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BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3

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**BUMRAH
RISES IN TEST
RANKINGS
15 SPORT**

ACHCHHE DIN FOR CONGRESS

BJP's crushing defeat gives Rahul's party much-needed revival platform

Cong holds fort, but Shivraj shows fighting spirit

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's moral-shattering defeat in the saffron bastions of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has placed the Congress on a much-needed revival path and thrown the next year's Lok Sabha contest wide open. The Congress victory in the three crucial Hindi heartland States will also firmly establish the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and help him shed the numerous pejorative tags so often hurled on him by his critics. The final tally may not reflect the extent of the Congress gain. In both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the BJP had secured over 10 per cent more vote than the Congress in the 2013 Assembly polls. Bridging the gap and going ahead in such scenario is not an easy task unless there is a massive undercurrent against the ruling party. The results show that anti-incumbency — both against the State Governments and against the Centre worked decisively in favour of the Congress and helped it demolish the BJP's strongholds. The setback will haunt the BJP like a dreadful nightmare in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls for more than one reason. To start with, in all the three States the "minorities" consisted of mere six to seven per cent

of voters, far below the percentage of the Muslim vote in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, etc. The outcome shows the success of Rahul's pursuit of "soft Hindutva" as well as the failure of the BJP in reviving the Hindu frenzy by raking up the issue of Ram temple in a big way. The Congress strategy was two-fold: Consolidate minority vote bank and make sure that the BJP does not succeed in polarising the Hindu vote in its favour. No surprise that while Congress leaders like Kamal Nath were caught in video tapes making downright "communal," overture to the Muslims in Madhya Pradesh, the same party was also promising "gaushala" in every district and "temple run" became the hallmark of Rahul's election campaign. On its part, the BJP kept telling the voters that it was the only party committed to building grand Ram Temple at Ayodhya while its opponents were trying to scuttle the same. Prime Minister Narendra Modi bowled a googly when he referred as "fatwah" Rahul Gandhi's innocuous remarks that the PM should think of the poor, the helpless, the unemployed youth, the farmers, etc, while invoking Bharat Mata Ki Jai in his rallies. The choice of word "fatwah" in a Rajasthan rally by the PM was clear sign

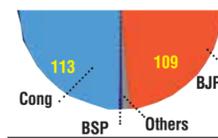
of desperation to polarise the voters. Alas, it didn't work! It was obvious that the issues of unemployment, the tragic legacy of demonetisation and GST, the plight of farmers, the anger among the upper caste voters, the disenchantment of the Dalits were such overwhelming "negatives" for the BJP that "Hindustan" chant failed to save the saffron outfit from the wrath of the disillusioned voters. With just five months to go for the Lok Sabha polls, the setback in these three crucial States will make the BJP's task to return to the power at the Centre much more difficult. Together, the three States elect 65 MPs to the Lok Sabha. The BJP had won 61 of these seats by capturing all the 25 seats from Rajasthan, bagging 26 out of 29 seats from Madhya Pradesh, and 10 out of 11 seats from Chhattisgarh. Now that the party has been voted out of power in these three states, the BJP will face serious challenge in retaining its number, which could seriously jeopardise its chances of returning to power at the Centre. On the other hand, the Congress will be well-placed to capitalise on the momentum and try to increase its tally in a bid to meet its stated goal of winning nearly 125 seats in the Lok Sabha.



A Congress supporter waves party flag to celebrate party's win in the Assembly elections, at party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As the Congress almost reached near the half-way mark in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, the next contest within the party is the choice of Chief Minister. Congress won 113 seats, two seats below the magic figure of 116 in the 230-seat Assembly. The BJP, under the leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan, has given the spirited challenge to the Congress by winning 110 seats, 6 short of the majority mark. PCC chief Kamal Nath has convened a meeting of the newly-elected Congress candidates at the PCC headquarters at 4 pm on Wednesday. The Congress camp was jubilant since Tuesday morning



when the early trends showed an edge to the Congress. A big LED screen was placed at the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) office and the party workers and leaders remained glued to the screen throughout the day. In the afternoon, Kamal Nath, former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh and Congress parliamentarian Jyotiraditya Scindia reached the PCC and reviewed the polls results. There was no clear majority for the Congress, but the senior leaders discussed the possibility of forming a Government.

Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is seen as a contender for the chief ministership, was evasive when asked by reporters as to who would be occupying the top post. "Let the result come first," he said, adding, "We will create an environment of peace, justice, and development if we come to power in Madhya Pradesh," Scindia added. The Congress, which has been trying to dislodge the three-term BJP Government in the State, expressed confidence that the party would cross the majority mark. "As I said, the Congress is winning. We are going to get full majority," Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee chief Kamal Nath said.

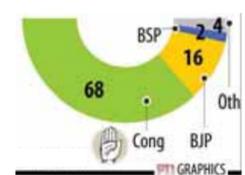
Loan waiver pledge does trick for Congress in Chhattisgarh

SUJEET KUMAR ■ RAIPUR

The Congress, which was out of power for 15 years in mineral-rich Chhattisgarh, staged a stunning comeback on Tuesday, courtesy a key promise to waive bank loans to millions of farmers who are reeling under steep debts. The BJP bit the dust in its bastion as it refused to honour its commitment to help out farmers in a State which is categorised as the rice bowl of the country. Political analysts admitted that the arrogance and

deep-rooted corruption in the rank and file of the BJP Government scripted its crushing defeat.

The Congress bagged a two-third majority in the 90-member State Assembly. Former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, who aligned with the BSP and the CPI in a bid to win a few seats to use it as a bargaining chip in the case of a hung Assembly, was left high and dry because of the landslide victory of the Congress.

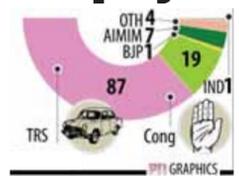


Analysts say the Congress' promise to write off bank loans of farmers within 10 days of coming to power and give a massive hike in minimum support price (MSP) and slash power tariff up to 50 per cent were the prime reasons for the Congress win and the downfall of BJP's longest serving Chief Minister Raman Singh, who began his political career in 1983 as a councillor.

KCR gamble pays dividends

M MADHUSUDAN ■ NEW DELHI

K Chandrasekhar Rao passed the Assembly poll test with flying 'pink' colour on Tuesday as his much-trumpeted 'sops story' thumped the Congress-Telugu Desam Party (TDP) combine's 'sob story' about India's youngest revenue-surplus State having been turned into a major debtor by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief. The Congress-led grouping named itself the People's Front but the masses went with KCR, as Rao is popularly known, and gave him a second term at the helm. Not just him, the Telangana electorate even ensured victories for KCR's son KT Rama Rao and nephew T Harish Rao, rejecting the "nepotism" and "family rule" charges against him. The results should serve as a major learning



experience for the Congress. Working overtime to stitch up a mahagathabandhan to take on the BJP's might in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, it should know the complexities at the regional levels, that too, involving regional satraps. In the Lok Sabha poll that is just months away, the Congress may have to rethink its strategy of joining hands with its foe-turned-friend TDP, which is seen by the people in the State as a party that had opposed Telangana's

creation. In fact, TDP, which had 15 MLAs in the dissolved Assembly, could win just 2 seats even as it contested 13 seats in all. KCR lost no time in announcing his intention of delving into national politics now that he is firmly in the saddle in the State. Also, having not taken Chandrababu Naidu's "meddling" in Telangana politics lightly, he has already cautioned the TDP chief about his plans to extract revenge. In Telangana, it is KCR's sop distribution-cum-promises spree involving most sections of the society that led the voters to come out in droves to propel

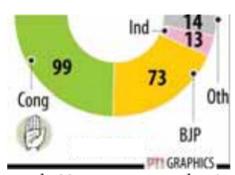
BJP fails to break Raj 20-yr trend

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite last minute blitzkrieg by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP lost the Rajasthan Assembly election, failing to break the trend which continues in the State for the past 20 years. As per results, the Congress is set to form the Government in the State as the party has won over 99 seat of the 199 seat while the BJP managed to retain only 73 seats. The BSP, CPI (Marxist) and others have managed to win 27 seats. Now the question is who will be Chief Minister - Ashok Gehlot or Sachin Pilot? The Congress central leadership has already directed its elected MLAs to assemble in Jaipur on Wednesday. According to sources in the Congress, party president Rahul Gandhi will



take a call on the CM face by Wednesday. Gehlot is seen a clear front-runner. The voting share analysis shows the BJP's votes have fallen from 45.2 per cent in 2013 to 38.8 per cent now. It was much higher at nearly 55 per cent in 2014, when the party won all 25 Lok Sabha seats from the State. On the other hand, the Congress has improved its vote share from 33.1 per cent in 2013 to 39.2 per cent in 2018. It had managed to get

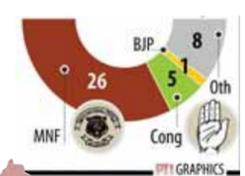


nearly 30 per cent votes despite losing on all seats in last parliamentary elections. Chief Minister Vasundhara Rajé, Sachin Pilot and Ashok Gehlot have all won their respective seats of Jhalrapatan, Tonk and Sardarpura. The Congress has banked on the strong anti-incumbency factor, while the BJP relied on the Rajé's performance and charisma of Modi and hoped to break the State's tradition of having Chief Ministers of alternate parties for every Assembly election since 1993.

Cong loses last bastion in N-E at MNF hands

PTI ■ AIZAWL

The Mizo National Front (MNF) on Tuesday scripted a spectacular victory in Mizoram, uprooting the Congress in its last bastion in the North-East to return to power after 10 years. The MNF won 26 seats in the 40-member Assembly, a gain of 21 seats since 2013. The Congress managed to bag only five seats compared to 34 seats it won in the 2013 Assembly elections. MNF president Zoramthanga accompanied by top party leaders met Governor Kumanam Rajasekharan at the Raj Bhavan here in the evening and staked claim to form a



Government. Party sources said the Governor Zoramthanga that he was yet to receive the official letter from the Election Commission and hoped that he would be able to invite the MNF to form a Government by Wednesday afternoon. "Arrangements are being made for the swearing-in of the new Government by Saturday," a source said.

Victory and defeat are an integral part of life. Today's results will further our resolve to serve people and work even harder for the development of India... Congratulations to the Congress for their victories



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

I am proud of the development works done by the BJP Government in five years and believe that the upcoming Government will continue the works and projects



VASUNDHARA RAJE

...Congress-mukt Bharat...BJP-mukt Bharat...That is needed...We will unveil the whole thing in Delhi in 10 days



K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO

The semifinal proves that BJP is nowhere in all the States. This is a real democratic indication of 2019 final match. Ultimately, people are always the 'man of the match' of democracy. My congrats to the winners



MAMATA BANERJEE

People rejected Mandir-Masjid politics, results show political awakening on rise in India

MEHBOOBA MUFTI

The election was solely contested on State agenda and it is not related to Delhi. We will sit with the party workers and analyse the defeat in detail. This will not reflect on the Lok Sabha election

RAMAN SINGH

BJP's '120+ Mission Odisha' ridiculed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP's "Mission Odisha 120+", as envisioned by party president Amit Shah to capture more than 120 seats in the 147-member State Assembly in the 2019 elections now ridiculed in the BJD and Congress circles in the wake of the saffron party's setback in the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh polls. BJD leaders repeated their earlier taunt that the BJP's assertion about 120 seats would maximum end with the '0' from the end (that is 12) or the '1'

from the beginning (that is 20). A BJD leader mocked at the BJP pointing out the recent result of the Bijatala Zilla Parishad Zone by-poll election, in which the BJD wrested the seat from the BJP by a huge margin of votes. A pall of gloom descended on the BJP camps across Odisha following election outcomes from the three party-ruled States on the day.

Jubilant Cong expects BJD ouster in Odisha

People continue trusting Naveen, says BJD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Congress is upbeat over the pro-Congress results of the Assembly elections in the BJP-ruled States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh declared on Tuesday. With general elections most likely in early March next year, the Congress now hopes to replicate the success in Odisha too. Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik said, "Prime Minister Modi wanted a 'Congress-free India'. He should see the condition of his



party in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, where the BJP was in power. Now, the country is going to become a 'BJP-free India', Patnaik remarked. He said, "After

Chhattisgarh, I hope the same situation will repeat here in Odisha where people will reject the ruling BJD and give the Congress a mandate to form government in the upcoming Assembly polls." "The way both BJP and BJD created a drought situation in Odisha, we hope to get some relief after discussing the Mahanadi issue with the new government led by the Congress in Chhattisgarh," he said. Celebrations broke out in

Celebrations broke out in front of party offices across the State with busting of firecrackers, exchange of sweets and dancing to the beats of drums

front of party offices across the State with busting of firecrackers, exchange of sweets and dancing to the beats of drums. BJD spokesperson Arun Sahoo, however, said the poll results of the BJP-ruled States would have no impact in Odisha in the 2019 elections as people of the State continue reposing their trust on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Naveen: Poll results show nation's mood

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Reacting to the election results in five States on Tuesday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday congratulated the Congress, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and others for winning in the polls. "I congratulate the Congress, the TRS and the north-eastern parties for their success in the elections. It clearly shows the mood of the nation, said Patnaik. "These States are agrarian States. The BJP Government at the Centre more or less ignored the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee Report and loan problems of the farmers. This led to the results in Assembly Elections in several States," said Patnaik while speaking to reporters.



"As I said often before, the BJD remains equidistant from both the BJP and the Congress," he added while responding to a query over the possibility of a Mahagathabandhan ahead of the 2019 elections in Odisha. Patnaik further said, "Though we have extended issue-based support, we remain equidistant from both the BJP and the Congress. There is no firm 'Mahagathabandhan' now and let's see what happens in future."

Rural hosp beds: Odisha at bottom in country

- 3% PHCs have at least 4 beds in 16-17
- 2% PHCs have at least 4 beds in 17-18
- 16% CHCs have at least 30 beds in 16-17
- 12% CHCs have at least 30 beds in 17-18

SANJEEV KUMAR PATRO ■ BHUBANESWAR

Notwithstanding last year's budget announcement of launch of a new scheme Mukhyamantri Swasthya Seva Mission (MSSM) on lines of the National Health Mission (NHM) with a fat allocation Rs 760 crore for infrastructure development of health institutions (PHCs and CHCs) by then FM Pradip Amat, the

reality check is strength of beds, a basic right for an admitted patient in a health centre, has dipped in State's health centres like PHCs and CHCs in 2017-18.

And the irony is the Government hospitals in rural Odisha with fewer beds in rural health centres have topped the country, only hilly and some north-eastern States are behind Odisha.

Sample this: The number of community health centres (CHC) having at least 30 beds in Odisha by the end of March 31, 2017 was around 60, but the number of CHCs with at least 30 beds declined to mere 46 as on March 31, 2018. Odisha has around 377 CHCs.

Similarly, when as of March end 2017, Odisha had around 37 PHCs with at least 4-beds, the numbers have dwindled to mere around 26 by

Only north-eastern States like Mizoram, Manipur and hilly States like Himachal are behind Odisha in rural hospital beds

March 31, 2018. In proportionate terms, now only 2 per cent PHCs in Odisha have 4 beds vis-a-vis 3 per cent in 2016-17 and only around 12 per cent CHCs have at least 30 beds against 16 per cent in 2016-17.

For the dip, Odisha dubiously has topped the country with least number of beds in rural hospitals, as PHCs and CHCs cater to rural populace.

Only north-eastern States like Mizoram, Manipur and hilly States like Himachal are behind Odisha in rural hospital beds.

An analysis shows for a

total of 1,659 rural hospitals, Odisha now has only around 6,400 beds, which then work out to less than 4 beds in each hospital. In contrast, the data with the Central Health Directorate shows that for a total of over 11,054 rural hospitals nationally, the total beds available stood at over 2.09 lakh, which then boils down to around 19 beds per hospital. Here too, a north-eastern State like Arunachal Pradesh piped Odisha as it has around 10 beds per rural hospital.

Moreover, the revelation is when hospitals in rural areas during the last 7 years have risen by around 50 in Odisha, the number of beds available has decreased by an eye-popping 29 per cent. The result: Average population served per Government hospital bed in Odisha has slipped to around 2,294 against 2,711 in 2009.

Notably, Odisha's health policy seems festering yawning rural - urban divide as data reveals when for over 3.8 crore rural population, the average beds per rural Government hospitals were around 4. By contrast, for the 20 per cent urban populace, average beds per urban Government hospitals stood at a whopping 92 in Odisha. This is so, when around 70 per cent of admissions to hospitals were from rural areas.

Significantly, expenditure by the State Government on health and family welfare during 2001-2017 has been on average around 4 per cent per year of the annual aggregate expenditure for the period 2001 - 2017. In fiscal year of 2017-18, the health and family welfare expenditure has been pegged at 5 per cent of total annual expenditure.

AT CITY RAILWAY STATION RPF staff pounces on looters, saves passenger

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Taking prompt response on duty, a Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel rescued a passenger from the clutches of criminals here on Monday night.

The brave RPF staff is TK Mahapatra, a member of the Special Task Force (STF) team of the Khurda Road Division.

The incident took place at 11.00 pm at the Bhubaneswar railway station when three miscreants were trying to snatch a gold ring and other valuables from a passenger. When he resisted, the looters tried to strangle him.

Acting swiftly, Mahapatra, who was present during the scene, overpowered the criminals and saved the victim passenger.

Other members of the team rushed to the spot and arrested two accused persons. However, one managed to flee from the area. They recovered most of the valuables belonging to the passenger. Mahapatra sustained head injury in the scuffle with the miscreants. He was admitted to the Divisional Railway Hospital at Khurda Road for treatment.

The two arrested persons were handed over to the GRP, Bhubaneswar for further action.

Jena among top 25 MPs: Survey

BALESWAR: Baleswar MP Rabintra Kumar Jena has been adjudged one among the best 25 Parliamentarians of India by leading magazine 'Fame India' after conducting an online survey with Asia Post. He has emerged top in 'Shaandaar' category for which the survey was conducted. It may be noted Jena also was adjudged one of the best Parliamentarians last year by the same magazine following online survey taking into account various factors, including public relations, personality, identity, working style, impact on people, social responsibility and vision, etc. Besides the performance of a law maker in the Parliament was adjudged.



Disaster funds: Odisha gets less than it claims

- Rs 1,149.83 received against claim of Rs 5,832 cr during Phailin
- No funds received so far despite claim of Rs 2,014.09 cr for Titli

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While Odisha is facing a huge loss because of damages of infrastructure due to natural disasters, commensurate funding support is not forthcoming from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

Disaster risk management and financing is a major problem, which is hitting the State Government badly, admit officials in the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management (DoRMD).

There is a huge difference in the amount claimed and amount released by the Union Government to the State, which needs to be addressed, said a senior official.

The State Government has brought the issue with the Union Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

According to official sources, during last ten years, from 2007-08 to 2017-18, at least Rs 7,777.69 crore has been spent for pure relief, repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure and search and rescue operations, including procurement of equipment.

While for pure relief Rs 5,628.49 crore has been spent only Rs 1,616.16 crore has been made available for repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Fund

According to official sources, during last ten years, from 2007-08 to 2017-18, at least ₹7,777.69 crore has been spent for pure relief, repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure and search and rescue operations, including procurement of equipment

(SDRF) during last ten years. This much of amount for repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure due to disasters is very low, admit officials.

Take for example the experience of very severe cyclone, Phailin. The State Government submitted two memorandums to the Union Government seeking Rs 5,832 crore of which pure relief demand was Rs 1,571 crore and restoration of energy infrastructure was Rs 1,048 crore and other infrastructure restoration requirement was Rs 3,212 crore.

However, the State Government ultimately received Rs 1,149.83 crore, which was not only highly insufficient but there was little fund available for repair and restoration of infrastructure.

Similar is the experience in very severe cyclone, Titli, which hit the State recently.

After making loss assessment of damages to public properties and relief measures, which came to Rs 2,770.28 crore, a memorandum was presented to the Union Government seeking assistance of Rs 2,014.09 crore seeking support from the Centre.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requested the Prime Minister for an advance of Rs 1,000 crore to tackle immedi-

ate requirements. However, no Central aid has come on Titli count and the State Government has already spent more than Rs 1,670 crore for rescue, relief and restoration, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Office sources reveal.

The situation was saved due to savings from previous years, which helped in management of Titli as opening balance of State Disaster Response Fund was Rs 1,363.74 crore. And the SDRF corpus for 2018 was Rs 865 crore.

So, Rs 2,228.24 crore was made available for taking up rescue, relief and restoration operations in Titli devastated areas.

The State Government has raised the issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in this regard saying difference in the amount claimed and amount released to the State needs to be addressed.

Provision of timely assistance is utmost important, points out a senior official.

The Union Government has been urged that the interim assistance is needed to be provided to the affected State to avoid dislocation in relief and restoration till final decision on assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), say sources.

AMOFI stresses on love marriage, Eng medium edu

Celebrates its 38th Annual Day

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Anti-caste Marriage and One-child Family Organisation of India (AMOFI) celebrated its 38th anniversary under chairmanship of Freethought Party of India president Dr Bijayananda Kar here on Tuesday.

Political analyst Prof Bijay Bohidar attending as chief guest released the AMOFI book, "Freedom of Speech and Expression: Yes, Government Servants Can Freely Criticise Government Policies". He pleaded for the introduction of a well designed quality education system throughout the country for removal of inequality and human indignity.

Dr KP Padhy, a political scientist, called upon well-educated and ethically committed good people to enter politics so as to effect worthwhile changes in the socioeconomic policies of the country.

AMOFI founder-secretary B Ramchandra CST Voltaire explained at length the three prerequisites of comprehensive enjoyment of human rights, existence of priest-less love marriage offices at gram panchayat level, prayer-less quality English medium education for children and presence of the German brand of mixed PR system of election.

Poet Dr Banamali Bari k

read out his poem "Manabika Adhikar" and Swarna Bijayini presented a paper in Odia on the existence and status of human rights in Great Britain.

Among others, woman leader Basanti Acharya, Humanist Rationalist Organisation of Odisha president Prof Dhaneswar Sahoo, and Dr Biswajit presented valuable suggestions for bettering the status of human rights in India. AMOFI president Dr Baikunthanath Sethi was honoured on the occasion.



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Use tech in day-to-day policing: DGP to SPs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

DGP RP Sharma on Tuesday reviewed the Student Police Cadet, functioning of Model police stations and appointment of legal advisors in districts with the Police Commissioner, Range IGs, DIGs and Superintendents of Police through video conferencing from the State police headquarters.

The district SPs have already identified the schools in their jurisdiction as to where the scheme will be introduced. They have been also provided with required uniform clothing and other materials to start the programme at the earliest. The DGP informed that the scheme would be launched very shortly in December itself.

The Chief Minister has been requested to launch the programme from the Capital High School in Bhubaneswar. DGP Sharma also reviewed the functioning of recently



DGP RP Sharma on Tuesday reviewed the Student Police Cadet, functioning of Model police stations and appointment of legal advisors in districts with the Police Commissioner, Range IGs, DIGs and Superintendents of Police through video conferencing from the State police headquarters.

launched 35 Model police stations in the State. DGP asked the SPs for posting of manpower as per scale prescribed, adherence to functional parameters as prescribed, improve the behavioural aspect of staff and use of technology in their day-to-day policing work.

The DGP specifically asked the SPs to adopt CCTNS and use Citizen Portal in the Model PSs and take steps to do all works online abolishing the age-old paper and register works. To streamline the functioning of Model PS and for effective policing, Sharma suggested training programme for his staffs.

There will be training on the use of technology, behavioural aspect and stress management of staff. There will be third party audit of the Model Police Stations in due course to assess their functional efficiency and public delivery system. There will be provision to reward the best performing Model Police Stations in the state.

INBRIEF

BJP KHORDHA UNIT WELCOMES APARAJITA Khordha: The BJP Khordha unit on Monday organised a bike rally in which hundreds of party activists participated and welcomed IAS officer-turned BJP leader Aparajita Sarangi. A meeting was also organised in which Sarangi, local BJP leader Jyotirindranath Mitra, State executive member Kalucharan Khandaitray, Rashmi Ranjan Mahapatra, Subash Gantayat, Ajay Mishra, Nikunj Patnaik, Ranjan Mangaraj, Urmila Mahapatra and Mamata Jena spoke. Among others, BJP Nagar Mandal president Dillip Hota, Central Mandal president Sheik Kabir, Southern Mandal president Ramakant Jena, Manguli Jena, Pabitra Bhujpal and Ramchandra Parida were present.



IHRO OBSERVES HUMAN RIGHTS DAY Bhubaneswar: The International Human Rights Organisation (IHRO), Odisha branch observed the International Human Rights Day at Amarapali on Monday. Members spoke on the human rights and passed a resolution to protest against the human rights violations in the State. In the meeting, it was also decided that members would be appointed in every district and block to make people aware about human rights. Among others, branch general secretary Rabi Maharana, president Gopal Satpathy, former DGP Sanjeev Marik, former Minister Panchanan Kanungo, Bibhuti Mishra, Amit Das and Siddhant Tiwari were present.



NALCO MINES DIVISION BAGS SAFETY AWARDS Bhubaneswar: Nalco's Panchapatmali Bauxite Mines bagged a rich haul of awards in multiple categories at the 36th Annual Metallic Ferrous Mines Safety Week celebration held at Sukinda. Besides, employees of the company's mines division at Damanjodi also won individual prizes. Congratulating the mines collective, Nalco CMD Dr TK Chand said, "Nalco's Bauxite Mines is the second lowest-cost producer in the world; and we are making all efforts to make our mines the lowest-cost producer."



BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED TO POOR IN CITY Bhubaneswar: Students from the Madhusudan Institute of Cooperative Management, "Aaradhy Charitable Trust, chief Sagarika Satapathy, NGO Arohee's Suchi Gupta and Silu Bhai and Arun Prasad Sahoo distributed blankets among homeless, elderly and physically-handicapped people near the Ram Mandir here recently. They would again distribute blankets to such people during the current winter season, they said.



SAINIK SCHOOL HOLDS ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET Bhubaneswar: The Sainik School, Bhubaneswar organised its 57th annual athletic meet here on Tuesday. IAF Wing Commander Amitabh Ranjan graced the occasion as chief guest. A total of 600 cadets of 11 hostels participated in various events. School Administration Officer Commander Santhosh Kumar, Senior Master B Pradhan, Sports Secretary AK Mukherjee and CHMs Ajit Kumar and SS Rao were present, among others



THIS CONCERNS US Constitutional system of Government abhors absolutism



JAYANT DAS

The style and manner of campaigning in the few Assembly elections that took place last week has taken the campaign trail to extremely personal level. Governance, inclusive development and other similar objectives require our democratic edifice to be strong and resolute. Around half of the population of the country is below 25. The involvement of this huge resource in the affairs of the polity has turned uncivil, acrimonious and personalised. The enforcement and prosecuting agencies of the government are demonstrably being used and implemented in a manner which smacks of political vendetta. This is not compli-

mentary to our image as the world's largest democracy.

Mob lynching, physically assaulting political rivals and the technique of flashing the little red book for overpowering political opponents are demonstrating themselves in an ugly manner. This is not compatible with a democratic polity. Intolerance is manifesting itself in several ugly ways. At this juncture, one is persuaded to accept that the fundamentals of our Constitution need to be revisited. It is proper to begin at the beginning. Let us look at the preamble of the Constitution which reads, "We, the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; In our constituent assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution."

The spectrum covered by the Preamble is wide enough to require several instalments of the narratives. In this column one has to remind oneself that the Preamble is one of the basic structures of our Constitution. We should take a bird's overview of the Preamble as a preliminary analysis of its contents.

In Kesavananda's case, seven judges out of 13 held that the objectives specified in the Preamble contain the basic structure of our Constitution, which cannot be amended in exercise of the power under Article 368. The Preamble was amended to insert the words 'socialist' and 'secular' by the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976. Secularism is a basic feature of the Constitution and so are Rule of Law; Rule of Equality, "republican and democratic form of government." Any legislation or executive action violating the basic structure or feature of the Constitution would be unconstitutional or invalid.

The Constitution is an ever-active document and, thus, should be interpreted liberally. It would be interpreted in the light of our whole

experience and not merely in that of what was the state of law at the commencement of the Constitution. The Constitution is not an ephemeral legal document embodying a set of legal dicta to be dealt with in casual manners. It sets out principles for an expanding future and is intended to endure for ages to come and consequently, to be adapted to the various crises of human affairs. A purposive rather than a strict literal approach to interpretation should be adopted. A Constitutional provision must be construed not in a narrow sense but in a wide and liberal manner so as to anticipate and take account of changing conditions and purposes so that a Constitutional provision does not get fossilised but remains flexible enough to meet the newly-emerging challenges. This principle of interpretation is particularly apposite to the interpretation of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution, and in particular, that part of it which protects and which entrenches Fundamental Rights and freedoms to which all persons in the state are to be entitled to be given a generous and purposive construction. Such

interpretation is adopted which would bring about the ideas set down in the Preamble aided by Parts III and IV of the Constitution. It is the duty of courts to interpret the Constitution to fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people depending on the needs of the time. The content of a right is defined by the courts. Parliament while enacting a law does not provide content to the "right". The content is provided by the court judgments. Therefore, Constitutional adjudication plays a very important role in this exercise.

Interpretation of a provision of the Constitution, having regard to various aspects serving the purpose and mandate of the Constitution, stands on a separate footing compared to a statute. A Constitution, unlike other statutes, is meant to be a durable instrument to serve through a longer number of years, i.e., ages without frequent revisions. It intended to serve the needs of the day when it was enacted and also to meet the needs of the changing conditions as in future. Interpretation of the Constitution is a question of new meaning in new circumstances. The Constitution is a

permanent document and has to be accepted by the people to govern them for all times to come. The words and expressions used in the Constitution, in that sense, have no fixed meaning and must receive interpretation based on the experience of the people in the course of its working. The same thing cannot be said in relation to the interpreting the words and expressions in a statute.

Constitutional adjudication is like no other decision-making. There is a moral dimension to every major constitutional case; the language of the text is not necessarily a controlling factor. The Constitution works because of its generalities and because of the good sense of the judges when interpreting it. It is that freedom of action of the judges that helps preserve and protect our basic document of governance.

The principle of Constitutionalism requires control over the exercise of governmental power to ensure that it does not destroy the democratic principles, upon which it is based. These democratic principles include the protection of Fundamental

Rights. The principle of Constitutionalism advocates a check-and-balance model of separation of powers; it requires a diffusion of powers, necessitating different independent centres of decision-making. Constitutionalism or Constitutional system of government abhors absolutism. It is premised on the rule of law in which subjective satisfaction is substituted by objectivity provided for by provisions of the Constitution itself.

In real terms and in actual practice, our society and the governance are far from Constitutionalism. Divisive factors still dominate the scene. The real meaning of justice, social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and opportunity; fraternity ensuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation must become the dharma of the new generation. But, as things stand, the growth of governance is hardly in keeping in view with the principles of Constitutionalism. It looks as though the Preamble to the Constitution of India is hardly read or understood in our

pursuit of perquisite power and prosperity. A turnaround is necessary, may be a jolt of some positive nature could instil some basic things that are enunciated in the preamble. In this exercise, the focus has to be on the younger generation.

When a government decides to spend public money ostensibly for the welfare of the youth, it is necessary that the essentials of Constitutionalism are transmitted and shared with this enormous mass of manpower. The events that have taken place with reference to the local welfare schemes have not been in conformity with the essence of Constitutionalism. This disturbing trend concerns all of us; and there should be a public demand for proper accountability so as to ensure that public funds are spent for objective welfare of norms in keeping with the basic structure of our Constitution. (The writer, a Senior Advocate, is a former All India Service officer, a former diplomat, a former editor, a former President of Orissa High Court Bar Association and a former JayantDas@hotmail.com)

M'giri's Maoist hotbed bids adieu to quacks

After door-to-door health service launched

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

Enjoying their heydays over decades in the absence of pledged health services in the erstwhile cutoff region, now called Swabhimanchal, the quacks there are now out of circulation, thanks to the noticeable presence of physicians and paramedical staffers at different locations.

In its mission to do away with the unwanted quack practice, the district administration of Malkangiri has revamped the rural healthcare and started bringing services to the doorsteps of villagers with the

participation of Ayush doctors, pharmacists, ANMs, attendants and other para-medical staff.

The service providers are reaching out to the Maoist hotbed of Jodamba and Janbai and are attending the patients at their doorsteps thereby leaving no space for these phony doctors.

The PHCs operating under the Arogya Plus Project in PPP mode have further helped in giving a facelift to the door step health service.

As such the healthcare scenario is fast improving. The dismal situation of dumping of huge medicines at one place and treating patients with health problems in the weekly fairs on various locations is now a thing of the past with the intervention of the district administration, said a villager of Jodamba, Raghu Hantal.

Treatment received from the quacks in weekly fairs and villages was also costly compared to that from the qualified doctors now. Further, due to the complications caused by antiquated and wrong treatment, the patients had to pay a heavy price.

"But, now we are safe at the hands of the qualified doctors who are moving from one village to the other and rendering free health service at our door steps," said a resident of Janbai Udhav Hantal while expressing his happiness over the revamping of the healthcare sector there.

Restructuring of the healthcare service was indispensable to overcome the quack menace in the Swabhimanchal thereby ensuring that their lives not put at risk in the hands of the confidence tricksters, said district Collector Manish Agarwal.

Wildlife trafficking: 6 more held in Mayurbhanj

PNS ■ BARIAPADA

The Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch has apprehended six more persons accused in wildlife trafficking, police sources said on Tuesday.

A team led by DSP Tejraj Patel raided several hideouts and arrested the accused Agnisar Nayak, Chaianya Nayak, Pratap Nayak, Kesab Dehuri, Gopinath Nayak and Nakula Dehuri on Monday night.

The accused are residents of Ambadiha Colony under the Udala police limits in Mayurbhanj district. The arrested include three brothers. During the search, a piece of trophy of elephant tusk weighing 500 gm was recovered from the house of Agnisar Nayak, police said.



All the accused were forwarded to court on Tuesday.

Notably, the STF had arrested four persons earlier with rescue of two live pangolins which they were planning to sell off at around Rs 22 lakh.

The investigators suspect involvement of an international racket in smuggling of wildlife.

Steps are being taken to identify the other persons involved in the racket. The investigation was in progress, police added.

NH blocked; cancer hosp demanded in Bargarh



PNS ■ BARGARH

United Forum for Cancer Hospital (UFFCH) members and patients blocked National Highway-6 near the tollgate here on Tuesday.

The agitators were demanding establishment of a cancer hospital in Bargarh under the MoU signed between the State Government's Cancer Hospital

and Research Centre and the Tata Trust.

As the district as a large number of cancer patients, a number of signature campaigns have been carried out and memorandums has been submitted to the Government to set up a cancer hospital in the district. But no steps have been taken to fulfill their demand, the protestors alleged.

All political parties and social workers expressed solidarity with UFFCH's demand.

The agitation which started from 10 am to 3 pm affected normal life and vehicular communications was severely hit. The agitators warned that if the Government does not fulfill their demand soon they would intensify their agitation and it would be responsible for that.

Drone over Sun Temple: Two Russians detained

PNS ■ KONARK

Shooting videos of the famous Sun Temple here with a drone camera landed two Russian tourists in trouble on Tuesday morning when the duo, on a tour to Odisha, visited the World Heritage Site.

While they were taking the videos, Archeological Survey of India (ASI) officials objected to it as it is not permissible to fly a copter over the

13th-century monument. The foreign tourists were detained for interrogation, sources said.

Notably, a similar incident had taken place on Saturday last and a foreign national was caught shooting with the airborne device. After local tourists objected to it, police and ASI officials whisked him away to the office. After deletion of the recordings, he was allowed to leave.



Mountain Day held in B'ngiri; academy demanded

PNS ■ BALANGIR

A rally of mountaineers led by international climber Jogabysa Bhoi was flagged off here by DFO Sameer Satpathy on the occasion of International Day for Mountain on Tuesday.

"We, a team of eight mountaineers, will go a trekking on the Mathkhai mountain after necessary puja at the temple. People have been worshipping mountains and nature since time immemorial. Mountains provides us water and livelihood source to millions of people living around them. To realize importance of the mountains, the International Day for Mountain is being observed," said mountaineer Bhoi.

He demanded that the Government establish a mountain academy for promotion of mountaineering among youths.

'TourdeKalinga' cyclists reach Brahmapur

To cover 1,300 km to promote tourism

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Roots of Odisha Foundation's 4th annual cycling event, "TourdeKalinga", an eco-friendly with community participation cycling expedition, flagged off by Governor Ganeshi Lal at Bhubaneswar on December 8, reached here on Monday.

The team of cyclists, which comprises noted social activists, scribes, environmentalists, doctors, lawyers, jawans and intellectuals, are moving in cycles to promote tourism in the State and to make the overseas tourists aware about the natural beauties and cultural posterities of Odisha.

This cycling team came from Satapada of Puri district on Sunday evening and crossed Brahmapur old bus stand on Monday morning. Locals gave an impressive reception to the team. Then the team proceeded towards Chandragiri.

According to information,



30 persons from 15 States have joined the national cycling expedition, which has an aim to complete a 1,300-km distance in 13 days. The entire team has been grouped under five groups to sensitise and make people aware of five core issues; birth and death ratio, education for all, say no to tobacco, neonatal mortality, voice against corruption for constructing a new India; and to bring changes in youths, said convener Madhusudan Mishra.

Like international level event like "Tour The France", we have organised "Tour The Kalinga" to attract foreign tourists and sensitise people what is best for the country, he said.

As per the schedule, the cyclists would now visit Chandragiri, Paralakhemundi, Rayagada, Koraput, Belghar, Phulbani and Nayagarah and would reach Bhubaneswar on December 19.

Lt Col Parminder Kaur of the 'Neonatal Mortality' from Delhi, Srinivas Kotni of 'Education for all' from Andhra Pradesh, Yogendra Singh from "Eradicate Corruption and Build a New India" from Haryana, Madhusudan Mishra of "Say No to Tobacco" from Puri, Captain Mohit Manaktala from "Youth for Change" from Punjab are participating in the expedition, among others.

NKS activists court arrest in JSpur

While gheraoing Collectorate

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

About 40 Nabanirman Krushak Sangathan (NKS) activists, including a few women, courted arrest in front of the Collector's office here on Tuesday.

Reports said that Jagatsinghpur NKS activists had resorted to hunger strike in front of the collector office supporting organisation's State convener Askhya Kumar's hunger strike in Bhubaneswar from December 1.

Agitators shouted slogans against the State Government blaming it as anti-farmer

On Tuesday morning, the NKS sympathizers locked the main gate of the Collectorate and did not allow any employees to enter into the office.

Even the Collector, the ADM and other top officials were prevented from entering their offices.

The agitators shouted slogans against the State Government blaming it as anti-farmer.

Ganjam NKS activists hold demo

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Members of the Nabanirman Krushak Sangathan (NKS), Ganjam district, supporting the NKS State convener Akshaya Kumar's fast, held a demonstration before the Collectorate here on Monday demanding 'price, prestige and pension' for farmers.

The members threatened that if the State Government fails to fulfil their demands within one month they would boycott the upcoming elections and not allow any leader or officer of the ruling party to enter villages in coming days.



Among others, NKS district advisor Ramesh Chandra Kar, Rangeelunda block secretary Sudarshan patro, Khallikote block advisor Kishore Sahu, Ranganath Patro, Nageswar Chanda, Laxmidhar Sahu, Prafulla Gauda, Bauri Behera and Bijay Jena were present.

Abducted boy found dead in Ganjam

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A minor boy, who had allegedly been abducted five days ago, was found dead in a mango orchard near the Brahmaniapalli-Narsinghpur village border in Ganjam district on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Viku Sethi (13) of Gurunthi village.

According to the complaint lodged by Viku's father Kunu Sethi, the boy was abducted on December 6. The complaint also mentioned that Viku was accompanied by one Lingraj Sethi (23) of Brahmaniapalli village when he was kidnapped.

Sources said locals spotted the body in the orchard in the morning and informed the police

Sources said locals spotted the body in the orchard in the morning and informed the police.

Police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. An investigation into the incident is underway, police said.

The incident has triggered shockwaves among the locals in the area.

Human Rights Day observed in Umarmkote

Legal Aid Committee holds seminar

PNS ■ UMARMKOTE

On the occasion of the World Human Rights Day, the Umarmkote Taluk Legal Aid Committee organised a seminar on theme 'Let's Stand up for Equality, Justice and Human Dignity' here on Monday.

Umarmkote ADJ and committee chairman Dr Anil Kumar Dutta said that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) sets out universal values and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages, he added.

Umarmkote Bar Association president Prasant Kumar Sahu stressed on the women's rights that are fundamental human rights enshrined by the United Nations like right to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination but these are rarely seen in the society.

Among others, Sub-Judge Smuriti lekha Barik, JMFC Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, senior lawyer BK Patro, Nagesh Patnaik, institute chief administrator Dayal Mitra, Manoj Padhy, Santi lata Mohanty and court staff Usha Majhi were present.



In Koraput Contractor held for extorting money for Maoists



PNS ■ JEY-PORE

Patna police in Koraput district on Tuesday arrested a contractor for allegedly extorting money from other contractors for funding of various Maoist insurgent groups.

As per a complaint, the accused identified as Murlu Krishna had been demanding money amounting to Rs 30 lakh from two road construction workers of in Barai Panchayat in Narayanpatna.

The accused had allegedly threatened the contractors of dire consequences if they failed to chip away the money. A complaint in this regard had been lodged at the Narayanpatna police station.

Sources said Murlu Krishna had also been arrested by police earlier on similar charges.

Rights Day: Students hold rally in Koraput

PNS ■ KORAPUT

The St. Xavier High School and Nandas Kidzee in association with YHRI, Odisha chapter, organized a rally to mark the World Human Rights Day on December 10 in Koraput.

On the occasion, a street play was staged by the students

to create awareness among people about their rights and the violations of rights.

Monalisha Nanda and Tarun Mohapatra coordinated the event. Subash Chandra Sahu, Atish Kumar Agrawal, Satish Kumar Nanda, Prasant Patanaik, Anita Das and Kali Charan Debsharma spoke on the occasion.



R'kela builder escapes attempt on life

PNS ■ ROURKELA

A city-based builder, Anmol Singh, had a narrow escape after unidentified miscreants opened fire at him on Tuesday morning near Beladihi on the outskirts of the city. Though Singh escaped unhurt in the attack, one of his bodyguards sustained bullet injuries.

According to sources, Singh accompanied by his bodyguards was on his way to home in Rourkela when the miscreants waylaid their car and fired 10 rounds. Later, the miscreants fled from the spot.

On being informed, the Brahmanitarang police reached the spot and recovered five empty cartridges from the spot and rushed the injured bodyguard to Ispat General Hospital (IGH) here where his condition is stated to be stable. Sources said this is the second unsuccessful attempt by miscreants to eliminate the businessman.

Balanga College students hold demo

PNS ■ BALANGA

Students of the Balanga College on Tuesday locked the college gate and held demonstration in front of it against the callous attitude of the college authorities in fulfilling their various demands including construction of a college boundary wall.

The students alleged that even if they have been demanding for construction of a cycle stand, a sports room and toilets for boys and girls in

the college premises since long, yet the authorities have not taken any step to fulfil the demands.

They also said that college Principal Prafulla Kumar Mohapatra had assured them to complete the works in a matter of days, but no work has started as yet.

Later, Principal Mohapatra reached the spot and held discussions with the students. He assured that the construction works would start within two days.



Book Fair in Ganjam to begin from Dec 15



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR
This year's Ganjam District Book Fair would be held from December 15 to 25 at the JC High School ground here, informed book fair committee secretary Bhawani Sankar Panigrahi at a Press meet.

Panigrahi said that as many as 50 stalls would be put up in the fair, in which many book publishers and distributors would participate. During the fair, cultural meetings, poetry recitations and many other programmes would be held daily, he added.

Committee VP Bichitranda Bebartha said satiric poets of TV show

Panigrahi said that as many as 50 stalls would be put up in the fair, in which many book publishers and distributors would participate

'Odisha Political Circus' Braja Subudhi and Debabrata would be the main attraction of the fair. Among others, Bhawani Sankar Mishra, Dr Chandramani Swain, Debi Prasad Sahu, Jagannath Sabat, Debi Prasad Mahapatra, Gopal Krushna Dakua, Surjya Patra, Kailash Panigrahi and Bijay Kumar Padhy were present.

Music video 'Mo Odisha..' launched on MOTV

Voice lent by Rituraj

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Prelude launched a music video entitled as 'Mo Odisha To Odisha' which shows the rich culture and tradition of Odisha.

icated to the hospitable people of Odisha and its beautiful culture, rich heritage and scenic places.

The "Mo Odisha To Odisha" shows where a young girl visits Odisha, a State of prosperous culture where people of diverse faith lives in harmony, where she adapts to the custom, rituals, wonderful places of Odisha.

The music video which has many elements of Odisha is conceptualized by Satyabrata Sanu Ratho. India's Raw Star winner Rituraj Mohanty has lent his voice in the video.

The music direction of the video is given by Sudip Jena with the lyrics given by Chinmoy Das and Samit Patnaik. Cinematography and editing is done by Soumya Mohanty.

The music video is directed by Chinmay Das. It features new artists Fubuki and Silva Shiva.

The video also features renowned sculptor Padmabibhushan Guru Raghunath Mohapatra, sand artist Padmashri Sudarshan Patnaik and Odishi dancer Padmashri Aruna Mohanty.



Dalit Manch holds Human Rights Day

Decides to hold big rally in January

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Dalit Adhikar Manch observed the International Human Rights Day under chairmanship of its president Manaj Jena here on Monday.

A meeting held on the occasion was inaugurated with garlanding of the Dr BR Ambedkar statue by Prof Golak Bihari Nath. Retired administrator Dr Kalyan Ray, advisor Madhusudan Yadav, Aam Aadmi Party State president Nishikant Mohapatra, retired administrator and Baleswar district president Pramod Pattayat and State coordinator Prashant Mallick spoke on the importance of the day.

"Even 70 years after the World Human Rights was announced and 68 years after the Constitution of India came to the force, many communi-



ties have been deprived of human rights. Lakhs of families have been deprived of homestead lands and other basic facilities in the State," lamented Jena.

Among others, district presidents and convenors like Rabintra Deep, Suresh Rajhans, Gangadhar Hans, Prasanna Mallick, Rajesh Jena, Gourang Mallick, Rajib Nayak, Kamakshya Prasad Nayak, Mamata Sethi, Kabita Bhoi, Sunita Bhoi, Dipanjali Bhoi, Prashant Nayak, Anant Nayak and Bharat Jena were present.

The Human Rights Day celebration was followed by a State committee meeting where it was decided to hold a State level protest meeting in January to press for availing of land, education and health facilities and protest communal disharmony.

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Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Work / Service	Value of Tender (In Rs.)
1	2018_MCL_122081	Construction of Internal mine Coal Transportation road in Talcher coalfields at Jagannath OCP of MCL.	338063986.00
2	2018_MCL_122477	Repair/Maintenance and Modification of existing view point at Garjanbahal OCP under Basundhara Area.	601508.00
3	2018_MCL_122481	Renovation of drinking water system at Manikeswari college of Tumulia village under CSR Scheme of Basundhara Area (1st-retender).	451586.00
4	2018_MCL_122484	Providing one borewell with submersible pump at Garjanbahal village under CSR Scheme of Basundhara Area.	392084.00
5	2018_MCL_122498	Supply and Commissioning of Full Dummy Body (Manikin) for Rescue Refresher Training and Training on First-Aid.	380000.00
6	2018_MCL_122520	PROCUREMENT OF ARMATURE FOR DIPPER TRIP MOTOR AND EXCITOR GENERATOR FOR EKG SHOVEL.	767000.00
7	2018_MCL_122371	Hiring of 01 no. of Dalia Truck (10MT) for 24 hours duty for a period of two years for Baram OCP, Hingula Area.	2597374.00
8	2018_MCL_122570	Supply of spares for ACE Rhino 90 crane at Lingaraj OCP (Exclusively for OEM).	189569.00
9	2018_MCL_122534	Expression of interest (Eoi) for the empanelment of NGOs.	0.00
10	2018_MCL_122577	PROCUREMENT OF INDUSTRIAL GAS FOR HEMMS.	256515.00
11	2018_MCL_122495	Construction of Meditation Hall at New Naraharipur under CSR works of Bhubaneswari OCP, Jagannath Area.	991962.00
12	2018_MCL_122502	Two nos. Deep Bore well at Ananta Vihar Colony, Re tender.	395253.00
13	2018_MCL_122508	Heightening of compound wall at Central/Colony pump house under Jagannath Area.	1661259.00
14	2018_MCL_122510	Providing compound wall to Block 10 B-Type, A type and back side of C-type Cow Catcher, Septic tank at A-Type, B-Type of G.M Colony under Jagannath Area.	1794224.00
15	2018_MCL_122514	Day to day maintenance of quarters in Central Colony CGMs Colony Complex and 132 KV Sub-station colony and 36 Nos. C-Type and 6 Nos B-Type quarters under Jagannath Area for a period of 01 year.	2832708.00
16	2018_MCL_122617	PROCUREMENT OF NON DEPOT SPARES FOR CUMMINS MAKE ENGINE AT CWS_X TALCHER.	98777.00
17	2018_MCL_122640	Supply of Rear View Mirrors for Dumpers at Lingaraj OCP.	148316.00
18	2018_MCL_122658	Underground construction of 04 nos. of Sectionalisation Stoppings (Bricks) in 32LS Panel (Sec-B) at Hirakhand Bundia Mine, RSA, OA, MCL.	2370762.00
19	2018_MCL_122614	Procurement of Tell Tale for Nandira Colliery MCL Talcher Area.	147264.00
20	2018_MCL_122375	Operation, guarding and maintenance of 08 nos. High Discharge Diesel engine pump set, located at different place and pouring of diesel engine, at Kaniha OCP for a period of 01(One) year.	3442369.00
21	2018_MCL_120667	CONCLUSION OF RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICINES TO DIFFERENT AREAS OF MCL FOR TWO YEARS.	297440366.00
22	2018_MCL_122116	Procurement of Lighting Towers along with installation and commissioning for different areas of MCL.	82746230.00
23	2018_MCL_122764	Cleaning of settling tank and clear water tank at filter bed two times in a year at Nandira colliery.	206970.00
24	2018_MCL_122778	Repair and maintenance of INTUC office, Nandira colliery.	533740.00
25	2018_MCL_122752	Supply of VOD meter for monitoring the quality of explosive and accessories.	366080.00
26	2018_MCL_122756	Supply of Self Starter for BE1000 and IDM Drill.	279000.00
27	2018_MCL_122687	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR BEML WS-28 WATER SPRINKLER.	22924.00
28	2018_MCL_122716	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR BE 1600(D) HYD. EXCAVATOR.	51743.00
29	2018_MCL_122726	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR EKG5A SHOVEL.	118944.00
30	2018_MCL_122823	PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE TRANSPORTER TAG.	309160.00
31	2018_MCL_122848	PROCUREMENT OF UNIFORMS.	408510.00
32	2018_MCL_122846	Underground construction of 03 nos. of Sectionalisation Stoppings (Bricks) in 23LS Panel (Sec-C1) at Hirakhand Bundia Mine, RSA, OA, MCL.	1783213.00
33	2018_MCL_122870	PROCUREMENT OF RECTOR.	56300.00
34	2018_MCL_122877	Underground construction of 34 nos. of Ventilation Stoppings by brick work in 144LN New District of HR Section-IV at Orient Colliery Mine No-1and2, OSA, OA, MCL.	3122364.00
35	2018_MCL_122916	PROCUREMENT OF BROAD HEAD PICKS AND PICKS HOLDER.	1592292.00
36	2018_MCL_122804	Making 03 Nos cycle shed at GM office under Jagannath Area.	427635.00
37	2018_MCL_122808	Providing and fixing of concertina coil on Compound Wall of Ananta Vihar Colony of Ananta OCP under Jagannath Area.	497330.00
38	2018_MCL_122849	Open shed for storing heavy materials, drainage system at new parking shed, approach road to Sub-Station Building and Storing Yard at 132 KV Sub-Station under Jagannath Area.	5389455.00
39	2018_MCL_122889	Renovation of Sub-Station at Central Colony under Jagannath Area.	1174353.00
40	2018_MCL_122901	Recovery/Salvaging of Belt/Belt structures and Rail/Rail Track at 130NL Dist. HR Section-IV and transportation for the 114LN and 144LN District in HR Section-III and IV at Orient Colliery Mine No-1and2, OSA, OA, MCL.	1684219.00
41	2018_MCL_122918	PROCUREMENT OF KRAFT PAPER TAPE FOR TRANSFORMER SECTION AT CWS_X TALCHER.	77500.00
42	2018_MCL_122822	Hiring of 03 no. Hard Top Jeep or equivalent Vehicle with AC fitted of seating capacity 7 (6 plus 1), max 4000 Km run per month, 24 hrs. duty for two years (341 days per year) for Samaleswari OCP, IB Valley Area. (Providing 3 drivers daily, one driver.	4305090.00
43	2018_MCL_122856	Hiring of 03 no. Air Conditioned 7 seater (6 plus 1) Hard Top diesel jeep or equivalent SUV, max 3000 Km run per month, 12 hrs. duty for two year (341 days per year) for SOCP, IB Valley Area.	1906217.00
44	2018_MCL_122933	Sinking of 02 nos. of borewell and construction of switch rooms at village Kandhal under CSR work, Lingaraj Area, Retender.	931478.00
45	2018_MCL_122934	Replacement of damage sheet and wire mesh net of heavy repair shop at HEMM workshop of Lingaraj OCP, Lingaraj Area.	4203875.00
46	2018_MCL_122936	Construction of one nos sedimentation tanks and one no clear water tank and its connecting drain and pump house near Project Office of Lingaraj OCP, Lingaraj Area.	7153184.00
47	2018_MCL_122911	Washing, removal of mud grease oil etc and cleaning of operator cabin of Dumpers, Water Sprinklers and Dozers of Lingaraj OCP.	778665.00
48	2018_MCL_123003	PROCUREMENT OF ESENTIAL SPARES FOR HUSKY CRANE.	322938.00
49	2018_MCL_122935	Heightening boundary wall, water connection to earth pits, Shed of cycle stand, Modification of all existing VCB MOCB foundation etc. at 33 11 KV Central Sub-Station South Baland and Distempering and painting of 33 11 KV and 132 KV Sub Station.	2190655.00
50	2018_MCL_122987	Hiring of One (1) Jeep (Scorpio/ Xylo or its equivalent) fitted with AC for pool duty for 12 hrs per day duty for two years at Basundhara Area (682 days).	685410.00
51	2018_MCL_122979	Construction of two number rooms at Godibandha CHC of Brajanathpur G.P under CSR Programme of BBSRI-OCP, Jagannath Area.	1272417.00
52	2018_MCL_123000	Repair of boundary wall front side to transformer shed of GM office, Jagannath Area.	387398.00
53	2018_MCL_123009	Making of 10 nos. dustbins at different places of CWS (X) colony, at CWS (X), Talcher.	324750.00
54	2018_MCL_122968	Miscellaneous development works at old Safety Office proposed for Security Barrack at Baram OCP under Hingula Area.	925548.00
55	2018_MCL_122992	Operation and Guarding of MDTP including watch and ward for a period of 02 years at LOCP.	2914264.00
56	2018_MCL_122999	Hiring of 01 no. Air Conditioned 7 seater (6 plus 1) Hard Top diesel jeep or equivalent SUV, max 4000 Km run per month, 24 hrs. duty for two year (341 days per year) for SOCP, IB Valley Area.	1435030.00
57	2018_MCL_123008	Construction of 04 nos of class rooms with verandah at Lakura Primary School Under CSR head of SOCP/IB Valley Area.	2156762.00
58	2018_MCL_123031	Thorough repair and maintenance of 2A, 2B and 2C type quarters, Talcher Colliery.	8079194.00
59	2018_MCL_122695	Construction of compound wall, Concrete Pavement, Dozer Path and Concrete Drain at Kuida HEMM workshop premises of Basundhara Area.	29282995.00
60	2018_MCL_123006	Annual cleaning of washing ramp in field workshop complex at Baram OCP, (for 02 years).	625460.00
61	2018_MCL_123004	Sinking of 200x150mm deep bore wells and installation of submersible pumps at Anand Vihar and Jagruti Vihar, MCL HQ.	3329004.00
62	2018_MCL_123013	Miscellaneous development works at old Safety Office proposed for Security Barrack at Baram OCP under Hingula Area.	925548.00
63	2018_MCL_122973	Diversion of IWSS raw water pipe lines adjacent to local sale road for SILO connectivity by RITES for IWSS, Lingaraj Area.	2914264.00
64	2018_MCL_123047	Providing and fixing work for restoration of in-motion RAIL Weighbridge no 01 installed at DLB Sliding at Lingaraj Area MCL.	420200.00
65	2018_MCL_123032	Miscellaneous repair and maintenance of non-residential buildings (i.e substation near A type, substation near DAV school, colony pump house, Baland pump house and colony main gate with security post) at CWS(X), Talcher.	1811604.00
66	2018_MCL_123172	PROCUREMENT OF SPARES FOR ELGI MAKE COMPRESSOR FOR 20 SERIES RECP-650 DRILL AT CWS_X TALCHER.	623929.00
67	2018_MCL_123177	Supply of spares for TATA Hitachi EX-1200V Hyd excavator (Exclusively for OEM).	684109.00
68	2018_MCL_123150	Repair and maintenance on day today basis for residential buildings of CWS (x) quarters at CWS(X), Talcher.	1557185.00
69	2018_MCL_123169	Procurement of Winding engine rope for skip winder 32mm for MCL talcher area.	863170.00

MCL e-procurement help desk (Phone-0663-2542695/2542264) e-mail : help-eproc.mcl@coalindia.in R-4869

Give a missed call on toll free number 1800 200 3004 to get our apps.

BJP president to inaugurate exhibition at Gita Mahotsav

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To depict Mahabharata scenes through the art of clay, a cave shaped exhibition would be set up at Gita Gyan Sansthanam during the ongoing International Gita Mahotsav, 2018 at Kurukshetra.

The exhibition will be formally inaugurated by BJP President, Amit Shah and President of Mauritius, Paramasivum Pillay Vyapooru on December 13 An official spokesman said that through this exhibition, 650 books of holy scripture, The Bhagvad Gita written in 40 different languages of India and abroad would be exhibited.

He said that the exhibition would be set up at Gita Gyan Sansthanam for the visitors from India and abroad during International Gita Mahotsav, 2018. Special artists have been invited to put up this exhibition. These artists have made the cave with clay. They have also made a clay statue of Arjuna with bow which is installed at the entrance of the exhibition.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. : Online-AGL-13 of 2018-2019

1330-0

- Name of the Work : Road Works
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 44.20 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 03(Three) Calendar Months
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 15.12.2018 to 24.12.2018 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last Date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 24.12.2018 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Name & Address of the OIT : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Angul

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R.W.Division, Angul.

25096/11/0006/1819

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.-EE-THWD-13/2018-19 (I to VII)

938-A

- No. of works : 7 (Seven)
- Approx. Estimated cost : (I) 48.26 Lac, (II) 19.86 Lac, (III) 6.83 Lac (IV) 6.21 Lac, (V) 2.41 Lac, (VI) 2.41 Lac & (VII) 1.22 Lac.
- Eligibility of the bidders : (i) 'B' or 'A' class contractors (Odisha P. W. D. or equivalent class of other licensing authority) for the work at Sl. No. I (ii) 'D' or 'C' class contractors (Odisha P. W. D. or equivalent class of other licensing authority) for the works at Sl. No. II to VI (iii) Electrical contractor's license (MV) for the work at Sl.No. VII.
- Period of completion : (i) 4 (four) calendar months for the work at Sl. No. I, (ii) 3 (three) calendar months for the work at Sl. No. II to VI (iii) 1(One) calendar month for the work at Sl. No. VII
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : 14/12/2018 (10:00 A.M.) to 24/12/2018 (05:00 P.M.)
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 24/12/2018 (05:00 P.M.)
- Date of opening of the bids on-line : 26/12/2018 (12:30 P.M.)
- Name & address of the O.I.T. : Executive Engineer, Telengiri Head Works Division, At/Po: Ambaguda, District: Koraput.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Telengiri Head Works Division,
Ambaguda

32164/11/0009/1819

CORRIGENDUM 01 OF BID IDENTIFICATION OF 13/ 2018-19.

1148-0

The following changes are hereby made to Bid Identification No. 13 / 2018-19 of RWSS Division, Sonepur where as all other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

Sl no	As per Original TCN	Estimated Cost.	EMD	Cost of Tender paper (Non refundable)	As per Corrigendum		
					Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender paper (Non refundable)
1	Construction of 50000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - RUGUDIPALI OF TARAVA BLOCK	Rs.4434389/-	Rs.450000/-	Rs.6000/-	3979580/-	40000/-	6000/-
2	Construction of 50000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - KHUNTBANDH OF TARAVA BLOCK	Rs.4976169/-	Rs.500000/-	Rs.6000/-	4465793/-	45000/-	6000/-
3	Construction of 40000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - MAJHIMUNDA OF SONEPUR BLOCK	Rs.5905944/-	Rs.600000/-	Rs.10000/-	5302026/-	54000/-	10000/-
4	Construction of 70000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - PAPI OF BINKA BLOCK	Rs.6666128/-	Rs.670000/-	Rs.10000/-	5982423/-	60000/-	10000/-
5	Construction of 70000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - KUDAPADA OF B.M.PUR BLOCK.	Rs.7906929/-	Rs.800000/-	Rs.10000/-	7095962/-	71000/-	10000/-
6	Construction of 70000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - ASURGARH OF BINKA BLOCK.	Rs.7649649/-	Rs.770000/-	Rs.10000/-	6865069/-	69000/-	10000/-
7	Construction of 40000 ltr OHT with 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Pump house, Stand post, Laying of HDPE GI Pipe line for PWS TO VILL - GARAMAHUL OF TARAVA BLOCK	Rs.3908273/-	Rs.400000/-	Rs.60000/-	3507424/-	36000/-	6000/-
8	Const. of RCC OHT 40000 ltr capacity 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Stand post, Laying of HDPE, GI Pipe, Pump house, Compound wall, Const. of Stand alone for PWS to Vill Badbahali of Sonepur block.	Rs.4511199/-	Rs.6000/-	Rs.46000/-	4093896/-	41000/-	6000/-
9	Const. of RCC OHT 40000 ltr capacity 13mtr Staging, SV and NRV Chamber, Stand post, Laying of HDPE, GI Pipe, Pump house, Compound wall, Const. of Stand alone for PWS to Vill Badbahali of Sonepur block.	Rs.4947431/- of HDPE,	Rs.6000/-	Rs.50000/-	4484199/-	45000/-	6000/-
10	Const. of RCC OHT 50000 ltr capacity 13mtr Staging, Pump house, Stand post, Stand alone, Compound wall, Laying of HDPE/GI Pipe line including 5 years maintenance for PWS to Vill Palsapali of Binka block out of NRDWP Programme.	Rs.5570912/-	Rs.10000/-	Rs.56000/-	4974029/-	50000/-	6000/-

- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in the eprocurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
- Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RWSS Division, Sonepur.

25037/11/0020/1819

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT BEGINS

Take issues of public interest, urges PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the winter session of Parliament commenced on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said all political parties who have to face the electorate in May next year will utilize the session for public interest and not political benefit. Both the houses were adjourned after paying homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other sitting MPs. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu became emotional while reading the obituary reference of Union Minister Ananth Kumar and described him as a "dear friend."

At the beginning of the session, Naidu as per tradition read out the obituary references of leaders who had passed away during the intervening period between the Monsoon and current session.

He first read out the obituary of Vajpayee followed by that of former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, and a dozen other leaders.

While reading out the obituary of Kumar, who had passed away on November 12, Naidu got emotional and his voice choked. Recalling the contribution of Kumar, the Chairman said he had lost a "dear and personal friend" in the untimely death of the Parliamentary



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar (L), MoS Arjun Ram Meghwal, MoS Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel and Minister of State at Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh are also seen

Affairs Minister. Naidu apologized later apparently for getting emotional in the House.

Meanwhile, Modi, in his brief address to the media outside Parliament House on the first day of the session, said the government has always strived to discuss all issues. "There should be an open discussion. There should be a debate, there should be a sharp debate. But at least there should be one," he said.

Referring to the Lok Sabha elections due next year, the

Prime Minister said he is confident that all political parties "who have to face the electoral test in May (next year), while keeping in mind the people, will utilise the session for public interest and not political interest."

He hoped that the session would be constructive and members would participate in debates on key issues concerning the public. He hoped that members would sit for longer duration to resolve key issues concerning the common man.

The Prime Minister said this session is important and everyone should participate in discussion. The winter session will end on January 8.

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan paid tributes to Vajpayee, Chatterjee, Ananth Kumar and three sitting members. While reading out the obituary reference for Vajpayee, who passed away on August 16 after a prolonged illness, Mahajan said he was one of the most outstanding members of

Parliament and enjoyed respect across the political spectrum. Modi and most of the Union Ministers were present in the Lok Sabha during the obituary references.

Before the lower house assembled, the Prime Minister walked up to the Opposition benches and was seen having a brief interaction with Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, and others. Congress President Rahul Gandhi was also present in the House during obituary references. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and BJP President Amit Shah were present in the Rajya Sabha. In the Lok Sabha, tributes were also paid to three sitting members including Bhola Singh, MI Shanavas and Mohammad Asrarul Haque.

The Upper House also remembered its former members who passed away recently. They included RK Dorendra Singh, Karma Todpen, Kuldip Nayyar, Nandamuri Harikrishna, Darshan Singh Yadav, Ratnakar Pandey, Satya Prakash Malaviya, Ram Dev Bhandary, Malti Sharma, ND Tiwari, PK Maheshwari and Baishab Parida. The Rajya Sabha also remembered those who lost their lives in the Cyclone Gaja in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Centre may frame norms to eliminate online child porn, rape videos: SC

Internet giants were in agreement that objectionable contents should be removed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday said the Centre might frame guidelines or standard operating procedure (SoP) to eliminate online videos and images of child pornography and rape.

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and UU Lalit said the guidelines or SoP in this regard might be implemented within two weeks.

"The Government of India may frame the necessary guidelines/SoP and implement them within two weeks so as to eliminate child pornography, rape and gang rape imageries, videos and sites in content hosting platforms and other applications," the bench said in its order.

The court has posted the matter for further hearing in February next year.

The top court had on December 6 said that the Centre and internet giants, including Google, Microsoft

and Facebook, were in agreement that videos of rape, child pornography and objectionable material were needed to be "stamped out".

The Centre had last month suggested to the court that the intermediaries should deploy trusted flaggers for identifying and deletion of unlawful content and also set up of 24x7 mechanism for dealing with requisitions of law enforcement agencies.

It had also suggested that there should be prompt disposal of requisitions of law enforcement agencies to remove unlawful contents.

The court was hearing a matter following a letter sent in 2015 to then Chief Justice of India H L Dattu by Hyderabad-based NGO Prajwal, along with two rape videos in a pendrive.

The court had on its own taken cognisance of the letter and asked the CBI to launch a probe to apprehend the culprits.

The NGO's letter had also mooted the idea of maintaining a national sex offenders' register which should contain details of persons convicted for offences like eve-teasing, stalking, molestation and other sexual assaults.

INSHORT

DELHI GOVT TO REIN IN FAT WEDDING

New Delhi: The Delhi Government informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it is contemplating a policy to "limit" the number of guests at "extravagant" weddings and institutionalise catering arrangements to check food wastage at such functions. A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur was told by Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev that they have discussed the issues flagged by the court in its December 6 order in which the court had expressed concern over wastage of food and mis-utilisation of water in marriage functions.

SC ADJOURNS HEARING TO JANUARY 10

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday deferred to January 10 the hearing on the Maharashtra Government's appeal challenging the refusal of the Bombay High Court to extend the 90-day limit for filing charge-sheet in the Koregaon-Bhima violence case.

SC TO HEAR STUBBLE BURNING CASE IN JAN

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it will hear in January second week a plea seeking steps to curb pollution in Delhi-NCR caused by stubble burning in neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana.

EXAMINE PAPERS: SC TO OFFICER, CHIEF SECY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked two senior officers of Haryana, including its chief secretary, to examine the documents of 33 house owners whose buildings were directed to be demolished by the year-end due to illegal constructions in forest area of Aravalli hills.

SC REFUSES TO SCRAP ₹50K FINE FOR PIL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to recall its order by which it had imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on a lawyer for filing a PIL against Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, raising allegations relating to capital reserve of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

SINGLE AGENCY CAN PROBE ALL MURDER CASES: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Tuesday that if there is a "common thread" among the murders of social activists Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist MM Kalburgi, then one agency can investigate all the four cases. A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Navin Sinha asked the CBI to inform it by January first week as to why it should not investigate all the four cases if there appears a link among all the murders.

SUPREME COURT ON RAPE CASES

'Media should be cautious in sensationalisation'

Name, identity of rape victims cannot be disclosed even in remote manner: Apex Court Bench

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Name and identity of victims of rape and sexual assault, including those who have died, cannot be disclosed even in a remote manner, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while terming as unfortunate that instead of empathising with the victims, society treats them as "untouchable".

The court also said that nobody can have any objection to the victim disclosing her name as long as she is a major and has taken a decision regarding this voluntarily. The apex court said that media should be cautious not to 'sensationalise' such cases and

though they have an obligation to report such matters, they are also "duty bound" not to disclose the identity of such victims, including minors.

A bench of justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta directed that FIRs lodged for the offence of rape under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act shall not be put in public domain.

"No person can print or publish in print, electronic, social media, etc the name of the victim or even in a remote manner disclose any facts which can lead to the victim being identified and which should make her identity known to the public at large," the bench said.

The court said that in the society, an "innocent" victim of sexual offence, especially rape,

was unfortunately treated worse than the perpetrator of crime and "for no fault of the victim, society instead of empathising with the victim, starts treating her as an 'untouchable'".

"A victim of rape is treated like a 'pariah' and ostracised from society. Many times, even her family refuses to accept her back into their fold. The harsh reality is that many times cases of rape do not even get reported because of the false notions of so called 'honour' which the family of the victim wants to uphold," the bench said.

It said in cases where the victim is dead or of unsound mind, her name and identity should not be disclosed even under authorisation of next of the kin unless circumstances justifying the disclosure of her identity exist, which shall be decided by competent authori-

ty, that is the sessions judge.

"The police officials should keep all the documents in which the name of the victim is disclosed, as far as possible, in a sealed cover and replace these documents by identical documents in which the name of the victim is removed in all records which may be scrutinised in the public domain," it said.

Regarding media, the court said they should refrain from talking to such victim because every time the victim repeats the tale of misery, she again undergoes the trauma.

"Reportage of such cases should be done sensitively keeping the best interest of the victims, both adult and children, in mind. Sensationalising such cases may garner Television Rating Points (TRPs) but does no credit to the credibility of the media," it said.



Congress party President Rahul Gandhi addresses a press conference as results are counted in five States that recently went to the polls in New Delhi on Tuesday.

India signs ascension pact to the thirty member T-RMN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has inked the ascension agreement to the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) which facilitates information exchange on the movement of commercial traffic on the high seas and will contribute to increased maritime domain awareness.

Commodore KM Ramakrishnan signed the agreement on behalf of the Indian Navy at the Italian Naval Headquarters in Rome on Monday, the Navy said here in a twitter here on Tuesday.

The multilateral construct comprises of 30 countries and is steered by Italy. The information is available primarily through the Automatic Identification System (AIS) which are fitted on merchant ships with more than 300 Gross Registered Tonnage as mandated by the International Maritime Organisation.

The AIS information comprises name, MMSI number, position, course, speed, last port visited, destination and so on. This information can be picked up through various AIS sensors including coastal AIS chains and satellite based receivers.

Indian Navy is mandated to conclude white shipping information exchange agreements with 36 countries and three multi-national constructs, officials said here. Till date, 19 white shipping agreements have been signed of which 12 have been operationalised.

India has also set up a large network of coastal chain radars which track the movement of sea and ocean traffic. Such multilateral agreements are necessitated due to the large traffic in the Indian Ocean which cannot be entirely monitored by any one nation.

UPSC seeks applications for Central Govt's JS posts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UPSC has sought fresh applications from over 6,000 private sector specialists who have applied for 10 posts of joint secretaries in the Central Government through 'lateral entry' mode, the DoPT said Tuesday.

In a statement, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said the task of selection of suitable candidates from amongst those who had applied for the posts in select government departments through 'lateral entry' mode was entrusted to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by the competent authority on October 29.

"All candidates who have already submitted their applications online to the DoPT are now requested to fill up a Detailed Application Form (DAF) which seeks to obtain additional specific information from the candidates regarding qualifications and experience so as to facilitate the selection process," it said.

The term lateral entry refers to the appointment of specialists, mainly those from private sector, in government organisations.

An email is also being issued separately to each of the candidates who have applied, through their registered email ID indicated in their online applications submitted in response to the DoPT advertisement.

The candidates may email the link indicated in the email and submit online all the requisite information asked for in the DAF before 6 pm on January 1.

Detailed information about the process is available on the website of UPSC

DoPT said the task of selection of suitable candidates from amongst those who had applied for the posts in select government departments through 'lateral entry' mode was entrusted to the UPSC by the competent authority on October 29

(<http://www.Upsc.Gov.In>) and DoPT (<https://lateral.Nic.In>). All candidates are advised to visit the website as well as check their registered emails for detailed information, it said.

The DoPT had invited applications from talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation building to join the government at the level of joint secretary on contract basis on June 10.

The ten department/ministries of the government are: Department of Revenue, Department of Financial Services, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Commerce.

A total of 6,077 applications were received by the DoPT for the 10 joint secretary posts.

Usually, the posts of joint secretaries are manned by IAS,

IPS, IFS, IRS officers recruited through civil services examination conducted by the UPSC.

Citing the names of former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who was also a bureaucrat, and the then deputy chairman of planning commission Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who was appointed through lateral recruitment route, the government had said there was no adverse effect on the morale of the civil servants due to such appointments.

In a written reply to Lok Sabha in July, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh had said the government had decided to undertake lateral recruitment of 10 joint secretaries on contractual basis in order to achieve the twin objectives of bringing in fresh talent as well as augmenting the availability of manpower.

Government think tank Niti Aayog, in its three-year action agenda 2017-18 to 2019-20, highlighted it was essential that specialists be inducted into the system through lateral entry on fixed-term contract, the minister said.

The Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS) submitted a report in February, 2017 in which it has inter alia been observed that there was a shortage of officers at the joint secretary, director, deputy secretary levels, due to reduction in recruitment in the service during 1995-2002.

"Based on the recommendation of the SGoS, the government has decided to undertake lateral recruitment of 10 joint secretaries on contract basis in order to achieve the twin objectives of bringing in fresh talent as well as augment the availability of manpower," the minister had said.

SC to Centre: Declare 10km adjacent area of national parks as Eco-Sensitive Zone

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday directed the Centre to declare "at the earliest" 10 km area around 21 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) to protect wild birds and animals.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notifies areas close to National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries as ESZ, aimed at creating "shock absorbers" for protected animals and birds by regulating and managing activities there.

It can direct that certain industries and operations are not carried out, or subjected to safeguards, in ESZs.

A bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur, Deepak Gupta and Hemant Gupta was informed that there were 662 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country, and state governments and Union Territories' administrations have not even moved any proposal to the Centre for declaring ESZs in 21 such areas.

"Under the circumstances, we direct that an area of 10 Kms around these 21 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries be declared as Eco-Sensitive Zone by the MoEF at the earliest.

"Liberty is granted to the state governments to move an application for modification of this order along with proposal only two weeks after submission of the proposals to the MoEF," the bench noted in its order.

The 21 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, without ESZ are in Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Uttar

INDIAN BUSTARDS' SAFETY NGOs demand removal of all overhead power lines

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Dismantle all overhead power lines and place them safely underground on priority in and around the habitat of the endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB), a group of NGOs working for conservation of the wildlife has demanded. The group jointly launched a campaign seeking community support to save the winged beauties from getting hit by the transmission lines.

Listed as critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the GIB is found only in India. Majority of the surviving birds are found in the fragmented grasslands of Rajasthan and Gujarat, along with a few individuals in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. In 1969, over 1,000 GIB roamed the country's grasslands, but their numbers have plummeted owing to habitat loss as well as power lines. Most mortalities happen in low-light conditions such as twilight, when birds fly between foraging and roosting grounds.

"Though many of the threats to the Great Indian Bustard, such as habitat loss, are being addressed there is one swinging axe that could seal the bird's fate. The overhead power transmission lines that crisscross GIB habitat are killing these low-flying, ground-dwelling birds," said the campaign launched by The Great Indian Bustard Campaign has been launched by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, The Corbett Foundation and Conservation India.

To corroborate their claims, they have cited a study by the Dehradun-based

Wildlife Institute of India (WII) that says that 10 GIBs have lost their lives in power line collisions in the last decade (2007-2017). The study also noted that while undergrounding of cables eliminates bird mortality, marking power line can reduce mortality by 10 per cent to 78 per cent, depending on area and species, but not eliminate mortality.

The organisations also expressed concern that while the erection of power lines in and around GIB habitat is against the 2013 guidelines for the recovery of the species given by the Union Environment Ministry, unfortunately, vital grasslands are not given the strict environmental scrutiny they deserve before developmental projects are sanctioned.

"India's push towards renewable energy is laudable, but power transmission strategies need to be in line with this green vision and Bustard Recovery Guidelines. While private companies generate clean energy, it is up to India's Power and New and Renewable Ministries to ensure that this energy reaches its destination without causing extinction of any species," said the organisations in their letter written to Marked to Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy Ministry.

"Fortunately, we have a solution. Overhead transmission lines can be placed underground. Yes, this is more expensive, but experts confirm that such an intervention has reduced mortality of another bustard species, the Great Bustard, in West Pannonia. This can work in India too," they asserted.

4 cops guarding Kashmiri Pandit hamlet shot dead

JeM claims responsibility

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Four policemen guarding a minority habitation were killed in an attack by Jaish-e-Muhammad terrorists in Zainapora village of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday. The terrorists snatched rifles of the slain cops before fleeing from the site of the attack.

Official sources said that an unknown number of militants attacked a police picket in Zainapora village, around 50 kilometres from here. They opened indiscriminate firing on policemen, killing three of them on the spot and leaving another in a pool of blood. The injured policeman was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Jaish-e-Muhammad outfit claimed responsibility for the attack. Hours after the attack, a picture purportedly circulated by the outfit through social media sites went viral showing the four snatching assault rifles.

The cops were guarding a cluster of homes where members of minority community are living.

Zainapora, that is part of Shopian district, is a tehsil headquarter.

The slain cops have been identified as Anees Ahmad, Abdul Majid, Merajuddin and Hamidullah.

"The area was cordoned off and a search operation has been started," a police spokesman said.



Policemen carry the mortal remains of four policemen who were killed by terrorists in an attack at Zainapora in Shopian on Tuesday PTI

"Civil & Police Officers including Additional Director General (Law and Order) Munir Ahmed Khanand Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range) Soyam Prakash Pani laid floral wreaths on the mortal remains and paid rich tributes to the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," spokesman said adding the wreath laying ceremony was held at Zainapora village.

Zainapora is the native village of former People's Democratic Party (PDP) legislator Ajaz Mir whose Special Police Officer (SPO) Aadil Bashir Sheikh looted 7 rifles from his Jawahirnagar residence on September 29. A week later Sheikh circulated his pictures with local Hizbul Mujahideen commander Zeenatul Islam brandishing these rifles. Islam has reportedly joined Al Badr outfit.

Governor Satya Pal Malik expressed grief over the loss of lives of policemen. In a message Governor has prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families. Former Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah also condemned the attack. "We have lost three of our brave cops while delivering their duties. I pay my heartfelt tributes to the policemen," he said.

Expressing his heartfelt condolence with the bereaved families, the NC vice president said the State has been at the receiving end with deaths, whether of a civilian, a policeman or a militant, becoming order of the day over the past three decades.

Omar while expressing concern said that a minority community which is putting up there should not feel apprehensive of their security.

Meanwhile, a civilian who was abducted by suspected militants in Kulgam district of south Kashmir 46 days ago was killed by his captors. Sheeraz Ahmad Bhat was abducted on October 27, a few days after three militants hiding in his house were killed by security forces in an encounter in Larnoo village. Seven civilians were killed on the encounter sites on the same day when they went closer to the damaged house where explosives went off.

Sena happy with BJP losing 3 States

Uddhav Thackeray congratulates voters for showing courage

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling Shiv Sena on Tuesday joined the Opposition in hailing the verdict in the State Assembly polls which saw the Congress deliver a body blow to the BJP and capture power in the States of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Describing the outcome in the Assembly poll as a major setback to the BJP, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray congratulated the voters for showing courage in bringing out change in Government in four States, three of them ruled by the BJP. He said the courage shown by the voters would give a "new direction" to the country.

"Victories and defeats are common in elections. But, I



would like to congratulate the voters in four States who have brought about change in their respective State. Without bothering to go into 'alternatives' (to the BJP) and not also thinking about what will follow, the voters have shown the courage of showing the door to the existing Government. The courage shown by the voters should give a new direction to the country," Uddhav said.

Uddhav, who reacted to the poll results before the final outcome of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls, said: "The Congress has succeeded

snatching power from the BJP in the states of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. A stiff battle is on between the Congress and BJP in Madhya Pradesh. K Chandrashekar Rao has succeeded in retaining power in Telangana. In Mizoram, the Congress has lost power to the Mizoram National Front (MNF)".

The Sena president said that best part of the Assembly polls, the voters had exercised their rights without bothering much about the apprehensions about the manipulation of Electronic Voting Machines, use of money-power, muscle power and the oft-repeated 'there is no alternative' factor.

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray described the outcome in the State Assembly polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh as a slap on the "jumla" governance provided by the BJP in the three states.

"I would like to congratulate the voters in the five States for the outcome in the Assembly polls. The outcome is big slap handed by the people in the States of Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh to the ruling BJP in the three states and Narendra Modi dispensation at the Centre," Raj said.

The MNS chief also congratulated the people of Gujarat who had nearly defeated the BJP in the Assembly polls held earlier. "The BJP used to call Rahul Gandhi a Pappu earlier. He has now earned respectability. We don't need Ram Mandir in the country. But we need Ram rajya in the country. Having not done anything during the last four and a half years, the Modi Government has nothing to show to the people. That's why Modi tried to fool the people through emotional issues," Raj said.

Heaping praise on Congress president Rahul Gandhi for his effective leadership, Maharashtra Pradesh

Congress Committee (MPCC) president Ashok Chavan said that his party had defeated the "Dhan Shakti" (money power) of the BJP with "Jan Shakti" (people's power).

Addressing the party workers gathered at the party's south Mumbai office "Gandhi Bhavan" to celebrate the party's victory in the Assembly polls in the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Chavan said: "Under the leadership Rahul Gandhi, the Congress has defeated the Dhan Shakti (money power) of the BJP with Jan Shakti (people power) in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Now, we will win the upcoming Lok Sabha elections under Rahul Gandhi's leadership."

"Modi, Machine, Money have not worked in this election. The people have responded to Modi's dictatorial politics with one slogan: Modiji jaane wale hai, Rahulji aane wale hai," Chavan said.

World class rly station near Statue of Unity site in Gujarat soon

Mumbai: Railways Ministry will develop a world class station at Kevadiya near the site of the Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district, an official said here on Tuesday.

The world's tallest statue dedicated to India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October this year.

President Ram Nath Kovind will lay the foundation stone for the Kevadiya railway station, which will be located at a distance of five kms from the imposing structure, on December 15, the Western Railway (WR) official told PTI.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the event. "The plan to come up with the railway station near the statue is being implemented by the Railway Ministry after the PMO asked it to develop a state-of-the-art station with a view to increase the tourist foot fall and boost local trade", the official added. He said the Railway Board has sanctioned the work to convert 18-km Dabhoi-Chandod narrow gauge into broad gauge and extension from Chandod to Kevadia Colony by constructing a new 32-km line.

"We are carrying out works on 50-km railway tracks to facilitate this railway station which would cost around ₹663.29 crore," said the official. PTI

Muzaffarpur shelter home vacated for demolition

Muzaffarpur: The shelter home here which was embroiled in a sex scandal was vacated by the Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation (MMC) on Tuesday ahead of its demolition, an MMC official said.

There is no specific information about the demolition date of the shelter home building which was found to have been constructed in violation of the map design passed by MMC, he said.

The civic body ordered the demolition of the building on November 12.

The scandal at the shelter home called 'Balika Grih', run by Brajesh Thakur's NGO 'Seva Sankalp Evam Vikas Samiti', came to light earlier this year

in a social audit by the Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences, which said that over 30 girls living in it were sexually abused.

An MMC official issuing the demolition order said the violation of the map design passed for constructing the shelter home building has been detected.

"We (corporation) got the Muzaffarpur shelter home vacated to demolish its building. A seizure list of articles belonging to the shelter home was prepared under the supervision of the magistrate. The videography of the entire building has also been carried out," MMC city manager Om Prakash told reporters here.

Asked when the building

would be demolished, Om Prakash said, "We don't have any specific information as to when the building will be demolished. We have been assigned to get the building vacated besides preparing the seizure list and getting the videography done."

MMC Commissioner Sanjay Dubey had said that the civic body would start demolishing the building soon after preparing the seizure list and completing the videography of entire building.

After the shelter home scandal came to light, Brajesh Thakur, who is the prime accused, and others were booked on May 30, 2018. The state government later handed over the probe to the CBI. PTI

74% polling in nine phases of J&K Panchayat polls, 38.8% in final phase

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir recorded an overall polling of 74 per cent in the nine phases of Panchayat elections, with the last phase on Tuesday witnessing 38.8 per cent voting, election officials said.

In the nine phases, Jammu recorded 83.5 per cent voter turnout, Ladakh 67.8 per cent and Kashmir 41.3 per cent, they said.

The polls passed off peacefully amid tight security with no untoward incident despite a boycott call given by separatists and the lurking threat of violence by terrorists, they said.

Voting for the final phase was held Tuesday at 452 polling stations spread across seven districts of Kashmir division and it ended peacefully at 2 pm, the officials said.

North Kashmir's Kupwara district registered the highest polling at 53.6 per cent and the lowest was in South Kashmir's Pulwama district at 1.4 per cent.

Bandipora recorded 46 per cent polling, Baramulla 38.9 per cent, Budgam 38.8 per cent, Anantnag 24.8 per cent and Ganderbal witnessed 20.9 per cent voting, the officials said.

In the ninth phase, 430 candidates were contesting for 55 sarpanch and 138 panch posts. Sixty-eight sarpanchs and 433 panchs had already been elected unopposed in this phase.

An electorate of 68,745 was eligible to vote for sarpanch constituencies and 20,688 for panch constituencies in the ninth phase.

"With the completion of voting, overall 74 per cent

polling was recorded in all the phases of panchayat elections in the state. Jammu witnessed an impressive 83.5 per cent voting, Ladakh 67.8 per cent and Kashmir 41.3 per cent in all the phases," an official said.

The official said the first phase on November 17 recorded 74.1 per cent voting overall, followed by 71.1 per cent in the second phase on November 20, 75.2 per cent in the third phase on November 24 and 71.3 per cent polling in the fourth phase on November 27.

In the fifth phase, 71.1 per cent voting was witnessed on November 29, 76.9 per cent on December 1, 75.3 per cent on December 4 and 79.9 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the eighth phase on December 8. PTI



Congress party workers celebrate the party's good show in the Assembly elections of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh at the party office in Patna on Tuesday PTI

Marriage set to get political colour in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Caste and community differences which marred many marriages have been hit for a six in Tamil Nadu. The new norm for a successful marriage is the political affiliation of the bride, the bridegroom and their families. If what happened at Arni in Thiruvannamalai district is any indication, matchmakers have to be careful in future before finalising any prospective alliance.

Santhi and Shanmugham were to tie the nuptial knot on Saturday night, the culmination of a marriage arranged purely by the consent of both the families. The pre-marriage ceremonies took off smoothly by early evening with the traditional nagaswaram recital while the guests were anxiously waiting for the Geet programme to be presented by the local

music band as part of the reception.

While the nagaswaram concert was on, P Padmanabhan, the bridegroom's father, noted that the road and the wedding hall were decorated with flags and festoons of the DMK to welcome the district secretary of the party. It is mandatory on Tamil Nadu that the hosts should decorate the entire locality with party flags and festoons of the party of the guest list include any leaders from the Dravidian outfits.

Rajagopal, father of Santhi, was a DMK activist and had invited the party's district secretary to bless the couple. It was only after the hosts informed the district secretary that the locality and marriage hall has been decorated with the posters of M Karunanidhi, M K Stalin and himself, the secretary left his residence for the marriage ceremony.

But Padmanabhan too had a guest, a VIP guest indeed. Sevour S Ramachandran, minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department had assured Padmanabhan that he would attend the marriage and bless the couple. Hence Padmanabhan, a district level leader of the AIADMK asked Rajagopal to remove the DMK flags and festoons which definitely would have embarrassed the AIADMK minister.

Rajagopal stood his ground and bluntly refused to remove the DMK flags and pictures of Kalaignar (as Karunanidhi was known) and Stalin. This annoyed the bridegroom and his father who told the girl's side that the marriage would not take place until the DMK flags were removed. The bride Santhi, who too is a camp follower of the DMK, told her father that the marriage need to

be called off because it would be difficult to get along with people who are hardcore AIADMK activists!

By early Sunday morning, Rajagopal took his daughter to the village temple and got her marriage solemnised with Ezhumalai, a close relation of the family. Padmanabhan and Shanmugham have filed a case with the Arni police station complaining about the ill-treatment meted out to them by the Rajagopals and has asked the police to make Rajagopal compensate for the money they spent on wedding arrangements.

In future, marriages in Tamil Nadu would be fixed after matching not only the horoscopes of the boy and the girl but the political affiliation of the families. The DMK and the AIADMK can never coexist under any circumstances, according to ITV Dinakaran, leader of the AMMK, a break-away faction of the AIADMK.

Neglecting Lord Ram led to defeat of BJP: VHP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) said on Tuesday that the party which neglected Lord Ram and Ram temple issue was forced to bite dust in three Central Indian states where the Bharatiya Janata Party was defeated by the Congress in the just-concluded Assembly elections.

Reacting to the results of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, senior VHP leader Purshottam Narain Singh said that Ram bhakts were angry with the party which spoke about construction of Ram temple only during elections but did little for it while in power.

"These Ram bhakts have vented their anger by defeating the BJP in these three States," Singh said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Tuesday.

The VHP leader said that the people of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh had played a pivotal role during Ram Janmabhoomi agitation.

"Be it 1990 or December 6, 1992, Ram bhakts from these States played a stellar role in the campaign. Their campaign found reflection in government formation as soon after that the BJP formed governments in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh," Singh pointed out.

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
 PALIKA KENDRA, NEW DELHI-110001

e-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender ID No. 2018 NDMC 162707 1
Name of Work: M/o Parks and Garden 2018-19.
Sub Head: Procurement of Ground Cover for beautification of Aurobindo Marg from Ring Road to FOB Yusuf Sarai with Green Belt AIMS Flyover.
Estimated cost: ₹6,32,500/-
 Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : **08.12.2018**
 Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : **19.12.2018 at 3:00 PM**
 Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT in Delhi is mandatory. S/d
 Dy. Director (H-V)

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	BHAGAT PHOOLSINGH MAHILA VISHWAVIDYALAYA, KHANPUR KALAN SONIPAT	RENOVATION OF FACULTY OF LAW DEPTT BUILDING (RE-INVITED)+5 OTHER WORKS	23.12.2018	126.97 LACS	https://www.bswwomenuniversity.ac.in	senbpm@gmail.com 91263-283802
2	GMDA, GURUGRAM	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR AUTHORITY ENGINEER FOR SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF FOG AND UNDERPASS WITH CARRIAGE AT MAHAVIR CHOWK, OPPOSITE POLICE LINE, GURUGRAM (HARYANA)+1 OTHER WORK	07.12.2018 03.01.2019	65.33 CRORES	https://www.gmda.gov.in	sa2gmda@gov.in 9124-2746610
3	HSVP DIVISION, PALWAL AT FARIDABAD	REPAIR OF INTERNAL ROADS IN GROUP HOUSING AREA, SEC -2, PALWAL, FILLING POT HOLES, FIXING CAT EYES, SPREAD BREAKERS	31.12.2018	34.80 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	xenudaselwal@gmail.com 9129-9090563
4	GMDA, GURUGRAM	INTERIOR WORKS OF THE TRCTC BUILDING AT PLOT NO. 2, SECTOR - 14, GURUGRAM	10.12.2018 02.01.2019	6.31 CRORES	www.gmda.gov.in	sdvspjgmda@gov.in 91852278933
5	GMDA, GURUGRAM	REPAIRING OF ROAD / CENTRAL VERGE/ FOOTPATH AT VARIOUS PLACES IN GURUGRAM FOR EMERGENCY WORKS WHEN AND WHERE REQUIRED FOR DAMAGED ANYWHERE IN GMDA AREA (RECALL)	11.12.2018 26.12.2018	38.49 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	enpmobi.gmda@gmail.com 8821038654

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 74099

JOLT TO BJP IN ASSEMBLY POLLS

Excessive centralisation did BJP in

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP, which has been on a winning spree in successive polls and seemed to be in a perennial glee, barring one or two occasions, on Tuesday received a shock treatment in its Assembly poll defeats at the hands of its arch rival and claimant to the power at the Centre.

The excessive centralisation of decision making power in few hands, dependence on robotic social media or even much touted Panna Pramukh model had apparently created a disconnect with the real issues that mattered most to the voting masses.

Though the mandate in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is anti-BJP, it is certainly not pro-Congress either as is evident in the nail bite finish in the poll outcomes of these two States. Chhattisgarh, though, sprang a surprise giving a sweeping verdict in favour of the Congress and would require a detailed analysis of the poll results at a micro-level.

Despite the 15-year-long incumbency of the BJP rule in Madhya Pradesh, the party had retained its turf in the urban centres even as it freely slipped in the rural areas and gave advantage Congress which otherwise did not seem to be capitalising



on BJP's Governance 'failures'. Not recognising farmers' march to Delhi as a 'real one' was part of one of the problems that BJP created for itself that recoiled on the party.

Rajasthan, which is traditionally known for not return-

ing any party twice to power, did not give astounding welcome to the Congress which barely made it to the power in the state which was otherwise headed by a not so popular Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje. The infighting within the State BJP and differences between Party President Amit Shah and Raje also did not help Congress cause a steep increase its tally in the state.

This, however, is not consolation for the BJP which has lost its core Hindi-heartland, particularly Madhya Pradesh, where it had the support base of

20 to 25 per cent even in the days of its earlier avatar Bhartiya Jan Sangh since its foundation in 1951. MP was lost despite it being the earliest and the biggest RSS laboratory for the saffron politics.

The setbacks for the BJP augur ill for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. In 2014, BJP had won of 62 of 65 Lok Sabha seats of these three States. And it is calculated that given the Assembly segments won by the Congress (roughly five segments constitute a LS constituency) in three States, BJP could lose a good 31 seats in the LS poll in 2019.

BJP's central leadership would have to collectively mull as why there a trust deficit had suddenly crept and started growing between the voters and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was a consistent vote catcher for the party in most of the Assembly polls before the charisma started losing its gloss with the Gujarat and Karnataka polls. Elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan were fought with the regional satraps leading from the front despite the incumbency sword. Would the same incumbency rub Modi wrong way?

Setback for BJP in RS after defeats

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The shock defeats and setbacks in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh would dent the imminent position which the BJP was seeking to attain in the Upper House where it had already gained the status of single largest party after its thumping win in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, last year.

Currently BJP has 73 members followed by the Congress with 50, AIADMK, Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party 13 each, Biju Janata Dal 9, Telangana Rashtriya Samiti and Telugu Desam Party with six each and Rashriya Janata Dal 5.

After it assumed power at the Centre on May 26, 2014, gaining absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, the BJP had to struggle in the Upper House where the Opposition, mainly the Congress, blocked several key legislations, including the

recent triple talaq Bill which could not get passage in the upper house after Lok Sabha (where BJP has the majority) passed it in the last session.

The BJP is set to introduce triple talaq bill again in the RS in the winter session that commenced on Monday. With clear defeats in Rajasthan (Assembly strength 200) and Chhattisgarh (90 seats) and losing numbers in Madhya Pradesh (230 seats) to the Congress, BJP may accede RS strength to the Congress

which would be able to grab many more RS seats on account of its new found power in these three States.

The gains for the NDA had come this year, when Rajya Sabha elections happened in 19 different States for 58 seats with the BJP winning nine out of the ten seats from UP itself where it had gained thumping majority in the Assembly elections, last year. The results of March biennial elections across the country had given an edge to the

BJP over the Congress, even though a majority had continued to elude the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

With the winning trend in different States, BJP was hoping that the NDA could inch forward towards a majority in the Upper house by next year when at least eight vacancies are up for grab. The poll reverses in three states would put a sudden halt on NDA's ambitions to work out its RS strength to its existing heavy presence in LS.

Besides Cong, others also ate into BJP pie

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the BJP suffering losses in three key States, its vote share too has taken a sharp dip in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh since the last Assembly elections in 2013, but all these votes do not seem to have gone to the Congress alone as other players have also reaped the gains.

According to Election Commission, the vote share loss is even bigger for the saffron party since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, in which it had virtually swept all the three States by winning 62 out of 65 seats.

In Telangana and Mizoram, regional parties have come out with flying colours, a post-2014 trend clearly visible in many States with sizeable presence of non-BJP and non-Congress parties.

Political pundits said this trend indicates that the regional satraps might play key roles

in 2019 general elections for which attempts are already underway by non-BJP parties to put a united front against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bid for a second term.

For Chhattisgarh, the latest data showed the Congress getting 43.2 per cent votes in this elections, up from 40.3 per cent in the 2013 State polls and 38.37 per cent in the 2014 general elections, where the party won only one out of 11 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

In comparison, the BJP's loss has been wider with its vote share dipping from 41 per cent in 2013 to 32.9 per cent now. In 2014 general elections, the party had got nearly 49 per cent vote and 10 out of the 11 Lok Sabha seats.

The voting share analysis shows that some smaller parties and independents have managed to get more votes. While BSP had got 4.3 per cent in 2013, its alliance with former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi's party

has now got about 10.7 per cent votes.

Independents have also improved their performance from 5.3 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Similar trend was visible in Rajasthan where BJP's votes have fallen from 45.2 per cent in 2013 to 38.8 per cent now. It was much higher at nearly 55 per cent in 2014, when the party won all 25 Lok Sabha seats from the state.

On the other hand, the Congress has improved its vote share from 33.1 per cent in 2013 to 39.2 per cent in 2018. It had managed to get nearly 30 per cent votes despite losing on all seats in last parliamentary elections. Independents have improved their assembly tally from 8.2 per cent to 9.5 per cent, while bagging larger number of seats. The vote share situation is the most interesting in Madhya Pradesh, which saw the closest fight between the Congress and the BJP. The Congress' share has improved

from 36.4 per cent in 2013 to 41.4 per cent in 2018 assembly polls, while that of the BJP has come down

from 44.9 per cent to 41.3 per cent, as per the latest update. The BSP's share here has actually fallen to 4.6 per cent, while that of the independents has remained nearly same at over 5 per cent. However, some other smaller parties have made gains.

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
 BM-PK Division, Civil Engineering Department
 Room No. 1615, 16th Floor, Palika Kendra, New Delhi
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-TENDERING NOTICE

Name of work:- Sanitation Work
 SH:- Providing Safai Karamcharies for Housekeeping Work at Shivaji Stadium, Chander Lok Building, Mayur Bhawan, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Pragati Bhawan, and Zonal Centre at Fire Brigade Lane.
 E.C. :- Rs. 11,84,659.00 Tender I.D. No. 2018, NDMC_163415_1
 Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution is 07.12.2018
 Date and time for pre-bid meeting is - N.A.
 Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution is : 17.12.2018 upto 16:00 Hours.
 Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/inicgsp> & www.ndmc.gov.in (e-Tendering System, Government of NCT of Delhi).
 Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-Tendering System, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.
 The tender shall be read only through e-Procurement procedure and this supersedes all conditioning of NIT for issue/receipt of tender in normal tendering processing for the purpose.
 Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-PK)
To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

BSES TENDER NOTICE					
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi					
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.					
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
C/MC/BR/18-19/SV/AR/749	AWARD OF WORK FOR LAYING OF 11 KV FEEDERS FROM BODELLA GRID IN BRPL	208.05 Lacs	4.16 Lacs	26.12.2018 1530 HRS	26.12.2018 1545 HRS
C/MC/BR/18-19/SV/AR/750	AWARD OF WORK FOR LAYING OF 11 KV FEEDERS FROM HASTSAL GRID IN BRPL	127.40 Lacs	2.54 Lacs	26.12.2018 1530 HRS	26.12.2018 1545 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document : ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)
 For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submition of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)
 Regd. Off. :- BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11527
 Telephone No. :- +91 11 3999 9444 | E-mail :- brpl.education@relioncoada.com | Website :- www.bsesdelhi.com

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
E-Tender Press Notice No.18/FO/NZ/2018-19

The Executive Engineer, Northern Division No.4, DDA Office Complex, Munim Ji Ka Bagh, Narela, Delhi-110040 on behalf of Delhi Development Authority invites online percentage rate tenders from the firms/contractors of repute in two envelopes system for the following work. **Joint Ventures will not be accepted.**

NIT No.	Name of work	E-Registration Fees	Estimated Cost put to tender Earnest Money	Time Allowed
30/EE/ND-4/DDA/2018-19	D/o land for Sector A-1 to A-4, Narela Project. SH: Clo peripheral S.W. Drains in Sector A-1 to A-4 at Narela Project, Phase-I.	50,000/- (+) GST at the applicable rates	Rs.42,23,74,767/- Rs.52,23,748/-	11 Months

The tenders shall be uploaded in two envelopes marked 'A' & 'B'. i.e. Envelope 'A' (earnest money, proof of e-registration fee & eligibility criteria) and Envelope 'B' (Financial bid). Envelope 'A' will be submitted on-line as well as hard copy and Envelope 'B' will be submitted on-line only on Schedule of quantities of Price bid format. The Earnest money shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT in to the account of Sr. A.O./CAU (NZ), DDA having A/C No. 02871110000022 with HDFC Bank, B-3-2 Ashok Vihar phase-II, New Delhi-110052 (IFSC Code HDFC0000287) & MICR CODE 110240039. The unique transaction reference of RTGS/NEFT along with proof of e-registration fee paid shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in the e-tendering system by the prescribed date. The Executive Engineer concerned will get earnest money verified from CAU based on the unique transaction reference number against the each RTGS/NEFT payment before the tenders are opened.

A part of earnest money is acceptable in the form of bank guarantee also. Earnest money up to Rs.20 lacs will have to be deposited through RTGS/NEFT mode. If the amount of EM more than the amount of EM beyond Rs.20 lacs can be deposited in the form of Bank Guarantee which will remain in force up to and including the last date of 180 days after the deadline for submission of tenders. Such bank guarantee shall also be scanned and uploaded on the e-tendering website within the period of tender submission.

The unique transaction reference of RTGS/NEFT against EM and proof of e-registration fees paid, bank guarantee shall be placed in single sealed envelope superscribed as earnest money and proof of e-registration fee paid the eligibility documents shall be placed in other sealed envelope. Both these envelopes shall be placed in single sealed envelope superscribed with the name of work and due date of tender opening of bid mentioned thereon and will submit to tender opening authority along with documents of eligibility criteria.

Envelope "B" contains Financial Bid.
 Financial Bid i.e Envelope-B should be submitted on-line only on schedule of quantities of price bid format.

The pre-bid conference will be held on **27.12.2018 at 11.30 A.M** in the Office of Chief Engineer(NZ), 18th Floor, Vikas Minar, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi:110002 to offer clarification of any doubts of intending tenderer. The tender will be uploaded till **17.01.2019 upto 3.00 PM**. Hard copy of documents related to earnest money, tender cost and eligibility criteria i.e **Envelope 'A'** will also be submitted by the tenderer in the office of Executive Engineer, Northern Division No.4, DDA Office Complex, Munim Ji Ka Bagh, Narela, Delhi-110040 on **17.01.2019 upto 3.00 PM**. Envelope-A will be opened on **17.01.2019** at the same venue at **3.30 PM** in the presence of intending tenderers or their authorised representatives.

After opening of Envelope-A and scrutiny of documents submitted by bidders will be examined thereafter based on the scrutiny of documents, eligibility of the contractor will be approved by the competent authority. The time and date of opening of financial bid of contractors qualifying the eligibility criteria shall be communicated to them separately.

For eligibility criteria, mode of payment of EMD/ e-registration fee through RTGS/NEFT mode etc. and other details of the tender, visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/> eprocure/app or www.dda.org.in. For any assistance please contact M/s National Informatics Centre on telephone No. 0120-4200462/0120-4001002 or send mail to cppp-nic@nic.in / support-eproc@nic.in.

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Didi: Countdown for BJP begins

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



BJP's arrogance and dictatorial sabotage of the central autonomous agencies like the CBI and RBI coupled with its anti-people policies like the demonetisation let the saffron outfit down, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said, announcing "countdown for the end of BJP has begun."

Banerjee who was speaking to a section of the Bengali media in Delhi said the Assembly election results in (Hindi heartland) show that the "beginning of BJP's end has begun. It is just a matter of time. They have lost the semi-finals. Now they will lose the finals in 2019."

The Bengal Chief Minister who has no love lost for the saffron leadership, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah said "if you ask me why ... I will say arrogance took them down in the elections."

The BJP's anti-people policies too had a huge impact on its poll prospects in the five States, Banerjee said. "It seemed like India was running through a political emergency, economic emergency, institutional emergency (leading to near destruction of autonomous agencies) with the youth losing jobs in hordes, and farmers committing suicide. All the institutions were attacked. Even the Constitution was not spared," Banerjee said adding how "farmers, workers, youth, Scheduled castes, minorities and other sections of the society were unhappy with the BJP."

For the past several years India has been passing through a phase of fear the Chief Minister said adding how "those who dared to speak up against the BJP Government were browbeaten to silence. People, even the journalists who spoke against them had to lose their jobs, such was the atmosphere of fear in the country."

After Tuesday the situation was such that the BJP had no presence in South India, it had a trifle presence in the North East, "in the East it is not there which you will see when people go to polls in Bihar where Laloo ji's party will take the upper hand. In the North they are on their way out, in the West they are finished. In Goa they will go any day and if today there is an election in Maharashtra they will lose by huge margins," Banerjee said.

Speaking once again in favour of a grand alliance of the regional parties Banerjee said "I am still of the view that the regional parties should be given their due respect considering the idea of federalism."



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Rahul's day dawns

The Modi-Shah juggernaut of the BJP has been finally halted in its tracks, signaling the emergence of the Congress as a fighting force again



The *Kaalchakra* (wheel of time), philosophers tell us, never stays stationary. But this time, the electoral *Kaalchakra* stopped short of a complete revolution, although its direction was quite clear. The other significant trend emerging from the results of five State elections is that after a long time voters have given a less than decisive verdict in at least two States, in fact the two big States of the Hindi heartland which went to the polls. The so-called Hindi heartland States — Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan — have traditionally been the BJP's powerhouse, along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These are the States that gave Prime Minister Narendra Modi the thunderous mandate to lead his party to an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha for the first time in 2014. The BJP's crushing triumphs in the States also contributed to party president Amit Shah's ascendancy as the Superman of poll battles and a modern-day Chanakya, whose election-winning strategies were deemed infallible. Whatever the final outcome the aura of the Modi-Shah combine's electoral invincibility has been dented, perhaps, beyond repair.

Although the Congress is in a cheerful mood, it's not yet time for partymen to proclaim "Three cheers for Rahul Gandhi". The Grand Old Party has wrested Rajasthan, but just about. The trends are see-sawing in Madhya Pradesh with the Congress enjoying a slender lead and the feisty Shivraj Singh Chouhan almost negating anti-incumbency. The party can however congratulate itself for its sweep in Chhattisgarh where popular Chief Minister Raman Singh had to finally bite the dust. Since all the three major Hindi-speaking States were under the BJP's control for 15 long years, it was widely expected that Narendra Modi's apparently diminishing charisma and the adverse effects of demonetisation and hasty GST implementation, will open the gates for the Congress's resounding triumph. But notwithstanding its remarkable revival, the Congress victory stopped short of being outstanding.

Nevertheless, these results mark the emergence of Rahul Gandhi as a leader of stature. He has shrugged off the badge of being a sorry failure — an image which has dogged him for many years. He is now poised to lead a rejuvenated Congress into the Kurukshetra of 2019 in the hope of coming to power in New Delhi after a longish gap. This time he led from the front, muddying his hands in the heat and dust of a grueling poll campaign and proved his leadership skills. The Congress will still need allies in most States and much will therefore depend on Rahul's acceptability as leader of a grand alliance of non-BJP parties, something that has not been forthcoming so far. But his task is much easier now that his party has finally risen from the ashes showing capability to emerge as a spirited fighting force.

A review of the results will not be complete without complimenting the resilient leadership of Telangana Chief Minister and TRS chief, K Chandrasekhar Rao, who bucked anti-incumbency to spectacularly win his first election since the formation of separate Telangana for which he had relentlessly struggled. His pro-poor, populist schemes helped him ward off the challenge from the Mahakutami, led by the Congress and Chadrababu Naidu's TDP. In Mizoram too, the Congress had to face rout at the hands of the powerful regional force, the MNF. In other words, it's a real case of "you win some, you lose some". Only that the BJP has not won any.

Turmoil in Central bank

Urjit Patel's tenure will be remembered for his fight with the Government but his squeeze on liquidity will remain a legacy



Urjit Patel's final act as Reserve Bank of India Governor was to write the template of a terse yet seemingly grateful resignation letter. Such a letter should be remembered by all professional employees when drafting their letters. Now that has been done, Patel will retire to a life as a tenured professor in some noteworthy Indian or Western University, get a book deal that should keep him comfortable in old age and likely become a speaker at major summits. Of course, being a man of integrity that he has portrayed himself one expects that he will impose a cool-

down period before he starts narrating the sequence of events that led to the collapse of his relationship with Narendra Modi and Arun Jaitley.

However, what must not be forgotten is the fact that under Urjit Patel the Reserve Bank of India became more insular and reticent. Its actions curbing liquidity which was forced upon it by the precarious state of Indian public sector banks went a tad too far and shut off the tap crushing the small and medium sector enterprises in India and companies were forced to literally beg for working capital requirements. The appointment of S Gurumurthy to the Board of the Reserve Bank was seen by many as the final nail in the coffin for Patel but the fact is that most Central Banks across the world operate under a board process. And even though some of Gurumurthy's ideas and philosophies are questionable, the Board would have been able to keep him in check. What really did Patel in was the push by Modi and Jaitley to release more liquidity into the market, and while any Government would appreciate more liquidity ahead of an election they did have a point that the Reserve Bank was being unduly conservative in holding heavy reserves. In the aftermath of demonetisation and a confused Goods and Services Tax, the liquidity crunch has made life extremely tough, evident in company results over the past few quarters with demand collapsing in some industries.

And while Patel's future is sorted, the future of the Reserve Bank of India remains under a cloud. By removing himself from the equation, Patel has given the Government a chance to appoint a man who will serve deep into the next Government's tenure. By appointing Finance Secretary Shaktikanta Das as Patel's successor, the Government has opted for continuity and experience instead of experimenting with somebody untested. The Reserve Bank of India remains one of the country's key institutions and its future must be protected.

opinion 08

High cost of reservations

States have been more than eager to grant reservations at the expense of flouting apex court's orders. True, they are excellent for political positioning but the actual boons need to be surveyed



PRAFULL GORADIA

The latest rock on the pyramid of reservations is the Marathas whose demands for 16 per cent quota have been approved by the Maharashtra Government along the lines of Tamil Nadu, where the reservation totals up to 69 per cent. But it matters little. Both States have exceeded the Supreme Court's earlier orders stipulating 50 per cent as the ceiling limit for reservations. The balance 50 per cent should be left free for open competition. The apex court had ruled in 1969 that reservations cannot exceed 50 per cent. However, there are State laws that exceed this limit and these are under litigation in the top court. For example, caste-based reservation fraction stands at 69 per cent and is applicable to about 87 per cent of the population in Tamil Nadu.

Reservation has been an enticing political fruit which is not as sweet as it was believed to be. And it has been becoming blander by the years — with the liberalisation of the economy in 1991, Government jobs have been reducing even as new public sector corporations are not being set up. Yet, politically, the colour of the fruit has grown more and more attractive. Years ago, the Gujjars agitated to get a percentage. Much later, the Jats. Then came the Patidars in Gujarat. Thereafter was an intense follow up by the Marathas. All the abovementioned castes have a substantial say in their respective State Governments. Marathas hold an electoral de facto veto in Maharashtra, like the Jats in Haryana, the Gujjars in Rajasthan and the Patels in Gujarat. Moreover, distinguished sociologist MN Srinivas and his theory of caste Sanskritisation among Hindus would not accept anyone demoting his community's status. Every Hindu ideally desires to go up the ladder and likes some other caste below him. No caste or a section of it wishes to go down the ladder. What then is the secret motivation behind these four upper castes demanding to be Other Backward Classes (OBCs)?

Uncannily, reservations were first introduced neither by politicians nor by the Constitution but in his State by the Maharaja of Kolhapur as early as in 1902. Reportedly, the princely States of Baroda and Mysore were already practising reservations; although Kolhapur was the first to issue a written Government order. A British seal was first put on the concept of reservation when, as part of the Morley-Minto reforms, the Government of India Act, 1909, was passed by the Westminster Parliament. BR Ambedkar, who headed the drafting committee for the Constitution, favoured a 10-year reservation for the depressed castes as well as tribals. This proposal found support from generally everyone. As far as the other castes are concerned,



it all began with the appointment of the Mandal Commission in 1979 for finding out which were the OBCs. This term OBC was first used in the Census of 1931 which recorded a total of 1,257 such castes across India.

Could there be a possibility that non-OBC sons and daughters would not always get a job on merit? On the other hand, OBC youngsters walk away with the same jobs because of their caste. The latest attempt to join the OBC club may be their response to the challenge. Could the third possibility be a homeopathic treatment to remove or render redundant something they have grown up to disapprove of? Homeopathic means sympathetic treatment or aggravating the symptoms until they get ejected from the body. The normal approach is an antagonistic treatment or to attack the symptoms of the disease, which is the allopathic, the ayurvedic or the Unani method.

The homeopathic strategy, if at all, could be to provoke yet other castes to also demand reservation until the percentage becomes so large as to become farcical. That would leave so little or no scope for the general or non-reserved category that the system of reservation could expire. It is widely recog-

nised that no Government is likely to have the courage to abolish reservations. This was illustrated by the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe categories which were to enjoy reservation for 10 years only and expire by say 1960. And yet they are still carrying on. A Jat and a Patel leader each has mentioned in this writer's presence that he and his colleagues are embarrassed to ask for a reservation. But what else to do, was their question.

Several other questions can arise as one thinks further. Nehruvian socialism was the picnic period or the halcyon era of reservations. The bureaucracy was expanding at both the Centre and the State levels. At the same time, one PSU after another was being established. In other words, jobs, where the reservation was available, were virtually an expanding torrent. In the same decades, banks were nationalised, as were the general insurance companies and the entire coal industry.

Liberalisation-cum-globalisation introduced in 1991 overturned this apple cart. Parallel to this was realised by the State Governments that most of their public sector corporations were also losing money by the day. Since then

reserved seats or vacancies have been shrinking. Until now, the official spokesmen use the Indian saying whichever country's Government is a trader its people are going to be beggars. Or there is the other slogan: Maximum governance with minimal Government. On top of all this is not only the computer-reducing routine jobs in industry but also the Sword of Damocles of the robot hanging over the machine.

Yet another question would be an upper caste backlash. How that may shape up, if at all, needs to be seen. But a political example was the fall of the Madhavsingh Solanki Ministry in 1986. He had gone flat out on backing the OBCs in his choice of candidates for the Assembly elections of 1985. He won hands down and secured 146 MLAs out of the total of 182. The upper caste reaction was so severe that by 1986, he was thrown out of power and replaced by an Adivasi Amarsinh Chaudhry as the head of Gujarat Government. Finally, in the long run, excessive reservations could lead to a brain drain of the country, as has happened in Tamil Nadu. Many a Brahmin has migrated either overseas or to other parts of the country.

All the disadvantages apart, the question arises: What are the benefits of reservations? True, they are excellent for political positioning. But the actual boons of the scheme need to be surveyed. Do the beneficiaries pass around the gains to their communities? Or do they merely look after their families only? If that be so, is this advantage sufficient to offset the demoralisation they cause amongst the castes which are left out? And often there is a decline in the quality of the service the several candidates give to the society generally or to the concerned individuals particularly. In the bargain, society does not make the progress at the speed it is capable of. A nation-wide debate on the pros and cons of reservation is called for. This discussion should not exclude the Muslims and Christians, on behalf of whom reservations have been asked for by some political parties. These religions have foreign origins and they never had any system of caste. Most of the Hindus, who converted to these religions, did so to escape the oppression of casteism. The question of their sharing the reservations does not, therefore, arise.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

SOUNDBITE

The Government is always receptive to the issues raised by political parties. Our efforts are that discussions are held on all issues.

Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



It bothers me when big films fail because top stars get all the good scripts so one expects them to choose better.

Actor — Arshad Warsi



There is a stark difference in India's relationship with the US since the 1998 nuclear tests. Bilateral ties are now very good.

India's Ambassador to the US — Navtej Singh Sarna



RBI is such a professional institution that business will continue. It's not dependent on any individual but it a Governor.

NITI Aayog chairman — Rajiv Kumar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Miles to go

Sir — The Indian cricket team's victory in the first Test match at Adelaide can provide stimulus to the team to perform even better in the remaining three Tests. The second Test match beginning at Perth this Friday is going for a fast-paced pitch, but that is something that Indian bowlers won't mind. Indian bowlers are likely to do well in the series. But it is Indian batting that needs to do better than what they have done on overseas tours. Cheteshwar Pujara's batting form was extremely encouraging in the first Test while Virat Kohli could not score big. Indian batsmen need to put their heads together in order to make a significant contribution to the team's total.

Devendra Khurana Bhopal

Unwanted controversy

Sir — This refers to the report, "Urjit quits amid RBI-Govt feud" (December 11). Urjit Patel's resignation as the Reserve Bank of India Governor is quite unfortunate at a time when the

Cheteshwar Pujara is here to stay

Cheteshwar Pujara is a low-profile cricketer. Early in his career, he was branded as a Test player, and Pujara seems to have no qualms about this. The Adelaide Test against Australia has proved his mettle beyond doubt. Ever since debuting in 2010 at Bengaluru, against a different Australian team, the right-handed Saurashtra stylist has had a very good career. Sixteen Test centuries in 63 matches is not the Kohli-type of statistics, but the team and cricket fans had little doubt in mind about the Right-hander's unique ability to handle tough situations and marauding bowlers. The second fastest Indian to score 1,000 runs after Sunil Gavaskar had stints in English county which appears to have worked wonders for his morale.

Not all batsmen possess the immaculate technique to foil the Opposition bowlers' ranks in foreign conditions. Rahul Dravid was one rare cricketer, in the Gavaskar mould, who toiled with the bowling to prove why he was regarded as the best Indian batsman on foreign conditions in recent times not to speak about his domestic record. Pujara, when



selected for the Indian team, was described as the "second Dravid" for his resemblance to Dravid-type of cricket and for the fact that he played at number three — the position Dravid had made his own for a long time. There cannot be another Dravid but Pujara's display at Adelaide reminded cricket connoisseurs of a vintage Dravid. There is a crucial number for a test side — greats like Dilip Vengsarkar and Rahul Dravid have adorned the slot for India.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Indian economy just started limping back to normalcy. The Government's interference with the working of the Central bank is unwanted. Autonomous bodies must be allowed to function freely without any political intrusion.

At the same time, the Central bank, too, has a responsibility. It should toe with the Government at the helm while implementing

its policies. It should play a prominent role in arresting inflation and at the same time bring down the non-performing assets of regional banks. Both the Government and the Central bank should work in tandem for the welfare of the nation. Any rift between them does not bode well for democracy.

NR Ramachandran Chennai

Black day

Sir — This refers to the report, "Urjit quits amid RBI-Govt feud" (December 11). The resignation of Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel speaks volumes about the blatant interference of the ruling BJP Government in the internal matters of constitutional bodies.

By putting in his papers, Patel has made it evident that the ruling dispensation does not deserve the services of learned economists, scholars and professionals. It is now an open secret that RSS protege, S Gurumurthy, was imposed on the board of the RBI only to needle the Governor and his team. Patel's resignation is a black letter day for the RBI.

Tharcus S Fernando Chennai

United or not?

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "No quick fixes" (December 11). Earlier too, the Opposition has met on several occasions to discuss ways to take on the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Hopes raised earlier too but, ultimately, there were no results. Success depends on the selfless and common approach of Opposition leaders. Only time will tell whether the move will succeed or not without a hitch.

Sanjay Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The rocky road to 2019

In a new narrative between Modi versus the rest, the BJP could form the Government next year despite the loss of a few seats



KALYANI SHANKAR

What does the crystal ball say about 2019? The Lok Sabha poll and electoral fortunes of many political parties, including the ruling BJP and the main Opposition Congress, will dominate the year. Fortunes of some regional satraps, like Biju Janata Dal supremo Naveen Patnaik, Telugu Desam Party president N Chandrababu Naidu and Sikkim Democratic Front founder Pawan Kumar Chaming will also be decided as some States, like Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will go to polls in the same year. Patnaik will bid for power for the fifth time; Naidu for the second time since the bifurcation of the State; and Chaming for the sixth time. At the national level, while Prime Minister Modi will be seeking a second consecutive term, Congress president Rahul Gandhi will test his fortunes for the first time since he took over the reins of the party. If Modi secures another term, the country will move closer to becoming a majoritarian state. It is clear that 2019 will not be a cake-walk for Modi and the coming months will be most crucial for Opposition unity.

Political parties are getting ready as poll dates are likely to be announced in late February or March. The Election Commission of India is also preparing for the event. About 900 million voters, including 100 million first-time voters, will exercise their franchise. Many opinion polls have suggested that anti-incumbency sentiment is on the rise. This can dash Modi's hopes for a second term. Registering a landslide victory, the BJP and its allies had won 73 of the 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh, all 25 seats in Rajasthan, 27 of 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh, all 26 seats in Gujarat, all seven seats in Delhi, all five seats in Uttarakhand and all four seats in Himachal Pradesh in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll. This peak performance may not be repeated in 2019 as the BJP might just lose at least 100 of all Lok Sabha seats. This, however, must be compensated from the North-East and the southern region.

According to India Today-Karvy Insights opinion poll released in August, the BJP is likely to win 30 per cent votes in the 2019 election, which means it will secure 245 seats, 27 short of the 272 needed for a majority. Pre-election surveys conducted by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, also suggest that the BJP's popularity is on the decline; although the Prime Minister's personal popularity continues. First, the BJP has lost popularity due to two economic measures — demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax. Both measures have hurt the small and medium businesses that were its core voters. It is not clear whether the winner will be a BJP-led or a Congress-led or a Third Front coalition. The fight will be between the ruling NDA and the Congress-anchored UPA. The Opposition needs an astute strategy to defeat the NDA. The new narrative is likely to be Modi versus the rest.

Second, while Modi will be the BJP's face for the 2019 poll, the UPA is most unlikely to project anyone. Its prime ministerial candidate will be decided only in a post-poll scenario. Therefore, though the Congress is trying to unite the Opposition, party president Rahul Gandhi will not be projected as the prime ministerial face of the UPA as they have been talking of collective leadership.

Third, both UPA and NDA are in the process of strengthening their coalitions. The NDA has been weakened by the exit of two major allies — Telugu Desam Party and Peoples Democratic Party. The Shiv Sena, too, has threatened to quit. Besides, the party faces a tough challenge in the south. Meanwhile, Congress has already reached an understanding with some regional parties to build State-specific coalitions, including in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Fourth, economy and jobs are some major issues that will play a huge role in the election. There are also other issues, too, like corruption, non-delivery of poll promises, demonetisation, GST, Rafale, cow vigilantism, Ram Mandir issue, rising fuel prices, the agrarian crisis that will remain dominant. All of the above factors give potential threats to the BJP ahead of the 2019 poll. The BJP's strategy is to attack the Congress for its failure to accomplish anything in the past 70 years and consolidation of Hindu votes. It has been vociferous about the achievements of the Modi Government.

Fifth, the economy is reviving. This may bring some relief to the Modi Government. Multilateral organisations, like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have predicted a sound revival of the economy for 2019. Sixth, both the Congress and the BJP will play the Hindutva card with the Congress adopting a soft Hindutva line. Last, both Modi and Rahul will need a new narrative to win. Whatever it be, the BJP is likely to emerge as the number one party whether it gets a majority or not. It will be invited to form the Government first, as is the convention.

(The writer is a senior political commentator)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS A STRONG SUSPICION THAT EVM MACHINES WERE MANIPULATED. WE DEMAND THAT 100 PERCENT COUNTING OF VVPAT MUST BE TAKEN UP.

—CONGRESS TELANGANA PARTY PRESIDENT N UTTAM KUMAR REDDY



LOSING PARTY ALWAYS SAYS THE EVMS HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH. PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN VICTORY TO TRS, WHAT CONGRESS IS CLAIMING IS FALSE.

—TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI MP K KAVITHA

Accession of J&K: Breaking myths

Though Jammu & Kashmir has been declared an integral part of India, Kashmiri leaders keep raising questions about its accession/merger, ignoring the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Ladakh



ANIL GUPTA

At the time of Independence, while British India was divided on the basis of religion, the Princely States were not. They were to go, each State as a whole, to either India or Pakistan. The decision of where to go was to be made by the erstwhile ruler. In the case of Jammu & Kashmir, the then ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, took the decision to accede to India. But to the contrary, most leaders in Kashmir built a false narrative — to mislead the nation and strengthen their credential as nationalists — that the decision of accession with India was taken by former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah and other Kashmiri leaders. They have also maintained that the accession was conditional.

It is an established fact today that the sole authority to decide on the accession was that of the ruler and in case of princely State of Jammu & Kashmir, it was the Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh. Before taking the ultimate decision, the Maharaja was faced with a dilemma due to non-cooperation by Sheikh Abdullah. In the words of the Maharaja, "Muslims of Kashmir and some from Jammu, who were led by Sheikh Abdullah and leaders of the National Conference (NC), did not want the question of accession to be decided at that stage. They wanted me to part with power in their favour so that they could decide the question independently of me. They made no secret of their views and obstructed me in deciding the question of accession instead of helping me to accede to India; Hindus of Jammu and people of Ladakh were for affiliation with or accession of India."

That NC or its leadership had no role to play in the decision-making process as far as the accession of the State is concerned is also an empirically proven fact. In fact, as stated by the Maharaja, they were acting as a hindrance to India's accession. Thus, the oft-repeated statements by NC leaders that "we decided to accede to India or our accession to India is conditional or that the merger with India has not taken place" are all motivated and misleading with the deliberate intent of sowing the seeds of 'exclusivity' among the Kashmiri population. The same was confirmed by party ideologue Sheikh Nazir Ahmad, who said, "Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah had no role in the accession as he was in prison at the time of accession."

It is a known that Sheikh Abdullah had set his eyes on the throne of Jammu & Kashmir with blessings from his friend and mentor Jawaharlal Nehru. He wanted to be the sole representative of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He wanted to rule the State as the undisputed leader of a 'single-party State'. He abhorred opposition within and outside



the party and behaved more like an autocrat than a democrat. However, many popular Muslim leaders who were non-Kashmiris posed a challenge to Sheikh Abdullah's ambition. He ensured that they remain marginalised by managing the ceasefire in 1949 immediately after the Valley was liberated. But large parts of Jammu and frontier areas of Gilgit-Baltistan continued to be under the occupation of Pakistan.

This way, Sheikh Abdullah eliminated the threat posed to his supremacy by Pahari, Punjabi and Dogra Muslim leaders of the State. He also isolated the Shia leadership by allowing the frontier areas to remain under Pakistan's occupation. Sheikh Abdullah killed two birds with one stone. He not only ensured his singular dominance in the politics of Kashmir but also ensured that the pro-Pakistan leadership remained isolated. It became evident that the Sheikh harboured political ambitions and wanted to use the issue of accession as a bargaining tool with the Indian Government so that he could rule an autonomous State under the patronage of Nehru-ruled India.

The interim Government was instituted by a proclamation made by the Maharaja on March 5, 1948. A Council of Ministers with Sheikh Abdullah as the Prime Minister was constituted to conduct the administration of the State. The Council was to function on the principle of joint responsibility. The dual Government did not take much time to run into trouble due to divergent views which followed diametrically different directions. The NC soon got engulfed with internal politics, forgetting the interest of the people. At last, the dual Government came to a tragic end.

Sheikh Abdullah, with the active support from New Delhi, succeeded in marginalising the Maharaja who finally relinquished his office on June 9, 1949.

On June 20, 1949, through a proclamation, the Maharaja announced his decision to abdicate the State on grounds of health and invested all his power to his son, Yuvraj Karan Singh. Had Singh refused the regentship and decided to stand with his father, Sheikh Abdullah's move would have failed pre-maturely since Jammu & Kashmir was still ruled under the Jammu-Kashmir Constitution Act 1939 and all constitutional powers were vested with the Maharaja only.

The people of Jammu region were apprehensive of the pro-Kashmiri Muslim and anti-Jammu mindset of Sheikh Abdullah. An agitation against the Sheikh was launched in Jammu under the banner of Praja Parishad, an Opposition party formed in Jammu in November 1947. The main objective of the Praja Parishad was to achieve full integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the Indian Union, like other States and safeguard the legitimate democratic rights of the people of Jammu.

Sheikh Abdullah dubbed the Opposition from Jammu as "communal". He started believing that Kashmir's aspirations could not be met within the Indian Union. On the other hand, Jammu and Ladakh clamoured for a complete merger with India. The emergence of Kashmiri identity led Sheikh Abdullah to start differentiating between 'Muslims and non-Muslims of the State'. It became imminent that his agenda evolved around 'Independent Kashmir'.

After initial bonhomie, Sheikh Abdullah started showing his true colours which forced Nehru to order his arrest in 1953. Similarly, the narrative regarding Article 370 that it is not temporary, but permanent provision of the Constitution of India and acts as a bridge between the State and rest of India, is also a concoction based on twisting of facts. The fact is that Sheikh Abdullah manipulated its inclusion in the Constitution due to

Pandit Nehru's blind love for him. It is a well-established fact that when the rulers of the princely States signed the Instrument of Accession and joined the Dominion of India, they surrendered legislative, judicial and executive control of three subjects — defence, communication, external affairs and ancillaries. The same is true with respect to the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir as well. This implied that the Princely States would have the right to decide upon policies, implementation and administration with regard to other issues, through such arrangements as Royal Proclamations or a separate Constitution for their respective kingdoms/states. Instead of doing so they expressed their faith in the under draft Constitution of India through its full applicability to their respective States, except Jammu & Kashmir due to manipulations of Sheikh Abdullah.

Thus, when the rest of the nation was readying to adopt the Constitution of India, there was a Constitutional vacuum in this State. To fill this vacuum, Article 370 was inserted in the Indian Constitution, with hopes that Jammu & Kashmir would, once the situation normalises, integrate like other States of the Union (hence the use of the term 'temporary provisions' in the title of the Article).

Another myth created by a few Kashmiri leaders is about merger against accession. While the Indian Constitution was being drafted to pave way for the nation to become a Republic from a Dominion, all other princely States individually or collectively decided to accept the paramountcy of the new Constitution of India, Sheikh Abdullah harboured different ideas. These States sent their representatives to the Constituent Assembly and were thus actively involved in the drafting of the new Constitution, which implied

that they willingly joined the Republic of India and the Instrument of Accession signed by them (a uniform document signed by all 565 princely States) became redundant. This also sorted the issue of merger and no separate 'Instrument of Merger', as claimed by a few, was signed by them.

The fact is that Karan Singh exercising his powers as the Regent of the State did send a four-member team comprising Sheikh Abdullah, Mirza Afzal Beg, Moti Lal Baigra and Maulana Masoodi to represent the State in Indian Constituent Assembly. This was in tune with other princely States and signalled the will of being the part of the Republic of India surrendering the Instrument of Accession, which also meant the 'merger'. It is a different story that the four taking advantage of the prevailing security and political instability in the State decided to sit out and not join the Constituent Assembly of India. Sheikh Abdullah, thus, cleverly gave shape to his ambition of capturing the throne of Jammu & Kashmir much against the wishes of two-thirds of the State's population comprising the Jammu and Ladakh regions and non-Kashmiri speaking Muslims of Kashmir and the Shias of Kargil. In this, he enjoyed the full support and confidence of Pandit Nehru.

Though Jammu & Kashmir has been declared an integral part of India both by the State and the Indian Constitution, Kashmir-based political leadership continues to question the accession/merger on the pretext of Kashmiri identity, ignoring the sentiments and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Ladakh and encourage 'separatism'.

(The author is a Jammu-based political commentator and strategic analyst. The views expressed are entirely personal)

Invest in gold: Diversify your portfolio

Buying gold is the oldest kind of investing activity that is important to hedge against volatility and inflation. While it may provide a safe haven during ambiguous circumstances, its pros and cons must be taken into account



HIMA KOTA

Traditionally, gold has been an important investment avenue for almost every Indian household. In fact, we Indians love gold and hold it in high regard. We keep it safe for our future generations. In fact, the custom of gifting gold to brides was to provide her with a financial back up and secure her future. It is estimated that about a large part, around 700-800 tonnes of India's gold imports go into the making of jewellery.

Women and families often think of gold jewellery as an economic substitute to money. Even now, gold has not lost its glitter amongst different investment options, like stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate, just to name a few. Historically,

gold offers a perfect hedge and stability whereas the markets do not since it has an inverse relationship to equity investments.

Take for example, if the equity markets start performing poorly, gold normally performs well. Considering gold as an investment option in your investment portfolio will act as a buffer for the overall volatility of one's portfolio. Additionally, gold investment is worthwhile because it is an inflation-beating investment. Over a period of time, the return on gold investment is in line with the rate of inflation.

The world has become more inter-connected now and whether there are tensions in the Middle East, Africa or elsewhere, it is increasingly becoming obvious that political and economic uncertainty is another reality of our modern economic environment. Gold, too, is considered as a safe-haven during ambiguous circumstances.

In fact, history is full of collapsing empires, political coups, and collapse of currencies. During such

times, investors, who have held gold, were able to successfully protect their wealth. In some cases, people even use gold to escape from turmoil. Consequently, whenever there is any news event that hints at some type of global economic uncertainty, investors often buy gold as a safe-haven.

Any rational investor should include gold into his/her portfolio to provide stability and diversify options against sharp movement in equity and bond prices. One can invest in gold in several ways.

Gold exchange traded funds (ETF) are simple investment products that actually combine flexibility of stock as an investment and simplicity of gold as an investment. ETFs trade on the cash market of the stock bourses, like any other company stock, can be bought and sold continuously at market prices. Gold ETFs are excellent passive investment instruments that are based on gold prices. They invest in gold bullion. ETFs, because they are backed by gold, have complete

transparency. Due to their unique structure and creation mechanism, ETFs have much lower expenses as compared to physical gold holding. Gold ETFs are ideal for investors who would like to invest in gold but do not want to suffer the hassles and bear costs of storing and safeguarding physical gold.

Gold equity funds invest in shares of firms that are involved in gold mining. These are pure equity funds and are often international in nature since there are not many listed gold mining firms in India. Like any other stock fund, these funds can deliver much higher returns than pure gold.

But when gold prices are low, mining companies shut mines as the cost of production is higher than realisation costs. Stocks of such gold mining companies were battered for many years.

Investors have to deal with three risks in these funds. First, returns from these funds are dependent on gold price movement. Second, these gold funds invest in

stocks, which mean they carry the risk associated with shares. Third, there also exists the currency exchange risk. This means if the rupee appreciates, returns can get affected. Gold equity funds are best suited for sophisticated investors and are not ideal for a retail investor.

With the advent of the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme, investing in gold has become much easier and convenient now. With the Union Government's SGB scheme, an investor can earn an assured interest rate, thereby eliminating risk and cost of storage.

The Sovereign Gold Bond 2018-19 Series has a subscription price of ₹3,114 per gram and one individual can buy a maximum of four kg. SGBs provide attractive interest rate with an asset appreciation opportunity. The annual interest rate offered is 2.5 per cent and interest is tax free.

The redemption is linked to gold prices. There is 100 per cent

elimination of risk and cost of storage. Also, SGBs are exempt from capital gains tax, if held till maturity. The bonds carry a tenure of eight years with an option to exit from the fifth year. SGBs are the most efficient way of investing in gold from an investment point of view if one can stay invested for five years or more. Importantly, indexation benefit is available if the bond is transferred before maturity. Gold bonds score high on liquidity as they are tradable on the exchanges. Also, they can be collateral against a loan, an aspect that is missing in gold ETFs.

Like every investment, investment in gold also has its pros and cons. However, including gold in the investment portfolio is very important to hedge against volatility and inflation. Depending upon the economic, financial and political situation, the level of diversification should range anywhere between five per cent and 30 per cent.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)



FOREIGNEYE



THERESA MAY IS ON THE RUN

Theresa May might claim that she lives to fight another day. But given that the leadership is on the run from the hard Brexiters, she lives on only as a political zombie. Ensnared by her own convictions, she has resorted to dilatory tactics because she has belatedly realised the full weight of their burden. (The Guardian Editorial)

RBI remains net seller of US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continued to remain net seller of the US dollar in October, as it sold \$7.204 billion of the greenback in the spot market, RBI data showed.

In the reporting month, the central bank purchased \$945 million, while sold \$8.149 billion in the spot market, according to the data.

In September 2018, the RBI sold \$31 million of the US currency in the spot market on a net basis, after it bought \$1.012 billion, while selling \$1.043 billion.

In October 2017, the apex bank was net buyer of US currency, after it had bought \$1.910 billion, while sold \$1.058 billion in the spot market.

RBI maintains that its intervention in the foreign exchange market is to curb volatility in the rupee and not to target a level of the domestic currency.

In FY18, the apex bank had net purchased \$33.689 billion of US dollars from the spot market. It had bought \$52.068 billion, while sold \$18.379 billion.

In FY17, the RBI had bought \$12.351 billion of the US dollar on a net basis.

In the forward dollar market, the outstanding net forward sales at the end of October 2018 was \$2.888 billion, compared with \$1.358 billion in September, according to the RBI data.

RBI slaps ₹1 cr fine on Indian Bank for violating cyber security norms



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India Tuesday said it has imposed a fine of ₹1 crore on Indian Bank for violating cyber security norms.

The RBI has imposed, by an order dated November 30, 2018, a monetary penalty of ₹10 million on Indian Bank for contravention of Circular on Cyber Security Framework in banks, the central bank said in a release.

The contravention is with regard to RBI's directions on Frauds — Classification and Reporting by Commercial

Banks.

"This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of... The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid guidelines and directions issued by RBI," it said.

This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers, the release added.

Markets regain footing as investors look beyond Patel exit, poll outcome

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices pared all early losses to end with robust gains on Tuesday as investors shrugged off Urit Patel's shock exit from the RBI amid better-than-expected tally of the BJP in state elections.

The 30-share Sensex climbed 190.29 points, or 0.54 per cent, to end at 35,150.01, after falling over 500 points intra-day. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 60.70 points, or 0.58 per cent, to 10,549.15.

The Sensex had plunged 714 points Monday in its worst session in two months on pre-poll jitters.

The opposition Congress was leading in the BJP-ruled states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh while the TRS forged ahead in Telangana and the MNF in Mizoram, trends indicated on Tuesday.

The BJP, battling incumbency in the three Hindi heartland states, did not fare as poorly as anticipated, analysts said.

The markets had already priced in the exit poll results, which were on similar lines, they added.

The benchmark indices opened lower Tuesday while the rupee plunged following Urit Patel's unexpected resignation as RBI governor after market hours Monday.

However, buying gathered momentum in afternoon trade as investors accumulated beaten down counters.

India to see \$300 billion investment in energy: Pradhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Barring oil and gas, all BSE sectoral indices finished in the green.

Yes Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 7.29 per cent ahead of its board meet Thursday to discuss MD and CEO Rana Kapoor's successor.

Other winners included Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, SBI, Axis Bank, ITC, M&M, Kotak Bank, Coal India, TCS and ONGC, rising up to 5.75 per cent.

Top losers were Hero MotoCorp, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, L&T and HUL, falling up to 1.58 per cent.

"With regards the election results, the data is clear. Prices track earnings and fundamentals, and the impact of the political regime is related to the impact policies enforce on fundamentals and earnings," said Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

"One of the most critical decisions investors must make over their investing journey is to stay the course in the wake of seemingly negative and worrisome news. Today's reaction by the markets is surprising, but it's a classic 'buy the rumor, sell the news' reaction. The news was already in the market price," he pointed out.

The rupee pared some early losses after Finance Secretary A N Jha said the Government was likely to make an announcement regarding Urit Patel's successor at the central bank.

Business Corner

ASSAM RIFLES ORGANISES NATINAL INTEGREITION TOUR

An 11-day long National Integration Tour to Delhi and Agra, organised by Assam Rifles, for 26 students and 7 teachers from seven North Eastern states of India concluded on Tuesday at Shillong. It was flagged in by Lt Gen Sukhdeep Sangwan, SM, Director General Assam Rifles. The young children from the North Eastern states had the honour of meeting the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan. In addition, they also had an interactive session with Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, Vice Chief of Army Staff.



RPF BUSTS SILVER RACKETEERS IN TELANGANA EXPRESS

During the checking at Ballabgarh Railway Station in train no 12723 A P Express, the team of RPF outpost Ballabgarh apprehended 3 persons in disabled coach namely Pappi alias Gola, Jagdish Prasad and Kishor of Mathura. Uttar Pradesh who were carried with 7 heavy packages in person. During interrogation they disclosed that they are carrying white Raw material metal and white metal ornaments for which they did not present any evidentiary documents. Besides they were travelling ticketless.

Venue: 9th Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019



A Vendors Meet was organised recently at POSOCO Corporate Centre which was inaugurated by PK Agarwal, Director (Market Operation), POSOCO. Large numbers of Vendors attended the Meet in which importance of MSMEs registration and GeM portal were explained.

IOC, HP INVITE APPLICATIONS FOR RETAIL DEALERSHIP IN J&K

PTI ■ JAMMU

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) have invited applications for retail outlet dealership in Jammu and Kashmir.

IOCL has invited applications for eight locations pertaining to Poonch district. As per an official handout, interested persons can submit their application before December 24.

The Executive Engineer, Belonia Division, PWD(R&B), Belonia, South Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 11/EE(PWD)/BLN/2018-19 Dated: 28-11-2018.

For Improvement of road from Satmura Chowmuhan to Belonia Railway Station (L=2.40 km) / SH: Widening, Flat & edge soling, Metalling, Carpeting, Construction of CD, Toe wall, Road side pucca drain & other allied works / (Job No.TP/COM/26/2018-19).

- With
- Estimated cost: ₹ 2,83,87,849/-
 - Earnest Money : ₹ 2,83,878/-
 - Time of Completion-18 (eighteen) months.
 - Last Date of bidding for bids-05-01-2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura
Sd/-
(Er. Dilip Das)
Executive Engineer
Belonia Division, PWD(R&B)
Belonia, South Tripura.
ICA/C-1915/18

FORM G INVITATION FOR RESOLUTION PLANS (Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROSPECTIVE RESOLUTION APPLICANTS OF VTL (INDIA) LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	VTL (India) Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	05/02/1985
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act 1956
4 Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U99999DL1985PLC020062
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	52/124 Property No.124, Pocket 52, EPDP Colony, Chhtranjan Park Delhi 110019
6 Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	27.05.2018
7 Date of invitation of expression of interest	11.12.2018
8 Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Details can be sought by emailing on E-Mail:vtlindia.ip@gmail.com
9 Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	As per section 29(A) and other provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 Available at the website of IBI http://ibi.gov.in/webfront/legal_framework.php
10 Last date for receipt of expression of interest	25.12.2018
11 Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	04.01.2019
12 Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	09.01.2019
13 Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	19.01.2019
14 Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	09.01.2019
15 Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Information Memorandum shall be shared by the resolution Professional with prospective resolution Applicants(s) after obtaining a duly signed confidentiality undertaking as per provision of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 by via e-mail at Email id: vtlindia.ip@gmail.com
16 Last date for submission of resolution plans	08.02.2019
17 Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Prospective resolution Applicants(s) may submit their plan to the resolution professional by E-mail at vtlindia.ip@gmail.com followed by the physical copy to the address of the resolution professional at 407, Indraprastha Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
18 Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	28.01.2019
19 Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Mr. Ashish Singh (IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00416/2017-18/11230)
20 Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Name: Mr. Ashish Singh Addl: Flat No. 515, Baghban Apartment, Sector - 28, Rohini, New Delhi - 110 042 Email id: ashishsinghs@gmail.com
21 Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	407, Indraprastha Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 Email id: vtlindia.ip@gmail.com
22 Further details are available at or with	Email id: vtlindia.ip@gmail.com
23 Date of publication of Form G	11.12.2018

RBI's institutional capabilities very strong; not dependent on any particular individual: Niti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Urit Patel resigned as RBI Governor, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said the central bank's institutional capabilities are 'very strong' and it will do whatever is required for the markets and economy.

Kumar further said although Patel has done an amazing work in the last two years as the RBI Governor, the functioning of the central bank is not dependent on any particular individual.

"RBI's institutional capabilities are very strong and they will do whatever is required for the markets and economy.

"The fact is that RBI itself is such a professional institution, and such a long-standing institution that you know, the business will continue," Kumar said on the sidelines of 'Inclusive Finance India Summit' here.

Patel, who had a run-in with the government over autonomy of the central bank, resigned from his job on Monday, citing personal reasons.

The Niti Aayog vice chairman also assured that the Government will do whatever is required to continue its business as usual.

"Patel has done an amazing work in the last two years...But RBI is not dependent on any one particular individual," Kumar said.

₹ tumbles 53 paise; RBI Gov's exit, poll results take a toll

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee staged a late rebound after plunging 110 paise in early trade on Tuesday but still ended 53 paise lower at 71.85 against the US dollar following RBI Governor Urit Patel's shock exit coupled with the loss of the ruling BJP in key state elections.

Analysts said the RBI governor's surprise resignation and the ruling BJP's loss in state elections unnerved forex traders initially but a fag-end rebound in domestic equities and dollar selling by some state-owned banks helped in the recovery of the domestic currency.

The domestic unit, which saw a heavy sell-off by plunging 110 paise in opening trade, staged a mild recovery towards the end of the session but still settled in the negative territory.

After opening lower at the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market at 72.42, the rupee clawed back to 71.67 during the day and finally settled at 71.85, down 53 paise over its previous closing price.

Govt likely to make announcement on RBI soon: Finance Secretary



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to make an announcement regarding Urit Patel's successor as Reserve Bank of India's Governor later in the day, Finance Secretary AN Jha said.

RBI has been rendered headless following Patel's unexpected resignation, with immediate effect, Monday.

Patel, who is the first governor since 1990 to step down before his term ends, in a brief statement, cited "personal reasons" for the decision.

The decision to quit comes four days ahead of a crucial meeting of the board of the central bank that could have discussed issues of simmering differences with the Government.

It is expected that the board meeting may be deferred as there is no regular governor. Speaking to reporters, Jha said, some communication from the Government on RBI is expected.

Patel's three-year term was to end in September 2019,

and he was eligible for a second term like most of his successors, barring a few like his outspoken predecessor Raghuram Rajan.

A Kenyan national who acquired an Indian citizenship prior to being appointed Deputy Governor of RBI in January 2013, Oxford-trained Patel was initially seen as toeing Government line after he backed the November 2016 shock decision to overnight junk 86 per cent of the currency in circulation.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Ashish Saini S/o Subhash Chand, R/o RZH-710B, Gali No. 3, Palam Colony, Raj Nagar-2, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Offence FIR No. 244/18 u/s 420/120-B IPC dated 06.06.2018 at PS. Mundka, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ashish Saini cannot be found and whereas it has been to shown to my satisfaction that the said Ashish Saini has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said Ashish Saini accused of FIR No. 244/18 u/s 420/120-B IPC dated 06.06.2018 is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.02.2019.

By Order
Ms. Deepika Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate (West-06)
Room No. 355, 3rd Floor, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

6-7, Rishi Bhawan, Community Centre, Phase-1 Mayapuri Delhi-64
Tel.: 011-28115786, 28114971, 28115814, Fax: 28115786
RTGS/IFSC : Sybn009028, SWIFT : SYNBINBB152
E-mail : Br.9028@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the SYNDICATE BANK Under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest, Second Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 11.12.2017 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Monika W/o Ishaan Singh R/o WP-456/1, Wazirpur Village, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052, Mr. Ishaan Singh S/o Mr. Mahesh Kumar R/o WP 456/1, Wazirpur Village, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052 & Surety Mrs. Alka Bali W/o Mr. Vikas Bali R/o WZ MS 86, MS Block Gurudwara, Hari Nagar, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110064, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 44,70,808.70 (Forty Four Lacs Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred Eight & Seventy Paise Only)** Within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said rules on this 07.12.2018.

The borrower/guarantor particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Syndicate Bank for an amount of **Rs. 44,70,808.70/-** and interest and charges thereon from 30.09.2018

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY OWNED BY
UREM of freehold Residential Property House No. WP-456/1, Wazirpur Village, Delhi-110052 (measuring 59.97 Sq. Yards). Bounded by North: Road, South : Remaining Portion of the Property, East: Remaining Portion of the Property & West: Road Owned by Mrs. Monika W/o Mr. Ishaan Singh.

Date: 07.12.2018
Place: NEW DELHI
Authorised Officer (Syndicate Bank)

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA
(Regd. Office - Vidut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna)(Contact No- 0612-2504655, M No- 7763817701, Fax No- 0612-2504655, Email ID - ce.trans664@gmail.com)
(GST No. :- 10AAFBC2393H1Z1, CIN - U40102BR2012SGC018889)
(Department of Project-I of BSPTCL)

1st Tender Extension Notice for (NIT) NO.- 126/PR/BSPTCL/2018, PR No-11446

Due date for submission of bids and opening of Online tenders for NIT No.126/PR/BSPTCL/2018 for Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 06 Nos. of 50 MVA Power Transformer with construction/modification of foundation in Transmission Circle Saran, Kosi & Darbhanga under State Plan (20% Equity: 80% : Loan) on turnkey basis is extended as follows:-

Last date of online sale of Bid Document/Request of bid/bid documents up to 15.00 Hrs. on 19.12.2018
Last date of online submission of tender up to 16:00 Hrs on 19.12.2018
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I) at 16.00 Hrs. on 20.12.2018

Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

The tender documents are available at website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in Tender fee (Cost of BOQ) to be paid through e-payment mode only. Tender documents must be accompanied with EMD in form Bank Guarantee/ DD in favour of "Accounts Officer, BSPTCL" failing which the tender shall be summarily rejected.

Chief Engineer (Project I)

- "Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS".
- "Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal www.eproc.bihar.gov.in before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/Holidays or any other reason".

E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs.
For registration logon to www.eproc.bihar.gov.in and eProcurement Help Desk First Floor, M/22, Bank Of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800001 at 0612-2523006, Mob:9939035696

"विवादों के निषादन के लिए लोक अदालत का लाभ उठाएँ, परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें, समय एवं खर्च की बचत करें"

PR. No. 13042 (Ni Ni) 2018-19
बिटिया मेरी अमी पढ़ेगी, शादी की सूली नहीं चढ़ेगी।

Case launches Case 110 EX in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Case Construction Equipment, a brand of CNH Industrial, unveiled its latest product Case 110 EX Soil Compactor on Tuesday at the 5th Indian edition of the International Trade Fair, Bauma Conexpo. This will be available for the Indian market from 2019 onwards

The Case 110 EX is specially designed with operator comfort in mind. With its closed HVAC cabin and a more powerful engine, the compactor is highly suitable for heavier application usage. It is a product that will cater to activities as diverse as urban construction, road building, infrastructure, and mining

To meeting domestic needs, this facility also exports to markets in the Asia Pacific region, Africa and the Middle East.

Commenting on the launch, Ajay Aneja, Brand Leader, Case construction equipment India said, "Case India is the market leader in the compactor segment and the only company to have rolled out more than 12,000 compactors from the Indian manufacturing plant. With the launch of Case 110 EX soil compactor, we aim to strengthen our roots in the Compaction range. Case India has always endeavored to innovate and upgrade its machines from time to time and our new machine is another step in this direction as an Industry first product offering."

Markets regain footing as investors look beyond Patel exit, poll outcome

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices pared early losses to end with robust gains on Tuesday as investors shrugged off Urjit Patel's shock exit from the RBI amid better-than-expected seat tally of the BJP in state elections.

The 30-share Sensex climbed 190.29 points, or 0.54%, to end at 35,150.01, after falling over 500 points intra-day. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 60.70 points, or 0.58%, to 10,549.15.

The Sensex had plunged 714 points on Monday in its worst session in two months on pre-poll jitters.

The opposition Congress was leading in the BJP-ruled states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh while the TRS forged ahead in Telangana and the MNF in Mizoram, trends indicated on Tuesday.

The BJP, battling incumbency in the three Hindi heartland states, did not fare as poorly

as anticipated, analysts said.

The markets had already priced in the exit poll results, which were on similar lines, they added.

The benchmark indices opened lower on Tuesday while the rupee plunged following Urjit Patel's unexpected resignation as RBI governor after market hours on Monday.

However, buying gathered momentum in afternoon trade as investors accumulated beaten down counters. Barring oil and gas, all BSE sectoral indices finished in the green.

Yes Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 7.29% ahead of its board meet on Thursday to discuss MD and CEO Rana Kapoor's successor.

Other winners included Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, SBI, Axis Bank, ITC, M&M, Kotak Bank, Coal India, TCS and ONGC, rising up to 5.75%.

Top losers were Hero MotoCorp, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, L&T and HUL, falling up

to 1.58%.

"With regards the election results, the data is clear. Prices track earnings and fundamentals, and the impact of the political regime is related to the impact policies enforce on fundamentals and earnings," said Sunil Sharma, chief investment officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

"One of the most critical decisions investors must make over their investing journey is to stay the course in the wake of seemingly negative and worrisome news. Today's reaction by the markets is surprising, but it's a classic 'buy the rumor, sell the news' reaction. The news was already in the market price," he pointed out.

On RBI Governor's exit, Sharma said: "From an investment perspective, there's been much selling already this year. Markets are possibly enthused by the possibility of a pro-growth appointment, one that prefers a nuanced approach

over a hard line in dealing with financial institutions."

The rupee pared some early losses after Finance Secretary AN Jha said the government was likely to make an announcement regarding Urjit Patel's successor at the central bank.

Meanwhile, on a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth ₹116.22 crore on Monday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers to the tune of ₹145.80 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed.

Brent crude oil futures slipped below USD 60 per barrel mark, slipping 0.32% to 59.78 per barrel.

Elsewhere in Asia, Korea's Kospi fell 0.04%, Japan's Nikkei dropped 0.34% while Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.07% and Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.37%. In Europe, Frankfurt's DAX jumped 0.86% and Paris' CAC 40 rose 0.84% in early deals. London's FTSE too gained 0.37%.

Wipro takes over Syfte design consulting team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT firm Wipro on Tuesday said it had taken over the strategic design consulting team at Syfte, an Australian agency that uses design thinking to solve client challenges.

Syfte's team of designers will be absorbed within Designit — one of Wipro's strategic arms — further strengthening its design and innovation capabilities, Wipro said in a statement.

The company, however, did not disclose the team size and financial details of the takeover.

The move will also help Wipro further expand its reach in Australia and Asia Pacific and enhance the transformation services offered by Wipro Digital, the statement said.

"Increasingly, global enterprise clients in Australia recognise that strategic design is a critical part of any digital or business transformation. By adding Syfte's skills and expertise to Designit, Wipro will be better positioned to support its clients' digital agenda," it said.

Wipro Digital president Rajan Kohli said design thinking was now a part of every digital conversation that the company has with its clients. The statement said Wipro Digital and Designit serve clients from 18 global digital pods.

RBI's institutional capabilities very strong; not dependent on any particular individual: NITI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Urjit Patel Resigned as RBI Governor, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday said the central bank's institutional capabilities were 'very strong' and it would do whatever was required for the markets and economy. Kumar further said although Patel had done an amazing work in the last two years as the RBI Governor, the functioning of the central bank was not dependent on any particular individual.

"RBI's institutional capabilities are very strong and they will do whatever is required for the markets and economy. The fact is that RBI itself is such a professional institution, and such a long-standing institution that you know, the business will continue," Kumar said on the sidelines of 'Inclusive Finance India Summit' here.

Patel, who had a run-in with the government over autonomy of the central bank, resigned from his job on Monday, citing personal reasons.

The NITI Aayog Vice Chairman also assured that the government will do whatever is required to continue its business as usual. "Patel has done an amazing work in the last two years... But RBI is not dependent on any one particular individual," Kumar said. Commenting on Patel's resignation, Kumar said: "The government also, I am sure, is seized of the matter and will take care whichever way it's possible". The rupee on Tuesday plunged by a significant 110 paise in early trade as domestic equities saw heavy sell-off amid crucial state election results and the unexpected resignation of RBI Governor Urjit Patel.

Addressing the delegate, Kumar said that the financial inclusion must be about employment, job creation and growth. He also stressed on need to provide greater access to credit in the North East region. Noting that mobile banking is the strongest method for increasing financial inclusion in the country, Kumar said, "In my view, the future is digital finance and the era of brick and mortar banking is over".



Dr Reddy's launches heartburn drug in US market

New Delhi (PTI): Dr Reddy's Laboratories on Tuesday said it had launched Omeprazole delayed-release tablets, used to treat frequent heartburn, in the US market. "Dr Reddy's Laboratories has launched Omeprazole delayed-release tablets in the strength of 20 mg, an over-the-counter (OTC) store-brand equivalent of Prilosec tablets, in the US," the company said in a BSE filing.

Milan Kalawadia, Dr Reddy's Laboratories vice president and head, US OTC and Specialty Rx businesses, said this launch illustrated the company's continued commitment to the OTC business as well as the depth and breadth of its OTC portfolio.

CADILA ARM GETS USFDA NOD FOR ULCER TREATMENT INJECTION

Drug firm Cadila Healthcare on Tuesday said its subsidiary had received approval from the US health regulator to market Ranitidine injection, used to treat stomach and duodenal ulcers. Liva Pharmaceuticals, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cadila Healthcare, has received approval from the USFDA for its supplemental abbreviated new drug application, Ranitidine Injection USP, 25 mg/mL, 2 mL single dose vials and 6 mL multi-dose vials, Cadila Healthcare said.

JLR drives in updated Discovery Sport in India at ₹44.68 lakh

New Delhi (PTI): Jaguar Land Rover India on Tuesday said it had launched the latest version of its SUV Discovery Sport priced at ₹44.68 lakh (ex-showroom). Each derivative of the 2019 Discovery Sport is now furnished with fresh features that further enhance the vehicle's capability to offer the

true spirit of adventure, the company said in a statement. "With the Model Year 2019 Discovery Sport, we now offer our customers an extensive range of derivatives and enhanced powertrain options that provide efficiency and an improved driving experience," Jaguar Land Rover India president &

managing director Rohit Suri said. The SE and HSE derivatives of the model which are powered by 2.0-litre Ingenium diesel engine now get more powerful 132 kW output, while the Pure variant continues to be powered by the 110 kW output powertrain, the company said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
YESBANK	164.5	179.85	163.8	179.05	13.4
SUNPHARMA	390.6	424.8	390.6	423.8	24.8
ASIANPAINT	1,268.00	1,364.45	1,252.15	1,322.85	48.65
KOTAKBANK	1,189.00	1,239.00	1,171.00	1,239.00	40.00
BAJAJFINSV	5,643.00	5,870.00	5,623.10	5,870.00	176.05
SBN	268.35	283.25	268.35	281.75	7.55
TIITAN	899	936.95	894.15	931.6	24.5
ZEE	463.7	482.5	463.35	478.5	12.35
JSWSTEEL	287.9	303.15	286.3	301.7	7.6
ULTRACEMCO	3,749.00	3,896.00	3,725.05	3,873.70	97.15
AXISBANK	581	616.65	580.5	603.9	13.6
HCLTECH	941	965.15	930.7	960	18
M&M	699.9	729.9	694	722.35	11.8
CIPLA	503	523.95	503	521.05	8.5
ITC	268.4	276.05	268.2	274.9	4.45
BAJFINANCE	2,360.00	2,445.50	2,332.10	2,432.00	36.45
COALINDIA	233.75	244.05	233.75	241.3	3.15
ONGC	136	138.95	134.75	138.9	1.8
DRREDDY	2,668.50	2,749.95	2,666.10	2,725.00	34.55
GRASIM	784	804.95	775	800.15	9.75
TECHM	690	708.9	685	706	8.1
NTPC	134.05	138.05	134.05	137.7	1.5
TCS	1,970.00	2,010.00	1,961.00	1,997.05	21.25
IBULHGFIN	669.2	711.4	665.05	693.85	7.25
EICHERMOT	22,011.00	22,766.05	21,800.00	22,600.00	195.15
VEDL	191.9	195	190.05	194	14.5
TATAMOTORS	155	159.5	154.65	158.25	11.5
RELIANCE	1,066.00	1,102.10	1,055.00	1,098.00	7.75
WIPRO	325.4	333.8	324.8	328.85	2.25
INFRAEEL	247.7	257.25	246	252	1.65
INFY	669.2	681.9	660.6	673.25	4.05
UPL	740	751	731.2	750	3.45
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,710.00	2,760.00	2,685.00	2,737.75	12.65
POWERGRID	178.8	181.3	177.15	180	0.7
GAIL	330.2	335.45	329.7	332.85	0.8
INDUSINDBK	1,476.75	1,564.75	1,475.00	1,556.75	2.3
HEROMOTOCO	3,010.00	3,062.50	2,982.00	3,049.70	3.2
TATASTEEL	495.6	503.7	486.15	503	0.15
INDIANLVR	1,781.00	1,819.90	1,770.10	1,795.70	-0.1
HDFC	1,878.00	1,912.65	1,855.25	1,904.00	-2.5
IT	1,358.00	1,369.85	1,343.65	1,363.25	-4.5
MARUTI	7,240.50	7,346.00	7,215.55	7,305.00	-45.5
HINDALCO	215	218.45	214	216.4	-1.5
ADANIPORTS	347	363.55	347	355.5	-3.65
ICICIBANK	337.4	345	336	342.6	-3.75
BPCL	326	330	321.6	326	-4.25
HDFCBANK	2,056.00	2,071.30	2,032.00	2,056.15	-32.68HAR
TARTL	288	294.4	282	290.2	-4.75
IOC	134	134	129.55	132	-2.35
HINDPETRO	225.8	226.4	217.2	219.9	-6.8

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
SRTRANSFIN	1,070.10	1,164.85	1,067.85	1,142.40	51.15
LICHSGFIN	413	440.7	407.7	437.3	17.45
HAVELLS	600	696.45	600	691.4	25.35
ABCAPITAL	92.7	98.9	92.65	98.5	3.6
MARICO	347	365.35	346.85	359	12.75
ICICI	832.65	899	830.75	890	31.6
ASHOKLEY	98.75	104.3	98.4	104.05	3.6
AMBUJACEM	200.25	215.7	200.25	212.1	7.2
DLF	164	172.9	163	172.58	5.8
BOSCHLTD	18,449.95	19,226.85	18,425.00	19,102.00	618.15
BHEL	62.05	65.5	61.7	64.95	2
IDEA	32.65	35.45	32	34.05	1.05
RIICOON	499.5	634.2	499.4	629	18.4
COLPAL	1,190.00	1,278.00	1,190.00	1,239.00	30.05
MRF	63,666.00	65,500.00	63,666.00	66,290.00	1,925.40
LUPIN	803	842	802.3	836	23.25
DMART	1,499.70	1,550.00	1,491.30	1,550.00	39.8
BANKBARODA	103.3	110	103.3	108.7	2.75
L&T	130.65	138.35	130.65	137	3.15
PEL	2,010.00	2,117.95	2,010.00	2,088.00	45.4
INDIGO	981.05	1,031.85	981.05	1,026.00	21.45
OFFSH	3,421.00	3,545.00	3,421.00	3,544.95	69.95
DABUR	396.25	416.3	396	412.25	6.65
CADILAH	337.1	348	336.15	345.55	5.15
SAIL	49.1	51.15	49	50.8	0.75
HINDZINC	265.6	275	265.6	274	4
REL	76.5	79.8	75	78.75	1.1
ACC	1,385.00	1,439.85	1,385.00	1,431.75	19.95
PGH	9,499.00	9,742.00	9,411.05	9,602.00	109.75
NACL	192	199.9	192	198.1	2.1
GOOREJCP	730	765	728.25	745.2	7.4
SIEMENS	912	954	910.35	935.25	8.1
GICRE	269.05	275	268.55	275.25	2.15
BRITANNIA	2,970.00	3,009.90	2,940.00	3,000.00	19.35
OIL	171.95	174.7	171	174	0.65
AUROPHARMA	722	743	721	736	2.7
ABB	1,389.75	1,418.75	1,380.00	1,400.00	3.25
MOTHERSUMI	149.45	151.45	147.05	149.9	0.25
SHREECEM	15,900.00	16,124.00	15,805.15	16,038.95	17.25
PIDILITIND	1,119.00	1,136.90	1,105.25	1,123.75	0.7
NHPC	25.9	26.3	25.9	26.15	0
ICICIPRULI	301.2	310.4	301.2	306.55	-0.65
SKFL	55.15	56.95	55.15	56.95	-1.5
NMDC	90.05	91.8	88.6	91.25	-0.3
HDFCLIFE	380	388.95	379.95	384	-
13PETRONET	207	208.65	203.4	207.2	-1.25
CONCOR	649.7	670.1	649	669.75	-4.3
MCDOWELL-N	612.5	624	606.25	614.55	-8.35
BANDHANBNK	462	476	462	465.5	-1.45
SUNTV	566	579.5	552.85	560.5	-15.55

BSE 500

Script	Traded	Last Price	Change	COLPAL	1241	39	3.24	HEIDELBERG	152.4	5.05	3.43	JUBILANT	753.85	19.7	2.68	NIACL	196	0.85	0.44
CONCOR	660	-2.85	-0.43	HEROMOTOCO	499.95	14.35	2.96	JUBLFOOD	1256.2	56.2	4.68	NIITTECH	1107.5	50.65	4.79				
COROMANDEL	406.05	0.05	0.01	HEROTOCO	2994	-48.1	-1.58	JUSTDIAL	469.25	0.8	0.17	NILKAMAL	1460	-4.8	-0.33				
CORPBANK	27.45	2.45	9.8	HEXAWARE	331.15	13.2	4.15	JYOTHYLAB	182.15	0.15	0.08	NLCINDIA	68.2	-1.55	-2.22				
CRISIL	1510	15.05	1.01	HFL	18.7	0.3	1.63	KAJARIACER	443.6	18.55	4.36	NMDC	91.2	-0.1	-0.11				
CROMPTON	221	5.05	-2.34	HIMATSEIDE	207	-0.85	-0.41	KALPATPOWER	350.05	11.75	3.47	NOCIL	165.8	6.05	3.79				
CUB	176	4.8	2.8	HINDALCO	216.25	-1.35	-0.62	KANSAINER	458.1	24.8	5.72	NTPC	137.6	1.3	0.95				
CUMMINSIND	781.2	9.05	1.17	HINDCOPPER	46.2	0.7	1.54	KEC	280.5	8.25	3.03	OBEROIRLTY	449.95	-10.25	-2.23				
CYIENT	617	-0.55	-0.09	HINDPETRO	220.35	-6.2	-2.74	KEI	360	-6.3	-1.72	OFSS	3540	62.1	1.79				
DABUR	412.1	7.5	1.85	HINDUNILVR	1795.2	-1.9	-0.11	KIOCL	148.8	10.75	7.79	OIL	174	0.45	0.26				
DBCORP	175.9	5	2.93	HINDZINC	273.7	4	1.48	KNRCON	190.2	0.9	0.48	OMAXE	212	0.55	0.26				
DBL	439.3	5.6	1.29	HONAUT	22755	105.1	0.46	KOTAKBANK	1218.5	20.35	1.7	ONGC	139.05	1.8	1.31				
DCBBANK	152.7	2.45	1.63	HSC	132	3.75	2.92	KPIT	212.05	2.75	1.31	ORIENTBANK	83.75	1.6	1.95				
DCMSHIRAM	355.2	-3.7	-1.03	HSIL	195	-2.2	-1.12	KPRMILL	561	-8.65	-1.52	ORIENTCEM	76.75	0.75	0.99				
DEEPAKFERT	142	3.9	2.82	HUDDCO	41.1	0.85	2.11	KRBL	292	6.55	2.29	PAGEIND	24141.7	62.6	0.26				
DEEPAKNI	230.1	6.15	2.75	IBULHGFIN	694.6	8.75	1.28	KTKBANK	103.15	1.5	1.48	PARAGMILK	238.4	1.75	0.74				
DELTACORP	234.2	4.9	2.14	IBULSHGFIN	335	-11.15	-3.22	KWALITY	8.77	-0.16	-1.79	PEL	2088.35	42.65	2.08				
DENABANK	16.15	0.5	3.19																

May meets Merkel in bid to save Brexit deal

Berlin: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May on Tuesday met German Chancellor Angela Merkel here as part of a whistle-stop tour to meet European leaders in an attempt to salvage her Brexit deal, a day after postponing a parliamentary vote on it in the face of overwhelming opposition.

May met fellow conservative politician Merkel in the German capital having travelled from the Hague, where she had a breakfast meeting with her Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte to seek "further assurances" that the Northern Irish backstop would never come into force, though No 10 warned a rapid breakthrough was unlikely.

Head of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council President Donald Tusk have already said the draft Brexit deal would not be subject to renegotiation but said they were open to give further clarifications on it.

May was due to meet the two top officials later in the day

British MPs to vote on Brexit deal 'before January 21'

London: British Prime Minister Theresa May will let MPs vote on her Brexit deal before January 21, her spokesman said on Tuesday, after the initial vote was pulled in Brussels.

"We will not renegotiate the deal, including the backstop," Tusk earlier tweeted, referring to the contested clause in the deal relating to Northern Ireland.

UK Work and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd said further talks with Brussels would focus on the Brexit "backstop" on the Irish border, which May earlier admitted had caused MPs "widespread and deep concern".

Conservative Party leader May said on Monday that the decision to delay the vote was made after it became clear she would lose it "by a significant margin".

According to the Guardian, Downing Street said the vote could be delayed till January, that reduces the time available to pass the necessary legislation to complete the UK's departure.

A government spokesperson said that May will put her Brexit deal to a vote in the lower house of Parliament before January 21.

Dozens of Conservative MPs had been planning to join forces with the Labour Party, the Scottish National Party, the Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru and the Democratic Unionist Party to vote down May's deal, reports said. IANS

Death toll in suicide attack near Kabul jumps to 12

AFP ■ KABUL

The death toll from a suicide bombing targeting a security forces convoy outside Kabul on early Tuesday jumped to 12, officials said, with eight civilians killed in the latest Taliban-claimed attack near the Afghan capital.

The car bomb follows a wave of deadly violence against Afghan forces across a year in which insurgents have inflicted record-high casualties on security personnel in the war-torn country.

"Twelve people including four members of the security forces were killed," ministry of interior deputy spokesman Nasrat Rahimi told AFP.

Kabul police confirmed the casualties, adding that women and children were among the dead.

The blast took place in Paghman district west of Kabul as the convoy was returning from an overnight operation, interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish told AFP.

The ministry of interior and a separate security official requesting anonymity confirmed the assailant had used a car bomb to target the convoy.

Afghan security forces, beset by killings and desertions, have been struggling to beat back insurgents from Islamic State as well as the Taliban since US-led NATO mostly left them on their own three years ago.

In November President Ashraf Ghani said nearly 30,000 Afghan soldiers and police officers have been killed since 2015 — a figure far higher than anything previously acknowledged.

Earlier this month, Lieutenant General Kenneth McKenzie — who has been nominated to lead the US military's Central Command — said the death rate among Afghan forces will no longer be sustainable unless urgent measures are taken to address recruiting and training issues.

US adds Pak, China to its blacklist for religious freedom violations

Washington: The Trump Administration on Tuesday designated Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia and seven other countries of particular concern for having engaged in or tolerated "systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom."

Simultaneously, the Trump Administration also designated al-Nusra Front, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Qaeda, al-Shabab, Boko Haram, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Khorasan, and the Taliban as Entities of Particular Concern.

"On November 28, 2018, I designated Burma (Myanmar), China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated "systematic, ongoing, (and) egregious violations of religious freedom," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday.

"I also placed Comoros, Russia, and Uzbekistan on a Special Watch List for Governments that have engaged in or tolerated 'severe violations of religious freedom,'" Pompeo said in a statement.

Observing that in far too many places across the globe, individuals continue to face harassment, arrests, or even death for simply living their lives in accordance with their beliefs, Pompeo asserted that the US will not stand by as spectators in the face of such oppression.

Protecting and promoting international religious freedom is a top foreign policy priority of the Trump Administration, he said. "In July, I hosted the first-ever Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, which brought together some 85 like-minded governments and more than 400 civil society organizations to harness global attention and motivate forceful action to advance respect for the human right of religious freedom," he added. PTI

GLOBE TROTTER

THAILAND TO HOLD ELECTIONS ON FEB 24
Bangkok: Thailand's ruling military junta on Tuesday approved lifting of the ban on political activities it had imposed after taking power in a coup in 2014, clearing the way for an election to be held on February 24 next year.

SPORTS A UNIFYING TOOL FOR CLIMATE ACTION
Katowice (Poland): As nearly 200 countries entered the second week of their crucial climate negotiations here, the sports sector and the UN Climate Change on Tuesday jointly launched the Sports for Climate Action Framework to drive climate awareness and action.

EX-NISSAN CHAIRMAN'S JAIL TIME EXTENDED
Tokyo: Former Nissan Motor chairman Carlos Ghosn will remain in jail until at least December 20 without the possibility of bail under a Tokyo District Court decision on Tuesday.

INDIA'S ROLE CRUCIAL FOR AFGHAN PEACE: PAK
Islamabad: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that India's cooperation would be needed for bringing peace to war-torn Afghanistan.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age : 64 years approx., Height : 5'3", Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing: White colour shirt, black colour underwear & red colour towel** has been found at H.No. 88, Shiv Park, Gali No. 5, Nangloi, Delhi on 25.11.2018. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 10-A dated 25.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead body may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Nangloi, Delhi Outer Distt, Delhi DP/1705/OD/18 Ph. 011-25947225, 25949470

China introduces credit-based security check for air passengers

Hong Kong: The airport in Shenzhen city, one of the tech hubs in China, has introduced a new system under which passengers with good safety credit scores will be able to clear security faster, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Tuesday.

The system was a part of the Civil Aviation Administration of China's attempt to improve the service.

The Shenzhen International Airport will now classify passengers according to their social credit scores and divert them to different channels of security checks, Efe news reported citing the Chinese media.

A pilot programme of the system was launched in May at the airport, from where around 30 airlines operate on a daily basis. Close to 100,000 passengers tested the service then. IANS

Iran confirms recent missile test amid Western criticism

Tehran: Iran confirmed on Tuesday that it had carried out a recent missile test after Western powers sharply criticised a December 1 launch of medium-range ballistic missiles.

"We are continuing our missile tests and this recent one was a significant test," the Fars news agency reported, citing Revolutionary Guards aerospace commander Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh. "The US reaction showed that it was a big thing for them and that it upset them," Hajizadeh said, adding that Iran carried out between 40 and 50 missile tests a year.

He said the test had put Washington "under pressure", Fars reported. Iran reined in most of its nuclear programme under a landmark 2015 deal with major powers, but has continued to develop its ballistic missile technology.

Russian fighter jets in Venezuela raise tensions between Kremlin, US

Caracas: Tensions between Kremlin and the US on Tuesday continued to rise as two Russian bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons landed in Venezuela in a show of support for the government of socialist President Nicolás Maduro.

The long-range strategic bombers landed at Simón Bolívar Airport outside of the Venezuelan capital on Monday along with two other Russian planes. A pair of jets also visited in 2013.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the move amounted to "two corrupt governments squandering public funds and squelching liberty and freedom while their people suffer", while the Russian government, in response on Tuesday, called his words "completely inappropriate", the BBC reported.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the claims were completely inappropriate and not very diplomatic. IANS

New bug forces Alphabet to expedite Google+ API shutdown

San Francisco: Google's parent company Alphabet has announced to expedite the shutdown of the consumer version of its social networking platform Google+ and its APIs (application programming interfaces) after it discovered a new bug that impacted users' data.

"With the discovery of this new bug, we have decided to expedite the shutdown of all Google+ APIs; this will occur within the next 90 days.

"In addition, we have also decided to accelerate the sunset of consumer Google+ from August 2019 to April 2019. While we recognise there are implications for developers, we want to ensure the protection of our users," David Thacker, Vice President, Product Management, G. Suite, said in a statement late Monday. IANS

NASA probe finds water on asteroid Benu

Washington: NASA's first spacecraft sent to collect sample from an asteroid has found water locked inside asteroid Benu — a remnant from early in the formation of the solar system.

Launched in September 2016, the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx) mission will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact Earth.

Spectral observations made by the spacecraft's two spectrometers, the OSIRIS-REx Visible and Infrared Spectrometer (OVIRS) and the OSIRIS-REx Thermal Emission Spectrometer (OTES) revealed the presence of molecules that contain oxygen and hydrogen atoms bonded together, known as "hydroxyls".

These hydroxyl groups exist globally across the asteroid in water-bearing clay minerals, meaning that at some point Benu's rocky material interacted with water.

While Benu itself is too small to have ever hosted liquid water, the finding does indicate that liquid water was present at some time on Benu's parent body, a much larger asteroid, NASA said in a statement on Monday.

"The presence of hydrated minerals across the asteroid confirms that Benu, a remnant from early in the formation of the solar system, is an excellent specimen for the OSIRIS-REx mission to study the composition of primitive volatiles and organics," said Amy Simon from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. IANS

FORM-G Invitation of Resolution Plans (Under sub-regulation (5) of regulation 36A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	M/s. Earth Iconic Infrastructures Private Limited.
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	13th September, 2011
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Registrar of Companies (Roc)- Delhi & Haryana
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	UJ2002DL1011PT225302
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	B-100, Second Floor, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-1 Delhi South West Delhi-110028
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	20 April, 2018 (As per order dated 20.04.2018 of NCLT, New Delhi in Company Petition No. (IB)-16(PB)/2017)
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	12.12.2018
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants (RA) under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	As mentioned in Request for Resolution plan (RFRP), it will be sent by mail to RA
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	As mentioned in Request for Resolution plan (RFRP), it will be sent by mail to RA
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	11.01.2019
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	21.01.2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	26.01.2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	05.02.2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	26.01.2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan (RFRP), evaluation matrix (EM), information memorandum (IM) and further information	Prospective resolution applicant shall be provided copy of RFRP/EM/IM Electronically on submission of Non-Disclosure Undertaking Rs. 25,000 towards interest free deposit
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	25.02.2019 before 6 PM
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Resolution plan to be submitted in sealed envelope to Resolution Professional at below mentioned address.
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	27.03.2019
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Yogesh Kumar Gupta IBBI/PA-03/JP/NO0078/2017-18/10701
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Yogesh Kumar Gupta C-17B, Basement Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 ykgupta64@yahoo.co.in Yogeshguptair@gmail.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Same as at S.No 20
22. Further Details are available at or with	Yogesh Kumar Gupta RESOLUTION PROFESSIONAL C-17B, Basement Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 ykgupta64@yahoo.co.in.
23. Date of publication of Form G	12.12.2018

YOGESH KUMAR GUPTA
IBBI/PA-03/JP/NO0078/2017-18/10701
C-17B, Basement, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019
For Earth Iconic Infrastructures Pvt Ltd

Date: 12.12.2018
Place: New Delhi

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER CONSTRUCTION UNIT
UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM, COLLECTORATE COMPOUND,
RUDRAPUR, DISTT. - UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Letter no. 1863 / Nivida/214 Date: 10.12.2018

e-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work :- REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS AT I.T.I. GULARBHOJ (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR).
Rs. 20.00 Lakh

2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 20.00 Lakh

3. Period of Completion :- 03 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 11.12.2018 (16.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 27.12.2018 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 29.12.2018 (12.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 15.12.2018 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

Notice Inviting Tender

The Executive Engineer (Elect.), North East & Shahdara/M-251, 4th Floor, MSO Building, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online item rate tender from

A. Approved and eligible registered contractors in appropriate class of CPWD in "Composite" category or OEM/OEA of Repiscan Ltd. OR

B. Those of appropriate list of MES, BSNL and other State Govt. Departments dealing with buildings and roads and other experienced contractors who satisfy the criteria of execution of similar works i.e. 03 No. works each value not less than 40% of estimated cost put to tender or 02 No. works each of value not less than 60% of estimated cost put to tender or 01 No. work of value not less than 80% of the estimated cost put to tender in the last 7 years Similar work means "Comprehensive Maintenance of access control system or X-ray baggage inspection system"

NIT No:- 139/EE (E)/PWD North East & Shahdara/2018-19. Name of work:- RMO various E & M services installed at Karkardooma court Delhi. (SH:- Comprehensive Maintenance of X-ray baggage inspection system)

Estimated Cost:- Rs. 21,58,170/- Earnest Money Deposit:- Rs. 43,163/-. Period of Completion:- 30 Months Last time and date of submission of Bid: 22-12-2018 at 3.00 p.m.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> at I.D. No. 2018_PWD_163401_1

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390 007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi -110055

Whereas
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs].
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.
The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of possession of the properties are as mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Neelam Gupta/ Priyanshu Gulhare / LBDEL00001527660	496, Pocket H, Sector Alpha II, Greater Noida Except one Room / 05-12-2018	27-Aug-2011 / Rs.1998328/-	Noida
2.	Gulati Retail India Ltd / Manmohan Singh Gulati / Gulati Export House / Prithpal Singh Gulati / Amanjyoti Singh Gulati / Rajpreet Kaur Gulati / LBGUR00001494807	Shop no. DGL – 020, DLF Galleria, Mayur Vihar, Delhi / 08-12-2018	February 28, 2014 / Rs.2,85,38,085/-	Delhi

The Borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers in particular and the public in general is/ are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Secured Property and any dealings with the Secured Property will be subject to the charge of the Secured Creditor for the amounts mentioned in the demand notices and further interest & cost thereon. Please note that no further notice will be issued.

Date : 12-12-2018
Place: Delhi

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Secured Creditor

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Priya Tripathi, D/o Sanjay Tripathi, R/o: F-2/13, Mangol Puri, Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, wearing Linedar Orange T-Shirt, Blue Jeans and Sandal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Mangolpuri since 09.11.2018. In this regard a FIR No. 1052/18 U/S 363 IPC, dated 11.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi DP/1644/OD/18 Ph. 011-27921168, 27922186

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely : Roshni D/o Mohar Singh R/o B-51, Bhutoo wali Gali, Shiv Park, Nangloi, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 18.11.2018 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 457/18 u/s 363 IPC dated 20.11.2018 has been registered at Police Station Nangloi, Delhi. Her physical description is as under :-

ROSHNI

Age : 16 Years. Complexion : Wheatish, Height : 4'10", Face : Round, Wearing : Green colour Suit-Salwar and chappale in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this Missing/Kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Nangloi, Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO P.S. Nangloi, Delhi Outer Distt., Delhi DP/1651/OD/18 Ph. 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. 011-25947225, 25949470

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Sarita, D/o Bindeshwar, R/o E-81/1, Rama Vihar, Aman Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 17.11.2018 from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 1160/18 u/s 363 IPC, dated 18.11.2018 has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Sarita

Name: Sarita, Gender: Female, Age: 16 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: Sky Blue colour Suit, Yellow colour Salwar and Purple & White colour Sweater.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped girl, kindly inform SHO/Aman Vihar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi DP/1649/OD/18 Ph. No. : 011-27581559, 27581223

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Komal Bano, D/o: MD. Islam, R/o: H.No. A-59, Hari Singh Park, Multan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 18.11.2018 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No.665/18, u/s 363 IPC dated 18.11.2018 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out this missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Komal Bano

Name: Komal Bano, Age: 17 Years 3 month, Height: 4'9", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Grey Suit-Salwar and Hawal Chappal.

If anyone has any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi.

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Tel.: 011-24368638/24368641

SHO Police Station, Paschim Vihar, Delhi DP/1663/OD/18 Ph. 011-25263471, 25267286



ENTREPRENEURS OF IMPACT

Business & social entrepreneurship can channel the energy of the Indian youth to solve complex challenges, says NIKHIL JOHN

China and India are two of the fastest growing large economies in the world. The fact that in the next couple of decades, India will have a large portion of its population joining the working age group, the 'demographic dividend', is often touted as a huge fillip to economic growth particularly relative to China, which has the fastest aging population.

One million Indians enter the workforce every month, but with insufficient jobs to channel their talent toward productive activity, the predicted economic growth will fail to materialise. Although India's infrastructure has struggled to keep up with the heightened pace of economic activity post-market liberalisation, which has exacerbated India's socio-economic and environmental problems, social entrepreneurship can channel the energy of India's youth to solve her complex challenges.

Over the last decade, the Government of India has had several new initiatives to support entrepreneurship. The Start-up India initiative (January 2016) provides mentoring, access to funds, knowledge support, and has set up research centres and incubation centres across India. There have been large efforts to build an ecosystem to support entrepreneurs like providing legal support, fast-tracking IP

applications, thousands of crores in funding earmarked for start-ups, credit guarantees, tax exemptions, hundreds of incubators and start-up competitions.

Before the Start-up India initiative, there were only four states with start-up policies, while now with Manipur and Meghalaya in August, and most recently Goa in September, there are over 18 states with start-up policies and initiatives. Maharashtra launched one of the largest initiatives in May with the aim to open 15 incubators, attract ₹5,000 crore in investments, and create 500,000 jobs via 10,000 start-ups over five years.

In terms of the Global Entrepreneurship Development Index (GEDI), although India's score has increased from 23 in 2010, to 24.9, 25.8 and 28.4 in 2016 to 2018, we rank right in the middle at 68 out of 137 countries. There are also large gains to be had in technology absorption because for the past two years, technology absorption has been our lowest component of the index. Therefore, deep science and technology-based entrepreneurship remains a critically unused tool to address India's complex problems.

Innovation is critical for a solution to be scalable and achieve impact. You may be able to mobilise thousands to clean the trash in one particular locality over a weekend. But trash will build

LACK OF BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SOCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECTOR CREATES A GAP BETWEEN THE LAB & THE MARKET AS THE INNOVATIONS REMAIN TRAPPED IN THE LABS DESPITE THEIR TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL

up again without building a solution which makes it easier to segregate waste at source, incentivises compliance, penalises non-compliance through a business model built around a solution that can implemented at scale.

The type of scale required to make a dent in any of the complex challenges facing India will necessarily require a technological intervention. Across our much vaunted science and technology-focused academic institutions like the IISc, IITs, NITs, and AIIMS, and our lauded research institutes under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and others, innovative technologies are constantly developed that could potentially help solve India's complex problems.

However, many of these innovations remain in the lab as prototypes and don't even reach pilot stage, much less commercialisation. This is because, apart from the few outliers/unique cases, the innovators behind the R&D may not have the inclination or risk appetite to turn into an entrepreneur and take these technologies to market.

Lack of risk capital and other enablers makes it difficult for anyone to take the business and career risk.

In the commercial world, corporations do have an interest in licensing promising technologies and patents and use their own internal R&D and product management competence to ensure a lab to market transition.

However, lack of business entrepreneurship in the social/development sector creates a huge gap between the lab and market as the deep science and technology innovations remain trapped in the labs, despite their tremendous potential.

Programmes like Entrepreneurs for Impact (E4I) helps to unlock this potential and support early-stage start-ups to solve India's complex socio-economic and environmental challenges through the power of entrepreneurship and innovation. The E4I programme, which is a 12-month immersive fellowship funded by Tata Trusts, equips passionate entrepreneurs-in-the-making to leverage India's deep science, innovation and entrepreneurship environment to build social enterprises. Entrepreneurs and innovators are encouraged to create co-founding teams and are provided appropriate resources to build start-ups that solve some of India's most critical social, economic and environmental challenges.

The writer is lead, Entrepreneurs For Impact Programme, Social Alpha

QUOTE OF THE DAY

There was a time when bright people had few prospects for higher education and good jobs here. But that is changing. India is no longer seen as an undesirable place to work or pursue research

— Shashi Tharoor

HOTEL MANAGEMENT

The Delhi Paramedical and management Institute (DPMI) announces the commencement of admissions for its one-year full-time Diploma in Front Office Operations (DFO); Food and Beverage (DFB), and House Keeping (DHK).



Hotel management catering technology & tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world, with a potential that is limitless. Larger hotels often have management teams, instead of individual managers, where each member of the group specialises in a certain area. Hotel industry is an ideal field for students having a liking for interacting with people.

Eligibility: Those, who have recently passed 10+2 from any recognised board and want to work in hotel management industry, can enroll for these courses.

How to Apply: The application forms & brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi Paramedical & Management Institute, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi.

Deadline: December 25, 2018. For more details, log on to www.dpmiindia.com.

Fee: The two-week program costs \$5115 per student, including tuition, ground transportation, medical-insurance coverage during the program, lodging and boarding. The programme fee does not include international travel costs, international travel insurance and visa costs.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

The Knowledge@Wharton High School (KWHS), a part of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, invites application for its upcoming summer programme—KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy (GYLA) for high school students to experience introductory business and finance education.

MECHATRONIC & ROBOTIC

The University of Sheffield, UK, is inviting applications for Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering with a year in industry BEng course starting in September 2019. This course will give students a firm understanding of the principles of mechatronics and robotics.

This programme will conduct five sessions in 2019. GYLA provides a deeper understanding of entrepreneurship, business and personal finance and equips students with the skills to excel in the global marketplace. It will include a session on US college admissions to help students understand the experience of applying to American colleges and universities. The participants also get a chance to be a part of a community-service project and receive a certificate that recognises their volunteer hours; visit cultural centers; participate in social activities; and much more.

Students will learn how to design, analyse and test transforming robots, autonomous vehicles and other complex electro-mechanical systems and boost their career prospects by spending a year in industry. Students pay reduced fees to the university for that year and they can earn a salary.

Students will be receiving a certificate from Knowledge@Wharton High School upon successful completion of the programme.

Students will also be shown how to control robotic systems using modern microprocessor technology. They can also explore advanced concepts including manufacturing systems, noise and vibration control, spacecraft systems and robot technology.

The work placement will put their learning into context. At the end of the second year, students may choose to transfer to the four-year MEng course.

Eligibility: Eighty per cent marks in Class XII. International students need overall IELTS grade of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each component, or an equivalent English language qualification.

Fee: £22600 per year.

Scholarships: The university offers 50 International Undergraduate Merit Scholarships in 2019. The scholarships are competitive awards worth 50 per cent of the tuition fee for an undergraduate degree programme starting in September 2019 for new international (non-EU) students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Deadline: The UCAS deadline for the course is 30th of June 2019. For more information, email at adacase@sheffield.ac.uk and log on to <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/acse/undergraduates>

Conference on alternate education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is organising 10th School Choice National Conference (SCNC), a day-long conference dedicated to Alternative Education(s): Philosophy, Practice & Policy. Scheduled to be held on December 14, 2018 from 10 am to 6 pm at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, the conference will conclude with the screening and award ceremony of EduDoc—International Short Film Competition.

Dr Sugata Mitra, professor at Newcastle University, UK & Ted Prize winner will deliver the keynote speech at the conference followed by three sessions focusing on a specific aspect of the larger theme. The conference will be attended by 200 participants and include thematic sessions on the philosophy and practice of alternate education in India, as well as the policy framework for such models of learning.

Other prominent speakers include Anil Swarup, former secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India; Padma Shri Geeta Dharmarajan, founder, Katha; Gitanjali JB co-founder, Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh; Geeta Gandhi Kingdon, professor, Education & International Development at the Institute of Education, London University; Vidhi Jain, co-founder, Shikshantar; Anju Musafir, founder, Mahatma Gandhi International School; Supriya Joshi, founder member, Swashikshan: Indian Association of Homeschoolers; Ajay Kumar Singh, associate professor, Centre for Education, Innovation & Action Research, TISS and Neeraja Raghavan, founder-director, Thinking Teacher.

Meet on power safety

A national conference on Quality Guidelines and Power Safety was held recently at Vellore Institute of Technology campus. This two-week conference was a part of Electrical Safety Weeks inaugurated by AP Dwivedi, chairman, south zone Quality Estimation Centre, Chennai.

While addressing the conference, Dwivedi, who is also a renowned scientist in the areas of quality estimation and safety, pointed out that consumption of water and food was increasing among the people and it is important to know their quality and safety levels. The guidelines were given to laboratories to ascertain the quality of products made in industries. It would be possible to learn about the new technologies likely to be known through the proceedings of the conference towards ensuring quality norms are adhered to.

Organised by the School of Advanced Sciences and School of Electrical Engineering of VIT, Professor S Sivabalan, dean, School of Electrical Engineering welcomed the gathering. Professor Anand A Samuel, VC of VIT, presided over the function.

SR Venkatapathy of ISI, Bengaluru and Srikanth Chandrasekaran, senior director, quality and technology at Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Bengaluru, were guests of honour on the occasion. Dr A Mary Saral, dean, School of Advanced Sciences, and professors Vivekanandan, S Venkatesh, Sai Saraswathi and others took part.



Dignitaries present on the dais at the National Conference at VIT

BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

The annual All India Women's Badminton Tournament is all set to take place on December 13 at Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT). The south zone Inter-University Women's Badminton tournament witnessed players from 82 universities from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telengana, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, representing the South zone.

The top four teams — Jain University, Kozhikode; Kozhikode University; Andhra University and SRM University — were selected to take part in the All India Women's Badminton Tournament. Similarly, the other teams also competed from East, West and North zones.

Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur; Ranchi University; Guwahati University



and Dibrugarh University, Assam participated from East zone whereas Mumbai University, Savitri Bhai Phule University, Pune; Devi Ahalyabai University, Indore and Maharashtra University Nashik represented the West zone. The North zone universities participating in the all India tournament include Delhi University, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Punjabi University, Patiala and MD University, Rohtak, Haryana.

Environment exposition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Mad About Series brings to you Mad About Environment Exposition (MAE) which is scheduled to be held on December 14 from 9.30 am to 4 pm at the Shri Ram School, Vasant Vihar. The Mad About Series is an annual event that showcases learnings through the year on a particular theme.

This event is the joint efforts of the Shri community — the PTA and the school. Scheduled over the course of a day, the Mad About Environment event aims to create awareness, provide alternatives and pave way for sustainable living which is the need of the hour.

The event promises a take away for anyone attending it, through speakers pavilion featuring eminent speakers, innovations platform and fun filled hands-on workshops for all. A captivating photo exhibit space, dazzling performances by students, stalls by NGOs and organisations working in the fields of conscientious environmentalism, an organic farmer's market and food stalls serving lip-smacking organic food items promise a lively and enriching day for one and all.

Ed-tech start-up receives seed funding

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

PlanetSpark, a Gurugram-based ed-tech start-up on a mission to make traditional tuitions obsolete through powerful and gamified learn-tech products and certified teachers in K8 segment, has been infused with funds worth ₹1.6 crore by FIIT-JEE. The start-up will use the funds to rapidly grow its existing 200-plus home based tuition centers by close to 350 per cent to 750-plus home-based tuition centers across Delhi-NCR and beyond. The funds will also be used to develop powerful, heuristic, gamified learn-tech products for an integrated instructional learning experience.



L: Kunal Malik; Maneesh Dooper, PlanetSpark team with teachers

With a blended learning approach to teaching school subjects to preteens, the startup combines face to face classroom learning and tech-based learning. The company develops

ops gamified learning content such as mobile based learning games, educational cartoons, learning activity boxes, workbooks and board games and partners with qualified home-makers and helps them start their home based tech enabled tuition centres using the start-ups gamified teaching content, technology and training.

The team is also gearing-up for the release of its learning tablet which has been developed as a series of story-based learning adventures designed by Russian game design experts. The company plans to scale-up to five more cities in the next academic year.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As a part of the reunion celebration of IIMA's batch of 1989, Padma Bhushan P Gopichand was invited to speak at IIM-Ahmedabad on sports, nutrition, health and the requirement of a comprehensive emphasis on developing coaching facilities for various sports in India. As a famed badminton player and subsequently a coach for several players like Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu and Parupalli Kashyap, Gopichand has a host of awards to his name, including the Padma Bhushan which was awarded to him in 2014.

He began his talk by reminiscing about the manner in which he took up badminton, and the dif-



ference in the sociocultural atmosphere from then to now. Inspired by the exploits of Kapil's Devils in 1983, Gopichand, like a millions of other inspired children of that generation, wanted to play cricket too. Luck and a small logistical issue

Gopi regales IIM-A students

ensured that he picked up badminton instead. He also reminisced about the days in which he was coached as a player, and the paucity of proper sporting resources and facilities during the time of his career, which improved his game in its own way.

He described the advent of his coaching career and the obstacles that he faced while building the Pullera Gopichand Badminton Academy. "Make a good coach and he'll serve you for 40 years in a sport. Develop a player, and you will have five-10 years," he said.

The seasoned coach reflected on the philosophy of sport itself, and emphasised that medals, though are significant achievements in each sport, aren't inherently equitable measures. Olympics, though a combination of their origins and history, have always incorporated multiple variants of sports that Europeans originally excelled at. While pitting ourselves against them is a reflection of sportsmanship, the number of medals that we win is not a reflection of the country's greatness. However, he emphasized that while the hunger to win is desirable, every person who took the decision to stay fit by is a winner in oneself.

Annual Sports Day



Primary school students of Father Agnel School (FAS), Noida, presenting Guard of Honour to FAS Director from JA Carvalho during the march past conducted before the Junior Annual School Sports Day on Tuesday. The young children put up a spectacular show which included feather drill by Class IV students. Boys showcased their strength and discipline through the Karate drill

— PNS



Be an NTSE scholar

FIIT-JEE director RL TRIKHA tells students how they can evaluate their hidden talent and prepare themselves for further studies

Are you in Class X and looking for a platform to identify your hidden talent and evaluate your preparedness for further studies? The answer lies in National Talent Search Examination (NTSE). The aim of this exam is to identify and recognise students with high intellect and academic talent at the high-school level. It is a national-level scholarship programme one of the oldest and most prestigious examinations in India conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) at the secondary school level. It is a two-tier exam — Stage I (State level) is conducted by the States/Union Territories and Stage-II (national level) is conducted by NCERT. The objective of the two-tier exam is to identify the talented students who have a special aptitude for Sciences, Mathematics, Social Sciences and questions based on Analytical Reasoning.

The month of November. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) comprises of 100 MCQs, where one alternative is correct. There are 40 questions from Science, 40 from Social Science and 20 from Mathematics. The idea is to assess the subject knowledge, reasoning ability and logical thinking of the candidates.

The Mental Ability Test (MAT) also comprises of 100 MCQs with only one out of four options correct. Each question carries 1 mark. There is no negative marking. It has a variety of questions about analogies, classification, series, pattern perception, hidden figures, coding-decoding, block assembly, problem-solving, etc. Here, the goal is to gauge the power of reasoning, ability to judge, evaluate, visualise in space and spatial orientation of the candidates.

Second Level-Stage II: The second level test takes place every year in the month of May. Pattern of papers of MAT and SAT are same as in Stage I. As per the new pattern of Stage II announced by NCERT, each correctly answered question earns the candidate one mark with no negative marks. This level of exam tests the students' potential concerning their mental ability and scholastic aptitude.

Students who clear the stage II are eligible for the NTSE scholarship. There are no restrictions like parental income, Government school and domicile. However, no scholarship shall be available for

studies abroad for any course.

HOW TO CRACK IT
Know your strengths and weaknesses: For example, if you are strong in Mathematics and Science but average in MAT and weak in social sciences, then you can work on your weaknesses and turn them

THE NTSE EXAM ACTS AS A UNIQUE PLATFORM FOR THE STUDENTS TO CHECK THEIR CAPABILITY & POTENTIAL. IT ALSO POINTS OUT THE WEAKNESSES IN THE DOMAINS COVERED BY THE EXAM

into strengths for an overall very good or excellent score. Once you know your weak points, draft a plan. Study and revise the subject matter if needed. Allocate time for different sections of the exam.

Follow NCERT books: Follow books of Classes IX and X. For some concepts in Biology, refer

NCERT Class XI Biology textbook (only portions that are relevant to Class IX and X curriculum). It is imperative to study the Social Studies NCERT book for NTSE thoroughly.

Strengthen your MAT section: The MAT and SAT carry equal weight. Therefore, it is critical to give due time to both the papers while preparing. Some of us tend to overdo preparation of three subjects but in the process tend to ignore MAT. However, it is important to realise that MAT carries more weight than any of the subjects. This section tests mental ability. You must give enough time for the preparation of this part.

Work on your SAT section: Follow NCERT. You must also read a good general knowledge book for miscellaneous questions.

Solve sample papers: If you are aspiring excellence, it is important that you solve a lot of sample papers and mock tests at least thrice a week. There are a lot of NTSE mock papers available on the internet. You should aim to solve these papers within the stipulated time so that you can improve your speed and know the sections that consume more time.

Analyse performance: Make sure you minutely assess what you could do and what you had a hard time with. Was it the subject understanding you lacked? Or did you miss out on the scores because of silly mistakes? Whatever it is, just analyse your performance critical-

ly.

Proper guidance: Find a good mentor. There are times when in quest of achieving something, you tend to go off the track. To ensure you are on the right track, it is important to have a mentor to guide you and show you the right path in your success journey. Always interact with the mentor and seniors for do's and don'ts.

Early preparation: Start preparing at the earliest will lay the right foundation for further studies. Success is a result of practice and preparation with determination.

Value the time: Utilise your every minute properly. Devote your quality time to those areas where you are lacking. Once you have mended your loopholes, divide your time equally with all the subjects and areas.

Self-study: For clearing any exam, self-study is important. It is one of the most basic and important of all the tips to become an NTSE scholar. One should devote at least three-four hours to self-learning to crack this competitive exam.

Keep practicing: Regular practice is what will get you through. Solve as many questions of mental ability as possible so that you are not shocked on the exam day. Take the help of your school seniors and teachers. With practice, you'll also get more confident about your speed, accuracy and subject knowledge.

'Don't let ego get in the way'

Job search for CXOs is different from those who don't have this haloed C-level tag. SHANTI THAKUR shares dos and don'ts that such candidates should follow during an interview

A CXO's (corporate executives) search for a new role is usually unlike the job search of a manager or even a VP. C-level candidates have significant expertise and many are well known professionally. There are a number of reasons why a CXO's search for a job is unlike that of those who don't carry the haloed C-level tag.

A senior candidate searching for a job is judged on his or her achievements rather than potential. Yet despite having significant professional experience, such candidates tend to make some mistakes when searching for a job. A few things that they should keep in mind.

Become Better Listeners: When a company is hiring for the C-suite, it does not necessarily pamper a CXO's ego. What matters is what you bring to the table and how useful you can be to the company based on your experience. While certainly, most people at C-level positions have accomplished much in their career, yet recruiters need to ascertain whether a candidate is a good match for their company. It's a good idea to leave one's ego during interviews and to listen rather than to inform.

Bring Your Own Thoughts: It's common for such candidates to ask the interviewer about the company where they are interviewing for a CXO position rather than allowing the company to judge whether the candidate would be a good fit for the company. This means that in the early stages of an interview process a C-suite candidate should try to sell themselves instead of turning their initial interviews into fact-finding missions. A simple goal a CXO candidate should have during his or her initial interviews is being called back for further interviews and this can be made possible by bringing their own thoughts to the interview and by not asking questions excessively.

Talk About the Success of Their Team: They should be open to coaching and be accepting when shown that their experience does not make them as unique as they believe they are. While many such candidates have skills that make them stand apart, a significant number do not and such candidates must



Shanti Thakur
Associate Partner, Sapphire Human Solutions

acknowledge this when needed if they want to grow professionally. They should be willing to work on the skills they lack and make themselves more marketable if needed. An ideal CXO candidate is one who talks about the success of their team and not only of personal success.

Connect With Leadership Consultants: One of the biggest mistakes a CXO candidate can make is not cultivating relationships with recruiters. Many C-level candidates don't respond to emails or calls made by recruiters because for the moment they don't need the recruiter's services. C-suite candidates should realise that everyone will need another job at some point in their life and developing relationships with recruiters is a way to ensure they get the right information and support when they search for a new job. Hence CXO candidates should remain in regular touch with leadership consultants.

Every candidate must realise that they must allow a company to judge whether they would be a good fit for a company. Also, knowing that everyone, including themselves will need to search for a job should make CXO candidates want to cultivate relationships and be more accepting of coaching.

India has been moving on the road to development at a rapid speed, maintaining its growth rate on every front — economy, trade and international relations. The make-over has not only nurtured but also empowered many socio-economic groups, including women, and improved their lot, to a degree. Women emancipation is intrinsic to nation building.

The push for women emancipation may not be at the expected pace but it has certainly stepped beyond the shadow of the subtle. Women have started to play a pivotal role in India's growth story at a time when other countries are looking at India for its contribution to world economic development. Seen in this light, little

doubt remains that women empowerment requires further impetus.

The World Bank, in its *India Development Report* released last year, said the country had one of the lowest women participations in the workforce. This report had ranked India 120 out of 131 countries. Even a minuscule increase in women's participation in the overall workforce means a jump in India's GDP of billions of dollars.

Today, we can say convincingly that Governments, corporates and ordinary people are working for the upliftment of women. The Government is also doing what is needed to empower women. On the sidelines of a United Nations conference, the Indian delegation revealed that there were 24

MINDIT

Government programmes presently running for the welfare of women.

Women empowerment can't be done in a piecemeal manner, though. A recent report said that a total of only nine per cent of women candidates got admission in our IITs this year. I am sure that the ratio of boy to girl students will be almost the same in the other engineering institutes as well. In the context of gender diversity, this does not paint a good picture.

Higher education is one area where all of us owe it to the nation to make the existing

ecosystems more women-positive by way of increasing their numbers in the technical institutes and other related education fields.

Corporate India, as part of the overall Indian milieu, is lending a shoulder to this effort. It's making a conscious and sustained attempt to induct more women into the workforce and boardrooms, though the rate is still slow compared to the global numbers.

More women employees are found in services or IT. Understandably, the number starts to dwindle when it comes to the more traditional world of manufacturing.

Conventional companies have started to change this. Initiatives include reaching out with job offers to graduating women on campus. But in the journey of scaling up women's economic empowerment, let us not forget the urban-rural divide that thwarts the implementation of many a scheme, and stops its benefits from reaching rural women. In this respect, I would call for an added focus on the rural woman because she faces even more hurdles than her urban counterpart.

For example, their denial to even basic education means rural Indian women have no idea of their rights. In addition to education, what is also required is access to basic healthcare for her family and her, and ownership of a productive resource so that

rural women are truly empowered. When that really happens, India will find itself on a path of true transformation.

In this, the private sector can play a crucial role in catalysing change. Corporates, with pan-India operations having manufacturing and other business infrastructure across the country, touch the lives of millions in semi-urban and rural areas. Building on this interface, we can collectively help to enhance the rural women's lot, increase its knowledge capital, provide required training skills and promote the fund management through designed cooperative and federations.

The writer is Ajay Kapur, MD & CEO, Ambuja Cement



The US Holocaust Memorial Museum is delighted to offer its summer graduate student research fellowship. The fellowship is exclusively open for both US and international applicants, those accepted to or currently enrolled in a master's degree programme or in their first year of a PhD programme.

Eligibility: In addition to English, applicants are encouraged, but not required, to have fluency in one or more of the following languages: German, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Dutch, Hungarian, Slovakian, Italian, and/or Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. **English language requirements:** Applicants must have excellent written and verbal English skills.

How to apply: Must include: An online application form, A resume, A personal statement of no more than two single-spaced pages in length. The statement should explain the applicant's interest in the Holocaust and World War II and how the junior fellowship might further encourage his or her studies in this area. A project proposal of no more than three single-spaced pages in length. Each proposal should address a research topic devel-

oped with a faculty member at the student's home institution.

One letter of recommendation that speaks to the applicant's qualifications. Letters of recommendation should be sent from the recommender, not the applicant, as attachments to SGRA-at-ushmm.org.

Application deadline: January 1, 2019.

The Graduate School is pleased to announce scholarships for 2019-2020 academic year. Scholarships are open to international students who plan to undertake a PG research degree (MPhil/PhD) at King's College London.

Eligibility: Be classified as overseas fee status; Have submitted all the required application materials by the funding deadline (as instructed in the 'Application Process' section below).

Students who will pay tuition fees at the Home/EU rate are not eligible. Existing research degree students are not eligible to apply. The scholarship can't be held on a part-time basis. **English language requirements:** Required to demonstrate depending on the programme applied for.

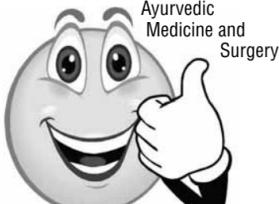
How to apply: Apply to (<https://apply.kcl.ac.uk/>); Ensure you tick the box and enter the code 1920-PGR-INT.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is January 11, 2019.

STUDY CENTRES

Prevention is better than cure. Of late, there has been a lot of talk on the importance of Ayurveda in treating a number of ailments. Patients too are looking for good Ayurveda doctors because it combines the best knowledge and developments taking place globally. To be a successful Ayurveda practitioner, one must have strong concentration, self-confidence, responsibility, caring nature and good communication skills. A few more colleges to study:

- **Amrita School of Ayurveda**, Kollam. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
- **Mahatma Gandhi Ayurved College, Hospital and Research Centre**, Wardha. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
- **Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Ayurved**, Pune. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
- **MSM Institute of Ayurveda**, Sonapat. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
- **Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences**: Schools and Research Centers, Kochi. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
- **Government Ayurvedic College**, Guwahati. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery
- **Banaras Hindu University**: Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi. **Course:** Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery



MARKETING AT YATRA ONLINE

Location: Delhi, Gurgaon
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link - internshala.com/i/16621
Application deadline: December 22, 2018

CONTENT WRITING AT PEARSON

Location: Noida
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16622
Application deadline: December 20, 2018

UAV PILOT AT STERILITE POWER

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16623
Application deadline: December 18, 2018

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT WYNN LIMITED

Location: Gurugram
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16624
Application deadline: December 17, 2018

SOFTWARE TESTING AT CERTES NETWORKS

Location: Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16625
Application deadline: December 20, 2018

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT FOODROBIN

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16626
Application deadline: December 22, 2018

FINANCE AT STUDIO SOCIAL

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹9,500 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/16627
Application deadline: December 20, 2018

IN BRIEF

VIJENDER: PHYSICAL FITNESS IMPORTANT

Olympic medalist and WBO Oriental Super Middle Weight title holder, boxer Vijender Singh graced the Annual Sports Day of Rabindranath World School at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex. Vijender who was the guest of honour said: "I have never participated in any activity in my school days and it's amazing to see so many students actively taking part in the event."

He handed out medals and trophies to the

students of the school for their outstanding sporting achievements. He also addressed the parents with the importance of physical activities and diets for young children. "It is very important to let children do what they like to do than forcing them to pursue a career in a particular field. I would have never been a boxer if my parents hadn't supported me. It is also important to take care of our children's diets these days as it will shape the way he will grow up in the future," he said.

NON-INVASIVE CARDIOLOGY PROGRAMME

The Texila American University (TAU) and Yashoda Hospital have tied up to offer non-invasive cardiology programme.

Speaking about the strategic tie-up, founder-president of TAU, Saju Bhaskar

said: "We are happy to associate with the hospital to introduce this programme. There is a need to create specialists in non-invasive cardiology.

People have become conscious and watchful about their health, especially their heart which is vulnerable diseases owing to sedentary life-style and hectic work hours.

Non-invasive cardiology is in demand across the globe as heart related ailment have increased many- folds.

ICAI SIGNS MOU WITH IIM-A

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has recently signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

The objective is to establish mutual co-operation between both Institutes for offering and co-hosting open-enrollment and customized training programs exclusively for Chartered Accountants. The MoU will benefit the Chartered Accountants in acquiring number of skills required

in today's digitized and fast changing business environment. Participants will be exposed to emerging concepts, technology and business practices in achieving operational excellence.

CA. Naveen ND Gupta, President, ICAI said: "The collaboration will bring a new dimension to the area of accounting and management education. Courses conducted under the MoU will provide opportunity for CAs to enhance management skill sets required for key positions."

SKILL TRAINING CENTRE

Centum WorkSkills India Limited has announced the inauguration of a skill training centre under Delhi Police's 'YUVA' programme. The training-cum-skill development centre aims to benefit the juvenile delinquents by imparting them with relevant skills and help get jobs under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna.

The initiative provides job-linked skill training to the youth who are school dropouts, juveniles involved in crime, or those from families in a dire state due to the incarceration of the bread earner of the family. The centres provide job-linked training through its sector skill councils which are connected to industry and thereby provide job opportunities.

Sanjay Bahl, CEO and MD, Centum Learning said: "We are delighted to partner with Delhi Police and implement their initiative unique community uplifting initiative — Yuva."

EXPANSION PLANS

Shine.com, the online job search platform has revealed its intent to expand its technology team by 40-50% in the coming months. The decision to expand the team further to achieve new heights and strengthen its technology backbone is an offshoot of the newly-appointed CTO's larger vision for the company.

Speaking on the development, Zairus Master, CEO, Shine.com said: "This year, we are focusing all our energies on enhancing user experience through better technology deployment. Our goal is to significantly improve search results and candidate matching functions to achieve a higher conversion rates."

STICKATHON



Belgium, Dutch secure K/O spot

Red Lions, The Netherlands reach World Cup quarters after securing five-goal victory in cross-over

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Pakistan's miserable campaign at the men's hockey World Cup finally came to an end after Olympic Silver medallists Belgium thrashed the four-time champions 5-0 in the third cross-over match at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday.

Staring the match as favourites, the Red Lions toyed with the Pakistani defence which somehow managed to hold on in the opening 10 minutes.

But once Alexander Hendricks (10th minute) converted a penalty corner, the Pakistani defence broke apart and gates opened up for Belgium.

Besides, Hendricks, skipper Thomsa Briels (13th), Cedric Charlier (27th), Sebastian Dockier (35th) and Tom Boon (53rd) were the other goal getters for Belgium.

While Pakistan will pack their bags and return home, Belgium will take Germany in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The Red Lions, ranked third in the world, came into the match as outright favourites against the world No 13 Pakistan and they played like champions, dominating the proceedings for major part of the 60 minutes.

Belgium's first scoring chance came from the very first move in the form of a penalty corner but the Pakistani defence did enough to thwart the danger.

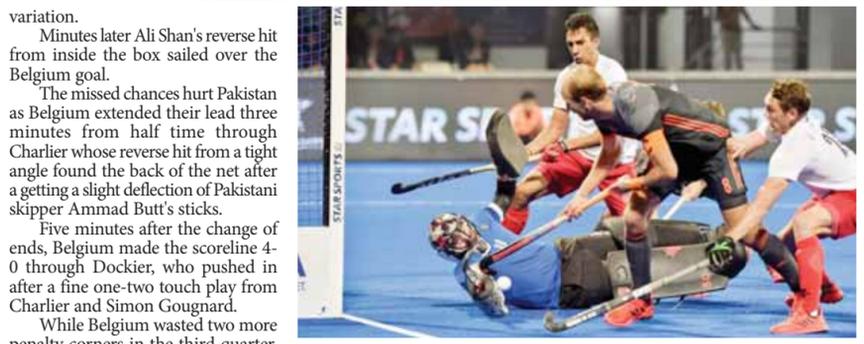
Belgium kept up the pressure on the fragile Pakistani defence and secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 10th minute, the second of which was converted by Hendricks with a powerful low flick to the left corner of the goal.

Three minutes later, Belgium doubled their lead through skipper Briels, who deflected in after being set up by Nicols de Kerpels fine work pass from the right flank.

Pakistan improved their game in the second quarter and made some impressive moves but they lacked ideas once inside the opposition circle.

The final pass was lacking from the Pakistanis as a result of which their build-ups hardly troubled the Belgian defence.

Pakistan earned their first penalty corner in the 16th minute but wasted the opportunity while opting for a



variation.

Minutes later Ali Shan's reverse hit from inside the box sailed over the Belgium goal.

The missed chances hurt Pakistan as Belgium extended their lead three minutes from half time through Charlier whose reverse hit from a tight angle found the back of the net after a getting a slight deflection of Pakistani skipper Ammad Butt's sticks.

Five minutes after the change of ends, Belgium made the scoreline 4-0 through Dockier, who pushed in after a fine one-two touch play from Charlier and Simon Gougnard.

While Belgium wasted two more penalty corners in the third quarter, Pakistan too got a short corner but Ali Mubashar's attempt went wide.

Down by four goals, Pakistan knew it was the end of the road for them. It was a one way thereafter as Belgium made all the forays and earned two more penalty corners in the process. The last penalty corner resulted in a penalty stroke as the ball hit the body of a Pakistani defender and Boon made no mistake in converting the chance.

DUTCH SET INDIAN CLASH

Three-time champions Netherlands will now play India in the last-eight round on Thursday.

In the match between world No 4 Netherlands and world No 11 Canada, the Dutch were early aggressors as they made continuous forays.

The Canadians, on the other hand, preferred to sit back and defend while looking for counters to surprise their opponents.

Canadian goalkeeper Andrew

Charter too made a number of brilliant saves to keep his side in the hunt.

The Netherlands' first chance came in the ninth minute but Charter came out of his line to pull off brilliant save and deny Bob de Voogd.

Seven seconds from the first quarter Netherlands earned their first penalty corner but Mink van der Weerden's attempt sailed over the goal.

After 15 minutes of resistance, Canada's resolute defence finally broke down seconds into the second quarter when an unmarked Lars Balk sliding try from Glenn Schuurman's pass found the back of the net past Charter.

Seconds later Netherlands got a golden chance to double their lead when they were awarded a penalty stroke but Charter once again came to his side's rescue to keep away Jeroen Hertzberger's try.

The Netherlands, however, doubled their lead in the 20th minute through Robert Kemperman, who slap shot from top of the circle found the Canadian net for the second time in the game.

Canada's James Wallace feeble try from close range was then easily parried away by Dutch goalkeeper Pirmin Blaak.

Chances came thick and fast for the Netherlands as Thierry Brinkman was the next to be denied by Charter before the Canadian goalie pulled off another fine save to keep away Hertzberger's reverse hit.

The Dutch resumed the second half at the same pace and continued to mount attacks on the opposition goal and in the process secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 38th minute but the chances went wasted.

The Netherlands tripled their lead in the 40th minute Van Dam scored from a rebound after Seve van Ass's initial shot was saved by Canada keeper Charter.

A minute later, the Dutchmen extended their lead when Brinkman pushed in an open goal after being set up by Kemperman, who beat three Canadian defenders with his brilliant stick work.

After wasting another penalty corner, Netherlands made the scoreline 5-0 in their favour two minutes from full time through Van Dam's second goal of the day.

Attacking is our strength & we will not deviate: Manpreet

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Expecting the Netherlands to be their quarterfinal opponents in the World Cup, India captain Manpreet Singh on Tuesday said they will continue to play attacking hockey in a game where there will be no margin for error.

India's quarterfinal opponents was decided after Netherlands beat Canada 5-0 in the fourth cross-over match.

Like everyone else, Manpreet too expected the Dutch to sail into the last-eight round earlier only.

"We are expecting Holland to come through because they are a much better team. But whoever goes through our aim would be to give our best. It is a knockout, do-or-die match and there is no second chance. We can't afford to miss chances. At the same time, we need to be cautious and give less chances," the midfielder said.

"We need to play attacking hockey, our strength. When we try to play defensive, we tend to be too much defensive which provides more chances to opponents. We need to put pressure on them (from the start)," Manpreet explained.

The skipper said utilising chances would be crucial to success in the quarter-final.

"But it will be a very tough match and whichever team utilises its chances will win," he said.

"If you progress to the semi-finals you always have an option of finishing in the podium. You are just one match away from a medal. But if you lose in the quarter-finals, you don't get a second option.

"In the end it all boils down to how we play. If we get good chances and miss them and obviously the opposition team will take advantage of it," he added.

Manpreet listed out a series of do's and don'ts if they are pitted against three-time champions Netherlands.

"In the past we had good matches against Holland. In the Champions Trophy we drew with Holland. We have also defeated them in the past.

"Our aim would be to strengthen our defence. Holland has very good and experienced midfield. They also have good strikers. So, our aim would be to break their moves early. We can't give them easy chances and also need to convert our chances," he said.

Manpreet said the Hockey India League played a big part in the progress of the Indian team.

"Before HIL we didn't know these players of Holland, Australia etc. But since HIL started we all know each other having played against them and shared the dressing room with them. The team has improved a lot after HIL," he said.

Manpreet didn't play the entire match against Canada in their last pool match because of fever but he has since recovered and will be a key figure in India's midfield on Thursday.

"I am fine now. In the last match I had fever so I couldn't play the full match. But I am feeling better now," he said.



BAYERN HEAD TO AJAX FOR SHOWDOWN

AFP ■ BERLIN

Resurgent Bayern Munich head to Ajax for Wednesday's Champions League group showdown with clear winners and losers among the star-studded squad after Niko Kovac's decision to end rotation.

"We want to keep going," said Leon Goretzka, now a firm fixture in central midfield alongside Joshua Kimmich with Bayern having won their last three games after Saturday's 3-0 league home win over Nuremberg.

"Now we travel to Amsterdam and want to finish first in the group — that's important for us."

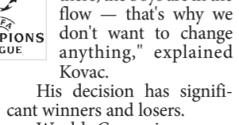
Bayern need just a point at Ajax's Johan Cruyff Arena to win Group E with the Bavarian giants currently top of the table, two points ahead of their Dutch rivals, and both teams already into the last 16.

A 5-1 thrashing of Benfica at the Allianz Arena a fortnight ago, with Robert Lewandowski and Arjen Robben both scoring twice, signified an end to the poor results of October and November which also saw Bayern slide down the Bundesliga table.

Bayern have now clawed their way back up to third in the league and coach Kovac has taken a gamble by ditching



Ajax vs Bayern Munich Live from 1:30am IST SONY TEN NETWORK



rotation, risking ruffled egos with stars left on the bench.

"The rhythm is there, the boys are in the flow — that's why we don't want to change anything," explained Kovac.

their path blocked by Kimmich and Goretzka, both 23, who each hit the woodwork against Nuremberg.

"Both have a very good understanding of football and read the game well," said Kovac, at the helm at Bayern since July.

"They get on well off the pitch and are in the national team together.

"It's an axis that's really fun right now — not only for those two, but the whole team in the last three games."

However, Hummels looked like he was having anything but 'fun', storming through the mixed zone after Saturday's win without a word as Jerome Boateng and Niklas Sule are now established as Kovac's centre-backs.

Disgruntled stars watching from Bayern's bench has caused problems for Kovac's predecessors and Robben's imminent return from a thigh injury threatens Serge Gnabry's place on the right wing.

Thiago Alcantara, a second-half replacement on Saturday who is returning to fitness after a knee injury, threatens to break up Kimmich and Goretzka's partnership in central midfield.

However, Kovac's decision has reaped dividends in attack with striker Robert Lewandowski scoring four goals in his last three games, supported by Thomas Mueller who is revelling in the attacking midfield role.

MUMBA HUMILIATE DABANG DELHI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

U Mumba underlined their title credentials yet again as they trounced Dabang Delhi 44-19 in a lopsided encounter of Vivo Pro Kabaddi Season 6 in Vizag.

It was an all-round team effort from U Mumba as its raiders and defenders put in a convincing display.

Siddharth Desai (12 points) and Rohit Baliani (8 points) were excellent in raid department whereas Fazel Atrachali got a high five and Surender Singh with 4 points marshaled the defence superbly.

Dabang Delhi struggled to get going against a robust opposition and one of its players had a standout match. Meraj Sheykh had a match to forget for Dabang Delhi as he failed to get off the mark.

Despite the defeat Dabang Delhi



remain in the hunt for a place in the playoffs.

Rohit Baliani got U Mumba to a quick start with two raids in two minutes as they led 4-1. The first half saw

Chandran Ranjit pick up a couple of raid points and no other raider from Dabang Delhi could get going. It was Dabang Delhi's defence that kept them in the match's first half.

For U Mumba Rohit Baliani was in fine form and Surender made crucial tackles at the back. U Mumba inflicted the first all out of the match in the 16th minute to lead 16-8. It was an impressive first half display from U Mumba as they went into the break leading 19-11.

Dabang Delhi were on equal footing at the start of the second half as they matched U Mumba point for point but still trailed 15-23 after 27 minutes.

Siddharth Desai's successful raid in the 30th minute led to another all out as U Mumba led 30-15.

After the second all out of the match U Mumba completely asserted the dominance. Dabang Delhi surrendered haplessly as in the last 10 minutes they could score just four points. U Mumba inflicted another all out in the last five minutes and registered a comfortable win in the end.

TOUGH ROAD AHEAD FOR SINDHU

PTI ■ GUANGZHOU

PV Sindhu's bid to end the season with a Gold will be a tough one while debutant Sameer Verma too will need to produce his absolute best to make the knockout stage when the BWF World Tour Finals begins here on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, the 23-year-old from Hyderabad, who had finished runners-up in the last edition at Dubai, will begin her quest to put a golden touch to her Silver-filled

cabinet.

But the road to the women's singles title will be a stiff one, considering she has been clubbed in what can be called a 'group of death', which includes world No 1 and her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying, Japan's world No 2 and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi and her India Open conqueror Beiwen Zhang of USA.

Sindhu, who will be making her third successive appearance at the tournament, have a 9-4 head-to-head record

against Yamaguchi but she has lost four times to the Japanese in five meetings this season.

The 23-year-old from Hyderabad also have found the going tough against Asian Games Champion Tai Tzu Ying, who has beaten her in all their last six encounters.

Against Zhang, Sindhu has a 3-3 head-to-head record but the Indian has lost twice in the last three meetings, which included a final defeat at the India Open World Tour Super 500 tournament in New Delhi.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF HALT AGENT AT LINGARAJ TEMPLE ROAD PASSENGER HALT IN BETWEEN RETANG - BHUBANESWAR STATIONS

No.G.51/P.H./LGTR Dated : 05.12.2018

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED PERSONS FOR APPOINTMENT AS PASSENGER HALT AGENT TO SELL TICKETS FOR LINGARAJ TEMPLE ROAD PASSENGER HALT IN BETWEEN RETANG & BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

COMMISSION PAYABLE TO THE HALT AGENT WILL BE AS UNDER:

Amount of Sale of tickets per month & Commission payable :
 * ₹ 1 to ₹ 15,000/- : 15%, * ₹ 15,001 to ₹ 50,000/- : 12%, * ₹ 50,001 to ₹ 1,00,000/- : 9%, * ₹ 1,00,001 to ₹ 2,00,000/- : 6%, * ₹ 2,00,001 and above : 3%.

Security Deposit : ₹ 2500/- (₹2000/- towards Security Deposit + ₹500/- towards 50% of cost of Railway Materials).

How to apply : Candidates may apply, on plain paper for the above Passenger Halt to which they are eligible from place of residence point of view, to the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road, PO - Jatni, Dist - Khurda, Pin - 752050 and applications should be dropped in the Box kept for this purpose. Application sent through postal service or by any other means shall not be entertained.

Application duly filled in prescribed format should reach this office by 1500 hrs. on or before 08.01.2019 (Tuesday). If the last day i.e. 08.01.2019 happens to be a holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day.

The Railway Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

For complete details, application format and other terms & conditions please visit our website : www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

PR-401/J18-19 Divisional Commercial Manager (Co-Ord), Khurda Road

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER, BARGARH

No.10816 Date:07/12/2018

NOTICE

In pursuance to advt.no.9431 dt-29/10/2018, Zilla Swasthya Samiti, Bargarh invites objections, if any from the candidates for the post of **Office Assistant**. For this a database has been prepared as per the documents attached with the application forms. Candidates are requested to log in the official website of Bargarh District www.bargarh.nic.in to view the database. The candidates are requested to send their objections if any to the O/O, Chief District Medical Officer, Bargarh, pin-768028 with superscription on the envelope "Objection for the post of _____" through Regd. Post/speed Post only by 17/12/2018 upto 5.00 p.m. No personal contacts and after due date no applications will be entertained.

Sd/-
 Chief District Medical & PHO-cum-District Mission Director, NHM, Bargarh

'DRS isn't perfect system'

Australian skipper questions DRS saying it's frustrating to deal with imperfect technology

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australia Test skipper Tim Paine has questioned the decision review system, saying it has been "frustrating" to deal with the technology that is "not a perfect system".

Australia endured some frustrating moments during their 31-run loss to India in first Test when a few decisions went against the hosts after reviewing the umpires calls.

Umpire Nigel Llong had given Ajinkya Rahane out caught at bat-pad for 17 early on Sunday but the decision was overturned on review when replays indicated that the ball had hit the batsman's front pad outside the line of off stump and missed his bat and gloves.

Similarly, Cheteshwar Pujara, who had scored a gritty 123 in the first innings, was adjudged out on eight and 17 to Lyon on Saturday but the dismissals were overturned.

Replays found no contact with bat or gloves in his first dismissal and the second one was overruled as ball tracking suggested that the ball would have gone over the bats.

"Look, it's (DRS) not a perfect system and I haven't got the answers. It's just frustrating; I'd imagine it's frustrating for everyone. But it is what it is," Paine was quoted as saying in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

The Australian skipper initially said the calls had been "interesting," then when later asked why DRS was interesting, he said: "I think everything, I don't want to talk about DRS. It's just — it is what it is."

"A lot of balls seem to be going over the top of the stumps, I know that, that live don't look like they are. So yeah, it is what it is."

In Australia's second innings, Aaron Finch was caught in close to off-spinner R Ashwin but he didn't use the DRS after consulting partner Marcus Harris.

Reviews suggested that the ball had not touched the gloves and later third umpire Chris Gaffaney informed Nathan Lyon there was not enough evidence to overturn the decision.

Paine said: "It's one of those things. You can't do much about it. We've been told Aaron's for instance would still not have been overturned. Yeah, the DRS is interesting."

"It's a bit different when the batters are



Indian players celebrate the dismissal of Australia's Aaron Finch, second left, on day four during the first Test between Australia and India in Adelaide AP

LOOK, IT'S (DRS) NOT A PERFECT SYSTEM AND I HAVEN'T GOT THE ANSWERS. IT'S JUST FRUSTRATING; I'D IMAGINE IT'S FRUSTRATING FOR EVERYONE. BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS



out there, it's up to those two, isn't it? Aaron felt something on his glove, it ended up being his pad, that can happen.

"From a bowling and in-the-field perspective, we've got a process we go through with myself and the bowler. Nathan Lyon's at point a lot, he gives us the indication of height. You have to take everyone's piece of information and make good decisions. We got a couple wrong but that can happen."

Former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni was against the usage of DRS in Tests and India avoided the technology for eight years after its introduction in Test cricket in 2008.

But after Virat Kohli became the captain, India agreed to the use of DRS in 2016.

Paine also backed pacer Mitchell Starc to rediscover his best in the bouncy tracks of Perth in the second Test after the opening Test where he didn't look menacing despite taking five wickets.

"When Starc's on song, there is no better bowler in the world, particularly with the new ball," Paine told *cricket.Com.Au*.

"In Perth, the conditions will suit him down to the ground... From what I am hearing, the wicket is going to be really fast so he'll be a handful."

Paine admitted Starc was not at his best at Adelaide but acknowledged his role in the team.

"He didn't set the world on fire but I think, for a long time, there's been a really big gap between Starc's best and his worst," Paine said.

"And from what I'm seeing, that is getting closer and closer every day. Was he at his best? Probably not. But I still thought he played his role."

Perth will suit Aus more than India: Ponting

PTI ■ PERTH

Australia might have been outwitted in the opening Test but former skipper Ricky Ponting believes the hosts will hold an edge over India in the second Test at the Perth beginning on Friday.

India defeated Australia by 31 runs in the first match to take a 1-0 lead in the four-Test series for the first time in 70 years.

Ponting believes the nature of the new-look Perth pitch will suit the Australians.

"I think Perth will definitely suit our guys a lot more than the Indian players, but the Aussies need to bounce back pretty quickly," Ponting told *cricket.Com.Au*.

Ponting said Australia need to find out their shortcomings quickly and learn from them after putting a poor show in the first Test.

"They played pretty poorly this week and got within 30 runs. And that's not saying India played at their absolute best either, but they're absolutely capable," he said.

"There's some positives to take from it but they've also got to take a good hard look at what they've done through this game and make sure they do it a lot better."

Ponting said Australia should avoid any knee-jerk reaction and retain the batting order and field the same playing XI in the second Test, despite Aaron Finch's failure as an opener.

The selectors, coach Justin Langer and skipper Tim Paine had backed Finch to open the Australian innings in Adelaide and Ponting feels they shouldn't change their opinion after just one Test.

"Why wouldn't they do that for this game if that's their best lineup?" Ponting asked if Finch should bat down the order.

"I just think that would be really reactionary. The selectors have made a decision, or whoever is setting the batting order, that they think Aaron Finch is the right guy to be opening the batting for Australia."

"When you start moving guys around, it just creates more uncertainty. Finch would potentially train differently next week than he had this week because he's not opening (and) Usman has to train differently because he is opening."

"Little things like that would come into their minds. If I was them, I'd be tempted to keep it the same way."

Finch got out for nought and 11 in the two innings of the first Test.



'Aussies will fight back, but India has upper hand'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Test pacer Karsan Ghavri expects beat-En Australia to fight back in the remainder of the four-match rubber starting with the second Test at Perth, but backed the Virat Kohli-led India to hold fort.

He also hailed Cheteshwar Pujara, who pulled the chestnuts out of the fire with a battling century in the Indian first innings of the opening skirmish at Adelaide and followed it up with another half century to help the visitors consolidate, as the "Indian Wall".

"We are up 1-0 in Australia right now and there are three more Tests to go. But I will not be surprised (if) there will be a big fight on the field from the Australian team. They (Australia) will fight back. But I can tell you we (India) have an upper hand. We have an advantage of being a great team," the former left-arm pacer said on Tuesday.

India gave wings to their quest for a maiden series win in Australia with a 31-run victory in the opening Test in Adelaide, their first in the country since 2008 on Monday.

On the contribution of Pujara, declared the man of the match at Adelaide, Ghavri said, "Cheteshwar Pujara is the wall (of Indian cricket) after Rahul Dravid. He is the Indian wall like the China Wall (referring to the Great Wall of China). For Indian cricket, in Tests, Cheteshwar Pujara is the wall of India."

"His (Pujara's) wicket is a very prized wicket one in Test cricket. Like when Rahul Dravid used to play, his wicket was a prized wicket (for



the opposition). Today Indian cricket can depend on him (Pujara) and as long as he delivers the goods, it's great for Indian cricket," said the 67-year-old Ghavri who also hails from Saurashtra like Pujara.

Ghavri, who switched over to Mumbai from Saurashtra early in his career, had also helped Pujara during the latter's fledgling days.

"Personally I feel we have won this Test in Australia in Adelaide because of Pujara, his great performance. He gave Indian bowlers (something) to bowl at as you require runs on the board. His contribution was sizable," said Ghavri, who was the senior in his new ball partnership with the legendary Kapil Dev.

Ghavri also felt the Australian team was missing the banned duo of Steve Smith and David Warner. "I am sure they are missing them, as they were the main run-getters for Australia in the last couple of years," the former speedster remarked.

Pujara moves to 4th spot, Bumrah reaches career-best

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli has maintained his top spot, Cheteshwar Pujara returned to top five while Jasprit Bumrah achieved a career-high ranking of 33 in the latest ICC Test rankings for batsmen and bowlers.

Pujara's knocks of 123 and 71 were the cornerstone of India's victory in the opening Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval. Pujara has now moved ahead of Joe Root and David Warner in fourth position. He trails third-ranked Smith by 55 points, and leads Root by 39 points.

India fast bowler Bumrah has achieved a career-high ranking of 33rd, after his three for 47 and three for 68 at Adelaide helped him to rise five places.

Kane Williamson has become the first New Zealand batsman and 32nd overall to break the 900-point barrier in the ICC Player Rankings for Test Batsmen following a stellar performance in the third Test against Pakistan, which helped his side to win their first away series in 49 years.



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after dismissing Australian batsman AP

Williamson scored 89 and 139 in Abu Dhabi last week, which set up New Zealand's convincing 123-run victory over Pakistan.

This performance not only helped Williamson to win the Player of the Match award, but also earn 37 points in the latest player rankings, which, in turn, has allowed him to leapfrog Australia's Steve Smith into second position on a career-high 913 points.

As a result, Kohli has conceded 15 points to slip to 920

points, just seven points ahead of Williamson.

With Williamson breathing down Kohli's neck, the India captain will be under pressure to perform strongly with the bat in the second Test starting in Perth from Friday otherwise he will potentially lose his number-one ranking he has been holding since the Edgbaston Test against England in August.

While Williamson shone with the bat in Abu Dhabi and was richly rewarded, number-one ranked Kohli managed only three and 34 in his side's impressive 31-run victory over Australia at the Adelaide Oval.

The other two notable movers from the Adelaide Test are Ajinkya Rahane in 17th (up by two places) and Mitchell Starc in 16th (up by two places).

Amongst the newcomers, Australia's Marcus Harris has entered in 116th batting position, while amongst the bowlers, off-spinner William Somerville of New Zealand has emerged in 63rd spot and Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has popped up in 111th place.

Pant pays rich tribute to Dhoni

PTI ■ PERTH

India's new record-holder wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant has described Mahendra Singh Dhoni as "the hero of the country" and said the former skipper taught him to be patient and handle pressure situations.

Pant, on Monday, equalled the world record of most catches in a Test by a wicketkeeper, snaring 11 in India's 31-run win in the first Test against Australia.

"He's (Dhoni) the hero of the country," Pant, who took six catches in Australia's first innings to equal Dhoni on that mark, told *cricket.Com.Au*.

"I've learnt a lot from him as a person and as a cricketer as well. Whenever he's around, I feel more confident as a person. If I've got any problems I can share it with him and get a solution right away."

"As a wicketkeeper and a player (he's taught me) to be patient in pressure situations like this (in Adelaide). You have to keep calm and keep composed and try to give 100 per cent."

Talking about the record, Pant said: "I never thought of the record but it's good to take some catches and put it inside my kitty. It's good to have milestones, but I'm not thinking about that too much."



Edulji bats for Powar's selection

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Diana Edulji on Tuesday said if Virat Kohli can have a say in appointment of the men's team coach, COA chief Vinod Rai should also respect the views of the women's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who wants Romesh Powar to continue as their coach.

The women's team is without a coach at the moment following the controversial exit of Powar.

In a letter written to Rai, COA member Edulji accused the chairman and BCCI CEO Rahul Johri of breaking rules while appointing Ravi Shastri as the men's team coach in July last year.

"I see nothing wrong in women cricketers writing e-mails regarding the coach. They were truthful in expressing their views unlike Virat who frequently sent sms to the CEO (Johri) on which you acted and there was a change in the coach," wrote Edulji.

"There also I had objected and my dissent is recorded when the timelines were extended for someone to apply as he (Ravi Shastri) didn't apply in time. Mr (Anil) Kumble a legend in his own right was subjected to loss of face and made to look like a villain. He was gracious enough to move on for which I respect him. There also, rules were broken and



I had raised objections back then."

Edulji said Harmanpreet and Vice Captain Smriti Mandhana's views on the coach must be considered.

"The captain and vice captain have requested their choice so why can't we respect their choice for New Zealand tour till we get clarity on the committee. We can go ahead and continue with the same coach. The views of the two senior players must not be ignored."

"Virat did not accede to Kumble continuing in spite of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) saying, so then why not these two players get what they feel is best for the team."

The BCCI on Tuesday formed an ad-

hoc panel to find Powar's replacement but Edulji said the decision was made by Rai without consulting her.

According to Edulji the CAC comprising Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly should have been allowed more time to decide on the way forward in finding the next women's coach.

The BCCI instead named a three-member ad-hoc committee comprising Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy to pick Powar's successor.

"The CAC has to select the Head Coach but before their availability was checked, Saba Karim (BCCI GM) had already spoken to Kapil, Anshuman and Shubhangi Kukarni. I enquired for clarity on their conflict (of interest) roles as how an ad-hoc committee was being formed without proper authority."

"But legal (department of BCCI) as usual gave a contrary opinion - 2 different versions on 2 issues. On one hand COA has no powers to look into the COI (Conflict of Interest) issue and on other hand COA has powers to appoint an Ad hoc committee."

"I still maintain that the CAC should have been given time like requested and their roles should be defined. There is enough time till the next tour."

Kapil, Anshuman to pick Eves coach

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Tuesday confirmed the formation of an ad-hoc committee, comprising India's first World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev, former opener Anshuman Gaekwad and ex-Indian women cricketer Shantha Rangaswamy, to pick the head coach of the Indian women's team.

The interviews will be conducted on December 20 at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced the ad-hoc committee to conduct the interviews of the eligible candidates for the selection of head coach for Team India (Senior Women)," the board announced in a statement.

The Indian women's team was recently embroiled in a controversy after the World T20 semi-final exit.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side failed to enter the final after going down meekly to England in the semis, post which veteran batswoman Mithali Raj lashed out at the current coach Ramesh Powar's behaviour towards her, describing it as "unfair and discriminatory".

The deadline for applying for the women's team head coach expires December 14 and till now the names of former India all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar and ex-South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs have been doing the rounds.

Powar re-applies for Eves job

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ramesh Powar, whose controversial tenure as women's coach ended on November 30, on Tuesday reapplied for the job after receiving strong support from T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana.

The 40-year-old former India spinner confirmed that he has applied. "Yes, I have applied this evening because Smriti (Mandhana), Harmanpreet (Kaur) have supported me and I can't let them (the girls) down by not applying," said Powar.

Powar's stint after the Indian women's team lost to England in the semifinals of the World T20 last month. The team management including Powar and Harmanpreet dropped senior player Mithali Raj for the knock-out game, triggering a massive controversy.

After returning home from the West Indies, Mithali went on to accuse Powar and COA member Diana Edulji of trying to destroy her and being biased against her.

Powar, on his part, accused Mithali of threatening to retire midway into the World T20 after being denied the opening slot and creating chaos in the team.



Harmanpreet and Smriti have already said that they want Powar to continue while Mithali is against his return.

The women's team is a divided lot at the moment and so is COA running the BCCI. The COA comprising Vinod Rai and Edulji at loggerheads over the women's coach appointment.

The BCCI invited fresh applications for the vacancy after Rai's approval while Edulji said that the decision was taken without consulting her and the board could have continued with Powar till the New Zealand tour which starts next month.