

## Dama threatens Indian Oil CB probe on Gangrape

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Minister Excise & Cooperation and BJD Veteran Damodar Rout today threatened to get the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) project in Paradip closed if Minister Petroleum & Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan further pleaded about Value Added Tax exemption to the Refinery.

"I will get the project closed if Dharmendra tried to force it on us. They are committing dacoity there. The people will not tolerate it," the Minister Dr.Rout, who represents Paradip Assembly segment in Odisha House said in response to the appeal of the Petroleum Minister to resolve the issue at the Working Group meeting as directed by the Orissa High Court.

Mr.Pradhan had on the sidelines of a program said earlier

in the day that the State Government should discuss the is-



sue with an open mind.

Union Minister had said that IOCL was ready to bear the financial burden in the interest of the State and the future of the State's youth.

He had offered to consider any demand the State Government made with regard to the Refinery project.

Petroleum Minis-

ter said the Union Government under Prime Minister

project has been delayed due to unforeseen situations and IOCL had no control over those situations. "Cyclone and law and order situations delayed the project," he said.

Referring to the delay in the construction of canals of Rengali irrigation project, he asked why no water flows in the left and right canals of the project for which the State Government borrowed money from International financial institutions. "Who is responsible for this delay," he asked.

Meanwhile, BJP General Secretary Bhriгу Buxipatra slammed Dr. Rout for his caustic remarks and said, "Odisha is nobody's paternal property. If anyone tries to play with the growth and sentiment of Odias, his party will give a befitting reply.

Narendra Modi was open to talks to ensure State's progress and assured future for its youth.

"Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik may have some grudge against him for some developments. But he should not, in the process, spoil the future of the Odia youth," Mr.Pradhan added.

He said the

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With Opposition Bench demanding Crime Branch Investigation to the gangrape incident, the State Government acceding to their demand today ordered a Crime Branch Probe into the alleged gangrape of a tribal girl in Ganjam district.

The Demand for Crime Branch Probe was voiced even by the Leader of Opposition, Narainsgha Mishra in the State Legislative Assembly which had to be adjourned several times due to frequent disruptions on the issue.

This proves the impartiality of the State Crime Branch headed by Special DGP B K Sharma, as the opposition have been all along demanding CBI Probe or Judicial Inquiry into such type of crimes earlier.

"The case has been entrusted to the State Crime Branch for investigation. A senior officer will supervise the case," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said in a statement in the Assembly.

Now a Special Investigation Team of CB CID will investigate the alleged gangrape case along with illegal confinement, torture and lack of supervision by the Police.

The House witnessed at least six adjournments as the Opposition members

sought a statement from Mr.Patanaik, who also holds Home portfolio.

girl reached home and narrated her ordeal to her parents.

Mr.Patnaik said



Mr.Patnaik said that a case was registered with the Jarada police station under various sections of the IPC against five accused on the complaint of a minor girl of village Dhanabada of Ganjam district.

The investigation was entrusted to SDPO, Chikiti, under the direct supervision of the SP, Behampur, Mr.Patnaik said.

An FIR was lodged on March 28 alleging that on March 9 midnight while she was sleeping with her mother, the accused forcibly took her to the outskirts of the village and raped her, Patnaik told the Assembly.

Quoting the FIR, the Chief Minister said that her tormentors had threatened her not to disclose the matter to her parents and left her in the nearby jungle. The

that the statement of the girl was recorded under section 164 of CrPC before a Judicial Magistrate.

The main accused Khambal Pradhan was apprehended today, the Chief Minister said assuring the House that the Government would ensure prompt and stringent action in accordance with the law.

The issue was raised during Zero Hour by the Leader of Opposition Narainsgha Mishra (Congress), who stated that he had earlier raised the issue in the House. But, the Chief Minister had not replied.

Mr.Mishra alleged that the girl had been raped because her father had worked for the Congress in the panchayat polls

He found support from BJP legislature party leader KV

Singhdeo, who demanded a statement from Mr.Patnaik.

Subsequently, Members of Congress and BJP rushed to the well of the House and shouted anti-government slogans.

The Speaker adjourned the House at least six times till 5.08 PM. The impasse ended with the Speaker asking the Government to place a statement on the matter in the House today.

The girl had complained to the SP on Tuesday that she had been kidnapped by five persons on March 9 last and raped for 10 days before they left her in a forest.

The Women and Child Development Minister Usha Devi today claimed that the minor girl was married and not gangraped as alleged by the opposition Congress and BJP.

"She is 17-year-old and had eloped with a man. She was married to a man at the Lord Shiva temple," the Minister alleged adding that the man fled leaving her alone in the forest.

The Minister said: "The girl in her statement before the District Judge has revealed all this. Whatever allegations are made by Opposition members are not based on facts."

## Mulayam Singh accuses Akhilesh of 'betraying and insulting him'

**LUCKNOW(KCN):** Differences between Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh Yadav came to the fore again on Saturday when the

views on the issue and said "Ye sahi hai ki jo baap ka nahin hua, wo kisi ka nahin ho sakta".

In Mainpuri to inaugurate a hotel, the former Union Defence Minister

Chief Minister in 2012 I chose to make Akhilesh the Chief Minister, but he humiliated me thereafter" he rued. "I have never been insulted so much ever in my life," he lamented.

president of the party in a political coup of sorts on January 1, after a bitter battle of power and supremacy in the party.

Akhilesh Yadav had also expelled Rajya Sabha member



Yadav chieftain slammed his son for showing disrespect towards him and uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav.

Quoting a statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kannauj during the state assembly elections that how can a man who has insulted his father be loyal to the people of the state, Mulayam endorsed Modi's

claimed that Modi's statement had affected the voters and led to the drubbing of the Samajwadi Party at the hustings.

The veteran politician also pointed out that never in the history of the country had anyone named his son the Chief Minister despite being active in political life, like he had done. "While the people voted for me as the

"But I did not say anything to anyone as my own blood was out against me," the three-time Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister added. He said it was a tragedy that his son had joined hands with the Congress, a party which led "murderous attacks" on him not once but thrice.

Akhilesh Yadav had "overthrown" his father as national

Amar Singh and sacked his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav as the state unit president.

Mulayam Singh had not campaigned for party candidates in the state assembly polls and only addressed rallies for his brother Shivpal in Jaswantnagar and daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav in Lucknow.

## Maoists blow up railway station in Odisha's Rayagada, urge villagers to protest Modi's visit

**RAYAGADA/BHUBANESWAR (KCN):** Left Wing Extremists late on Thursday night attacked Dahikhal (Daikallu) railway station in Rayagada district where they carried out two blasts.

A group of about 20 armed cadres stormed the railway station, located about 10 km from Muniguda, and took Station Master Sanjib Parida and porter Govind Hikaka under captivity shortly after midnight.

They demanded extortion money from Parida and Hikaka. When Parida refused, the duo was taken to

one end of the platform. The Maoists

which was parked at the station. Daikallu

ber while the rest including women



planted an IED inside the Station Master's office and triggered it. The radicals also caused a similar explosion in the cabin of the engine of a bauxite laden train

station is under Amobodola police limits and comes under Sambalpur Railway Division.

At least 10 armed Maoists got inside Parida's office cham-

members guarded the station. The Maoists kept the entire railway platform under their control for 45 minutes and remained in the village upto 3 am. See page-7

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Singer Sona Mohapatra enthraling the audience at Bhubaneswariya, a live concert organized by The Indian Express at Utkal Mandap in Bhubaneswar.

**Hansika in Mohanlal's next**



It seems Mohanlal-B 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.



IIFA Utsavam 2017: Glitz and glamour adorn the green carpet at Hyderabad

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

Tamannaah Bhatia rarely Shruti Hassan. take some time out



has been bonding with her contemporary for a while now. Tamannaah chose to last week to meet her new BFF Shruti



Recently there are many actresses in Oriya Film Industry. Many new girls are debuting and vanishing after one film. We have chosen 5 top oriya actresses of recent times who are now in demand.

**Taylor Swift loving her break from social media**

LOS ANGELES(K-CN): Singer Taylor Swift has been loving her break from social media," the



and Instagram. According to a source, Swift wants to clear her mind from the hatred and negativity that she gets online. "Taylor (Swift) is source told hollywoodlife.com. "She enjoys being connected with her fans but she also struggles with the negativity and bullies that she deals with whenever she reads Instagram comments. "She will be back to posting more regularly soon. But for now she is really appreciating detoxing and being unplugged from some of the negative energy online," the source added. On Twitter, Swift last posted a link to her song "I don't wanna live forever" in January end. On Instagram, meanwhile, Swift last appeared three weeks ago when she shared a sketch of singer Lorde's single "Green light".

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 everyday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on 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 Shruti. Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear 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

THE KALINGA CHRONICLE

Editorial

IPL, the pacifier

Rivalry in sport can be eternal, especially when it involves men with hubris. Tennis legends Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe barely exchanged pleasantries. The rivalry between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky became a sporting metaphor of the Cold War. Given the vitriol the India-Australia series generated, it's hard to imagine players of either side sharing a laugh or hugging each other in the foreseeable future. Not the least, the skippers, Steve Smith and Virat Kohli, who like Borg and McEnroe, Fischer and Spassky, are fierce competitors and proud men. It could take a lifetime for them to reconcile.

Or maybe not. Because the Indian Premier League can also be a great healer. Just three days after stand-in India skipper Ajinkya Rahane refused his counterpart Smith's invitation for a beer, after winning the series in Dharamshala, both met for a promotional event for their IPL franchise, Rising Pune Supergiants, in New Delhi. They laughed and bantered as if they had been the thickest of friends for ages. The next two months would see them sharing ideas, forging strategies, batting and high-fiving together, and maybe sharing a few beers. Likewise, there won't be any discord between Shane Watson and Virat Kohli, the former among Kohli's staunchest critics during the recent series, in the Royal Challengers Bangalore dressing room. Or between David Warner and Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Like it was with the Manchester United pair of Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney. In the 2006 World Cup quarterfinal in Germany, Ronaldo instigated the referee to brandish the red card on his club-mate for a foul on Portuguese centre-back Ricardo Carvalho, and Rooney gave Ronaldo an earful. Ronaldo claimed that Rooney hard-tackled him in the 2004 Euro. But nothing boiled over when they pulled on the Manchester United jersey. They combined spectacularly on the field to help Manchester United clinch the Champions League in 2008. They were so exciting and selfless a pair that they hardly conceded an impression that they had a storied history of animosity. It could be same with Smith and Rahane this season.

### Connected by air: Udan to tap on India's civil aviation opportunities

Six months from now, 43 cities will be mainstreamed on India's flight connectivity grid, an outcome of the Udan scheme launched to spur regional flights covering distances up to 800 km. These include a dozen airports where limited but irregular flights operate, and as many as 31 destinations that are not connected at all despite the existence of airport facilities. The scale of India's untapped civil aviation opportunities can be gauged by the fact that these constitute less than 10% of India's inactive airports/airstrips — 394 out of 450 are dormant currently. The Udan scheme is a critical component of the national civil aviation policy unveiled last June. It offers viability gap funding to operators to fly smaller aircraft to such airports with a commitment to price tickets for at least half of the seats at ₹2,500 for an hour-long flight. In the first round of bids, 11 new or existing airline operators pitched for more than 200 routes. The Centre has approved 27 proposals from five players, adding 128 routes to India's aviation map. The estimate is that this will add 6.5 lakh new seats with a subsidy of ₹200 crore.

The most heartening aspect is that these include six proposals for 11 routes that don't seek any subsidy under the scheme, proving there is an untapped economic potential. The benefits for tourist hotspots such as Agra, Shimla, Diu, Pathankot, Mysuru and Jaisalmer — that would now be just a short flight away, replacing cumbersome road or rail journeys — are obvious. But the significant multiplier effects of aviation activity, including new investments and employment creation for the local economies of other destinations could be equally profound. Provided this model is sustainable and more regional flights come up under the scheme, the availability of slots at larger airports that would emerge as hubs could become an issue — particularly at capacity-constrained airports such as Mumbai. The second airport at Navi Mumbai may help ease congestion, but that is still years away. In cities where new airports have been developed, such as Bengaluru, abandoned old facilities could be revived as dedicated terminals for low-cost and regional flights. Separately, new no-frills airports must be encouraged where traffic is expected to hit saturation point in coming years.

# Spin a Yarn: Women and their love affair with saree

It's been 35 years since Tasneem Zakaria Mehta, honorary director, Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai first received the blue-and-gold Banarasi Jamdani sari (in picture). "It was gifted to me on my wedding day. It was already special because it was a part of my heritage," she says. Mehta says that she fell in love with everything about that sari — the stunning colour and the pure gold zari embroidery that has not dulled over the years.

Mehta remembers the times as a young girl when she would play in her mother's room while she dressed. "To our mothers, the sari was like second skin. They did all their household chores wearing one and yet managed to look beautiful and comfortable. And as a little girl, I couldn't wait to grow up and wear one," she says. When the time came for her to drape her first sari, the process had become so organic that no one had to teach her how wear one. "I knew exactly what to do with each drape."

Since that first time, Mehta says she is most comfortable in a sari. "I wear it to work regularly. It's the only garment that lends personality to the wearer, changing the way you walk, stand or sit," she says. Mehta's collection is quite enviable, but worries about passing it on to a generation that feels like it is to be worn only special occasions. "Young girls today have so much choice. But I've kept each one of my saris carefully, in the hope that one day my daughters will value them as much as I do."

Designer Anavila Misra wore her first sari when she was 15. "I have loved saris since I was very young, but I wore my first sari on Diwali. It was a silk from my mother's collection," she says. Since then, the sari has grown to be a staple in her wardrobe and in her studio, where she experiments with the fabric, preferring to work with linen and keeping her designs

simple. "I like saris which make you comfortable. So linen and cotton are my favourite sari fabrics," she says. Misra's favourite these days is a cement-and-indigo plaid sari that is part of her summer collection. She has even taken it along on her vacation to Italy. "Plaids with washed out colours are ever so country and vintage in their appeal, and yet so contemporary in the form of a sari. The one inch silver selvedge in the sari gives it a special detail," she says.

In the last 49 years, Malvika Singh, 66, publisher, Seminar magazine, has collected over 700 saris. "I was nine when I received my first sari. It was a white Chanderi with a red and gold border in asli zari, with red butis all over, a gift from Leela Mulgaonkar (social activist)," she says.

Singh started wearing saris regularly after she turned 17. She sourced plain Mulmuls with thin borders from Mau in UP, and bought khadis from handloom outlets, "all cheap, cheerful and very reasonably priced," she says. Printed cottons from Sanganer and Bagru, Ajrakhs and Leheriyas, cotton Bandhnis, Venkatasiris, Chettinad cottons and Kanjeevarams are all a part of her wardrobe.

After Singh got married, her mother bought her a sari from each of the great weaving traditions of India: Ikats from Orissa and Andhra, Chanderis, Banarasis, Tanchois, Paithanis, Jamdanis and Kalamkaris. Singh is wearing a handspun khadi sari with a black border and red selvedge, that she bought in Hyderabad.

It was in 1948 that Prabha Atre, 83, classical vocalist of the Kirana gharana, wore her first sari: a plain cotton sari gifted by her mother. Not the kind of sari she would choose for herself. "Kanjeevaram, that's my weakness. But we couldn't afford it then," she says.

Growing up in a

middle-class family in Pune in the late '40s, the sari was the only alternative to the "petticoat-blouse" teenagers would wear then. Seven decades on, she only wears "white Kanjeevarams with coloured borders. They are a part of my identity," she says. Atre prefers to buy her own saris. In her collection, there is one that she holds

of cloth. At the end of the day, "I was tired and my heel got stuck in the sari. I tripped on it and it ripped. When I came back, I was ready to pay for it, but Sabya did not let me," she says.

You may recognise her as the femme fatale from Dibakar Banerjee's Detective Byomkesh Bakshi!, but Swastika Mukherjee is



dear, even though it's no longer wearable. "It's a white sari with a small border I wore to a Ganesh festival in 1980 in Pune. I have worn it to almost every big performance since," she says.

Before The Lunchbox became a huge international success and made actor Nimrat Kaur a household name, she had two Cannes Film Festival outings. And both times, she chose saris. When she made her red carpet debut at Cannes in 2012 for Peddlers, which was screened in the International Critics' Week section, she borrowed a Sabyasachi sari from a friend. She returned to Cannes next year for The Lunchbox's premiere under the same section. This time, she decided to go shopping. The first thing that caught her eye at Sabyasachi's south Mumbai store was a black-and-white lehenga sari on a mannequin, with a flamenco flare. She instantly knew that's the one she wanted. However, the price was beyond her budget. She sent a request to Sabyasachi, who very "graciously" let her wear it for the international event.

When D-Day came, the team's packed schedule gave her very little time to dress up. The toughest task was hooking up the blouse buttons, all 85 of them, made

considered Bengali cinema's wild child. There is something liberating about the way Mukherjee embraces her oddities. "I dress the way I want to. Comfort is very important for me," says Mukherjee. And she has experimented with saris long before it became a hashtag. "We were brought up to believe that the sari is such a formal attire. Yet, our mothers and grandmothers wear it all through the day without worrying about the pleats coming off. So I began wearing the sari with t-shirts," says Mukherjee. Her first sari memory comes with a whiff of Naphthalene balls. "My mother would bring out my grandmother's wedding sari on special occasions. I would yearn for the day when I would be able to drape the Kashmiri silk with silver zari embroidery," says Mukherjee. The sari she is posing in is a recent favourite, part of designer Sanjukta Roy's gamchha collection. "It's something that you will find in every east-Indian household. When converted into a sari, it is light and comfortable and perfect for summer," she says.

Until about five years ago, Tisca Chopra, 41, felt that the sari, although beautiful, made her appear conventional. That was before she

came across designers experimenting with saris. "I like my saris with a touch of whimsy. Animal motif on a classic weave or colourful embroidery on a linen piece makes the sari contemporary," she says. Chopra feels even the simplest of saris look dramatic on her, perhaps because of her curvaceous figure. She prefers to wear saris for special occasions. "Among my favourites are several Anavila Misra saris and some by Raw Mango and Akaaro," she says. The pride of her wardrobe, however, is a winter plaid linen sari from Anavila's autumn-winter 2014 collection. "The print reminds me of a Scottish kilt, though its colours are inspired from the Mohenjodaro era. Because it's linen, it drapes beautifully," Chopra says.

For a designer who can dye her fabric in any colour, this particular sari (in purple) posed a challenge. Vinita Pittie received the Banarasi from her mother which has the most unusual "rubber stamp colour". "My father got it sometime around 1952-'53. When I wear it today, I can't find a blouse to match it. If you look at it closely, you would find that the motifs have similarities with the art and architecture of those times. I call them sibling patterns," says Pittie.

But what she really treasures is the georgette handed down to her by her grandmother-in-law (in blue). "This was during the British rule in India. So people had access to European fabrics. She preferred pastels, rose pinks, aquamarines," she says. Bought from yardage, this five-and-half-metre sari could have also turned into a dress material. "My grandmother-in-law would always store her saris in pre-washed muslin cloth, four to one, packed with a pin and a tag which said what was within."

In vibrant-hued handloom saris, Mini Mathur stands out from the sea of celebrities in prêt designer

wear. "I have been wearing saris since I was in college in Delhi," she says. While hosting Indian Idol in 2005, Mathur began wearing colourful saris with printed blouses. "Soon after, I started wearing bright cotton saris to red carpet events," she says. A lover of textiles, she hates synthetic, net and swarovski-encrusted saris and shops from indigenous artists across India. "Soaps have ruined the image of saris," says the former VJ. Mathur recently launched a limited edition line of cotton saris and owns nearly 100 saris, some of which have been inherited from her mother. Her favourite is a Raw Mango lime green cotton sari with a radiant pink border (in picture). "It was my first bright-coloured Raw Mango sari," she says.

As chairperson and managing director of Rajshree Sugars and Chemicals Limited and founder of the India Design Forum, Rajshree Pathy's days are packed with activities that include meetings with heads of state as well as young talent in design. For most of these occasions, her sartorial choice includes a sari. "Every time I wear my favourite Pattan Patola sari, I feel like a queen. It's like owning a piece of history. It is a heritage double Ikat fabric manufactured only by very few skilled families from Pattan in Gujrat. My mother had a few which she got made decades ago. I had one produced along with (classical dancers) Mrinalini and Mallika Sarabhai in the 1990s," she recalls.

Pathy wears it to weddings, dinners and official meetings, one such being a dinner thrown for former US President Bill Clinton on his visit to India. "To most observers, it is just an elegant silk sari, but this Pattan Patola is exquisite in its weave. Both sides are similar, and each thread is dipped in organic dyes; the indigo and the red are my favourite Patola combinations. It is a piece of 'endangered luxury'," she says.

# Maruti, Hyundai clock record yearly sales in 2016-17

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Leading automakers Maruti Suzuki India (MSI),

strong throughout the year enabling us to close 2016-17 with 10.7 per cent domes-

5,09,707 units in 2016-17 as against 4,84,324 units in the previous year, up 5.2

cent to 5,42,561 units during the just concluded financial year. It had retailed a total

of mini segment cars, including Alto and WagonR, declined 15.6 per cent to 30,973 units from 36,678 units in the year-ago month.

The company said sales of the compact segment comprising Swift, Estilo, Dzire, Baleno and Ignis increased 29.7 per cent to 60,699 units in March this year as against 46,786 units in the same month last year. Sales of utility vehicles, including Ertiga, S-Cross and Vitara Brezza, rose 31.8 per cent to 18,311 units in March this year from 13,894 units in the corresponding month last year.

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) reported an 8.7 per cent increase in domestic sales at 18,950 units in March. The company had sold 17,430 units in the same month last year, HCIL said in a statement. Similarly, Ford India saw its domestic sales increase by 15 per cent to 8,700 units last month.

In the two-wheeler segment, India Yamaha Motor reported a 27 per cent increase in domestic sales at 76,144 units in March. Niche bike maker Royal Enfield reported a 17 per cent jump in total sales at 60,113 units in March.



Hyundai Motor India reported record annual sales for the fiscal ended March 31, driven by new models and robust demand for existing products.

Tata Motors, Renault and Nissan India also posted sales growth in FY2016-17. For the 2016-17 fiscal, MSI posted a 9.8 per cent jump in total sales at 15,68,603 units, against 14,29,248 vehicles in 2015-16.

The company's domestic sales rose 10.7 per cent to 14,44,541 units during the last fiscal compared to 13,05,351 in the previous financial year. "Demand for our products remained

tic growth and achieve faster than industry growth for the fifth year in a row," MSI Executive Director Marketing & Sales RS Kalsi told PTL.

Alto, Dzire, Wagon R and Swift continue to remain the top sellers in the Indian market. NEXA has brought in new customers by redefining the car purchase and ownership experience, he added. "We continue to see healthy orders for Brezza, Baleno and Ignis and our effort is to improve their availability to minimise wait time for customers," Kalsi said.

Rival Hyundai Motor India sold

per cent. Commenting on the sales performance, HMIL Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Rakesh Srivastava said the company was able to close the financial year with highest-ever sales creating a strong momentum for the next year.

Similarly, Nissan Motor India sold 57,315 units in the last fiscal as against 39,393 units in 2015-16, up 45 per cent. "We are delighted by the progress and the acceptance of our products and services by our customers," Nissan India Operations President Guillaume Sicard said.

Tata Motors saw its sales grow 6 per

cent to 5,11,705 vehicles sold in 2015-16.

"The launch of the Hexa, Tiago AMT and Tigor has set new benchmarks in their respective segments signifying Tata Motors as one of the fastest growing manufacturers in India," Tata Motors President Passenger Vehicles Business Unit Mayank Pareek said. French car major Renault reported a growth of 88.4 per cent selling 1,35,123 units during the 2016-17 fiscal as against 71,732 units in the preceding year.

In March, MST's domestic sales increased 7.7 per cent to 1,27,999 units as against 1,18,895 units in March 2016. Sales

# Ford India sales up 17.14 pc at 24,832 units in March

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Ford India to-

7,560 units in the same period a year

company said. Commenting on



day reported a 17.14 percent increase in total sales at 24,832 units in March this year. The company had sold 21,198 vehicles in the corresponding month last year, Ford India said in a statement.

Domestic sales grew by 15 percent to 8,700 units last month as against

ago, it added. Exports during the month under review increased by 18.29 per cent to 16,132 units as compared to 13,638 units in March 2016.

In the first quarter of 2017, total sales were at 63,117 vehicles compared to 51,338 units in the first quarter last year, up 22.94 percent, the

the sales performance, Ford India Executive Director, Marketing, Sales and Service Anurag Mehrotra said: "Our efforts in addressing the cost of ownership perception and the promise of a differentiated and transparent experience helped us deliver above industry growth rate in the first quarter."

# Yamaha sales up 27 pc at 76,144 units in March

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** India Yamaha Motor today reported a 27 per cent increase in domestic sales at 76,144 units in March. The company had sold 60,032 units in March 2016, India Yamaha Motor said in a statement.

"March 2017 was challenging as automobile sector

in India had to offload BS III inventory which was re-affirmed by Supreme Court's decision towards the closing. Yamaha however, has managed it well and logged in a decent growth for this month," Yamaha Motor From Page-1

India Sales Vice President (Sales and Marketing) Roy Kurian said. The company eyeing to achieve 1 million sales in 2017 as well, through exciting products and by expanding its trade networks, he added.

The Naxals also forced the Railway staff to raise slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Before they left, the Red rebels released the Station Master and the porter but snatched two walkie-talkies. They also left behind posters in which Maoists urged people to protest visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the State next month for the BJP's national executive.

In the posters, the rebels protested the anti-Naxal operations and loot of natural resources in the tribal districts. They also raised the issue of non-Odia officers being preferred not only in the para military forces but also in State cadre IPS.

The incident paralysed movement of goods and passenger trains as Rayagada SP Siva Subramani and East Coast Railway Officials rushed to the spot on Friday morning. The ECoR officials said all the Railway staff were safe. Movement of goods train started at about 9 am with speed restriction. An hour later, Express train movement resumed on the route.

Rayagada district has been put on high alert while Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took stock of the situation at a meeting with Chief Secretary APPadhy and DGP KB Singh.

Naveen has directed that combing operations be intensified. Recently, the Naxal outfit had brutally killed one Mali Pushika of Salphajhola village under Muniguda police limits.

Bunty, originally Bauribandhu Sethi who operates the Odisha State Committee of CPI (Maoist) along with Dikisha in Niyamgiri hills, is believed to be behind the attack.

# Now, Air India pilots' union IPG comes in support of Kathpalia

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Pilots at Air India seem to be divided over the appointment of A Kathpalia as Director of Operations, with pilots' union IPG today saying they have no objection to his promotion. The statement from the Indian Pilots' Guild (IPG) comes a day after Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) protested against the elevation of Kathpalia.

IPG represents the pilots of Air India flying wide-bodied aircraft such as Boeing 777 and 787, while ICPA is the union of pilots operating narrow-body planes which include Airbus 320. There are

around 1,600 pilots employed with Air

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

this appointment which is the sole pre-



India. In February, aviation regulator DGCA suspended his flying licence for three months after he had skipped compulsory pre-flight medical test on several occasions.

On March 30, the

approved the appointment of Kathpalia as Director (Operations) of Air India for five years.

"We would like to place on record that the vast majority of pilots of Air India have no objection to

rogative of the government... and have no doubt that all due diligence and processes have been followed before his appointment," IPG said in a letter.

Further, the letter, written to the Cabinet

Secretary, said IPG "would like to express our full confidence" in Kathpalia's abilities to do justice to the post. Copies of the letter have been sent to Civil Aviation Minister, among others. IPG said an impression is being sought to be created that all pilots of Air India are not in favour of this appointment and that a group of pilots has been opposing Kathpalia over the last two years, ever since he was appointed Executive Director - Operations.

On Friday, the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA) alleged that Kathpalia had will-

fully evaded the breath analyser test and fudged pre-flight register by signing it without undergoing breath analyser test. In a letter to the Civil Aviation Minister, ICPA had said that if Kathpalia is exonerated of the suspension ordered by DGCA, then "all pilots in India who had been suspended for similar offence should also be exonerated".

"We humbly request you not to support and exonerate 'Corrupt Officials' just to ensure he fits the requirement for the selection of the post of Director (Operations), Air India Ltd," the letter from ICPA had said.

## UN chief at Iraq camp urges more aid for people of Mosul

**HASAN SHAM CAMP:** UN chief Antonio Guterres appealed Friday for more aid and international solidarity for the people of Mosul, as he visited a camp for Iraqis displaced by fighting with jihadists.

"Unfortunately, our programme here is only funded at eight percent; that shows how limited our resources are," he said.

"These people have suffered enormously, and they go on suffering. We need more solidarity from the international community," he said.

Guterres is on the second day of a visit to Iraq, after meeting with top officials including Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad on Thursday.

His visit comes as Iraqi forces battle to retake second city Mosul, which was seized by the Islamic State jihadist group in 2014.

The fighting has sparked major humanitarian concerns, killing hundreds of civilians and displacing more than 200,000 since the operation to retake the city's western side began last month.

## Technology lends a hand as Spain beats France 2-0

**SAINT-DENIS(K-CN) :** Spain ended France's seven-game unbeaten run as substitutes David Silva and Gerard Deulofeu scored second-half goals to secure a 2-0 win over the European Championship runner-up in a friendly at the Stade de France on Tuesday. It was France's first loss since its 1-0 defeat to Portugal at the same venue in the Euro 2016 final last

summer.

Silva's goal was a reward for a good spell of dominance from Spain that started after Lopetegui replaced Andres Iniesta and Isco with Thiago Alcantara and Silva in the 53rd minute.

Deulofeu then rounded off a fast counterattack with 13 minutes left to make it 2-0 from an assist by Jordi Alba.

## English football club Everton's new stadium plan gets funding boost

**LONDON(KCN):** Everton's bid to build a new £300 million (\$373 million, 349 million euros) stadium received a boost

begin the planning process which will potentially lead to the submission of a formal planning application by the end of the

up to £5 million in an annual security fee.

"This deal is a great step forward for Everton and it's a great deal for the city



on Friday as Liverpool City Council approved the establishment of a funding scheme.

The Premier League club want to leave their historic Goodison Park home and will be allowed to borrow the necessary money, guaranteed by the council, to finance a new arena at Bramley-Moore Dock.

Everton can now

year. The cabinet report claims a new stadium will bring a forecasted £9 million in economic benefits to the city annually and could play a part in its Commonwealth Games bid for either 2022 or 2026.

There will be no financial outlay towards the project by the council but its involvement in supporting the funding model will bring in

of Liverpool," said Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson.

"This new stadium has the potential to kick-start the regeneration of the area and will provide a massive boost to the city's economy.

"The ball is now in Everton's court to sort the finance package and design a stadium that will make the world sit up and take notice."

## PV Sindhu enters India Super Series final, sets up title date with Carolina Marin

**NEW DELHI (K-CN):** Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu

nals of the India Super Series, here today.

14-21 21-14 in a battle of nerves where fortunes fluc-

lions of fans across the globe. Earlier, two-

Coming into the match with a 6-4 head-to-head record,



set up a mouth-watering summit clash with Olympic champion Carolina Marin after a hard-fought win over World No 4 Korean Sung Ji Hyun in the semi-fi-

Cheered on by a sizable crowd at the Siri Fort Sports Complex, Sindhu dished out a superb game of badminton to outwit second seeded Hyun 21-18

tuated frequently.

The fans will get a chance to witness an exciting finale, which will be a rematch of the Olympic final which was watched by mil-

time World Champion Marin of Spain defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, seeded fourth, 21-16 21-14 in an easy contest to reach the finals.

Sindhu displayed nerves of steel as she produced some scintillating low lifts and dominated the nets to see off her opponent.

## Nuwan Kulasekara leads Sri Lanka to series draw against Bangladesh

**COLOMBO(KCN):** Nuwan Kulasekara claimed four wickets as Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 71 runs in the third one-day international, securing a 1-1 draw in the three-match series here today. Suranga Lakmal, Dilruwan Perera, Seekkuge Prasanna all chipped in with two wickets each helping the home side to successfully defend 280-9 at Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

Kulasekara claimed 4-37 as the visitors were bowled out for 215 runs in 44.3 overs, avoiding their first series loss to Bangladesh. Shakib Al Hasan remained the top scorer with 54 runs while Mehedi Hasan hit 51 -- his maiden ODI fifty.

Put into bat first by Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza earlier, Kusal Mendis top-scored with 54 and Thisara Perera added 52 off 40 balls to give Sri Lanka a competitive score.

Bangladesh went onto the back foot soon after they started

Soumya Sarkar (38) rebuilt the inning with a 77-run stand

Upul Thiranga. "We lost the match in the first 10 overs, both



their chase losing their first three wickets for just 11 runs.

Kulasekara, who was not part of Sri Lanka team in their 90-run loss in the opening match, led the way for home side striking twice in his first two overs. Lakmal put Bangladesh in dire straits when he hit Mushfiqur Rahim on the back foot for an lbw -- the first ball he faced.

Shakib and

for the fourth wicket but Dilruwan put Sri Lanka back in control removing both batsmen. The game ended as a contest when Shakib drove Perera straight to Danushka Gunathilaka at cover to leave Bangladesh 118-6.

Bangladesh earlier did a commendable job in the field to restrict the home side to less than 300 runs despite an initial hammering by openers Gunathilaka and

with the bat and ball. 280 was definitely chaseable," Bangladesh skipper Mortaza said in the presentation ceremony.

Spinner Mehedi Hasan broke their 76-run stand as Gunathilaka gave a catch to Mahmudullah after making 34 runs off 38 balls. Taskin Ahmed beat Tharanga with pace to bowl the Sri Lanka captain out for 35 runs, putting a brake finally on their

Barcelona's outspoken centre-back Gerard Pique rested for Granada trip

**BARCELONA(KCN):** Gerard Pique will join Lionel Messi on the sidelines for Barcelona's return to La Liga action on Sunday at Granada after being left out Luis Enrique's 18-man squad on Saturday.

Pique played in both Spain's wins over Israel and France during the recent international break.

However, it was his post-match comments in Paris in mid-week that grabbed the headlines as he launched a fresh dig at rivals Real Madrid, saying he didn't like Madrid's "values."

The centre-back evoked tax fraud cases against Barcelona teammates Neymar and Lionel Messi and claimed that Real had "pulled strings" to avoid punishment for their players in similar circumstances.

Pique's is more being protected by Enrique as a booking on Sunday would rule him out of Sevilla's visit to the Camp Nou on Wednesday.

run-rate. Mendis, who scored a century in the abandoned second match, tried to rebuild the innings with former captain Dinesh Chandimal, but two successive run outs hurt them again.

Chandimal was run out for 21 when Mushfiqur Rahim collected a Taskin throw from deep point to break the stump. Mushfiqur did a smart job once again to run out Milinda Siriwardana for 12 before he took a catch off Mustafizur Rahman to end Mendis' defiant innings.

With Bangladesh making regular breakthroughs, Perera launched a counter attack to race to his second half-century in the series before he fell to Mortaza in the final overs. The two teams will now play two Twenty20 internationals, respectively on April 4 and 6, here.