

## Naveen perfectly well

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** want to create distur- Thik Thak Hun (I am  
Call it a mischievous bance in the Govern- perfectly well),”



campaign or name something else, there should be no doubt that Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is in the target of vested interest groups.

These groups

ment and in the Party. Mr. Patnaik, who used to not to respond to any call, was today happy to announce that he is fit and fine so far his health is concerned.

“Main Bilkul

Naveen said while ending the day-long whisper over his health condition.

Naveen also said that the content of the Social media was not at all right. (Bilkul Sanch Nahin).

The news portal also said that Naveen will leave for US for treatment and remain away from the state for four months.

The media report became a hot topic of discussion on social media with leaders from different political parties seeking to hear from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) about his health.

The CMO, however, did not make any official announcement on Mr. Patnaik's health while CM personally gave clarification.

It is suspected that some people, who have utterly failed to create any disturbance in the Naveen's Government, might have active hand behind the news. Though the news item was published on February 17, it came to the limelight only today with a state based news portal carrying the story as it is.

## Manipur polls: Congress eyes dominance, BJP promises end to economic blockade

**IMPHAL(KCN):** The elections fever has gripped Manipur as it gears up for the 11th state assembly

ground in Imphal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to find a solution to economic

in Imphal and said that his party would guide Manipur on the path of development and prosperity.

“In a multi-cultural society living in hills and valley and in between hill and valley, there will be a very harmonious living together with understanding by connecting their hearts, to solve any problems by bringing real democracy in our state,” said activist and PRJA candidate Sharmila.

In wake of the polls, the Election Commission of India launched awareness campaign for the voters in Manipur.

“We launched our SVEEP campaign in the form of democracy event. On the event, election commissioner had coined the word ‘Festival of Democracy’ wherein all the stakeholders should participate in a festive mood either they are electors, political parties, candidates and officials. All of them should take it in the spirit of festival of democracy. That was the term the election commissioner coined it when he visited Manipur,” said Vivek Kumar Dewangan, Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur.

The election results will be announced on March 11.



polls.

A total of 167 candidates of 17 political parties including the Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Naga People's Front, All India Trinamool Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) besides others are in the fray.

Polling for the 60-member legislative assembly will be held in two phases on March 4 and March 8 respectively.

Kicking off the BJP's campaign at Langjing Achouba

blockade that has crippled life in the state for months now if the BJP is voted to power.

“BJP government will be formed in Manipur and once we come into power we won't allow blockades to continue in the state. We promise that and we will show how the administration functions,” the Prime Minister said.

Ahead of the assembly polls, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi also addressed a rally at Hapta Kangjeibung

“O. Ibobi Singh is the Chief Minister of Manipur and he will take into consideration the views of the common people and run the administration smoothly and this will benefit the people of Manipur and the state as a whole,” Gandhi said.

Over the last six months, several smaller parties have also emerged on the political scene. Irom Sharmila's People's Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA) is one of the new parties.

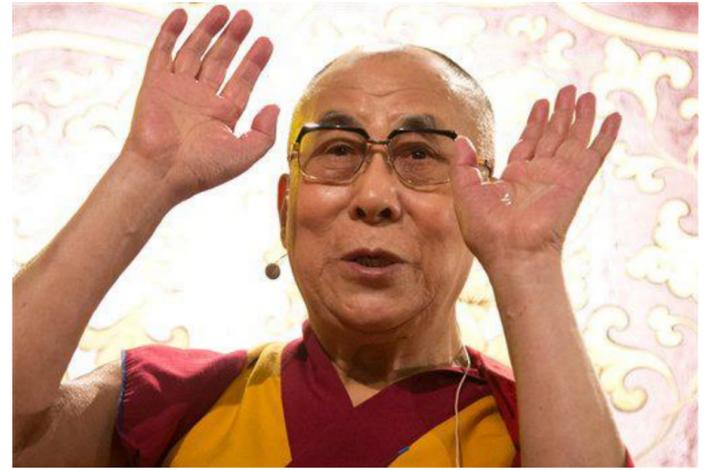
## China warns India against allowing Dalai to visit Arunachal

**BEIJING(KCN):** China today warned India against allowing the Dalai Lama to visit Arunachal Pradesh, saying it would cause “serious damage” to the bilateral ties and peace in the disputed border region. “China is gravely concerned over information that India has granted permission to the Dalai to visit Arunachal Pradesh,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told the media here. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as

“China's position on the eastern section of China-India border

serious damage to peace and stability of border region and

view to the Chinese media by former Chinese Special Repre-



part of Tibet and routinely objects to any visits by top leaders, officials and diplomats to the area.

### Related Article

India reasserts right to host Dalai Lama in Arunachal Pradesh China had also aired similar concerns in October last year when India granted permission to the Tibetan spiritual leader to visit Arunachal Pradesh at the invitation of the state government.

“China is strongly opposed to the Dalai visiting disputed areas,” Geng said.

dispute is consistent and clear. The Dalai clique has long been engaging in anti-China separatist activities and its record on the border question is not that good,” he said. Geng said China expressed its concern to India through formal channels. “India is fully aware of the seriousness of the Dalai issue and the sensitivity of China-India border question,” he said.

“Under such a background if India invites the Dalai to visit to the mentioned territory, it will cause

China-India relations,” he said.

“We have expressed concerns to the Indian side, urged India to stick to its political commitments and abide by important consensus the two sides have reached on the boundary question, refrain from actions that might complicate the issue, not provide a platform to the Dalai clique and protect the sound and stable development of the Sino-India relations,” he said.

Geng's comments came in the backdrop of an inter-

sentative on boundary dispute Dai Bingguo in which he said the border dispute between the two nations can be resolved if India gives up claim over Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

Asked about Dai's comments, Geng said he has not seen the interview.

He said China's principled position on the boundary question with India is to reach an early solution pending China-India border question is in the fundamental interest of the two countries.

## 100 customers flee Spanish restaurant without paying

**MADRID(KCN):** Spanish police were on Friday hunting more than a hundred restau-

“They didn't leave in little groups -- no, they went all at once.”



rant customers who fled without paying the bill.

The party enjoyed a 2,000-euro (\$2,100) banquet on Monday at the Hotel Carmen restaurant in Bembibre, northern Spain, before promptly doing a runner.

“They were dancing, then suddenly they had disappeared. In one minute, a hundred people had left,” restaurant boss Antonio Rodriguez told Cadena Ser radio.

Restaurant staff were unable to stop them, Rodriguez said. “You can't do anything when there's so many of them.”

The Guardia Civil police declined to confirm media reports that the fleeing diners were from Eastern Europe, but an official from the force said they were not Spanish nationals.

“We know roughly where they are,” he added.

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**Yaakkai review: Plot is an oft-told one**

His debut film 'Aanmai Thavare!' was a fairly engaging action thriller that centred on human trafficking. And now Velappan ventures into the medical scenario and explores the unscrupulous practices indulged in by some hospitals and pharmaceutical companies for financial gain. The plot is an old oft-told one. It's the scripting and the treatment that could have infused it with an amount of freshness and novelty. But an insipid screenplay and weakly fleshed out characters ensure that boredom sets in midway through the narration.

The film opens with Krishnamurthy an eminent doctor (Radharavi) found murdered. Sahayam the investigating cop steps in to solve the mystery. The dead man's son Sriram arrives from the U.S., not hiding his angst against his dead father for failing to fall in line with some of his schemes. With the men close to the doctor either missing or found dead, the cop tries to piece together

the bits of the puzzle. The plot travels simultaneously in

converge at the end, it's jerky and most unconvincing. The

note was being treated more as an extended guest ap-



two tracks, apparently unconnected. One, where the investigation is depicted the other the love-story between Kathir and Kavitha a school teacher. The director has attempted to adopt a different narrative style here, but it only backfires. And, as the story progresses the investigation which was the more interesting of the two tracks, is sidelined for long moments.

The love affair takes over, monotonous, boring and insipidly etched. And, when the tracks do

narration picks up speed towards the closing moments with melodrama seeping in. But by then one has already lost interest in the story of the dead doctor and his mysterious killer.

As for the performances, it is disappointing. Sahayam essayed by Prakashraj, seems disinterested and bored with the whole scenario. The actor seems to have lost interest in the proceedings, probably realising that the character which had begun on a strong

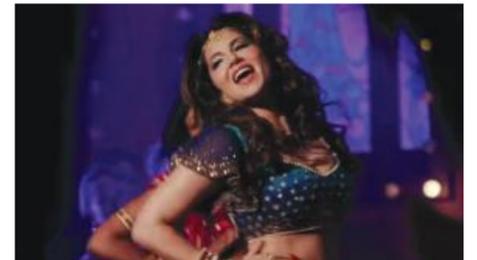
pearance as the story unfolded.

Guru Somasundram is a total miscast. As Sriram the bad boy with angst against his father, he is inconsistent and far removed from his assured performance as in 'Joker'. Unsure of how to essay a role that is weakly etched, the actor is loud and dramatic in his take on Sriram. Of about 127 minutes of viewing time, 'Yaakkai' is a monotonous journey, unexciting and uninteresting.

**Sunny Leone is the perfect seductress in 'Laila main Laila'**

**NEW DELHI (KCN):**Sunny Leone's much-awaited song from 'Raees' is out and

Set in a dance bar, it seems the song is an important part of the development of SRK's character of a liquor



it has all the ingredients to make it to the top of every chartbuster!

From Sunny's sexy dance moves to Shah Rukh Khan's killer looks, the remixed version of Zeenat Aman's 'Laila O Laila' is sure to make you groove.

baron in Gujarat. The 70's classic rendition has been recreated by Ram Sampath and sung by Pawni Kalyan.

Directed by Rahul Dholakia, 'Raees' is all set to release on January 25 next year.



From being a 'Viva!' girl to winning the Best Playback Singer (Female) award for her song 'Jag Ghoomeya' from Salman Khan starrer Sultan, Neha Bhasin bares all about her journey in an exclusive chat.

**Sofia Vergara's son Manolo Gonzalez makes modelling debut**

**WASHINGTON(KCN):** Manolo Gonzalez Vergara, the only child of Sofia Vergara, recently made his plunge into modelling industry following in his mother's footsteps.

The 24-year-old son made his modelling debut in a photo spread for Paper magazine's latest issue, inspired by the films of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, reports E! Online.

In one photo, Gonzalez Vergara wears a black suit and poses along model Stevie DeFelice who is sporting a red top, skirt and blazer as the duo hold a Bloody Mary each and sit on the floor that has a



shattered mirror reflecting them.

The young model also took to his Instagram handle to thank the magazine.

"And for allowing me to sit next to Stevie DeFelice. I hope she wasn't too traumatized," he added.

Vergara's 44-year-old mom had modelled for years before she moved from her native Colombia to the United States to concentrate on an acting career. Her son, who she raised as a single, working mother, has also dabbled in acting and appeared with her in a Head & Shoulders commercial in 2014.

**Kajol, Priyanka hail Pakistan's move to remove ban on Indian films**

**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.

## Well positioned for 50 percent revenue market share by 2021: Jio

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The country's data market will touch Rs 3 lakh crore by 2020-21, newcomer Reliance Jio has estimated, while claiming it is "well positioned" to achieve over 50 per cent revenue market share. However, some industry analysts have dubbed Jio's market share assumption "aggressive".

"Voice revenues will shift to data. Data market in India will be Rs 3 lakh crore by Indian banks' loans rose 4.8 percent in two weeks to Feb 17: RBI

Indian banks' loans rose 4.8 percent in the two weeks to Feb. 17 from a year earlier, while deposits rose 12.8 percent, the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement showed on Friday.

Outstanding loans rose 62.60 billion rupees (\$936.63 million) to 74.85 trillion rupees in the two weeks to Feb. 17. Non-food credit rose 80.70 billion rupees to 73.80 trillion rupees, while food credit fell 18.10 billion rupees to 1.06 trillion rupees.

Bank deposits fell 757.10 billion rupees to 104.87 trillion rupees in the two weeks to Feb. 17.

**EU nations thrash out deal on carbon market reform**

**BRUSSELS(KCN):** EU nations reached a compromise on long-awaited reforms to the carbon emissions market on Tuesday, moving the European Union closer to adopting key rules to deliver on its pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris climate accord.

Eager to maintain its leadership on climate change diplomacy, EU environment ministers sought to bridge divisions over how to balance environmental ambitions with protection for energy-intensive industries in reforming the Emission Trading System (ETS).

The cap-and-trade permit system is the EU's flagship policy to meet its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions from 11,000 energy-intensive industrial plants and power stations by 43 percent by 2030 when compared with levels in 2005.

2020-21," Reliance Jio said in its latest investor presentation.

Stating that it currently caters to 85 per cent of mobile data traffic in India, Jio said that bulk of its network is "already built" and can support more than 60 per cent of estimated 2020-21 India data demand.

In its presentation, Jio further said that nearly 400 million subscribers can afford to spend minimum of Rs 500 on digital services.

"Jio is India's only 5G ready network due to its elastic network and deep fiber," the presentation said, adding it is "well positioned to achieve more than 50 per cent revenue market share."

Jio also anticipates its EBITDA margin to be more than 50 per cent on its gross revenue. Underlining an impending shift in industry's revenue mix, it said that there would be a revenue transition from voice to data in

1-2 years.

Voice revenue will reduce from Rs 1.5 lakh crore to Rs 0.5 lakh crore, it said and added "Shift of Rs 1 lakh crore from voice will take data revenue to Rs 1.3 lakh crore."

Industry growth was "low" in the last five years but the next five will see rapid growth with data explosion, it said.

"Overall industry revenue to grow to Rs 3 lakh crore by 2020-21...leading global consultants have forecasted demand for data at 500-600 crore GB per month. At yield of Rs 50/GB it translates to Rs 3-3.6 lakh crore per year. (This is) equivalent to 1.35 - 1.6 per cent of projected GDP (still lesser than 2.5 per cent in developed economies," it said.

Indicating consolidation of SIM cards, it said their number will come down to 0.8 billion from 1.13 billion. Some analysts, how-

ever, said the figures given by Jio are "aggressive".

Goldman Sachs acknowledged that while a shift from voice to data may be faster than its current expectations, "it is unlikely incumbents will lose a meaningful portion of their revenues as they too have invested quite aggressively in building out their data network".

"We view Jio's market share assumption of 50 per cent as aggressive," it said.

Credit Suisse too said it finds targets for both industry revenues and Jio market share "aggressive".

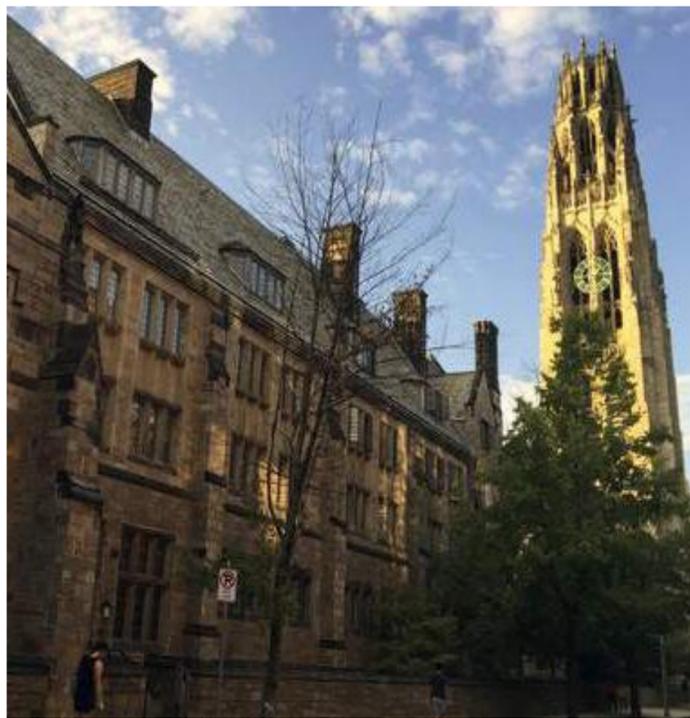
"We find targets for both industry revenues and Jio market share aggressive...this level of Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) expansion has never been seen globally...(there is) intense competition as Jio try to gain this share can keep ARPUs depressed," it said.

## Harvard seeks to confront historical ties to slavery

**CAMBRIDGE(K-CN):** Harvard University is taking new steps to confront its

have confronted their connections to slavery. Writer Tanehisi (tah neh-

University President Drew Faust, a historian, has called for more



past ties to slavery.

The Ivy League school is hosting a conference Friday exploring the historical ties between slavery and early universities, including Harvard.

Scholars will present research on the topic and discuss how other colleges

HAH'-see) Coates is scheduled to speak.

Harvard unveiled a plaque last year honoring four slaves who lived and worked on campus in the 1700s. Harvard Law also has dropped an emblem that was tied to a slave-owning family.

exploration of the school's slavery ties.

Other universities have similarly sought to acknowledge their roles in slavery, including Georgetown and Columbia.

Harvard's conference will be streamed online.

## Chandrasekaran would take Tata group to new level: Ratan Tata

**JAMSHEDPUR(K-CN):** Tata Sons

Jamshedpur, Tata expressed confidence

external person of the group and had an im-

made by TCS under his leadership, he said.

"I am confident that Chandra would take the Tata group to a new height of progress and growth," Tata added. Speaking on the occasion, Chandrasekaran said "I have been here in the steel city of Jamshedpur for last 36 hours witnessing, observing and feeling the impact of the city on human lives."

You can witness the Iconic brand Tata Steel and Jamshedpur almost inseparable being as one, which probably you could not have seen anywhere in the world, the Tata Sons Chairman said.



Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata today said the Tata Group is in the safe hands of N Chandrasekaran, who would take it to a new level of progress and growth. Introducing Chandrasekaran to the people of

that Chandra (Chandrasekaran) will take the group as well as the city to a new level of progress and growth.

The Group and Jamshedpur city is in safe hand and it was a matter of pride that Chandra being an in-

peccable record, Tata said after paying floral tributes to Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata on his 178th birth anniversary, here today.

Chandra has an immense record in term of performance and the progress

## Uber loses court battle which could cost it London drivers

**LONDON:** Taxi app Uber lost a court battle on Friday to stop a London regulator from imposing strict new English reading and writing standards on private hire drivers, the latest setback for the firm

On Friday, a High Court judge rejected Uber's claim.

"TfL are entitled to require private hire drivers to demonstrate English language compliance," Judge John Mitting said.

B," Uber's General Manager in London Tom Elvidge said in a statement.

"We intend to appeal this unfair and disproportionate new rule."

In the case, Uber did manage to overturn

Some unions and regulators in Britain are trying to rein in the so-called 'gig economy', where individuals work for multiple employers day-to-day without having a fixed contract, which advocates say of-



which could mean the loss of thousands of workers.

San Francisco-based Uber, which allows people to book journeys on their smartphone, has faced bans and protests around the world as regulators play catch-up with technology that threatens to disrupt traditional operators.

The company took legal action in August after public body Transport for London (TfL) said that drivers should have to prove their ability to communicate in English, including to a standard of reading and writing which Uber said was too high.

In the High Court, Uber had cited TfL data that the language rules could mean about 33,000 private hire drivers out of a total of 110,000 operating in London would fail to renew their licences over the next few years.

TfL's new rules are partly a response to protests from drivers of London's famous black cabs, who are concerned that Uber's over 30,000 drivers are undermining their business model by not meeting the same standards.

"Writing an essay has nothing to do with communicating with passengers or getting them safely from A to

two other TfL proposals for drivers to have permanent private hire insurance and that it should operate a 24/7 call centre.

The decision on the language test is the latest setback for Uber in London after a British tribunal ruled in October it should treat two drivers as workers and pay them the minimum wage and holiday pay. Uber is seeking to appeal the ruling.

Uber Chief Executive Travis Kalanick has made headlines this week for getting into an argument with a driver for the ride service who complained about pay rates.

critics say is exploitative.

British law firm Leigh Day is advising drivers at takeaway foods delivery firm Deliveroo on the possibility of taking legal action to gain workers' rights such as the minimum wage.

On Friday, London Mayor Sadiq Khan welcomed the court's decision and said he was focused on better regulating the sector. "From my first day at City Hall I have been determined to drive up standards and improve safety for every taxi and private hire passenger travelling in London," he said.

# England's football great Alan Shearer draws parallel between ISL and Premier League's growth

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Drawing an unlikely parallel between the Indian Super League, in its infancy now, and the phenomenally successful Premier League, England's football great Alan Shearer said the baby steps taken a quarter century ago have led EPL to where it's now.

"My friends here tell me that football is never going to be the number one sport in India and cricket will always have that title. But that does not mean stopping efforts to make Indian football bigger and better," said the former England international at a media interaction today.

"When we look back to EPL in 1992 and now it shows how small steps will eventually get you there," said the ex-Newcastle

United and Blackburn Rovers star striker who is the holder of the EPL's goal scoring record (260 strikes).

Shearer, who is here to take part in "The Football Movement" initiative, did not think China's recent trend of paying exorbitant amount to attract top players to play in that nation's league could be sustained for long.

"I don't necessarily see that as the right way forward because it's instant. I find it difficult to see how China is going to sustain it. It's about growing, about trying to promote from within, getting the youth involved in the game. But it's not a quick process and will take time.

"The difference between China and

ISL is that when ISL signed a lot of big name players they were sort of on their way out or in the latter stages of their careers. What China are doing is to get players at the peak of their career, 24 or 25 years of age, which is one of the reasons why they have to pay the outrageous sums of money as salaries.

"I find it difficult to see how China will be able to sustain paying the sort of salaries to players they pay now."

He was candid to say the world's most popular sport is now a business and player power has increased multi-fold, thus making the football manager's job a bit more taxing.

"Football is a business, that's the

way you have to look at it. From football club to others, everyone wants to make money. That's the world we live in and in football, more so. That's never going to change and it will only get bigger."

"You don't get as much time to build a team as manager any more. If you don't like that, then don't go into management. We can't complain about it. If you decide to go into the management route, you will get sacked at some stage in your career," said Shearer.

"It happened to (Jose) Mourinho as manager (of Chelsea who resigned in 2015 after signing a contract till 2019). It's a tough job. You cannot afford to fall out with your players," said the

former England captain who played in two Euros as well as the 1998 World Cup finals.



"Football some times is not in real world with regards to transfer fees. In 1996, when I was the costliest player at 15 million USD, people said no one is worth that much. When you compare that to what is happening in the Premier League, it's only a matter of time the world record (for

player transfer) will be broken. That's football. It's only going to get bigger," the 46-year-old former player

World Cup finals competition already announced by the world body, FIFA, from the 2026 edition, as he felt the bloated format would dilute its quality. "It's for finance. When we go to the World Cup finals, I believe that's what it should be - finals. Only the biggest and best teams should be there. I think you are decreasing the standard of football by adding those extra teams."

He also differed with views stressing good playing facilities are needed to encourage children to play football.

"I did not have a great stadium to play as a kid. I had a tiny patch of grass in my back garden, or in front or the road. I loved the game.

"If we can promote the game and tell kids how great football is, you don't need

essarily need great facilities. I never had it and it probably made me a better player and a better person as I did not have the pristine pitches or training pitches as they are now. I played on roads and streets and used cans or stones to play," Shearer conceded that England had not been good enough after 1966, their biggest hour of glory, in subsequent World Cup or Euro Cup attempts although they had been a bit unfortunate on occasions with penalties deciding their exit from the major football competitions.

"We had not been good enough. Some times we had been unlucky with penalties as in the 1990 semi finals and in 1996 against Germany in Euro and in 1998 World Cup against Argentina when David Beckham was sent off.

"If we can promote the game and tell kids how great football is, you don't need

## IEU nations thrash out deal on carbon market reform

**BRUSSELS(KCN):** EU nations reached a compromise on long-awaited reforms to the carbon emissions market on Tuesday, moving the European Union closer to adopting key rules to deliver on its pledge to cut greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris climate accord.

Eager to maintain its leadership on climate change diplomacy, EU environment ministers sought to bridge divisions over how to balance environmental ambitions with protection for energy-intensive industries in reforming the Emission Trading System (ETS).

The cap-and-trade permit system is the EU's flagship policy to meet its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions from 11,000 energy-intensive industrial plants and power stations by 43 percent by 2030 when compared with levels in 2005.

But the market has suffered from an excess supply of permits since the financial crisis, which depressed prices.

Talks on reforms have dragged on for 18 months, with EU nations split over measures to strengthen prices, how not to impinge on competitiveness and how best to manage funds to help laggards modernise their economies.

"The negotiations have been going on all day; every country has had to compromise on

something," Italian minister Gian Luca Galletti told colleagues after the vote, saying Rome was still unhappy with some aspects of the deal.



Poland's minister said he felt "cheated" by the deal, which 19 of the bloc's 28 nations supported. Nine nations voted against it.

An earlier draft of the compromise deal seen by Reuters called for measures to strengthen prices by doubling the rate at which the scheme's Market Stability Reserve (MSR) soaks up excess allowances and by cancelling surplus permits after 2024 held in the reserve above a ceiling of 650 million allowances.

However, the final deal, published on Thursday, calls for a yearly cancellation of allowances held in the reserve after 2024 above a threshold to be set by the number of allowances auctioned the previous year.

The deal also offers a cushion for industries worried about being short on allowances if a cap is triggered on overall allo-

cations that slashes free allowances across the board, known as the cross-sectoral correction factor (CSCF). Under the current ETS trading phase, which

runs from 2013 to 2020, the majority of carbon permits are sold through government auctions, with most of the remainder given free to industry. Tuesday's deal calls for an additional 2 percent of the permits due to be auctioned to instead be freely doled out to industry if the CSCF is triggered.

"We are very happy that the council really showed the ambition that we need if we are going to stick to the Paris target," Sweden's climate minister Isabella Lovin told Reuters after the vote.

"I think the world needs climate leadership right now."

Sweden, France and the Netherlands have led a push for measures to shore up permit prices, and reached a breakthrough at the start of talks when they won Germany's support.

Germany, Italy,

Austria and Greece, meanwhile, have prioritised measures to ensure that regulation does not drive big industry abroad, such as the provision for a

more flexible auction share. Poorer, coal-reliant nations in Central and Eastern Europe are keen to get the most generous provisions possible to help modernise their economies.

A minimum of 16 member states is required to back the compromise deal, representing at least 65 percent of the total EU population.

EU nations need a common position before beginning talks with the European Parliament and the European Commission to finalise EU legislation on the reforms tabled by the Commission more than a year ago.

The European Parliament last week adopted draft reforms of the carbon market that will go to plenary vote later this month.

## Wary Indian squad seeks turnaround against upbeat Australia

**BENGALURU(KCN):** Stung by the humiliating defeat in the series-opener, Virat Kohli will face the toughest battle of his fledgeling captaincy career when India take on a resurgent Australia in the second cricket Test starting here tomorrow.

It's not often that an Indian cricket team goes into a home Test match trailing 0-1 and that's exactly what makes the contest at the 'Garden City' even more enticing. Kohli and Co. are like cornered tigers after being hammered in their 333-run defeat against the Australians on a rank turner where unheralded Steve O'Keefe went home with figures of 12 for 70.

With their juggernaut coming to a grinding halt after 19 consecutive victories, it's now time to pick up the pieces. And the team under Anil Kumble's guidance will look to decipher the winning code on a Chinnaswamy track that promises to be slightly better. The Indian batsmen will have to deal with Australia's newest spin twins Nathan Lyon and O'Keefe while the pace duo of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood is also expected to ask probing questions.

Similarly, the Indians have not yet found a way to get Steve Smith out cheaply and the rival skipper, after his stupendous knock on a devilish pitch, will be

itching to get one more. Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja would certainly like to forget Pune as it was one match where they hardly got anything right with fielding bloopers adding insult to injuries.

Another issue would be the effective usage of DRS, something India got terribly wrong in the first Test. Kohli would certainly like to win the toss as it was one of the crucial factors in Pune. The fighter in him will aim to get even with the Aussie bowlers on whom he had feasted during team's last Test tour Down Under.

Skipper Kohli will certainly want batsman Kohli to read Mitchell Starc's reverse swing and O'Keefe's arm balls better than last time. The track is expected to last the distance but the fickle Bengaluru weather will be a concern as there is a forecast of showers on Sunday -- the second day of the match.

The last Test match against South Africa at this venue back in 2015, was a near wash-out after rain played spoilsport following the very first day. While the Indian team's positive aspect over the past year has been its bench strength and availability of multiple players at a single position, it will be interesting to see what kind of team composition is preferred by the management for this particular game.

Kohli's team

combinations, after taking over from Dhoni, have been pretty fluid as no same combination has played in the 24 Tests that he has been at the helm. Expect no different this time as well with one or two changes possible in the playing XI, depending on the pitch, which will be better for batting compared to the one in Pune.

Kohli is an advocate of five-bowler theory which has worked well for India during the last 18 months. However, the Australian spinners exposed home batsmen's vulnerability on a crooked surface which must have led to some doubts creeping into their system. It will, therefore, be interesting to see if Karun Nair -- India's second ever triple centurion -- can make it to the playing XI as an additional batsman who can bowl a few overs of spin. If Karun is selected Jayant Yadav could face an axe.

The evident weak link in the last game was off-spinner Jayant, who looked out of sorts in both departments of the game. On a tailor-made pitch for spinners, Jayant gave away 101 runs in only 23 overs with two wickets to show for his efforts. One shouldn't read too much into his batting effort as it was a collective failure. No one can blame a No. 9 batsman of the team for scoring 2 and 5 when the big guns

have failed.

If Karun plays, it would mean that India will be playing with four specialist bowlers. Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Umesh Yadav automatically select themselves.

Ishant Sharma didn't bowl badly but as has been the case with him, he ended wicketless with only three overs being given in the second innings. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, with increased pace, new-found ability to reverse swing and capability with the bat, seems a good choice.

Hardik Pandya is a proper all-rounder but his batting abilities in the longest format are still untested. National coach Anil Kumble refused to divulge the playing XI while former captains from either side possess varied viewpoints. Former India captain Mohammed Azharuddin wants Ishant and Jayant to be dropped while Michael Clarke believes that the lanky fast bowler should be persisted with.

Another person who needs to come good is Ajinkya Rahane, who is getting lot of support from the team management despite a string of poor scores in last five Tests. Save the 80-odd against minnows Bangladesh on a flat Hyderabad deck, Rahane has had a torrid time of late, starting from the England series.