

## NITI favors energy efficiency Allow free flow @ Kalma

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a bid to ensure efficient use of power, NITI Aayog has urged the State Government for bringing the Residential Buildings within the purview of energy efficiency norms in a time-bound manner.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitbah Kant has written to the Odisha Government in this regard favoring the recommendations of the Regional Workshops on Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC).

Mr.Kant has said that five Regional Workshops on ECBC implementation in states were organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with AEEE and with support from UNDP-BEE-GEF Project.

According to one of the major recommendations inclusion of the Residential Sector is needed looking into growing energy demands of

the domestic sector.

So the State Government may consider exploring inclusion of residential sector at the earliest to reap higher energy efficiency benefits in the building sector as a whole, said Mr.Kant.

He said that there is lack of clarity between officials of the Department of Urban Development and Department of Energy as to who will be responsible for ensuring compliance of ECBC Provisions, while approving Building Plans.

A coordination Mechanism needed to be instituted so that huge opportunity of saving energy in the building sector can be gained, said he.

An Apex Committee headed by Chief Secretary and a Steering Committee headed by Principal Secretary Energy or Urban Development needed to be formed to provide necessary

direction and guidance for implementation of ECBC.

In the meantime the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in technical cooperation with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) had concluded implementation of energy conservation measures in two prominent Government buildings, i.e. NITI Aayog and Shram Shakti Bhawan in the National Capital, which house various Government departments.

In NITI Aayog Building it has been demonstrated that energy savings has been achieved in the range of 35-40 Percent.

Looking at the success it has been suggested that few landmark buildings, like State Secretariat, Hospitals and other buildings can be taken up for energy efficiency drive.

For continuous improvement, monitoring of performance

is essential. Mandating disclosure of energy use for all Public and private commercial buildings with a connected load of 100 Kilo Watt or more will go a long way in ensuring better energy management.

Lauding Telengana System the NITI Aayog CEO said that there is a need for development of online tools and Telengana has initiated the process and the model is needed to be adopted in the State, which will make the process of building in energy efficiency hassle free.

As a first major step to start with the NITI Aayog has urged the State Government to notify the ECBC Notification in the State Gazette as only 10 States have notified although Ten years have been passed since introduction of ECBC in the country and this is needed to be fast tracked, said he.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Mahanadi is the pulsing artery of the State of Odisha sustaining the living and livelihood of 14 districts of the state.

After operationalization of six numbers of barrages across river Mahanadi by State of Chhattisgarh, Hirakud reservoir is facing the challenge of continuously reducing inflow during the recent non monsoon starting from November 2016.

This fact was appraised to Chhattisgarh by Chief Secretary Odisha APPadhi during November 2016 itself requesting them not to operate these six barrages.

In the month of January 2017, State of Chhattisgarh was again requested by Hirakud Project Authorities as well as by Central Water Commission to ensure the free flow in Mahanadi in the summer months, said Pradeep Jena, Principal Secretary Water Resources.

Today, at the end of the non monsoon, the scenario of reduction of inflow to Hirakud reservoir is amply clear from the observations recorded at Hirakud Dam site.

EIC(WR), has made three comparative scenarios i.e., what is the monthly reduction of inflow to Hirakud reservoir in comparison to previous 3 years, 5 years and previous 10 years. The table below summarizes the fact, which is self-ex-

planatory.

Percentage reduction of inflow into Hirakud Reservoir during non-monsoon months of 2016-2017

Looking at the severity of the situation especially during the previous months of April and May and likely unrest amongst the people who are actually affected by this unreasonable and unethical action on part of State of Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appraised the matter to his counterpart on 3th June 2017.

But it is unfortunate that the State of Chhattisgarh is spreading wrong information about the gate operation at Kalma.

The pond level is to an inter-State Tri-



frequently changing as per the information bunal, Odisha has also filed an original

Cases	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Comparison with last three years (2013-14 to 2015-16)							
Comparison with last five years (2011-12 to 2015-16)	46.81	20.99	26.13	26.10	40.65	66.56	79.37
Comparison with last ten years (2005-06 to 2015-16)	42.20	13.50	35.74	22.99	19.16	68.09	75.90
	41.07	32.85	30.93	39.19	27.56	73.02	77.78

The gates are operated in an improper manner, with an intention to arbitrarily restrict the flow and by this action the inflow to the reservoir is reducing.

In the name of changing gate bays from time to time, which is frequently done by switching amongst the 66 numbers of gates, they resort to complete closure for sizeable time periods. In the name of testing the gates, gate closure option has been adopted.

available with Hirakud Dam authorities.

Because of these actions, the inflow to Hirakudreservoir has reduced considerably.

Odisha Government has already filed a statutory complaint under Sec.3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act of 1956 and one of the disputes in the complaint specifically refers to six barrages including Kalma barrage.

During the pendency of the reference of the complaint

suit in the Supreme Court of India along with Interlocutory Application to restrain Chhattisgarh Government from proceeding with the construction of six barrages, including Kalma barrage across inter-State Mahanadi river. When the matter is pending before the Apex Court, it is requested by the State Government that the Government of Chhattisgarh to release free flow in Mahanadi River downstream of Kalma barrage.

## Three dead in violence during farmers' stir in MP's Mandasaur, police deny involvement

**BHOPAL(KCN):** At least three farmers were killed and four others were critically injured in firing on agitating farmers in Mandasaur district of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. As the agitation spread further, the state administration has stopped internet services in three districts of the state.

Official sources

in Bhopal confirmed the three deaths and said curfew has been imposed in Pipliya Mandi and Mandasaur towns.

The state government has announced a judicial probe into the incident. According to official sources, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called an emergency high-level meeting in Bhopal

after receiving a report on the incident and is likely to cancel his visit to Gwalior slated for later in the day.

Farmers in Madhya Pradesh have been agitating for higher returns for the last six days. Mandasaur district, on the border with Rajasthan, is the epicentre of the agitation.

The firing incident happened in Bahi village in Mandasaur district (350 km from Bhopal) at around 1.30 pm.

Farmers alleged that three men, Kanhaiya Lal Patidar (50), Chainram Patidar (28) and Babloo (24), were killed and four others were injured.

Police See page-7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Running Shaadi.com will clash with another of

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

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

and pushing my barriers," Taapsee expresses.

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

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

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

**Get engaged**

Actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Chaitanya Akkineni got engaged in a private ceremony in Hyderabad on Sunday. Actor Nagarjuna took to Twitter to announce the good news about his son Chaitanya saying: "#Chaisam It's official now. My mother is my daughter now."

Couldn't be happier!! more pics to come" (sic) a few hours after the event. The actor was hinting at Samantha (who played his mother in the Akkineni family magnum opus Manam in 2014), turning his daughter once she steps into the household as his eldest daughter-in-law. He shared photographs of the couple exchanging rings and a family photograph too, featuring the new couple, his younger son Akhil Akkineni and soon to be



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

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

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

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

## Gigi and Bella Hadid join anti-Trump rally

NEW YORK (KCN): Models and sisters Gigi and Bella

Jordanian-American, Muslim and of Palestinian descent, were

"We are all Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Atheists, Christians,

coloured knit turtle-neck which cropped

jacket. They were joined by their mum



Hadid took to the streets here against US President Donald Trump's ban on entry of citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries.

The sisters, whose father Mohamed Hadid is

seen at the Battery Park shouting "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here", reports aceshowbiz.com

When marching down a blocked-off roadway, they held up a sign which read:

Jews."

Certain key letters from each denomination written in the protest sign were highlighted to spell out: "We are all humans."

Bella flashed her tummy in a cream

above her pants. She donned a pair of skintight jeans and sneakers.

Gigi sported a cropped pair of denim with a red stripe on the sides, completing her look with a red puffer

Yolanda Hadid at the rally.

It's not the first time Gigi has expressed her political views. Earlier, she voiced her support for a Women's March in Washington.



daughter-in-law Shriya Bhupal, along with wife Amala. The date for the high-profile wedding is yet to be announced.

## Govt's proposal to privatise AI to benefit private carriers: CITU

**New Delhi(KCN):** The CITU today termed the government's proposal to privatise Air India as an exercise with a dubious intent to fritter away a national asset to benefit private airlines.

The major trade union also said that the move was against the national interest and ill-timed as it came when Air India has posted an operating profit for the first time in 10 years since its merger with Indian Airlines.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley had recently favoured disinvestment of the loss-making flag carrier, saying the airline's market share is just around 14 per cent whereas the debt burden was Rs 50,000 crore. He had also said that the taxpayer's money could be better utilised such as for promoting education rather than in keeping the airline afloat. Following this, the civil aviation ministry yesterday said it has received recommendations from the NITI Aayog and is looking at all possible alternatives to make Air India viable.

"The privatisation of Air India is not for saving public money but for frittering away a national asset and exchequer for the benefit of private corporate and private airlines, both domestic and foreign.

This is an exercise with a dubious intent, totally against the national interest," a statement issued by the Left affiliated Centre for Indian Trade Union (CITU). Air India is surviving on a Rs 30,000 crore bail-out package, spread over 10 years, announced by the Manmohan Singh government in 2012.

In 2015-16, the airline posted operational profit of Rs 105 crore on account of low fuel prices and increased passenger numbers. According to CITU, the Air India

has accumulated such a huge loss due to the burden of debt servicing.

It also said that the successive government's at the Centre, and not the airline's management, were to be blamed for the financial mess of Air India. "Air India which had been a profit making company till 2007, pushed to loss and debt-burdened by the bungling and disastrous experiments by the successive governments at the Centre on the national carrier's organisational structure.

For this, the company management cannot be held responsible," the statement said. CITU has also asked that if the government is willing to write off the Rs 30,000 crore debt for the prospective private buyer why it could not make a similar offer to Air India.

## NDTV shares tank nearly 7 per cent in intra-day after CBI searches

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Shares of NDTV today tanked nearly 7 per cent in intra-day after the CBI carried out searches at the residence of its founder Prannoy Roy for allegedly concealing a share transaction from Sebi and causing loss to a private bank.

The stock plunged 6.74 per cent to Rs 58.10 -- its 52-week low -- on BSE during the day. Later,

it trimmed some of the losses and ended at Rs 60.45, down 2.97 per cent.

On NSE, shares of the company tumbled 6.88 per cent to Rs 58.15 in intra-day and finally closed at Rs 59.85, down 4.16 per cent.

No political interference in NDTV raids: Venkaiah Naidu

On the volume front, 1.20 lakh shares of the company were traded on

BSE and over 10 lakh shares changed hands on NSE during the day.

The CBI has registered a case against RRPR Holding Pvt Limited, Prannoy Roy, his wife Radhika and unidentified officials of ICICI Bank of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption.

The FIR said that a loss of Rs 48 crore was caused to ICICI Bank and consequent gain by RRPR.

## Ikea acquires land in Bengaluru for setting up store

**New Delhi(KCN):** Swedish furniture retailer Ikea has acquired land in Bengaluru from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation for an undisclosed sum as part of its plans to start retail operations in India.

The 14 acres site in Bengaluru is the third land acquisition by the home furnishing retailer after Hyderabad and Mumbai. Ikea is slated to open its first store in India in Hyderabad early next year.

"The IKEA store in Bengaluru is planned to be around 4.5 lakh square feet and is expected to have more than 5 million visitors per year," the company said in a statement.

The company has acquired the land located in Nagasandra on Tumkur road from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation.

Commenting on the development, IKEA India CEO Juvencio Maeztu said: "Karnataka is a highly strategic and

important market for IKEA. Along with retail stores, IKEA's Purchasing team will also grow local sourcing and engage with local artisan and communities in many projects."

The store would employ 500 to 700 co-workers in which 50 per cent would be women. Besides, 1,500 people would also be engaged indirectly in services. "Each IKEA store will employ 500-700 co-workers directly and another 1,500 people indirectly in different services.

## Growth has slowed down due to demonetisation: Manmohan Singh at CWC meet

**NEW DELHI (KCN):** Former Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh today said the country's growth has slowed down mainly because of demonetisation and the economy is running on just one engine of public spending.

He expressed serious concern over the situation, particularly the impact on job creation.

Singh, in his intervention at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meet,

talked about the decline in the economic growth as depicted in the last quarter GDP numbers. Related Article



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talked about the decline in the economic growth as depicted in the last quarter GDP numbers. Related Article

narrow-minded view: Sonia Gandhi at CWC meeting

He said the slow down was primarily due to demonetisation announced last year. He said the Gross Value Addition (GVA) is the true sub-measure of economic activity and it has experienced a steep and sustained fall.

**from Page-1** officers would not confirm whether it was their personnel who opened fire on a group of farmers.

Senior officer V Madhu Kumar denied that it was police or paramilitary personnel who opened fire on the farmers. He said it was possible that some residents shot at the agitating farmers.

Deputy inspector-general of police (Ratlam Range) Avinash Sharma said, "As per preliminary information, it was local residents who clashed with protesting farmers. They may have opened fire. We are gathering details on the incident."

To stop the spread of information on social media, the state government has shut down internet services in at least three districts in western Madhya Pradesh -- Mandasaur, Ujjain and Ratlam. Internet services were shut down since Monday midnight in Mandasaur, and in the other two districts on Tuesday.

The Congress party, which is supporting the farmers, condemned the internet shutdown. "Are these farmers terrorists? Is the situation worse than in Jammu & Kashmir," asked state Congress spokesperson K K Mishra.

A group of agitators tried to uproot the railway track on the Ratlam-Udaipur section of Western Railway last night.

The incident happened at midnight when agitating farmers broke open the

Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. "The bandh will be in force from the morning till 2 pm. It has the support of all farmer bodies, including the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), the Aam Kisan Union

Shiv Kumar Sharma 'Kakkaji' had to abandon his speech when some Congress leaders tried to sneak into our protest in Indore," said Gaur.

The Rajendra Nagar police in Indore have booked

Express on the telephone on Tuesday that he and his family were being dragged into the matter by the police in Ratlam.

The SP of Ratlam, Amit Kumar Singh has announced a Rs 10,000 reward



gate at a railway crossing in Daloda and tried to uproot the tracks. "Police rushed to the spot and stopped the farmers. Five persons were arrested and the track has been restored," said the superintendent of police of Mandasaur, O P Tripathi.

The Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Sangh (RKMS), which is leading the stir since June 1, has announced a state-wide shutdown in

(AKU) and the Kisan Jagriti Manch (KJM)," said RKMS state spokesperson Sunil Gaur.

Gaur said some vested interests were inciting violence in the name of the farmers' stir and slammed the Congress for trying to hijack a peaceful movement.

"The Congress has nothing to do with our stir and it's vested interests like the Congress which are inciting violence. On Tuesday, our chief

two brothers of Jeetu Patwari, the Congress MLA from Rau (Indore), for inciting violence. The Ratlam Industrial Area police booked Ratlam panchayat vice-chairman and Congress leader D P Dhakar in an attempt-to-murder case for allegedly inciting a mob to attack police personnel in Delanpur village on Sunday, which injured an assistant sub inspector (ASI).

Dhakar, however, told the New Indian

for the capture of Dhakar, who is on the run. In Bhopal, meanwhile, the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (an RSS-affiliated body) regional organizational secretary Shivkant Dixit said his group has withdrawn its call for a 'gram bandh.' He, however, added that protests planned by BKS between July 5 and July 15 for a special session of the Assembly would be carried out as planned.

# Indian men's hockey team loses 0-2 to Germany



**DUSSELDORF(KCN):** Hosts Germany overpowered the Indian men's hockey team 2-0 in an action-packed encounter to end its campaign at the three-nations invitational tournament on a winning note here today.

Germany had previously won 2-1 against Belgium,

drew 2-2 with India and lost 2-5 to Belgium in their opening match. They finished with seven points while India earned four points from their outings.

Though India began well and won a PC as early as the 2nd minute of the match, the German defence was too good

to break for young defender Harmanpreet Singh who had scored a double in India's 3-2 win against Belgium yesterday.

The following minutes of the first quarter saw Germany, the bronze medallists at Rio Olympics, showcase an improvised execu-

tion of attack and ball possession to take early control of the match.

They came up with different variations to make space in the striking circle and found success with Thies Ole Prinz perfectly deflecting the ball into the post in the seventh minute to take Germany's score

to 1-0.

Though they earned a PC seconds before the first hooter, Germany couldn't convert the shot as India keeper Akash Chikte came up with a good save.

India played the second quarter patiently, rotating the ball between themselves and waiting for

an opening in the German defence.

After several circle penetrations, India bagged their second PC of the game in the 29th minute. The opportunity went amiss though and the first half ended with a 1-0 advantage to Germany.

After a goalless

third quarter, India continued to stand up to the German challenge, getting closer each time to finding a breakthrough. An opportunity came by with a little over three minutes left for the final hooter when India won another PC but Harmanpreet Singh's fiercely struck flick was de-

fended by the German goalkeeper.

India pulled out their goalkeeper to play with an extra attacker but could not materialise. Germany, meanwhile, succeeded in pumping their second goal in the 60th minute, thanks to Timm Herzbruch.

**Didier Deschamps hails fabulous Real Madrid gaffer Zinedine Zidane**

**CLAIREFONTAINE YVELINES:** Didier Deschamps on Monday hailed the fabulous destiny of former France teammate Zinedine Zidane, who lead Real Madrid to consecutive Champions League titles.

"It's fabulous, no-one had done it," said France coach Deschamps of Zidane's achievement.

"He was two-time European champion in a year and a half as coach. I'm very happy for him. It caps a season (in which he was) champion of Spain and champion of Europe. It's hard to do better."

## Ronaldo scores on return home as Portugal loses to Sweden

**FUNCHAL(KCN):** Cristiano Ronaldo scored on his emotional return home, but Portugal squandered a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 to Sweden in a friendly on Tuesday.

Ronaldo found the net 18 minutes into his first match with the national team in his hometown of Funchal on the Madeira Islands, delighting the nearly 10,000 fans who packed the tiny Estadio do Maritimo to see their local hero.

Ronaldo was the main attraction from the start, getting a loud ovation from the crowd even before the match started by lifting and displaying the trophy that he helped Portugal win

for the first time in last year's European Championship.

With his mother and son watching from the tribunes, Ronaldo opened the scoring with a close-range shot after a right-flank cross by Gelson Martins. He then set up the move that led to an own goal by Sweden defender Andreas Granqvist in the 34th.

However, Viktor Claesson started the comeback for the visitors with a shot from inside the area in the 57th minute and then netted the equalizer from a corner kick in the 76th.

An own goal by Joan Cancelo in the third and final minute of stoppage time handed victory to

Sweden

The fans chanted Ronaldo's name several times, including when he was substituted by veteran Ricardo Quaresma in the 58th minute.

On Wednesday, the Madeira airport outside Funchal will be renamed after Ronaldo in a ceremony attended by the Real Madrid player and his relatives. Funchal already features a Ronaldo statue, a museum about the player, and a HOTEL complex named after him.

Ronaldo grew up in the city sharing a room with his older brother and two older sisters before moving to the mainland to join the youth squads

of Sporting Lisbon. From there, he made it to Manchester United and eventually to Madrid, becoming one of the world's biggest soccer stars. He received his fourth world player of the year award in January.

Ronaldo is regarded as a promoter of Madeira, which is considered one of the world's top travel destinations. The islands are located about 500 kilometers (310 miles) from the African coast, and some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the European continent.

Portugal was coming off a convincing 3-0 win over Hungary in World Cup qualifying on

Saturday in Lisbon, when Ronaldo scored twice and youngster Andre Silva added another. Ronaldo is the leading scorer in European qualifying with nine goals, one more than Poland's Robert Lewandowski.

Ronaldo has scored nine goals in his last four European qualifiers with the national team.

Portugal has 12 points from five matches in qualifying, three points less than Group B leader Switzerland. Hungary is five points behind Portugal. Only the group winner automatically qualifies for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

## Two uncapped players in Sri Lanka Test squad for series against Bangladesh

**COLOMBO(KCN):** Sri Lanka on Wednesday named two uncapped players in a 15-member squad led by spinner Rangana Herath for the two-Test home series against Bangladesh starting next week.

All-rounder Malinda Pushpakumara, 29, was brought into the squad after he led Sri Lanka A to a three-wicket victory over England Lions in an unofficial Test on Monday, the Sri Lankan board said.

Fast bowler Vikum Sanjaya Bandara, 25, was called up for a second time. He was first named into the Test squad in December

for the South African tour, but did not play.

Sri Lanka's regular skipper Angelo Mathews has been left out of the two Tests against Bangladesh, but the Sri Lankan board has not ruled him out of the three one-day internationals and the two Twenty20 games. The first Test starts in Galle on March 7.

Mathews returned home in January, halfway through the South African tour, after twisting his ankle.

Herath filled in for Mathews during Sri Lanka's tour of Zimbabwe in November, when he led his side to victory in both Tests.