

Market slump hits revenue

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): With a slump in market and dull scenario in mining sector, collection of revenue resources has slowed down in the State and both Tax and Non Tax revenue collection has registered negative growth.

While the requirement of funds for the development of various sectors is going up, revenue generation seems to be falling short of matching the demand, say senior officials in the Department of Finance (DoF).

As the fund flow from the Centre has slowed down, Chief Secretary has set an ambitious target of Rs.35,950 crore revenue generation during the current fiscal while budget estimate was to collect Rs.33,022 crore, they said.

However, the State Government has been able to mobilize Rs.12,799 crore revenue resources by end of September end this year as against the Rs.13,278 by the same time last year, they added.

Collection of Sales Tax continues to be sluggish with 2.93 pc growth over corresponding pe-



riod of last fiscal.

While Rs 10,061.39 crore own tax revenue was collected by September 30 this year, sales tax collection was only Rs.5,645.97 crore as against the Rs 15,000 crore set by the Chief Secretary.

Collection from stamps and registration showed a negative trend with only Rs.811.60 crore collected by end of September, while last year under the same head the amount was Rs 1504.25 crore.

Sources in DoF said State Excise revenue grew at a

rate of 15.68 per cent with a collection of Rs1,315 crore. The Chief Secretary had set a

target of Rs.3,300 crore for the current fiscal.

Own Tax Revenue collection by September 30 was Rs10,061.39 crore less than the Rs 10,134.98 crore during the corresponding period last year, the officials in DoF said adding non tax revenue collection has nosedived with collection from mining sector registering a negative growth of - 21.39 pc.

Collection from non ferrous mining and metallurgical industries during the period under study

was Rs.1900.73 crore as compared to the Rs.2417.98 crore last year, the officials said.

Even as the target to collect non tax revenue from the Mining sector has been set at Rs.7000 crore, the collection is yet to pick up, they added.

Although collection from major, medium and minor irrigation has registered growth, dividend collection suffered a setback, the sources revealed.

Out of the total of revenue receipt of Rs. 31007.51 cr during 2015-16, while collection of tax revenue was Rs.22,536 crore, non tax revenue was Rs.8470.90 crore.

Hence, Budget Estimate for collection of both Tax and Non Tax revenue was kept at Rs 33,022.93 crore in a bid to meet the demand for development work in the State.

With fund flow from the Union Government slowing down, major developmental projects are facing fund scarcity, the sources added.

Sarma Lauds SAI Int'l

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): State requires skilled entrepreneurs and it can be developed by organising business conclaves where the youth can get an insight on various innovations and successful strategies, said Principal Secretary Higher Education, G Venugopal Sarma.

While speaking at the valedictory function of the SAI International College of Commerce (SICC) Business Conclave-2016 here, Mr.Sarma lauded SICC initiative to organise such a conclave which will encourage and create an interest on Commerce education in the State.

He said SICC is inculcating the spirit of entrepreneurship in the young mass.

BJD Lawmaker Priyadarshi Mishra spoke on the need of the students to understand **See Page-7**

GATI Odisha get award

So recently Aero Position as it is one

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): With GATI Odisha going places, its Chief Ashok Kumar Meena is on a happier mode.

Mr.Meena, Special Secretary General Administration is heading the Government Aviation Training Institute (GATI) of Odisha, which has received the Third Best Flying Club of India.

Erstwhile Orissa Flying Club was taken over by the State Government and renamed as GATI in 1974 has been revived in 2008 under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.

Global Avianautics Limited (GAL) is partnering with the Government of Odisha to run the Flying Club, which is one of the most active clubs of the country.

Bombay Flying Club, Mumbai grabbed the First



Club of India (ACI), the apex organization of all the 29 Flying Clubs of the country

Now GATI Odisha has a fleet of four trainer aircrafts out of which two belongs to the State Government.

Since its revival

of the best performing Flying Clubs of the country.

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of the best performing Flying Clubs of the country.

GATI has enrolled 253 students and 26 Commercial Pilot License (CPL), while 05 have received Private Pilot License (PPL), said sources.

During 2015-16, total hours flown in above aircrafts comes to 3248.20 Hours.

Considering the feat, ACI has recognized its efforts in providing Professional Aircraft Flying Training in this part of the country.

GATI Odisha is considered as an active Flying Club and inroder to improve its fleet strength, it has approached the ACI to provide another new aircraft.

Both the aircraft of the State Government are more than 30 years old, so GATI needs a new aircraft urgently, said sources.

Odisha issues notification to treat dead with dignity

Bhubaneswar (K-CN) Following two incidents of a tribal carrying his wife's body on his shoulder over 10 km and a woman's body at a hospital being carried for the last rites,

strung from a pole, the Odisha government on Wednesday ordered the state's health facilities to ensure that the dead are treated with dignity and respect.

"The dead body must be treated with all dignity and respect. On no account should a dead body, whether Medico Legal Case (MLC) or non-MLC, unclaimed or not, be

allowed to be carried on shoulders, or strung on a pole, or in any manner that compromises the dignity of the dead," the state's health department said in a notification **See Page - 7**

Startup conclave 28-29 NOV

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): In another step towards boosting of Startup Initiatives in the State, Government of Odisha has planned to organize a Startup Conclave in the Capital City.

A proposal to this effect was discussed in a high level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi in the State Secretariat here today.

Development Commissioner R Balakrishnan, Secretary Skill Development & Technical Education and CMD IDCO Sanjaya Kumar Singh, Secretary Women & Child Development Vishal Dev, Special Secretary Finance and General Administration Ashok Kumar Meena, President TiE, Bhubaneswar Rajiv Sekhar Sahoo along with other senior officers from concerned departments and members from TiE participated in discussions.

Principal Secretary Department of

encourage more number of budding



Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (DoMSME) Laxmi Narayan Gupta outlined the issues for discussion.

It was decided to organize the event for two days on 28-29 November. Chief Secretary Mr.Padhi advised to make the Conclave focused and outcome oriented. He further advised to involve and

and TiE Silcon Valley. Department of MSME would be the Nodal Department, said Mr.Gupta, adding the main objectives of the event would be to motivate youth towards entrepreneurship, showcase the startup ecosystem in Odisha and attract more Startups to start their venture in the State.

It was also decided to organize Idea Competition among innovative youth in the event. The event would be organized in 10 sessions including the inaugural session.

The major sessions slated were Inauguration, Idea Competition, Cultural evening, Plenary session on how to start, Plenary session on Policy and Institutional support to be followed by the sessions on My Story, Social Entrepreneurship Track on arranging finance, digital marketing, Innovation, Legal issues & Compliance.

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Asha's comeback music video with Band of Boys



MUMBAI: Legendary singer Asha Bhosle, who is making a comeback after many years, has shot a music video with indie pop group Band of Boys. The 82-year-old singer, whose grandson Chintoo Bhosle, is part of the band, took to Twitter to share the picture from the

shoot. "Just finished shooting comeback video with Band Of Boys. Look out...Excellent song," she captioned the picture. The band with model-actor Sudhanshu Pandey, Sherrin Varghese, Karan Oberoi and Chintoo as the founding members released their first album Yeh

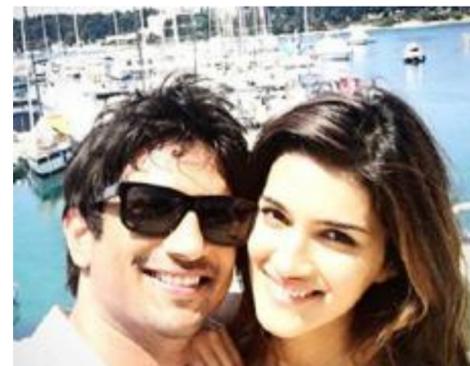
Bhi Woh Bhi in 2002. With hits like Meri Neend and Gori they became hit among the young crowd. However, the band didn't perform regularly and made on and off appearances, with 2014 voting campaign track, The Ungli Song, being the last one.

Kriti always speaks the truth, says Sushant

MUMBAI: Actor Sushant Singh Rajput says the clarification given by his "Raabta" co-star Kriti Sanon on their link-up rumours is right as she voices the truth. Last month, the actress tried to put an end to dating rumours with Sushant by slamming such reports and calling them untrue. When asked to comment on the reports, Sushant said, "Kriti always speaks the truth. Whatever she said is right." The 30-year-old actor was speaking to reporters last night at the trailer launch of his upcoming film "MS Dhoni: The Untold Story", the biopic of Indian ODI captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. While Sushant was busy working on the movie, his personal life garnered spotlight since

his break-up with long-time girlfriend Ankita Lokhande last year. The "Kai Po Che!" star also suffered a rib injury while practising a cricketing shot for "Dhoni". Sushant, however, said neither the break-up nor

okay. None of the two things affected me while shooting the film," he said. When asked when he will be tying the knot, the actor said, "Let me get a girl first!" Directed by Neeraj Pandey, "MS Dhoni: The Untold



the physical injury dented him from focusing on the film. "Injury was in body, heart break was in heart, but the mind was completely fine so it was

Story" also stars Anupam Kher, Kiara Advani and Disha Patani. It is scheduled for release on September 30.

Asha's Filmfare winning song that was never picturised!

NEW DELHI: Do you know that Asha Bhosle won the Filmfare Best Singer award of 1974 for a playback song that did not figure in the movie at all? The award was for 'Chain se hum ko kabhi aap ne jeene na diyaa', the last song she sang for composer O P Nayyar which was supposed to be used in the movie 'Pran Jaye Par Vachan Na Jaye' but was not done. This interesting fact figures in music historian Raju Bharatan's new book 'Asha Bhosle: A Musical Biography', published by Hay House. Also soon after her marriage to Bhosle, Asha wanted to give up singing and just be a housewife. "All that I sought, was to keep house and play the mother to my first-born: Hemant. But my husband would not hear of my giving up the mike. He forced me to continue singing. Left to myself, I would have definitely quit," the author quotes Asha as saying. On the Filmfare award thing, he says, "In fact I don't think that this feat of hers has been matched by any singer in the world." He terms the song as a torch song recorded as we

were set to move into the Asha-OP 'cut-off' month of August 1972. "It was recorded during an hour in which both Asha and OP knew that they were through. Yet, at the end of it all, there was always in this remorse that you could not retrieve..." he writes. Soon Asha and Nayyar parted ways after an association of 15 years. The song, penned by S H Bihari, was first played in November 1973 on Radio Ceylon and the film which was supposed to picturise it was released on January 18, 1974. And when the Filmfare awards ceremony came to be held in March 1975, Asha had no motivation left to receive her prize. Bharatan cites another anecdote connected with the episode. Anticipating Asha's absence, Nayyar in a "malicious manoeuvre calculated to rile her" telephoned the Filmfare editor to say that he would be happy as the song's composer to receive the award on "behalf of his best lady singer ever". "The two might not have been exactly enabling to watch but they cared two hoots for what the world thought of them. Come to think of

it, never was Asha selective even about with whom she mixed in the recording room. Maybe such an approach was in harmony with Asha's audacious outlook. Bharatan, who has previously authored 'Lata Mangeshkar: A Biography' (1995); 'A Journey Down Melody Lane' (2010); and 'Naushadnama: The Life and Music of Naushad' (2013), gives enthralling behind-the-scenes happenings that shaped the advance of Asha with a remarkable range and a noteworthy body of work. This book captures Asha in her numberless shades. Asha sang 840 R D Burman compositions and a staggering 880 songs with Mohammad Rafi and 656 duets with Kishore Kumar. He also claims that Asha sang 7595 film songs, more than Lata's total of 6541 songs. According to him, Asha's first film song is 'Gareebon ke data gareebon ke waali' rendered along with Zohrabai Ambalewali for the 1947 film 'Andhoki Duniya' and not 'Saawan aaya' from 'Chunaria' (1948) as is widely believed.

Censor board stalled my career for 7 years, says Anurag Kashyap

MUMBAI: guest at the ongoing Indian Film Festival



Kashyap has criticised the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and blamed the censorship guidelines for stalling his career for seven years. "I had a career unreleased for seven years because of censorship," Kashyap, who is a

of Melbourne this year, said on ABC Melbourne radio channel. Kashyap, 43, said that his film "Paanch" was blocked for showcasing drug issues and violence against police officer initially but later passed by the board which left his producer bank-

rupt. "I was asked to remove the scenes," said Kashyap, who was recently at loggerheads with the board over the release of his production "Udta Punjab". Kashyap, who will deliver a masterclass on Censorship to students and cinema lovers here as a part of the Indianfest, said he found the board redundant as people have access to such movies online. "To say that the censor board does not want my daughter to watch my movies.. My daughter has seen all my movies by downloading them." "We were actually progressing but in the last two years we have gone back.. The censorship that has come now in is far worse," he added.

Experts bat for conservation strategy for 'megafauna'

Conservation biologists today pitched for a worldwide strategy to prevent extinction of the world's largest mammal species, including elephants and tigers, citing threats like illegal hunting, habitat loss and population growth as drivers behind their imminent extinction. In a public declaration published in the journal BioScience, a group of more than 40 conservation scientists and other experts called for a coordinated global plan to prevent the world's megafauna (giant animals) from "sliding into oblivion". They said around 59 per cent of the world's

largest herbivores--are now listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species as "threatened with extinction". "The biggest threat for many species is direct hunting driven by a demand for meat, pets, and body parts for traditional medicines and ornaments. "Only a massive commitment from the international community will stop this rampant destruction of so many animal populations," said Elizabeth Bennett, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS's) Vice President of Species Conserva-

tion and a co-author on the study. Noting that the human-wildlife conflict is a serious concurrent threat for many species, authors of the study said that with simultaneous loss of wildlife habitat and expansion of human populations and agriculture, negative interactions between people and wildlife are bound to rise. "For wide-ranging megafauna like elephants and tigers, we need landscape-scale conservation strategies, taking into account the increasing interface between wildlife and people," said Varun R Goswami a co-author on the study. The study titled "Saving the World's Ter-

restrial Megafauna" examined population trends of many species, including many of the most well-known, charismatic species such as elephants, rhinos, gorillas, and big cats that are now threatened with extinction. "Among the threats cited by the group as drivers of this mass extinction are illegal hunting, deforestation and habitat loss, the expansion of agriculture and livestock into wildlife areas, and the growth of human populations," the study said. Charismatic megafauna are large animal species with widespread popular appeal, which are often used by activists to achieve

environmental goals. The study said species at risk include elephants, that provide a suite of vital ecosystem services as ecological engineers, dispersing seeds and nutrients across vast areas. "The loss of elephants in the forests of Central Africa is increasingly damaging the function of the region's most important ecosystems. "We're only beginning to understand how vital these keystone species are to the health of rainforests and other species that inhabit them," another co-author Fiona Maisels said. The declaration also cites the importance of integrating the efforts of scientists and

funding agencies in developing countries where many species occur, the need for a new global framework to conserve megafauna and the moral obligation of saving the world's biggest mammal species. "The more I look at the trends facing the world's largest terrestrial mammals, the more concerned I am we could lose these animals just as science is discovering how important they are to ecosystems and to the services they provide for people," said William Ripple, professor of ecology at Oregon State University and lead author of the study.

RBI to continue with easing; next cut in February: analysts

Mumbai (KCN): A day after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) debuted with a surprise 0.25 per cent cut in rates, analysts on Wednesday said the Reserve Bank will continue with the accommodative stance but the next action can come only in the February review.

In a note, domestic rating agency Icria said it expects the rate easing cycle to continue.

"With the indication that real interest rates (the differential between the key lending rate and inflation) may need to be lower than 1.50 per cent given prevailing global scenario of negative rates, further easing by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) can't be ruled out," its senior vice president Karthik Srinivasan said, add-



ing that he is uncertain over the timing.

Economists at foreign brokerage Bank of America Merrill Lynch said however that it doesn't expect any rate cut in the upcoming review of the bi-monthly policy in December.

"We expect a final 0.25 per cent cut on February 7," it said in a note.

Concurring with this view, Singaporean brokerage DBS also said the next rate cut can happen only in the first quarter of 2017 and not at the next

policy review.

Newly appointed Governor Urjit Patel had a conference call with analysts after the announcement of the policy on October 4, 2016, in which the media was not allowed.

DBS also attrib-

uted the cut to the change in the real rates framework.

Even though the policy document did not have a formal guidance, DBS added, the stance indicates lower inflation print continuing into the December quarter.

Indo-Pak standoff won't impact growth in S.Asia, says WEF & CII

NEW DELHI (KCN): Indian industry and the Geneva-based World Economic Forum – a global body for public-private cooperation – said on Wednesday that the recent New Delhi-Islamabad standoff will not impact the growth prospects of South Asia including India.

Speaking to mediapersons ahead of the WEF-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'India Economic Summit' that will begin on Thursday, Jennifer Blanke, chief economist and member of the Executive Committee, WEF, said South Asia was the world's fastest growing region and there was no reason to believe that the recent geo-political tension will impact the region's growth prospects. "There is a sense of excitement that growth will happen and I remain bullish on South Asia. There are several challenges in the region, which are at the same time opportunities as well," she said.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director-General, CII, also said the economy and business in India and

South Asia will not get affected due to the tension at the India-Pakistan border. He added, "We see demand picking up and more investments coming in. There has been a strong monsoon and good agricultural bounce-back... Indian industry has appreciated the government's position on foreign policy and it has had a positive impact so far on the region's growth."

Philipp Rosler, member of the Managing Board, WEF, told The Hindu, "The more peaceful the environment, the better it will be for investments and business. We are lucky the Summit has not been affected due to the tension. However, at the same time, we hope for a quick and peaceful resolution (of issues)."

On criticism that the Summit was losing relevance as important members of the NDA government, including Finance Minister Arun Jaitley are not taking part in it, Mr. Banerjee said, Mr. Jaitley is unable to attend as he is on an official visit to Canada and the U.S. Besides, the

Summit's focus is on topics that are concerning ministries other than finance as well, he said. These included digital economy, travel & tourism, energy, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, startups, skill development, gender equity, urbanisation, boosting manufacturing and urbanisation.

Ms. Blanke said though monetary policy is important to boost growth, structural reforms such as ensuring labour market flexibility are also critical to power growth. Sarita Nayyar, Managing Director, WEF USA said the WEF is undertaking some initiatives with states including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to increase farmer income by helping forge partnerships around value chains. Another important topic of discussion will be fighting cybercrime through public-private partnerships, she said. Mr. Rosler said the WEF is looking to help kick-off for some projects in digital infrastructure, financial inclusion as well as education and health.

New regime at RBI debuts with rate cut

MUMBAI (KCN): The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided at its first policy review to reduce the benchmark repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India's key policy interest rate has now been cut to its lowest level since 2011.

The six-member MPC was unanimous in its decision, the RBI said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The decision of the MPC is consistent with an accommodative stance of monetary policy in consonance with the objective of achieving consumer price index inflation at 5 percent by Q4 of 2016-17," the central bank said in its statement. Retail inflation dropped to a five-month low of 5.05 per cent in August.

Governor Urjit Patel, who briefed the media for the first time since his elevation, gave no hint of what the

From Page-1

intricacies of innovations and successful strategies that has brought about a great change in the society.

Speaking on the occasion, SAI International Education Group Chairman Bijoy Kumar Sahoo said that the growth of a State is relatively proportional to its entrepreneur-

committee's future stance on interest rates could be. However, his colleague on the MPC and RBI Executive Director M.D. Patra hinted there was scope for policy interest rates to ease further when he said the neutral rate is 1.25 per cent, which is lower than the 1.5-2 per cent regime that prevailed under the previous governor Raghuram Rajan.

The neutral rate is the difference between the risk free rate and inflation — a key determinant of the policy rate.

"The RBI's cut today and the changed stance on real rates suggest that the tenets of the flexible inflation targeting framework, as interpreted by the previous RBI governor (Dr. Rajan) and the current governor (Dr. Patel), have implicitly changed," Nomura economists Sonal Verma and Neha Saraf wrote in a research note. Market partici-

Panel discussions were held during the two-day conclave where renowned leaders on diverse fields joined by a common purpose to elevate the entrepreneurial skills of the youth of the State, spoke on various intricacies of business.

More than 1500

All the brokerages and analysts said that having committed to keeping the liquidity deficit at neutral, the RBI will continue its liquidity injection through the open market operations or buyback of G-Secs. DBS said there can be Open Market Operations of up to Rs. 70,000 crore over the already done Rs. 1.1 lakh crore in the remainder of the fiscal till March 2017, while BofAML put the figure at Rs. 90,000 crore by March. Icria said the OMOs will be between Rs. 50,000-60,000 crore till December alone.

In a surprise move, the Patel-led MPC cut its key lending rates by 0.25 per cent to 6-year low of 6.25 per cent on ebbing inflation and to push the growth.

From Page-1

issued on Wednesday.

It said the body should be carried on a stretcher/cot as far as possible and it should also be kept appropriately in a designated place till all formalities are over.

While police stations in rural areas would get Rs 1,500 for transportation of the bodies, Rs 1,000 in case of urban areas and Rs 2,000 for "unusual cases".

If a family asks for a hearse, the district collector would give aid from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for transportation of the body from government hospital to the destination of the kin within the district.

The collector can sanction a maximum of Rs 2,000, or as per the guidelines of the state's Mahaprayan scheme.

The guidelines said if any suspicious carriage/movement by any person of a body is detected by hospital staff or security personnel, the person moving the body should be asked to produce the Death Slip, failing which such unauthorised movement of the body should be stopped.

The matter should be brought to the notice of medical officer/ staff nurse on duty in the institution. Upon getting such information, the medical officer on duty shall verify all documents and only on being satisfied as to their genuineness, shall allow the body to exit the hospital, said the notification.

Notably, tribal Dana Majhi in August this year had to walk about 10 km with his wife's body on his shoulder after he failed to get a hearse or an ambulance at Kalahandi district hospital to take the body to his village.

In the other incident in Balasore district, hospital workers broke a woman's body at hip, bundled it into a sheet and slung it from a pole to be taken for last rites.

Both incidents drew severe criticism of the Odisha government.

pants expect interest rates to ease further in the next policy review in December.

"We expect another 25 bps rate cut in 2016 which will be in the December quarter on expectation of inflation remaining around 5 per cent," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, CARE Ratings, wrote in a note to clients.

Governor Patel clarified that the central bank aims to achieve the 4 per cent inflation target within a range of +/- 2 per cent as the medium term objective, that is, by 2021. This means, the earlier objective of taming inflation to 4 per cent level by March 2018 stands null and void.

"Pending the amendment to the RBI Act and associated notifications, RBI indicated its resolve to contain inflation through self-imposed targets and framed an agreement with the government. Now all those ad-

Undergraduate Commerce students from various Schools and Colleges of the State attended the Conclave.

Various events and competitions like Quizzimodo, Brainboxer's Bureau Contest, StartupDisc, Drama-O-Cratic, Market Strike and Open events were

hoc measures are superseded by legal amendment and two associated legal notifications in addition to the MPC," Mr. Patel said.

The 25 basis points rate reduction was largely factored in by the market with the 30-share Sensex gaining 377.33 points on Monday on expectations of a rate cut. On Tuesday, the Sensex gained 91.26 points to close at 28,334.55.

With this rate cut, RBI has reduced the policy rate by 175 bps since January 2015. However, banks so far have not passed on the full quantum of the rate reductions to lending rates which Mr. Patel acknowledged.

"I agree that the transmission to bank lending and to bank borrowers has been less than any one of us would have liked. We are hoping that over the next quarter or two, keeping in mind that the government has also

organised during the conclave. Noted Quiz Master Gautam Ghosh, CEO Graycells, hosted the Quizzimodo, where teams from SAI International School won the first prize.

While teams from Xavier's University won the Brainboxer's Bureau Contest, SAI International

reduced the small savings rate, that the MCLR calculation will throw up more transmission," Mr. Patel said.

ICICI Bank — the largest private sector lender — reduced its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 5 basis points across various loan tenures. Post the cut, the one-month MCLR is 8.85 per cent, while the one-year MCLR is 9.05 per cent. Other banks indicated that they could cut lending rates if liquidity stays comfortable.

"The committee decision to cut repo rate by 25 bps was on the expected lines," said Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, State Bank of India. "With benign inflation trajectory going forward, RBI's policy stance is expected to remain accommodative. Banks will continue to transmit rates based on evolving liquidity scenario," she said.

School won the 1st and the 2nd prize in Drama-O-Cratic as well as StartupDisc event and in Market Strike, team from Mother's Public School emerged the winner.

Cultural programmes were conducted on both the days where renowned artists enthralled the cheering audience.

New method to minimise loss of play in rain-affected cricket matches

HYDERABAD (K-CN): What happened at Kingsmead, Queen's Park Oval and more recently at Green Park in Kanpur is fresh in memory. Rain had rendered the ground unfit for play resulting in Test matches in Durban and Port of Spain turning out to be a farce.

In the India-New Zealand Test in Kanpur, India's 500th Test match, which India won by 197 runs, the visitors were 152 for one at tea on the second day when it started raining. But though the rain relented and despite bright sunshine, the rest of the day's play was lost as the ground staff feared that removing covers immediately could endanger the ground. Moving the water logged covers, they reckoned, would result in seepage and more damage to ground

conditions. Agreed, elements are beyond control, but a solution to playground management is within reach. At least if Ch Yaamalaiah, a training and placement officer at Krishna Chaitanya Institute of Technology and Sciences in Markapur of Andhra Pradesh, is to be believed.

Yaamalaiah has applied for a patent titled: Methods and apparatus for covering a playground from rain. It was published by Intellectual Property India magazine (Aug 26, 2016).

The drill when it starts raining is cricket grounds are covered with multiple covers manually. It takes time to cover and they cannot cover the entire ground in time. Even after covering, rain water seeps through the edges and the ground

gets damp in case of heavy rain. Even with super soppers at work, it takes time to dry the covers and matches get delayed or sometimes cancelled after a long wait due to wet outfield.

Yaamalaiah reckons the outfield would not get wet if the entire ground is covered with a single cover in quick time. Rain water that falls on the cover, he said, will reach the boundary along the gutter/moat along the playing field. If his solution works fine, there will be no need for super soppers.

His invention, Yaamalaiah said, does exactly that. The Unicover method solves the problem by covering the entire ground with a single waterproof cover. That can be done by an apparatus which holds,

unrolls and rolls back the rain cover. Instead of allowing water and mopping, this apparatus prevents rain water from falling on the outfield surface and the cover does not allow water seeping on to the ground as the said cover has no gaps. Water that falls on the cover reaches the edge/boundary of the ground and exits through the ditch/gutter/moat.

Yaamalaiah said the apparatus is installed on one side of the ground near the boundary. It comprises two vertical bars, one rotatable horizontal bar and one rain cover. The waterproof cover, equivalent in size and shape of the playground, is wound to the horizontal bar that can be rotated with the help of an electric motor.

When it starts raining, the apparatus' cover holding the bar is

rotated so that the waterproof cover rolls on to the ground. Groundsmen spread the cover and rain water that collects on the cover rolls into the moat - as most playgrounds have surfaces that slope towards the boundary - so the ground staff can immediately roll back the covers, he said. The idea is to cover the ground up to the reach of the ditch, without allowing rain water to fall on the surface so that play can resume immediately after rain.

The closest invention to his apparatus, or 'prior art' Yaamalaiah said, is the Brumbella. It carries rain cover on to the ground and spreads on the surface but is heavy and could

damage the pitch. It's also slow and cannot cover the entire ground. Other solutions include

close when super sopper runs and wetness accumulates over a larger area instead of

said. It was sheer imagination that led to this discovery. "I follow cricket closely and was wondering if I could come up with an invention that could minimize loss of play. I'm grateful for all the technical support from the college, especially the Mechanical Engineering department in finding an alternative like this. My position envisages new opportunities for students with new developments in technology and I hope this will be one, but 'patent infringement' is very common and I have to be on guard," said the Science undergraduate, who also has a Masters degree in English Literature.



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