.45 points, or 0.89 per cent, to quote at its new lifetime high of 9,300.40. It broke the previous record of 9,273.90 reached on April 5. The BSE 30-share Sensex was quoting at 29,926.96 at 1430 hrs, up 271.12 points, or 0.91 per cent. The rupee appreciating to 64.21 against the dollar (intra-day) at the forex market too boosted sentiments. Shares of Reliance Industries surged 1.21 per cent to Rs 1,433.50 after the company yesterday reported a record fourth quarter net profit of Rs 8,046 crore.

Other major gainers that supported the key indices were M&M, Bharti Airtel, Hero MotoCorp, Asian Paints, Power

Consolidated net at Rs 8,053 cr: RIL posts strong Q4 profit on petrochem, refining biz

Mumbai (KCN): Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has reported a higher-than-expected 11.5 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 8,053 crore during the fourth quarter ended March 2017



Grid, ITC Ltd, HUL, ICICI Bank and HDFC Ltd, rising by up to 3.36 per cent. Globally, Japan's Nikkei surged 1.90 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.31 per cent, while Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.16 per cent. In Europe, London's FTSE rose 0.22 per cent, Paris CAC 40 gained 0.18 per cent and Frankfurt's DAX inched up 0.03 per cent in early deals. For all the latest India News, download Indian Express App now

against Rs 7,220 crore in the same period of last year due to higher refining margins. Its consolidated revenue stood at Rs 94,825 crore up 43.7 per cent compared to Rs 65,950 crore a year ago.

From Page-1 major challenge awaiting the department is allotting necessary funds for road maintenance.

Presently, apart from allotting nearly Rs 1,000 crore as highways maintenance grant to Tamil Nadu annually, the Central government reimburses the cost incurred by the State in maintaining some roads within its purview (including 9% agency charges), said a senior highways official, who added: "It will be tough for the State to match this."

"This move will increase the financial burden on already cash-strapped local bodies," said Senthil Arumugam from Satta Panchayat Iyakkam, a Chennai-based activist group. For instance, the Greater Chennai Corporation in its deficit budget for 2017-18 allotted only Rs 40 crore to maintain 2,967 km of roads at

the rate of Rs 450 per sqm.

A Venkatachalam from the Association of Tamil Nadu Highways Engineers said: "Tamil Nadu will have a tough time ahead in finding replacements for 1,500 engineers (employed by the Highways Department) specialised in this field. We fear this might result in job losses and promotion cuts."

Though better administration was stated as the reason behind this move by the State government, activists and political parties saw in it a step towards circumventing the Supreme Court's recent highway liquor ban. More than 3,000 State-owned TASMACH shops were closed after the SC order.

Expressing dismay over the government not understanding the spirit of the SC order, A Narayanan from CHANGEindia, a Chennai-based NGO,

said: "It is sheer irresponsibility on the part of the government, which is desperate to keep their liquor business flying, despite widespread protests."

Going by statistics, there is very little to support the claim that closing liquor shops on highways will reduce road accidents. According to the Road Transport Ministry data, though Tamil Nadu recorded the most number of road accidents (69,059) in 2015, only 1.2% (818) of road accidents and 1% (142) of fatalities were caused by drunk drivers. But data based on police reports has been disputed as there is a possibility of under-reporting. Admitting it, a former Director General of Police said: "Since most motor insurance policies exclude damages caused by a person driving under influence, in many cases it is reported as death due to overspeeding."

Former Aston Villa defender Ugo Ehiogu dies

LONDON(KCN): Tottenham's under-23 coach Ugo Ehiogu has died at the age of 44, the Premier League club announced on Friday.



Tottenham announced in a statement: "It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Ugo Ehiogu."

The former defender, capped four times by England, was being treated in hospital after collapsing at the club's training headquarters in north London on Thursday.

Watch Video: Former England defender Ugo Ehiogu dies after cardiac arrest

Ehiogu, who starred for Aston Villa and Middlesbrough during his playing career, has been on Tottenham's coaching staff since 2014. Tottenham's head of coaching and player development John

feel at the Club.

Former Aston Villa defender Ugo Ehiogu | AFP

"Ugo's immense presence will be irreplaceable. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife Gemma and his family."

The club's statement added: "Ugo received immediate treatment after suffering a cardiac arrest at the Training Centre yesterday (Thursday) before being transferred to hospital, where he passed away in the early hours of this morning."

Ehiogu made over 300 appearances in a nine-year stay with Villa, helping them win the League Cup in 1994 and 1996.

He joined Middlesbrough in 2000, spending seven years there and winning the League Cup

again in 2004.

Ehiogu also played for West Bromwich Albion,

professional and someone I really enjoyed playing with."

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Leeds, Glasgow Rangers and Sheffield United before retiring in 2009.

Villa reacted to the news on Twitter.

"We are deeply saddened to hear of the death of our former defender Ugo Ehiogu. Our thoughts are with his family at this terribly sad time."

The Championship club says it will hold a minute's applause at their derby match against Birmingham on Monday, with both sets of players wearing black armbands as a mark of respect to their former star.

Tributes to Ehiogu poured in from across the football world.

Australia's Mark Schwarzer, who played with the centre-back at Middlesbrough, said: "He was the ultimate

Manchester United star Rio Ferdinand tweeted: "Can't believe the news that Ugo Ehiogu has passed away. Calm and warming vibe when in his company. My heart goes out to his family."

Alan Shearer, the former England striker, wrote on Twitter: "Lost for words. A true gentleman. RIP Ugo."

Former Republic of Ireland midfielder Andy Townsend, a Villa team-mate of Ehiogu's, added: "I'm absolutely shocked. I didn't expect to wake up to this news."

"He was a player that every team would like to have at the back."

"I remember the 3-0 win over Leeds (in the League Cup final). I looked at pictures at home this morning and Ugo is in them celebrating."

Super Knights have armour to ride all the way

KOLKATA(KCN):Four wins in five matches — despite the relatively small sample size taken into consideration — is quite a compelling statistic. It's a number that's in congruence with the way Kolkata Knight Riders have come to be perceived in the Indian Premier League: a well-oiled, cohesive juggernaut of a team.

Why wouldn't they be? They started off their tenth campaign in the event with a ten-wicket decimation — which was achieved with 31

balls to spare — of the Gujarat Lions; a triumph that could well be construed as a one-match metaphor for the two-time champions' winning efficiency.

With three more victories — against Kings XI Punjab, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Delhi Daredevils — after that clash, the Men in Purple and Gold are second in the table, with a net run-rate (+1.013) that's leaps and bounds ahead of the competition, barring Delhi Daredevils (+1.157).

All the above paragraphs in totality paint a picture that, at the moment, Gautam Gambhir and his men haven't put a foot wrong in the tournament so far.

The aforementioned line of thought wouldn't be a wrong one to tread at all. In two stints of leather mangling, Chris Lynn ratcheted up 125 runs at a strike-rate of 192.3. The skipper himself is placed fourth in the top run-scorers list, with a tally of 196 at an average and strike-rate of 65.33 and 142.02.

Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Sunil Narine have thrown a spanner into the opposition's batting progress when called upon.

Manish Pandey, Robin Uthappa, and Yusuf Pathan have stood up for their team with the bat when called upon. The former's haul is 34 runs short of Nitish Rana's top-mark of 255, at an eyeball-popping average of 221 (courtesy three not-out scores).

Spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Sunil Narine have thrown a spanner into the opposition's batting progress when called upon.

Mumbai eye another dominating show against Daredevils

MUMBAI(KCN): On a roll after five wins on the trot, table toppers Mumbai Indians will look to continue their domination when they clash with struggling Delhi Daredevils in an IPL game, here tomorrow.

The Rohit Sharma-led side mauled Kings XI Punjab by eight wickets while chasing a challenging 198-run target with Englishman Jos Butler smashing 77 off 37 balls.

Mumbai will be pleased with the consistency of orange cap holder Nitish Rana, who is getting better day by day. Rana, who has so far amassed 255 runs

been that they have not depended on a single batsman. All of them have chipped in with runs to shape team's fortunes.

The Mumbai bowlers went for runs in the home game against Gujarat Lions and also last night. This would be an area of definite concern for the team management. The team which possesses quality bowlers like Lasith Malinga, seasoned off spinner Harbhajan Singh, Jasprit Bumrah among others, will have to bowl well to restrict the opposition.

It is likely that Malinga, who has been leaking runs, may be replaced by Kiwi pacer Tim

Contribution by Mumbai boy Shreyas Iyer, who sort of knows the pitch, will be crucial for the visitors if they have to pile up a big total. Iyer played a breezy knock of 50 in 31 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad, which albeit ended in a losing cause.

It will be interesting to see if Daredevils retain out of sorts Sri Lankan Angelo Matthews, who went for 41 in three overs in their last game.

South African Chris Morris, who returned a four-wicket haul, will need to replicate his performance and has to get support from seasoned pacer and skip-

consolidate the top slot.

Squads:

Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma (capt), Parthiv Patel, Tim Southee, Kieron Pollard, Jos Buttler, Ambati Rayudu, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nitish Rana, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Harbhajan Singh, Mitchell Johnson, Lendl Simmons, Vinay Kumar, Saurabh Tiwary, Karn Sharma, Krishnappa Gowtham, Siddhesh Lad, Nicholas Pooran, Shreyas Gopal, Jitesh Sharma, Deepak Punia, Jagadeesha Suchith, Kulwant Khejroliya.

Delhi Daredev-



this IPL season, remained unbeaten on 62 to take his side home against Punjab.

With Rohit, Rana, Patel brothers Hardik and Krunal, wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel and Butler in form, any team will be worried taking them.

It is apparent that Mumbai like to chase than setting targets with three of their five wins -- against Gujarat Lions, Punjab and Royal Challengers Bangalore -- coming batting second.

The best thing for the home side has

Southee.

For Daredevils', young guns Sanju Samson and Rishabh Pant have contributed nicely but the side will need their top order that includes Sam Billings and Karun Nair to fire in unison against Mumbai.

Billings's failure in the last match is a sign of worry and he along with Samson, the lone Indian centurion of IPL 10, will have to provide Delhi a solid start, especially on a Wankhede track, which is usually friendly for batters.

per Zaheer Khan and Australian Pat Cummins.

If Mumbai batting line up has to be restricted especially on a Wankhede track, role of spinners especially Amit Misha will be crucial.

A certain entertainment is on the cards for the crowds as scores here have been usually above the 150. Going into the game, Mumbai Indians have an upper hand and the team will like to continue their love affair with Wankhede by winning their sixth straight game and

ils: Zaheer Khan (capt), Mohammad Shami, Shahbaz Nadeem, Jayant Yadav, Amit Mishra, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Karun Nair, Rishabh Pant, CV Milind, Khaleel Ahmed, Pratyush Singh, Murugan Ashwin, Aditya Tare, Shashank Singh, Ankit Bawane, Navdeep Saini, Corey Anderson, Angelo Matthews, Pat Cummins, Kagiso Rabada, Chris Morris, Carlos Brathwaite, Sam Billings.