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BUMRAH RISES IN TEST RANKINGS
14 SPORT

ACHCHHE DIN FOR CONGRESS

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

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP's moral-shattering defeat in the saffron bastions of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and its failure to reach the halfway mark in Madhya Pradesh has placed the Congress on a much-needed revival path and thrown the next year's Lok Sabha contest wide open. The Congress' success 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.

While Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan were smooth sail for the Congress, MP turned out to be a cliffhanger. The counting went well over 16 hours and the leads kept changing. In the end, the Congress virtually shattered Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's dream for a record fourth term by pushing the BJP to second spot in a hung House. Even as the Congress had either won or was leading in 114 seats, two short of majority, State Congress chief Kamal Nath wrote to the Governor at 10.30 pm, staking claim for forming a Government and claiming the backing of newly-elected independent MLAs. Governor Anandi Ben Patel told the

Congress leaders that they will get an invite from the Raj Bhavan only after the Election Commission had declared the final result.

At midnight, the Congress was ahead on 114 seats and the BJP on 110. Results of around half-a-dozen seats were still awaited. But the possibility of the Congress forming a Government looked bright since the Governor was bound to invite it first to prove its majority, which it could do with the help of the independent MLAs.

When Kamal Nath wrote to the Governor, around the same time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi came out with a series of tweets which virtually showed that he had accepted the defeat.

The PM tweeted, "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."

In another tweet, the Prime Minister said, "We accept the people's mandate with humility. I thank the people of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for giving us the opportunity to serve these States. The BJP Governments in these States worked tirelessly for the welfare of the people."

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 vote, 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.

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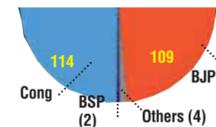
A Congress supporter waves party flag to celebrate party's win in the Assembly elections, at party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday

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 the Chief Minister. With 114 seats in victory or lead, the Congress is 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 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 parliamentary 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.

Continued on Page 7

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.

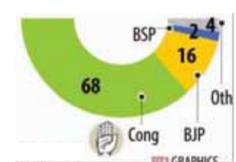
The BJP bit the dust in its bastion as it refused to honour its commitment to help out farmers in a State which is categorised as the rice bowl of the country.

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.

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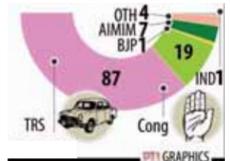
KCR gamble pays dividends

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 cre-

ation. 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 was KCR's sop distribution-cum-promises spree involving most sections of society that led the voters to come out in droves to propel him to power.

Continued on Page 7

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.

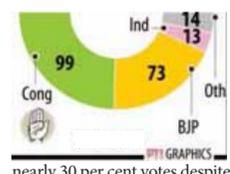
Now the question is who will be the Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot or Sachin Pilot? The Congress central leadership has already directed its elected MLAs to assemble in Jaipur on Wednesday. According to sources in the Congress, party president Rahul Gandhi will



take a call on the CM face by Wednesday. Gehlot is seen as 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 Raje, 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 Raje'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.

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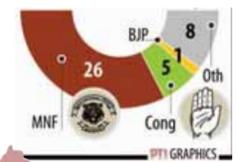
Cong loses last bastion in N-E at MNF hands

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.

Continued on Page 7

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

Rahul's year at helm rejuvenates party

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

A year after Rahul Gandhi was anointed as Congress president, he has silenced all those who chanted the slogans of "Congress mukt Bharat" and kept writing the obit-

uary of the grand old party on daily basis. December 11 marked the completion of "Rahul's first year in office as president.

Last year same day, Rahul took over as president of the Congress and led the party with remarkable vigour in Gujarat Assembly elections and thereafter brought Karnataka to the party's kitty. Emboldened with these wins, challenge from Rahul to Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears more serious than ever before. The gains for the Congress in the Hindi heartland States assume significance though the party suffered a severe drubbing in Telangana and Mizoram.

Addressing the media, Rahul termed the victory of

Congress as victory of farmers and the youth. "It's now time for change. We are going to provide the three States with a vision for overall development. There is a clear feeling in the country that PM Modi has failed to deliver what he committed. The Opposition is now strongly united and will fight together in 2019 polls to defeat Modi to end the politics of hatred. I have learnt about a lot of things since 2014 and most important being humility," Rahul said.

He said Modiji taught him what not to do in politics. "He (Modi) taught me not to be arrogant," Rahul quipped.

Hitting at the BJP for its often-stated remark of Congress-mukt (Congress-free) Bharat, Rahul said, "The

BJP has a certain ideology and we will fight against it. We have won elections, we will also win in 2019. However, we do not want to get rid of anyone, 'hum kisi ko mukt nahi karna chahtein'."

Rahul thanked people and party workers for party's good performance in three States of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh while asserting that the poll outcome raised "questions" on the Modi Government's policies. He said now there is a perception within the people that the PM himself is a corrupt man. He also said it is a clear message to Modi that people are not happy with decisions, including demonetisation and those pertaining to farmers and youth.

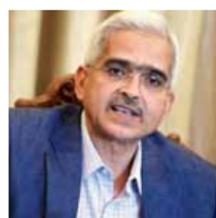
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Shaktikanta Das named RBI Guv

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former bureaucrat Shaktikanta Das, who spearheaded the post-demonetisation normalisation of the economy, was on Tuesday named the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Das, 61, replaces Urjit Patel, who shocked the establishment and markets by announcing his exit from the central bank on Monday. Das will have a three-year term, an official order said. He will be the first bureaucrat to head the central bank in almost five years.

While it was widely expected that the Government will name an interim RBI head during its search for Patel's replacement, the Appointments



Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose Das within a day.

In a tweet, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the Government has "accepted the resignation of Dr Urjit Patel who resigned on Monday from the said post."

Continued on Page 7

CAPSULE

3 POLICEMEN GUARDING KASHMIRI PANDITS SHOT
Srinagar: Three policemen were killed on Tuesday when Pakistan-based JeM terrorists attacked a guard post outside a Kashmiri Pandit pocket in Shopian.

SURJIT BHALLA QUILTS AS MEMBER PMEAC
New Delhi: Eminent economist Surjit Bhalla, who had raised eyebrows over the involvement of NITI Aayog in the release of re-stated economic growth numbers, has resigned as a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

SC MAY ORDER CBI PROBE INTO KALBURGI MURDER
New Delhi: The SC on Tuesday said a CBI probe may be ordered into the murder of MM Kalburgi, Govind Pansare and Gauri Lankesh if there is a "common thread" in these murders.

UP to set up med varsity after Atal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up a medical university after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee that will control all medical and dental colleges in the state. Besides, the government also decided to bring a legislation to regulate school vehicles ferrying children.

These decisions besides some others were taken in a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Briefing media persons, state government spokesperson and Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that a new state medical university named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee would regulate all medical and dental colleges in Uttar Pradesh.

He said a bill would be brought in the Winter Session of the legislature for setting up the new medical university.

The new university will control 27 government and 22 private medical colleges along with 17 dental colleges of Uttar Pradesh.

The government also approved a satellite campus of King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Balrampur district. In the first phase, a hospital and campus would be set up while in the second phase, a medical college would be established.

In another major decision, the government decided to amend the UP Motor Vehicles Act by including a new chapter, 9(A), to deal with vehicles used for ferrying students.

Singh said that several conditions would be enforced for granting permit to vehicles, including age limit, CCTV at school entry points and parking, provision of GPS and restriction on overloading.

In a move to provide level playing field for foreign companies for construction of Jewar



Chief Minister on way to chair the Cabinet meeting at Lok Bhawan in Lucknow on Tuesday

international airport at Greater Noida, the state government deleted a clause giving weightage to Indian companies against foreign competitors. Now global players would be treated at par with Indian companies.

In another decision, the government amended the qualification clause of health workers or ANMs (auxiliary nurse midwife) and made it only intermediate from the present Intermediate (Science). Now training centres would be operated at state medical faculty and district hospitals also.

Besides, appointment of health workers will be done by Subordinate Selection Commission. Earlier it was done by the Health department.

The Yogi government also decided to go for reverse bidding

process and a central organisation, MSTC, has been engaged for bidding and e-tendering to provide one kilogram of sugar to around 40 lakh Antyodaya beneficiaries in the state.

The Centre has directed the state to select companies for distributing sugar to Antyodaya card holders but only one company came forward for the bidding.

SOLAR ENERGY: In order to promote green energy, the state government approved solar power generation and a tariff between ₹3.02 and ₹3.08 per unit for proposed 550 megawatt plants to be set up in UP.

The government spokesperson said that nine private developers would be selected for generation of 550 megawatt solar power which would be

UP govt to table second supplementary budget

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government will bring a second supplementary budget during the brief four-day Winter Session of UP legislature commencing from December 18.

Official sources claimed in Lucknow on Tuesday that the second supplementary budget would be tabled after Question Hour in the Assembly on December 19.

As per tentative agenda of the Assembly, on the opening day, obituary references will be taken up. The next day (December 19), the government will table several Bills for

replacing ordinances along with the second supplementary budget.

The Assembly is likely to consider and pass the supplementary budget on December 20 along with the bills.

The last day of the session is likely to be on December 21 and legislative work will be taken up for half a day and the rest of the time will be for private members' bill.

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP will hold a joint meeting of party legislature on December 17. As per a BJP source, the meeting of party MLAs and MLCs will be held in Lok Bhawan on the eve of the Winter Session at 5 pm.

supplied to UP Power Corporation Limited. Of the total approved solar power generation, 120 MW would be generated in Chitrakoot, 100 MW in Budaun, 85 MW in Kanpur, 70 MW in Mirzapur, 50 MW in Bareilly and 25 MW in Lucknow.

In order to boost religious tourism, the government has permitted chopper services at Agra, Mathura, Varanasi and Prayagraj where helipads would be constructed on government land.

The government also approved the setting up of a Special Planning Authority (SPA) for setting up an integrated industrial township on Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor at Greater Noida. The township would be set up on 747.5 acre land and the SPA would be represented by shareholders, Greater Noida Authority and District Magistrate of Gautam Buddha

Nagar (Noida).

In another decision, the government amended molasses control rule for exporting it to other countries. Now companies will have to obtain permission from consulates concerned while a certificate from the end user would also be required for export approval from the state government.

The government also gave its nod for giving bank guarantee to UP Co-operative Bank to avail loans up to Rs 1,500 crore from NABARD.

The government also approved to give free land to set up a sericulture centre at Lucknow. Around 2.01 hectare land would be provided to set up the centre at a cost of around ₹76.45 crore.

The government also approved ₹202 crore for sewage construction in Firozabad Nagar Nigam area and ₹353 crore for sewage construction in Agra western zone.

UP Congressmen jubilant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Smiles finally returned to the Congress leaders and workers who celebrated Rahul Gandhi's completing one year as Congress president with the electoral victories in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday.

Uttar Pradesh Congress workers burst crackers, danced to dhol beats and played with gular to celebrate the party's stellar show in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Carrying the Congress flags, a large number of workers gathered at the party state headquarters at Mall Avenue and praised Rahul Gandhi's leadership in steering the party towards victory in the three Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states. They distributed sweets and congratulated each other on the occasion.

The jubilant workers chanted 'Rahul Gandhi zindabad' and boosted with the victory, some senior leaders went on to raise slogans backing Rahul as the next Prime Minister of the country.

Senior Congress leaders, including Naseemuddin Siddiqui and MLA Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' joined party workers and expressed joy as the trends of poll results indicated the resurgence of Congress in the three states.

"It was a united effort preparing and campaigning for polls. The leader at the top was inspiring everybody. Rahulji has exhibited great character in crisis, quite like a captain guiding a ship in choppy waters," Mona quipped while hailing the party's victory.

Interestingly, UPCC spokesman Virendra Singh claimed that besides Rahul, it was state Congress chief Raj Babbar's hard work that turned the table in Congress' favour. The lawns at the UPCC



UP Congress workers dance to the beats of dhol at party office in Lucknow as results of Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh assembly elections trickle in on Tuesday

RLD celebrates party win in Rajasthan

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal leaders and workers were jubilant after the Rajasthan assembly poll result was aired and celebrated party candidate Subhash Garg's victory from Bharatpur seat by a margin of 1,90,000 votes.

The RLD had extended support to Congress in the state and had fielded a second candidate from Maalpara seat but he lost to an Independent candidate.

RLD vice-president Jayant Chaudhary expressed gratitude to the voters of Bharatpur for ensuring the victory of

RLD candidate. Chaudhary said that this was not an ordinary election.

"The Indian Constitution, its secular and moderate character was at stake and the people of Rajasthan contributed a lot by dislodging the Bharatiya Janata Party from power," he said, adding that the message given by public in the assembly poll was very strident and would reverberate across the country.

"We hope that it will effectively put a check on the BJP's anti-farmer policy and its ploy to divide the society," he said.

headquarters were teeming with party workers carrying Congress flags and hailing Rahul as a 'great leader'.

It was after a long gap that Congress workers were seen celebrating the party's victory. Chants of 'Jeet gaya bhai jeet gaya, Rahul Gandhi jeet gaya'

rent the air as the results trickled in.

"We are very happy... we should be winning in three states," Siddiqui asserted while claiming that the people had now decided to throw out the BJP and the results were just beginning in this direction.

UPSSSC chairman quits post

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC) Chandra Bhusan Paliwal resigned from the post citing personal reasons. The 1981 batch IAS officer

was appointed Chairman of UPSSSC for a two-year term by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on January 22 this year.

Sources in the UPSSSC said that Paliwal was not in good terms with the state government and was feeling ignored.

His resignation put a question mark on the competitive examinations to be conducted by the commission in coming days for recruitment on vacant posts in several departments.

The sources also said that various steps initiated by Paliwal for reforms in the

recruitment process did not find favour with the state government. Before tendering his resignation, Paliwal completed the interview process for appointment of assistant accountant and auditor and later sent his resignation to Governor Ram Naik.

Neglect of Lord Ram, temple issue led to defeat: VHP leader

Lucknow (PNS): 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.



नीलामी सूचना

18.12.2018, अपराह्न 1:00 बजे
वित्तीय प्रबंध एवं बजट निदेशालय
विद्यान भवन, लखनऊ निम्नोक्त
टाटा इण्डिका-सूची 32-बी
जी-0-3599 को नीलामी,
सिकोरिटी रु० 5,000/- नगद/
आई.पी.सिंह एण्ड सन्स

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have changed my son's name Raj Mohan from Rajan Gupta forever for all purpose. Radhey Shyam Gupta, 567/93 Anand Nagar Baraha Road, Alambagh, Lucknow.

NOTICE

It is notified for the information that my original class X certificate unique ID- 6568457, index no.1173566/053 passed from ICSE board school city montessori school Mahanagar in year 2017 has been actually lost. Alifia Alam, D/o Mr. Aftab Alam, Mazar Lane, SI block reserve Police Line, Lucknow. Mob no. 7408048383

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Police looking for armyman's aides in Bulandshahr case

Lucknow (PNS): After rounding up armyman Jitendra Malik aka Jeetu Fauji in connection with the Bulandshahr violence, the local police and the sleuths of Special Task Force and Special Investigation Team have launched a hunt for some men who accompanied the armyman to the spot on the fateful day.

"Fauji revealed the names of some of his aides who accompanied him to the spot after learning about cow slaughter," disclosed an officer engaged in the investigation. He claimed that STF's Meerut unit and Bulandshahr police were raiding places to nab Fauji's aides but had failed to nab any one of them so far. Sources said that some local leaders close to the power corridors were harbouring prime accused Yogesh Raj, Shikhar Agarwal and Upendra Raghav and were pulling strings to get their names cleared from the FIR. Interestingly, all accused with right wing links who are named in the FIR are freely uploading videos on social sites and also giving interviews to TV channels, to plead their 'innocence'.

HC stays CBI probe into recruitment of asst teachers

Lucknow (PNS): In a major relief to UP government, the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court stayed the decision of a single judge on November 1 that directed a CBI probe into the recruitment of 68,500 assistant teachers by the state government. The division bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Manish Mathur passed the order on a Special Leave Petition moved by the state government, challenging the single judge's order.

The court fixed December 21 for pronouncing a judgement on the appeal. Advocate General Raghavendra Singh argued on behalf of the UP government while respondents' counsel also put his point forward. After hearing both sides for two hours, the court stayed the previous order of the single judge.

On November 1, a single bench of Justice Irshad had ordered, "The Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) shall make investigation in regard to the entire process of selection initiated for recruitment of assistant teachers in primary schools against 68,500 posts, which is known as assistant teacher."

On directions of the single bench, the CBI registered a case in the matter.

'Reversal SC order on SC/ST Act led to defeat'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Diehard supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party said the passage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Act overturning a Supreme Court order concerning certain safeguards against arrests under it was the main reason for the party's defeat in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan and held the Narendra Modi government at the Centre responsible for the debacle.

"It is the arrogance of the BJP that led to the party's defeat in these elections. The upper caste was angry the way the Modi government reversed the effects of the apex court

order concerning arrest under the SC/ST Act. They voted against the party resulting in the BJP's defeat in these elections," said medical practitioner Dr SK Pandey.

Claiming to be a diehard supporter of the BJP who never voted for any other party in his life, Dr Pandey was, however, happy at the defeat of the BJP in these elections.

"It should be clear to the party leadership now that Dalits did not vote for them. I think the party should learn some lessons from this defeat and mend its ways," he said.

Similar views were expressed by Sudhir Sehgal, a government employee.

The refrain was not confined to the common man. Even ruling party lawmakers came out in open, speaking against amendments to the SC/ST Act and termed it as a major factor for the party's poor show. BJP MLA from Bairia (Ballia) Surendra Singh said: "The BJP cannot win elections by hurting the sentiments of savarna (upper castes). The decision to bring amendments to the SC/ST Act proved to be suicidal."

The upper caste is the traditional vote bank of the BJP. Leaders in BJP office were clueless about the reasons of such a heartbreaking poll outcome. "We were expecting

reversal only in Rajasthan. But our performance in Chhattisgarh has shocked one and all," a senior leader commented.

Meanwhile, the state government put up a brave face over the results of assembly polls, claiming that the mandates given by the people of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Telangana were not a referendum against the BJP or the Modi government at the Centre. State government spokesperson and Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that as a cadre-based party, the BJP would review the results in the coming days.

SP welcomes Cong wins in 3 states

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Surprised Samajwadi Party welcomed the victory of Congress in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and is now readying itself to accommodate the resurgent grand old party in the anti-Bharatiya Janata Party truck to contest 80 Lok Sabha seats of UP in the 2019 parliamentary elections.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had skipped the mega opposition meet in Delhi on Monday, where top opposition party leaders met to work out a mechanism for stitching a grand alliance to take on the BJP in the 2019 polls.

After the success of Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal in three Lok Sabha and one assembly bypolls in UP, the SP and BSP had distanced themselves from the Congress and had expressed reluctance in accommodating the grand old party in the alliance. During poll campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Akhilesh had adopted a strident anti-Congress posture, terming the Congress and the BJP as two sides of the same coin.

However, as the assembly poll results trickled on Tuesday, Akhilesh took jibes at the BJP in a series of tweets saying, "Abki bar kho di sarkar (this time you lost the elections)."

In another message, the SP chief said, "Jab ek aur ek milkar

bante hain gyarah, tab bade bado ki satta ho jati hai nau-dogyaraha." (When one plus one becomes eleven, then power eludes the influential). SP candidates did not fare well in the just concluded assembly polls though the party had fielded its candidates in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

"Power had gone to the heads of BJP leaders and made them very arrogant. They trampled the aspirations of farmers, poor youths and other sections of society. The public was already reeling under the double whammy of Goods and Services Tax and demonetisation. The BJP also attacked the freedom of expression and destroyed institutions that sustain democracy," the SP chief said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Akhilesh asserted, "The vote in three states is not only against

the programmes and policies of the BJP but also against the anti-people policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The results have demonstrated that the BJP can not only be tamed but also defeated in a comprehensive manner. These results have also proved that the Modi 'charisma' is on the wane."

Later on Tuesday evening, the SP chief held consultations with party leaders to work out a strategy for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. A senior SP leader said, "The party is under pressure from the successful rally organised by Shivpal Singh Yadav in Lucknow on Sunday. Now, the rise of the Congress like a phoenix in these three states has only added to the pressure." "The Congress should now behave in a more responsible and large-hearted manner and accommodate regional parties which hold sway in UP.

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

- Name of the Work :- REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS AT I.T.I. GULARBHOJ (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR).
- Estimated Cost :- Rs. 20.00 Lakh
- Period of Completion :- 03 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 11.12.2018 (16:00 hrs)
- Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 27.12.2018 (17:00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 29.12.2018 (12:00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhamsingh Nagar).
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 15.12.2018 (13:00 hrs) Rudrapur
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

Ref. Adv. No. ICMRHQ / Pers / 2018 / 03

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

VACANCY CIRCULAR

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an autonomous organization under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India invites applications from Indian nationals for filling up of the following posts:

Post	Pay Level in Pay Matrix	Vacancies*	
		Medical	Non-Medical
Scientist 'C'	Pay Level 11 (Rs. 67700-208700)	12	15

*The vacancies are tentative which may vary as per requirement of ICMR.

- For prescribed format, eligibility condition, age, other information & conditions etc. for above posts, please visit ICMR's website (<https://www.icmr.nic.in>)>Career Opportunity> Scientist/ICMR-Hqrs New Delhi/ Open/ Permanent posts > Advertisement for the post of Scientist 'C' for ICMR and its Institute> Detailed advertisement dated 6.12.2018).
- Application in prescribed format from eligible candidates shall reach the Assistant Director General (Admn.), Indian Council of Medical Research, V. Ramalingaswamy Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029 on or before 11th January, 2019 (Friday).

davp 17152 / 11 / 0022 / 1819 **Assistant Director General (Admn), ICMR**

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Murder weapon, knife yet to be recovered

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the arrest of five friends of BJYM leader Pratyush Mani Tripathi, the Mahanagar police sent the accused to jail registering a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

On the other hand, the police failed to recover the knife used in the murderous assault and the gloves which one of the accused, identified as Anil Kumar Rana was wearing when he had allegedly attacked his friend Tripathi.

Vikas Pandey SHO said the police searched the Kukrail drain in search of the knife and the gloves but to no avail. "We sent the accused to jail on Monday night. A team searched the area where the miscreants had disclosed to have thrown the knife and gloves. We are yet to recover the same," he said. The SHO added that the investigation into the case was on.

Mahanagar CO SK Singh said the police had a clinching

evidence to corroborate the crime against the accused. "The police are mulling to impose section 34 IPC (common intention in executing a crime) against the accused. The investigation is continuing and the police will slap the provision which they deem fit," he said.

ASP, trans-Gomti, Harendra Kumar ruled out the possibility of political rivalry as a motive for the murderous assault and said Tripathi wanted to frame his rivals Salman and Adnan in a case of murderous assault. "To frame Salman and Adnan, he chalked out a plan of murderous assault on him and involved his friends in the act. The drama, however, turned awry as Tripathi suffered serious injuries and died of excessive bleeding," he said.

The Mahanagar police on Monday arrested Tripathi's friends, identified as Anil Kumar Rana of Sarojini Nagar, Ashish Awasthi, Mahendra Gupta and Prabhat Kumar aka Rishi, trio of Madaion and Amit Awasthi of Aliganj in this

"WE SENT THE ACCUSED TO JAIL ON MONDAY NIGHT. A TEAM SEARCHED THE AREA WHERE THE MISCREANTS HAD DISCLOSED TO HAVE THROWN THE KNIFE AND GLOVES. WE ARE YET TO RECOVER THE SAME"

connection. Victim's wife Pratima had rubbished the police good work and demanded a CBI probe into the case. She had also accused the police of character assassination of Tripathi by propagating a fake story on self-staged murder plot and a fake case against him at the Kaiserbagh police station.

Jail inmates lock horns

Lucknow (PNS): Two prisoners fought fiercely with one another inside the lock-up at sessions court in Kaiserbagh police station area on Tuesday causing one of them lose his one tooth while the other was left with bruises. Later, both were taken to Balrampur Hospital under Wazirganj police station area for treatment.

As per reports, the jail inmates, identified as Ashish Soni and Samar Singh, had a difference over seat in the jail van when they were being taken to the court. They kept abusing one another and issuing threat to one another but the constables escorting them did not intervene. When they were coming out of the jail van, both of them attacked one another. "They fought so fiercely that the constables, who were trying to separate them, looked hapless. Later, both were taken to hospital for medical test," advocates present there said. The police spokesman said Ashish was jailed for loot while Samar was named in some other case. "We have no information regarding the cases in which the above named miscreants were sent to jail. In fact, the police stations of Kaiserbagh and Wazirganj have no information about the same," the police spokesman said. He added that the police was yet to find out the kind of injuries that both the inmates suffered.

After the incident came to light, the police tried to hush up the case and did not inform senior officials about the incident. Some advocates, however, passed the information to their friends in the media and the incident came to light.

Naik felicitates eminent persons



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Ram Naik felicitated eminent personalities with 'Yug Purush Samman' on the occasion of the International Men's Day at a programme organised by Guide Samaj Kalyan Sansthan.

Among those who were felicitated on the occasion included former Lok Ayukt Justice SC Verma, president, Jai Narain PG College, VN Mishra and Professor MR Maurya with the "Yug Purush Samman". He conferred the "Chairavati Samman" on the founder of the Kabir Mission programme RK Mittal posthumously and the "Gyanda Gaurav Samman" on Dr Shambunath and SN Upadhaya.

Speaking on the occasion, Naik said that the infant mortality rate had decreased. He added that as per a survey the average age of men was 66.4 years and an average age of women was 68.6 years. The Governor said that young men stepped out of their homes in search of jobs and lived away from homes and as such the parents became victims of loneliness. The Governor stressed that it was important for everyone to stay together and

NAIK CONFERRED THE 'CHAIRAVATI SAMMAN' ON THE FOUNDER OF THE KABIR MISSION PROGRAMME RK MITTAL POSTHUMOUSLY AND THE "GYANDA GAURAV SAMMAN" ON DR SHAMBUNATH AND SN UPADHAYA

give respect to elders.

Giving a word of advice to youngsters, he said that apart from education they should also carry out exercises which would enhance their personalities. He said that all of them should keep four things in mind: always smile, always appreciate others, not to belittle others and never have an ego. He said that it was important to keep moving ahead.

Timely police action saves man's life

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A Pratapgarh native consumed pesticide as a mark of protest outside the main gate of Lok Bhawan in Hazratganj police on Tuesday. He was rushed to Civil Hospital where he was undergoing treatment. Police said the man was out of danger.

As per reports, Arun Kumar Upadhyay of Aaspur Devsara police station area reached the road opposite the main gate of Lok Bhawan and started shouting anti-government slogans. By the time, the police could overpower him, he consumed the pesticide.

As the cops saw him consuming some substance, they immediately rushed Arun to Civil Hospital. The doctors immediately treated Arun and he was made to vomit to lessen the effect of the pesticide. "His organs are working properly and he is out of danger," the Hazratganj police said. The police said a bottle containing pesticide was recovered from Arun.

Later, Arun told the police that some person of his village had usurped his land in Pratapgarh and the police and the district administration were not helping him. He added that he had attempted immolation on September 15, 2018, outside the gate number 2 of Vidhan Bhawan in Hazratganj. "Even after newspapers published my immolation attempt, the Pratapgarh police and the district administration did not solve my case. Even no one from the police contacted me," he lamented. Arun said he had a little hope to get justice. "Why the police saved me when I was going to end my life? I had no hope to get help from the government. Better I would have died," he said while criticising the police for saving him.

LMRC security guard gets appreciation

Lucknow (PNS): MRC has once again presented an example of dutifulness and integrity. The latest incident is of Sunday where a security personnel of Lucknow Metro found a wallet on the road near the Lekhraj metro site having around Rs 20,000 in cash and ATM cards along with other valuable documents.

"Taking a prompt action, the security personnel immediately contacted the owner with the help of information found on a visiting card inside the wallet. On receiving his lost belonging back, the elated owner not only lauded the security personnel's integrity but also appreciated in writing," said a senior official.

He added that Lucknow Metro had consistently earned the reputation of being the safest and most reliable means of public transport in the city and was dedicated to ensuring a safe environment both inside the trains and on metro premises.

The construction of the balance section of Phase-1 A of the North-South Corridor is in its final stage and passenger service and satisfaction is of utmost priority for LMRC. In this regard, the entire team of LMRC is trained to serve people of Lucknow with the best of their abilities and assist differently-abled passengers with a smooth and barrier-free Metro ride.

LMRC MD Kumar Keshav reiterates: "Lucknow Metro is for 'all', a mass rapid public transport system is designed keeping in mind different riders' needs and comfort. The appreciation we are receiving every day is what's keep-



ing us marching ahead with full zeal and determination."

The Corporation regularly announces the employees of the month award. For the month of October, Vineet Gupta, station controller and train operator, Saurabh Singh, station controller, PC Bhatt, security supervisor and Rekha, housekeeper, have been chosen for the Staff of the Month awards.

Vineet Gupta, SCTO, is serving as the assistant chief controller at Operation Control Centre and, during the testing and commissioning phase, performed his duties with utmost dedication ensuring non-occurrence of any failure. PC Bhatt, security supervisor, reunited a 6-year-old boy with his parents after they were accidentally separated due to wrong timing coordination of train de-boarding.

MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION

52 schools, colleges to be served notices

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma directed the DIOS (District Inspector of Schools) and the BSA (Basic Shiksha Adhikari) to serve notices on 52 schools and colleges who had refused the Measles-Rubella vaccination thereby hampering the campaign to be a complete success in the district.

He directed officials to serve a three-day notice for derecognising those schools and thereafter blacklisting them and ensuring their

closure after derecognising them.

The list of the 52 schools as per the list provided by the Health department are Christ Convent School, Risaldar Park, St Agnes School, Rajajipuram, SKD, Rajajipuram, Markande Convent School, Katra, Lucknow Collegiate, Jopling Road, Children's World Academy, Martin Purwa, St Michael's School, Jopling Road, Awadh Junior School, Vikramaditya Marg, St Bose School, Vrindavan Scheme, Red Cross, Gokhale Marg, Angel Garden School, Lal

Bagh, St Thomas School near Haj House, Green Berry School, Darogakheda, Central Academy, Sector 8, Indira Nagar, PL Montessori School, Snehnagar, St Polly and Holiday School, Adarsh Public School, Merry World School, RDSO, Maharishi Vidya Mandir Telibagh, Siddharth Public School, Adarsh Vihar, Progressive Montessori School, Ashok Vihar, Dashrath Public Career School, New Haiderganj, Adarsh Bal Vidya Mandir, Saripur, Sri Ram Prasad Chowdhary Inter College, New Haiderganj,

Simrock Play School, E Block, Rajajipuram, Happy Paris School, E Block, Rajajipuram, St James Mission School, E Block, Rajajipuram, CPS Academy, Rajajipuram, Eleen Kids College, Rajajipuram, Progressive School, Suryanagar, CPS Academy, Vikramnagar, Progressive Public School, F Block, Siddharth Global School, St Bosco School, Ganeshganj, Skand Public High School, Ganeshganj, St Teresa School, Naya Gaon, Aminabad, Bal Inter College, Aminabad, Aliganj, Rameshwari School, Sahil School, Chikmandi,

Mufed Public School, Simrock Public School, E Block, Rajajipuram, St James Mission School, Rajajipuram, Pre Day and Care School, C Block, Rajajipuram, Eleen Kids International School, Suryanagar, CPS Academy, Vikramnagar, Progressive Public School, F Block, Siddharth Global School, St Bosco School, Ganeshganj, Skand Public High School, Ganeshganj, St Teresa School, Naya Gaon, Aminabad, Bal Inter College, Aminabad, Aliganj, Rameshwari School, Sahil School, Chikmandi, Sadar.

Minister lays stress on road safety

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Transport Minister Swatantra Deo Singh on Tuesday directed officials to carry out a drive for making people, specially children, aware about road safety. The Transport Minister gave these directions in a review meeting held at Transport headquarters. The meeting was attended by regional managers.

He gave directions that programmes such as competitions, walks, marathons, taking pledge for road safety should be organised in schools.

He said that such programmes should be carried out for a period of one month with the support of the local administration and local organisations. He said that hoardings of road safety should be placed



one kilometre before all toll plazas.

The minister also gave directions that exercise should be carried out to stop overloading of vehicles. He told officials

to increase load factors of buses and gave a strict warning to officials from those districts who had procured lesser revenue as compared to the targets.

He informed that all corporation workers would remain in uniforms at the time of the Kumbh Mela and they would be provided with uniforms soon.

UPSRTC holding talks with UP Dial 100

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

UPSRTC (Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation) is carrying on negotiations with the UP Dial 100 for the integration of the pink buses and the 40 Innova interceptors with the UP Dial 100 services.

Chief general manager (Technical), UPSRTC, Jaideep Verma said that currently the discussions were focused on the technical aspects of the integration. The project has been sanctioned by the Central Government under the Nirbhay Fund. The initiative for the integration has been taken by the UPSRTC so that with the help of the massive back-up of the UP Dial 100 it could get help in handling the emergency situations.

The Chief General Manager said that this was the first time that such a project was being implemented anywhere in the country and it was taking time because there were no exemplary examples which they could follow. Besides, he pointed out that both the UPSRTC and the UP Dial 100 had to take forth the project with the help of their respective vendors.

He admitted that there was a delay in the project because they had to float tenders for the manufacture of buses where an elaborate IT infrastructure had to be integrated which included CCTV cameras and panic buttons. "Under the project they will be running 50 buses, he said. The total budget for the project is Rs 42 crore and currently there were four buses which are stationed with the vendor," he said.

Regarding the choice of UP Dial 100, he said: "We have



only 40 Innova interceptors monitoring the routes and if there is any emergency then the UP Dial 100 has a massive force and can intervene immediately," he added.

The official admitted that there has been a delay in the project. "We had floated the tenders thrice before finally Tata Motors was selected for the job. The Central Government had granted us the funds because we had already been operating two pink buses from Delhi to Lucknow," he added.

Regarding the routes which these pink buses would follow, he said that this was at the proposal stage and would be decided by the Board. "The buses will run within the state and the maximum they will go is to Delhi," he added. Verma admitted that the buses will ferry female passengers only. "The females will only be allowed and also if a male is accompanying the female or she has a child with her," he added. He said that these buses would become functional within two months.

Elevated road for airport soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Bridge Corporation has started the exercise for the construction of an elevated road from Shaheed Path to the airport. The road will go a long way in decongesting the portion of Shaheed Path at the point where it joins the Kanpur road and will ease the traffic for VIP and general public at the time of taking off and landing of flights at the airport.

Bridge Corporation managing director Uttam Kumar Gehlot said that as per a rough alignment of the project, the road would take off from just two kilometres before the end of Shaheed Path and would be directly connected with the airport. "We have got the clearance from the NHAI (National Highway Authority of India, Delhi, and we have started collecting the material to begin the work," he added.

Commenting on the advantage this road will serve, he said: "This will bring much relief for the 1.5-km stretch where the Shaheed Path meets the Kanpur road.



The people take a very long time here while going from the airport to the Kanpur road and vice versa as traffic snarls occur when flights arrive or leave at the airport," he added.

Regarding how long the project will take to complete, he said that it was difficult to predict the time it would take to complete. The project was sanctioned in August first week.

Railway Administration is full Cancelling and Partially Cancelling the following Up & Down Direction Trains between Pt. Deendayal Upadhaya Jn. - Chhipiyana Buzurg-Pt. Deendayal Upadhaya Jn. due to Operational reason on 12.12.2018 (Wednesday) and 15.12.2018 (Saturday)

FULL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No	Train Name	Date of Full Cancellation (from originating station)
64163	Kanpur-Panki MEMU	12.12.2018 Wednesday
64159	Kanpur-Phaphund MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday
64161	Phaphund-Shikohabad MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday
64164	Shikohabad-Phaphund MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday
64162	Phaphund-Kanpur MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday
53345	Chopan-Allahabad Pass.	15.12.2018 Saturday
53346	Allahabad-Chopan-Pass.	15.12.2018 Saturday
63237	Pt. Deendayal Upadhaya Jn. -Subedarganj MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday
63238	Subedarganj -Pt. Deendayal Upadhaya Jn. MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday
22442	Kanpur-Chitrakut Intercity	15.12.2018 Saturday
22441	Chitrakut-Kanpur Intercity	15.12.2018 Saturday
64163	Kanpur-Panki MEMU	15.12.2018 Saturday

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No	Train Name	Date of Partial Cancellation (from originating station)
64260	Panki-Lucknow MEMU Between Panki -Kanpur	12.12.2018 Wednesday
53345/53346	Chopan-Allahabad Pass. Between Chunar-Allahabad-Chunar	12.12.2018 Wednesday
64260	Panki-Lucknow MEMU Between Panki -Kanpur	15.12.2018 Saturday

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

North Central Railway, Allahabad

North Central Railways @CPRONCR 1251/18 Ad

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विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा,
ई-टेन्डरिंग निविदा सूचना
अनुमती फर्म/टेकदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदाओं को मांगों में दिनांक 21.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) अति अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 172/ई-टी.सी.(गोण्डा)/2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के अन्तर्गत 132 केवीओ उपकेंद्र तुलसीपुर पर विभिन्न 220 केवीओ 'बे' के कन्ट्रोल एवं रिसें पैनलों का ट्रान्सफर बस कपलर पैनल से इन्टरकनेक्शन सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 10000 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 22.12.2018 को 12.00 बजे, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 118.00 (एक सौ अठ्ठार)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क (नान रिफ़न्डेबल) एवं इंग्रामेण्टी अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम - पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं० - 0181002100120697, आईएफएससी कोड - PUNB0018100) आरटीओजीएस / एनईएफटी के माध्यम से निविदा की अंतिम अपलोड तिथि से एक दिन पूर्व तक जमा की जायेगी तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यूटीआर सं०, खाते का नाम निम्नकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पत्र-पत्र रिलिफ की स्कैन प्रतियाँ, ईमेल की लिफ्ट बैंक गारण्टी की स्कैन प्रतियाँ, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रतियाँ निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी साक्ष्य पत्रनीय अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के मांग-1 में तकनीकी विड (पीन काई, इन्कमटेक्स रिटर्न, जीएएसटीसी पीसीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का मांग-2 जिसेमं दर्द दी जानी है, नहीं खोली जायेगी। मांग-2 में दर्द एवं बाणिज्यक नियम व शर्त होनी चाहिये। तथा हाई कापी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। किसी भी स्थिति में निविदा के Retender होने पर निविदा की निविदा शुल्क (नान रिफ़न्डेबल) एवं धरोहर धनराशि पुनः जमा की जानी अनिवार्य होगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। निविदा का मांग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय : (प्रारंभिक दर्द एवं शर्त) दिनांक 21.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे तक www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम मांग दिनांक 22.12.2018 को 12.00 बजे एवं मांग-2 (प्रारंभिक दर्द) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क की तिथि पर अकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा/निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर लॉग आन करें। अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, उ०प्र० पा० ट्रा० का० लि०, 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा। संख्या : 2023/वि.पा.ख./गोण्डा/ई-टेन्डरिंग नं० - 172/2018-19, दिनांक-11.12.2018, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव"

Four booked for selling fake iPhone accessories

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A case under Copyright Act was registered against four shop owners for selling fake accessories of iPhone company Apple at Ashiyana on Tuesday. As per reports, Sandeep Tanwar of Rajasthan lodged a complaint against four shop owners in Ashiyana accusing them of violating the provisions in the Copyright Act. A team later reached Sriram Mobile Centre and Bajrang Mobile Centre, both in Bangla Bazaar and two other shops in Sector I of Ashiyana and one at Power House crossing in Ashiyana. The team recovered huge accessories like charging cables, phone covers, front panel of iPhones from these shops. The police seized the goods and lodged a case. Police said Sandeep is posted as investigator in Griffin Intellectual Property Services

Private Limited and Apple had assigned the said company to keep a tab on malpractices by unauthorised dealers and shops owners. "Sandeep did the homework and then he sought police of the police," the police said.

Private Limited and Apple had assigned the said company to keep a tab on malpractices by unauthorised dealers and shops owners. "Sandeep did the homework and then he sought police of the police," the police said.

I opted for 'Daayan' because it was different: Tina Dutta

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Well-known actress Tina Dutta of Uttaran show fame says that she loves both the cuisine and the chikankari work of the city. In the city for the promotion of the show, Daayan, the young actress said that she loved to shop here and would be gorging on the food.



"I have been to Lucknow several times. It's my favourite shopping destination and every time I visit the city I ensure to take some time out for this. I am looking forward to having the food which includes the mutton biryani and the kebabs"

Speaking about her visit to the city, she said: "I have been to Lucknow several times. It's my favourite shopping destination and every time I visit the city I ensure to take some time out for this. I am looking forward to having the food which includes the mutton biryani and the kebabs," she said.

She admitted that she had been choosy about her roles since the days of 'Uttaran'. "I received several offers since the time I did 'Uttaran' with near E of the colony. Gaurav told police that he was informed about shop-lifting by some shop owners on Tuesday morning and when he reached there, he found the shutter of the shop lifted and the cash and goods missing. The police said no FIR was registered as Gaurav pleaded that he did not want any police case.

The actress said that she took up the show because it was different from the 'saas' and 'bahu' ones and was from the horror genre which was liked by the people. The show, she said, was a tale of a girl's quest in revealing the identity of the evil force hidden amongst her close ones and defeating its sinister plans. "It is the tale of the narrative of a young woman, Jahanvi, Morya, a well-educated and family-oriented girl hailing from Ujjain. It maps her race against time as she stumbles upon

a dangerous ploy of the evil force as many unusual and mysterious happenings repeatedly occur in her hometown. With a threat to her life, it's her journey of unmasking the identity of the 'Daayan' who is one of her close ones. Horror-mystery as a genre has seen great interest from viewers at large and I'm excited to make way in this space. Jahanvi's character is unlike any that I have played before," she said.

On being asked whether she believed in the supernatural, she said that she had no experiences of the

supernatural forces. While sharing her experiences of the shoot, she pointed out that she was scared at one time. "When I saw the Daayan for the first time, I just freaked out," she added. The actress said that the most challenging part of the show was hanging in harness for long periods of time. "I have just begun the shooting of the scenes of the shows and there are many times that I have to hang in harness. This I have done in the previous reality show of 'Khatron Ke Khiladi'," she said. When asked whether she liked playing herself or whether she liked playing a character, the actress said that she liked playing a character in fiction series.

Playing the role of the male lead, popular actor Mohit Malhotra said: "I was more than happy to play the character of Akarsh Sharma as the male protagonist. 'Daayan' is in the mystery-horror genre which I have been wanting to experiment with for a while now. So this was an opportunity that I just couldn't miss. This being an interesting genre with mystery and horror intertwined, my character, Akarsh, is key to the narrative, who is not just Jahanvi's love interest but a constant companion throughout the story."

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड-प्रथम, यू०प्र० पा० ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, 132 केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र केन्द्र, जलनी परियोजना, केन्द्र, वाराणसी (उ०प्र०) 221002 प्रेष विज्ञापित एतद्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि 132 केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र राजा का तालाब वाराणसी पर 132 केवीओ बस की क्षमता वृद्धि का कार्य दिनांक 12.12.18 से दिनांक 14.12.18 तक प्रतिदिन समय 11.00 बजे से 16.00 बजे के बीच किया जायेगा। उपरोक्त अवधि में 132 केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र राजा का तालाब से पोषित 33 केवीओ पोषक लोहा, सेवापुरी, जलकान्हा, जमुआ, लालपुर, रोहिंगनी, गंगापुर, राजा का तालाब तहसील, काशीपुर एवं टोडपुर विद्युत उपकेंद्र की विद्युत आपूर्ति प्रभावित/बाधित रहेगी। (अनिल कुमार) अधिशासी अभियन्ता, वि०प्र० खण्ड-प्रथम, वाराणसी। पत्रांक-2509 दिनांक 11.12.2018 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाव"

उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. आश्चर्यक सूचना विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल गोण्डा, कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सं० 144 एवं 145/वि०पा०म०/गो०/2018-19, को अपरिहार्य कारणों के कारण निरस्त किया जाता है। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा। संख्या 2024/वि०पा०म०/गो०/दिनांक-11.12.2018, राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव साधारण बन्ल के स्थान पर एल०ई०डी० बल्ब का प्रयोग करें "

DRM rewards 20 employees for ensuring security of passengers



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Allahabad Division is an important part of the Indian Railways. Howrah-New Delhi trains pass through the Allahabad Division which is the most busy route. It is the top

most priority of Allahabad Division to ensure safety and security of the passengers. In the same context the Divisional Manager of Allahabad Division, Amitabh, rewarded as many as 20 Railway employees for doing excellent work as far as safety and security were concerned.

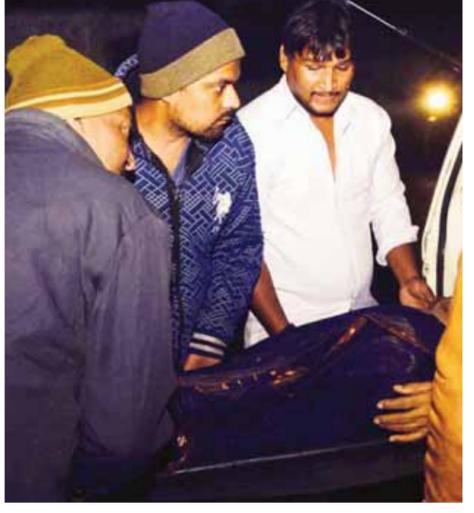
For example Vinod Kumar Singh, a loco pilot, Kanpur, saw a rail trolley lying on the track during the work on Panki-Kanpur block and immediately informed the authorities concerned about it.

Similarly Praveen Kumar, a loco pilot of Allahabad, saw a portion of the train hanging and informed the railway station authorities and saved it from unnecessary delay. Similarly, other employees also caught irregularities while discharging their duties and averted a possible train accident.

All employees were honoured by the Divisional Railway Manager by being given ₹1,000 in cash and a citation letter. They were also encouraged to work safely in future.

On the occasion the Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Anurag Kumar Gupta, the Senior Divisional Engineer, Atul Gupta, the Senior Divisional Manager, Operations, Manu Prakash, Senior Divisional Engineer, Par Jalmali, and other officers and employees were present.

Boat carrying 16 aboard capsizes, 7 drowned



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a tragic incident seven persons, including three women, were drowned while some others were still missing when a boat carrying 16 members of a family from Maharashtra capsized in the Yamuna while it was coming to Mankameshwar Temple from Sangam on Monday evening. A search operation was on for the missing persons, last reports received here said.

The water police team immediately launched a hectic search operation and rescued nine persons while efforts were on to trace the other missing ones, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Nitin Tiwari, said. Meanwhile expressing grief over the incident the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, instructed the administration to ensure treatment of the rescued persons. He also directed the district

officials to rope in the NDRF and SDRF teams for the rescue operation. The ill-fated victims belonged to Latur, Parbhani and Nanded districts of Maharashtra. Keshav Nanoba, one of those rescued in the mishap, said he and 13 other members of a family had come to Sangam for immersing the ashes of their dead relatives. They hired a boat at Sangam to reach the Mankameshwar temple in Kydganj area. The boat was near the temple when it capsized. The water police and other teams had been engaged in the rescue operation.

Keshav Nanoba's wife, Radhabai (60), and their relatives, Bhagabai (65) and Lakshmi Bai (70), and two others were brought dead at the SRN Hospital. However, the search operation was still on to fish out the bodies of the other victims, it added.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा,
ई-टेन्डरिंग निविदा सूचना
अनुमती फर्म/टेकदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदाओं को मांगों में दिनांक 24.12.2018 को 17.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) ई-निविदा संख्या 17/वि.पा.ख./गो०/2018-19: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड गोण्डा के अधीन 132 केवीओ गोण्डा (400 केवीओ)-कर्मलखन लाइन के विभिन्न टोल लेवर्स को पर मिट्टी की भरई सम्बन्धी कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु० 10000 निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 26.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे, निविदा मांग-2 (प्रारंभिक दर्द) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा, निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 236.00 (जीएएसटीसी सहित)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क एवं इंग्रामेण्टी अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, गोण्डा के बैंक खाते में (बैंक का नाम - पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, खाता सं०-0181002100120697, आई.ए.ए.सी. कोड PUNB0018100) आर.टी.जी.एस.ए.ए.ए.ए. के माध्यम से जमा करवाई जानी है तथा बैंक में जमा किये जाने का साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यूटीआर सं०, खाते का नाम निम्नकर्ता बैंक अधिकारी द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एवं निविदादाता द्वारा प्रतिहस्ताक्षरित पत्र-पत्र रिलिफ की स्कैन प्रतियाँ, जारीकर्ता बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रतियाँ ई-टेन्डर प्रपत्रों के साथ ऑन लाइन अपलोड की जायेगी, अन्यथा कि स्थिति में निविदादाता द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदा को स्वतः निरस्त समझा जायेगा। साथ ही निविदा के मांग-1 में तकनीकी विड (पीन काई, इन्कमटेक्स रिटर्न, जीएएसटीसी पीसीकरण की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि), संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। धरोहर राशि / निविदा शुल्क जमा न होने अथवा किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर निविदा का मांग-2 जिसेमं दर्द दी जानी है, नहीं खोली जायेगी। मांग-2 में दर्द एवं बाणिज्यक नियम व शर्त होनी चाहिये। तथा हाई कापी कार्यालय में जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। निविदा का मांग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय मांग (प्रारंभिक दर्द एवं शर्त) दिनांक 24.12.2018 को 17.00 बजे तक www.etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा का प्रथम मांग दिनांक 26.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे एवं मांग-2 (प्रारंभिक दर्द) निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्राप्ति की पुष्टि होने के पश्चात सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क की तिथि पर अकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा / निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/निविदा राशि रहित व सशर्त निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर लॉग आन करें। अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, उ०प्र० पा० ट्रा० का० लि०, 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र परिसर, जेल रोड, गोण्डा। संख्या :- 1992/वि.पा.ख./गो०/ई-टेन्डरिंग नं० - 17 एवं 18 / 2018-19 दिनांक-10.12.2018, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाव"

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
विद्युत जानपद खण्ड, केस्को, आरपी०एच०, कानपुर। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना ई-निविदा सं० 35/सी/2018-19 जिसकी खुलने की तिथि 10.12.2018 प्रकाशित की गई थी। अपरिहार्य कारणोंवाश यह निविदा दिनांक 26.12.2018 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। विवरण www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा की अन्य शर्त यथावत रहेगी। (मनीष कुमार गुप्ता) अधिशासी अभियन्ता, पत्रांक-1276/वि.जा.ख.के०(का), दिनांक - 10.12.2018 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाव"

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
उ०प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० पारेषण खण्ड, वृक्ष संख्या 212, एएसएल०डी० परिसर, निकट मंत्री आवास, वि०प्र० खण्ड-2, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ ई-टेन्डरिंग अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना अनुमती फर्म/टेकदारों/अधिकृत विक्रेताओं/निम्नकर्ताओं (जो जीएएसटीसी में पंजीकृत हों) से निम्नलिखित कार्य के सम्पादन हेतु सीलबन्ध ई-निविदायें मांगों में ई-टेन्डरिंग वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) ई-निविदा संख्या-14/वि.पा.ख(लं)/2018-19 वि०प्र० खण्ड-11, लखनऊ के अधीन ग्राम सभा रेनुआ पट्टरी (गोल्डन बैली) जिला बाराबंकी स्थित शक्तिग्रस्त आवासीय गुमि की चारदीवारी के पुनर्निर्माण का कार्य-धरोहर राशि रु० 10000.00 ई-निविदा मांग-1 खुलने की तिथि 28.12.2018, समय 12.00 बजे, ई-निविदा मांग-2 (प्रारंभिक दर्द) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित किया जायेगा। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु० 236.00 (18 प्रतिशत जीएएसटीसी सहित)। ई-निविदा का मांग प्रथम व द्वितीय-प्रारंभिक विड (दर्द एवं शर्त) www.etender.up.nic.in पर भरी जायेगी। मांग-1 में धरोहर धनराशि व निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य जोकि अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय, लखनऊ के खाता संख्या - 0758002100009361, IFSC code- PUNB0691100 पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, शाखा विजयपुर कैंड, लखनऊ में RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से स्थानांतरण कर 30/03/2018 संख्या तथा पे-रिस्त की प्रति www.etender.up.nic.in Web Site पर निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ स्व प्रमाणित पेन एवं जीएएसटीसी प्रमाण-पत्र, कार्य अनुभव प्रमाण-पत्र व अर्हकारी शर्त एवं अन्य सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र निविदा के द्वितीय मांग में मूल्य/दर्द www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 28.12.2018 को 11:00 बजे तक ही Up-Load की जानी है। ई-निविदा के प्रथम मांग के प्रपत्र निर्धारित तिथि पर 12:00 बजे अथवा उसके उपरान्त ही Down-Load किये जायेंगे। निविदाओं के प्रथम मांग के मूल्यांकन के उपरान्त उपयुक्त पागी गयी निविदाओं के ही द्वितीय मांग Down-Load/ खोला जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी, निम्न व अर्हकारी शर्त, निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है जो www.etender.up.nic.in पर ही Down-Load या अवलोकित की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये ई-निविदा/ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय पत्रांक- 2302 दिनांक 11.12.2018 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाव"

विद्युत नगरीय वितरण डाउन लोड किये जा सकते हैं, मण्डल-नवम्, लेसा जिसका प्रथम मांग उसी दिन को लखनऊ (ई-निविदा) 16:00 बजे अथवा बाद में खोला जायेगा। निविदाओं के प्रथम मांग हेतु मण्डल-नवम्, लेसा ट्रांस गोमती, वाछित अभिलेखों के मूल्यांकन/लखनऊ के कार्यक्षेत्र में निम्नलिखित सम्बन्धित बैंक से जमा निविदा कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की शुल्क/धरोहर राशि की पुष्टि के बाद जाती है, जिसके प्रथम मांग में (1) उपयुक्त पार्स गयी निविदाओं के ही विद्युत सुरक्षा निदेशालय में "क" श्रेणी मांग दो खोले जायेंगे। द्वितीय मांग में वैध लाइसेंस, जो विगत 5 वर्ष के खुलने की सूचना ई-टेन्डर की की निरन्तर में हो, की स्वः प्रमाणित वेबसाइट पर दी जायेगी। यदि निविदा (क) श्रेणी मांग में वाह्य सेवा प्रदाता खुलने की तिथि को सार्वजनिक के रूप में पंजीयन पत्र की छायाप्रति अकाश पड़ता है तो निविदायें अगले (3) जीएएसटीसी सम्बन्धी प्रमाण-पत्रों कार्य दिवस में नियत समय पर खोली की स्वतः सत्यापित छायाप्रति (4) फर्म जायेंगी। भविष्य में सम्बन्धित निविदा के वित्तीय साक्ष के सम्बन्ध में विगत में यदि कोई संशोधन अथवा निविदा 03 वित्तीय वर्षों का आई०टी०आर० खोलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तथा चाटई एकाउन्ट द्वारा प्रमाणित उसकी सूचना उ०प्र० सरकार की बैलेंस शीट स्व० प्रमाणित छायाप्रति। ई-टेन्डर वेबसाइट/ मा०वि०वि० (ए) धरोहर शुल्क (जीएएसटी सहित) नि०लि० की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध एवं धरोहर धनराशि RTGS/NEFT अथवा आई जाएगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को एक के माध्यम से E.E., EUDD-INDI- अथवा समस्त निविदा प्रपत्र को बिना RANAGAR, LESA, LUCKNOW कारण बताये निरस्त/ विमक्त करने के विजया बैंक शाखा-आर०एस०एम का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। निविदा का नगर, भूतनाथ इन्द्रिया नगर, लखनऊ विवरण निम्नवत है:- 1. निविदा के खाता संख्या- संख्या- 75/वि०पा०वि०म० (नवम्)/712300300001183 आईएफसी 2018-19: अधिशासी अभियन्ता, कोड VJJB0007123 में जमा करना विद्युत नगरीय वितरण खण्ड-इन्द्रिया होगा। (6) विगत वर्षों में निम्नांकित नगर के कार्य क्षेत्र में उदय योजना निविदाओं के समरूप समान कार्य, विजनेस प्लान अन्तर्गत स्वीकृत पैकेज समान मात्रा के अनुबन्ध की छायाप्रति संख्या के 196/SI/CE/2018-19 के कार्य संचालन रूप से पूर्ण होने अनुसार लाइन लास कम करने हेतु के प्रमाणक के साथ समस्त सम्बन्धित एबीसी केबिल डालने के सम्बन्धित प्रमाण-पत्रों की स्कैन प्रतियाँ विद्युतीकरण का कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट पर भरी होगी। निविदा रु०- 1,541,000 एवं धरोहर धनराशि प्रस्ताव उ०प्र० सरकार की ई-टेन्डर रु०-13,06,000 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल (नवम्) को ही स्थित है। उपरोक्त लेसा-ट्रा०गो० मध्यम विद्युत निविदा प्रपत्र एवं सूचना मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, मुध्यालख उपकेंद्र एच०ए०एल०, फ़ीजाबाद रोड, लखनऊ की वेबसाइट www.mvvnli.in एवं <https://11.12.18> राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाव etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 28.12.2018 को 14.00 बजे तक प्री नं०-1800-1800-440"

CITY BRIEFS

ACTOR ALI FAZAL IN CITY



Actor Ali Fazal who belongs to Lucknow and is well known for his role in both Bollywood and Hollywood movies was in the city for an awareness programme.

SEMESTER EXAMS BEGIN



The semester exams have begun at the Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University and they are being conducted in two shifts. On Tuesday 664 students appeared in the exams which included 26 differently abled ones.

LOK MANGAL DIVAS



Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia heard the problems of local residents at the Lok Mangal Divas which was organised in zone 3 and zone 4. In zone 3 as many as 13 complaints were registered.

FOREST DEPT

Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan inaugurated the two-day-long Sports Meet at the Guru Gobind Singh Stadium on Tuesday which will see forest officials and staff participating in several events.

Recruitment rally for TA from Dec 17

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army), Bihar, is organising a recruitment rally for the domiciled Indian nationals belonging to Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, MP, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at Bhubaneswar (Campus of 120 Infantry Battalion (TA), Bihar) from December 17 to 22 for filling up the vacancies comprising soldier (general duty), soldier clerk, soldier (chef), soldier washerman, soldier housekeeper, soldier tailor, soldier carpenter, soldier dresser and soldier equipment repair (ER) personnel in the Territorial Army.

Datedwise recruitment of soldier (general duty), clerk, chef community, washerman, housekeeper, tailor, carpenter, hair dresser & ER for the candidates of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh on December 17, for the candidates of Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh on December 18, for the candidates of Odisha on December 19 and for the candidates of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar on December 20.

Eligible candidates of respective states of domicile volunteering to join the Territorial Army to report for screening along with their educational certificates in original along with two sets of photostatic copies of the certificate duly attested by a gazetted officer at 6 am on each date as mentioned below. Checking of documents, selected medical test of the candidates screened in the rally will be held at the venue after physical tests. Medical test of the remaining candidates will be held on December 21 & 22, 2018. Interested and desirous persons who have passed 10+2 exam from any stream with minimum 60 per cent marks in aggregate & 50 pc marks in each subject (individual) with proficiency in computer and typing will be given additional weightage for soldier clerk, passed matric with 45 pc marks aggregate & 33 pc in each subject or pass/qualified in higher class (ie XIth or above) for general duty. For tradesman with matric pass, excluding house keeper VIIIth pass only. In addition to educational qualifications they should have the requisite physical standard i.e. a minimum height of 160 cm, weight 50 kg and chest 77 cm with minimum 5 cms expansion.

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 apologised 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 Baishnab 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 Prajwala, along with two rape videos in a pen-drive.

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.



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.

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 authority,

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.

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 access 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 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

Pradesh and West Bengal.

Additional Solicitor General A N Nadkarni, appearing for the Centre, told the apex court that there are 662 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the country.

"The proposals for declaring areas around these National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries as Eco Sensitive Zone have been received from state governments/UT Administrations for 641 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries," he said, adding that "no proposals have been received in respect of 21 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries".

The law officer also said the Centre has accepted and notified ESZs for 289 National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries as on November 26 this year, and draft notifications for 206 were ready.

"We expect the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to actively pursue the preparation of the draft Notification and to issue a final Notification at the earliest," the bench ordered.

On the issue of 21 such parks and sanctuaries, the apex court asked the Centre to go ahead and declare ESZs at the earliest.

Some prominent national parks and wildlife sanctuaries without operational ESZs include Pobitora Sanctuary of Assam, Hemis High Altitude National Park and Kishtwar National Park of Jammu and Kashmir, Jogimatti Sanctuary of Karnataka, Deolgaon Rehekuri Sanctuary of Maharashtra, Siroi National Park of Manipur, Baghmara Pitcher Plant Sanctuary

of Meghalaya, Fakim Sanctuary of Nagaland and Pilibhit Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.

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 criss-cross 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

"Civil & Police Officers including Additional Director General (Law and Order) Munir Ahmed Khan and 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.



Mizo National Front (MNF) workers hold their party flag as they celebrate the party's victory in the States Assembly elections, at party head office in Aizawl on Tuesday

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 turn out, 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

Marriage set to get political colour in Tamil Nadu

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. Sevoor 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 Kalaaignar (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 Shanthi, 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.

DMK and the AIADMK can never coexist under any circumstances, according to TTV Dinakaran, leader of the AMMK, a breakaway faction of the AIADMK.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES, SHILLONG - 793 010 ASSAM RIFLES TECHNICAL AND TRADESMEN RECRUITMENT RALLY 2018-19



1. Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals (Male & Female both as prescribed in detail advertisement) to fill up 749 vacancies in various Group B and C combatised posts in the Assam Rifles.
2. Last date of receipt of applications for all candidates is 14 Jan, 2019. Please login to official website of the Assam Rifles www.assamrifles.gov.in to access the online Application Form.
3. Eligibility Criteria. Age Limit, Education Qualification, Qualitative Requirements, Relaxation in Age, Physical Standards etc. and other instructions are furnished in detailed advertisement available at official website of the Assam Rifles www.assamrifles.gov.in and Employment News dated 15 Dec, 2018.
4. How to apply. Application will be accepted through online mode only. To apply, fill up the online application by clicking on "ONLINE APPLICATION" option and follows the instructions given on the Online Application portal of the website. The online applications portal will remain functional till last date of submission of online Application Form.
5. Candidates to undergo Physical Fitness Test, Written Examination, Trade Test (as applicable) and Medical Examination at own risk and expense. Injuries including fatal due to the test during recruitment rally and transit will not be compensated in any matter by the Govt. or Assam Rifles.
6. Vacancies are tentative & may increase or decrease. The Assam Rifles has right to make any change in the advertisement or cancel it without assigning any reasons.

Muzaffarpur shelter home vacated

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." PTI

World class rly station soon near Statue of Unity site

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. PTI

PRESIDENT KOVIND'S MYANMAR VISIT

India pledges support to peace process

PTI ■ NAY PYI TAW

Acknowledging that Myanmar is going through a "challenging time", India on Tuesday pledged full support to its national peace process and the country's quest for better connectivity during President Ram Nath Kovind's wide-ranging talks with his counterpart U Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, speaks with Indian President Ram Nath Kovind during their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Naypyitaw in Myanmar AP

INDIA HANDS OVER FIRST 50 HOUSES BUILT FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Nay Pyi Taw: India on Tuesday handed over to Myanmar the first 50 houses built by the country for the displaced minority Rohingya Muslims in the restive Rakhine province. The housing units were handed over after President Ram Nath Kovind and his Myanmar counterpart U Win Myint held delegation-level talks and decided to step up bilateral ties.

He held wide ranging discussions with his counterpart. "President Kovind led delegation-level talks with President U Win Myint of Myanmar. The President said that India attaches special priority to its relations with Myanmar. Myanmar is a key partner for India's 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First' policies," the president's office tweeted. The two leaders witnessed signing of two MoU/Programme of Cooperation between two countries in the area of judicial training and science and technology.

India also handed over 50 housing units to Myanmar. India is building 250 houses in Myanmar's Rakhine province as part of a developmental project. The first batch of 50 houses was formally handed over to the Myanmar authorities on Tuesday. India signed a development programme for Rakhine State in Myanmar late last year which was designed to assist the Myanmar government in Rakhine State to build housing infrastructure for return of displaced persons.

More than 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 2017 after a military crackdown. Kovind also held talks with Myanmar's State Counsellor Suu Kyi. "President Kovind met Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and appreciated her role in the modern history of Myanmar and assured India's commitment to common prosperity and better connectivity," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

BJP fails to break Raj...

From Page 1
Raje won her constituency in Jhalrapatan defeating Congress candidate Manvendra Singh by a margin of 34,980 votes. Singh, who recently joined the Congress, is son of BJP stalwart Jaswant Singh. Congress Rajasthan unit chief Pilot won from Tonk seat, defeating BJP's Yoonus Khan only Muslim face in the BJP State unit by 54,179 votes.

It was the first Assembly elections for 41-year-old Pilot, a two-time Member of Parliament, and he won from the Muslim dominated seat comfortably. Two-time CM, Gehlot won the Sardarpura seat by a margin of over 40,000 votes. He defeated Shambhu Singh Khetasar of BJP.

Political experts said Vasundhara Raje's personal traits are believed to be one of the main reasons behind the BJP's defeat in Rajasthan Assembly election. Her image of behaving like a Maharani and being inaccessible did not go along well with the voters. The slogan doing the rounds is "Modi Tujh Se Bair Nahin," Rani Teri Khair Nahin" (Modi, we don't dislike you, but Queen (Raje) we will not spare you.)

Caste groups having a small voting percentage are likely to go with new alliances for electoral benefits, as they had done in the past. Communities such as Rajputs and Gujjars, who constitute 9 per cent each of the State's population, have witnessed a major churning. Besides, the Rajputs went against the BJP particularly after the killing of gangster Anandpal Singh by police in an encounter. He was popular among a large section of his caste people.

Anger against the film, Padmaavat, turned the Rajputs against Vasundhara and the BJP. On the issue of SC/ST act, the upper caste (Rajputs and Brahmins) went against the ruling BJP in the state. Rahul's promise of farm loan waiver within 10 days of the Congress Government coming to power has been one of the most important factors for the BJP's defeat. The farmers, suffering from distress, seem to have lapped up Rahul's

promise. The Vasundhara Government seems to have failed to dispel the notion that the farmers were under severe stress in her State. The Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme in the health sector, undertaken by the Government also failed to woo voters towards it.

As many as 13 of 19 Ministers in the outgoing Vasundhara Government have lost the Assembly elections in Rajasthan as results and trends brought electoral reverses for the ruling BJP.

Raje (Jhalrapatan), Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria (Udaipur), Education Minister Vasudev Devnani (Ajmer North), Women and Child Development Minister Anita Bhadel (Ajmer South), Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rajendra Rathore (Churu) and Higher Education Minister Kiran Maheshwari (Rajsamand) have retained their respective seats.

Among the Ministers who lost the elections are: Agriculture Minister Prabhu Lal Saini (Anta), Food & Civil Supply Minister Baboo Lal Verma (Baran-Atru), Revenue Minister Amra Ram (Pachpadra), Tourism Minister

Krishnendra Kaur (Nadbai), Housing and Urban Development Minister Srichand Kriplani (Nimahera).

Also among those who lost are Water Resources Minister Rampratap (Hanumangarh), Social Justice Minister Arun Chaturvedi (Civil Lines), Industries Minister Rajpal Singh (Jhotwara), Cooperative Minister Ajay Singh (Degana), Gaupalan Minister Otaram Devasi (Sirohi) and Transport Minister Yoonus Khan (Tonk).

Congress candidates Johri Lal Meena (Rajgarh-Laxmangarh), Madan Prajapat (Pachpadra), Zahida Khan (Kaman), Ramlal Jat (Mandal) and Prashant Bairwa (Niwai) won. BSP's Sandeep Kumar (Tijara) and Wajib Ali (Nagar) have also won. CPI (Marxist) also won two seats.

Rajasthan has a 200-member Assembly but polling on Alwar's Ramgarh constituency was postponed following the death of the BSP candidate there. A party now needs to win 100 seats to form Government in the State.

Independents have improved their tally from 8.2 per cent to 9.5 per cent, while bagging larger number of seats.

BJP's crushing defeat gives Rahul's party much-needed...

From Page 1
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 districts 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 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 "Hinutava" 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 chal-

lenge 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.

The BJP leadership possesses no magical wand to address the anger of millions of unemployed youth in the remaining five months, but it will be expected to take serious steps to reach out to Dalits, tribals, upper castes, farmers, and business community, the last two were hit hard by note-bandi and GST.

The outcome shows that both in tribal and Dalit belts the Congress has done far better than the BJP in all the three States. The same trend has been witnessed in case of the upper caste vote. A sizeable section of the upper caste vot-

ers in Madhya Pradesh shifted away from the BJP, according to preliminary analysis of the result. The upper caste voters were unhappy over the amendment to the schedule caste atrocity act and launched major Statewide movement against the BJP on this count. Nearly two lakhs NOTA votes are believed to have come from the upper caste voters.

The setback will make BJP's sulking Maharashtra ally Shiv Sena all the more emboldened when the two parties negotiate seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha polls. Even someone like Lok Jan Shakti party chief Ramvilas Paswan will now go for hard bargaining with the BJP to get at least six-seven seats in Bihar.

The BJP has to worry on another major count. The fact that both Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Raman Singh had excellent track record in governance and yet they lost shows that they might have

become victim of anti-incumbency against the Central Government. It's obvious the Modi magic did not work in the three key States. This should give serious food for thought to the BJP, which heavily counts on the PM for its electoral successes.

The semi-final of the Chowkidar vs Namdar contest has decisively gone in favour of the former, who among other weapons, aggressively used the Rafale ammunition to successfully attack his nemesis.

Rahul and the Opposition will relax at their own peril after these victories. The Modi-Shah duo is capable of striking back.

The month ahead is going to see the Modi Government unveiling a series of populist measures and the Congress-led Opposition taking steps to ensure one on one contest against the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls.

KCR gamble...

From Page 1

From distributing sheep to the shepherds to sarees to the poor on Bathukamma festival; from acreage-wise financial assistance to the farmers to pension to the elderly; from mopeds to fishermen to allowances to pujaris - KCR had been doling out sops at regular intervals. Going into the polls, KCR chose to wait till the bag end of the electoral process to kick-off to open his bounty bag. And out came the promises that ranged from doubling of the pension amounts to unemployment allowance to double bedroom houses to reservations to the minorities and Scheduled Tribes to increasing retirement age of Government employees. And in election rally after rally, he trumpeted his sop story to convince the voters there was no better Santa than him.

KCR's reading of the ground realities has been bang on. Riding on his populist policies, his gamble to dissolve the Assembly eight months before its term ended and go for elections paid off as the TRS' pink (party's traditional colour) wave swept the urban and

rural divide alike cornering nearly 47 per cent of the popular votes. That KCR remains the most popular leader with a standing unmatched in the State needs no further proof. No wonder then that the TRS' ranks under him regularly swelled during the last four years. The TRS won 63 seats in 2014 but by the time it went to polls its numbers stood at 82, with Chandrababu Naidu's TDP being the biggest victim as it saw a dozen of its MLAs switching allegiance over time. The TRS bettered even that tally now as it bagged 88 of the total Assembly 119 seats, with the Congress at a distant second with 19 seats, three less than it got in 2014.

The verdict also made it clear that TRS would need neither the support of Asaduddin Owaisi's AMIM nor the BJP, both of whom had offered their support to KCR in case of a fractured verdict. While the AMIM could somehow retain its tally of seven seats, the BJP saw a fall in its numbers, from five to just one seat, despite the party giving it all in the State. Whether KCR will live up to his threat and try to inflict losses on Naidu in Andhra Pradesh will be keenly watched, just as his bid to outshine his arch-rival to cobble up an anti-BJP anti-Congress front at the national level.

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."

CONG HOLDS FORT, BUT SHIVRAJ SHOWS ...

From Page 1

It is speculated that on Wednesday, the Congress would chalk out strategy to woo independents to support the Congress.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has two seats, the Samajwadi Party (SP) bagged one, and four Independents were elected to the Assembly. Out of these Independents, most of them are Congress rebels.

Loan waiver pledge does...

From Page 1

Bhupesh Baghel, the Congress prime face for chief ministerial candidate and incumbent Pradesh Congress Committee chief, told The Pioneer: "It's a decisive mandate for the Congress to restore quality governance in Chhattisgarh. People wanted change as the BJP

fooled everyone." He credited the win to the leadership quality of Rahul Gandhi. He remarked that Congress did not believe in politics of vendetta but added a few corrupt BJP Ministers and bureaucrats would be taken head-on.

Shaktikanta Das named RBI Guv

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Finance Secretary AN Jha said Das has wide experience in State Government as well as the Union Government. Das, a 1980-batch Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer, who retired as Economic Affairs Secretary in May 2017, oversaw the re-nomination of the economy after the shock decision to withdraw 86 per cent of the currency in circulation in November 2016. After his retirement, he was named India's G-20 sherpa and also appointed as a member of the

15th Finance Commission. Das, a history graduate from the prestigious St Stephen's College in Delhi, was brought to the Finance Ministry soon after the BJP-led NDA Government came to power in mid-2014 and given charge of the crucial revenue department. He was later moved to the economic affairs department, which essentially deals with monetary policy and the RBI. While the BJP Government chose an economist in Patel to head the RBI after it had denied extension to former IMF Chief Economist Raghuram Rajan for a second term in 2016, the position has once again gone to a bureaucrat. Bureaucrats have occupied the position for the most number of years.

The last IAS officer to head the RBI was D Subbarao, who demitted office in September 2013. Urit Patel, who initially appeared to have toed the Government line on issues like demonetisation, had in the recent weeks clashed with the Finance Ministry over issues of liquidity, reserves of the central bank and lending norms. The face-off led to the Government invoking a never-used-before provision of the RBI Act to bring the Governor to the negotiating table on these issues. Patel chose to resign four days ahead of the crucial meeting of the RBI Board where Government nominee directors were expected to push the central bank on governance issues. Das will be the 25th Governor of the RBI.

Rahul's a year at helm rejuvenates party

From Page 1

On naming the Chief Ministers in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Rahul said this will be done smoothly.

Attacking Modi, the Congress chief said Modi got a massive mandate but refused to listen to heartbeats of the people. "Under the BJP big mismanagement of economy, unnecessary damage to sections of economy that were doing well was done. The ruling dispensation failed to provide a vision for the country going forward," Rahul mentioned.

On the issue of party manifesto on loan waiver, Rahul said this will be done definitely and pointed that loan waiver is a measure and not a solution to farmers' distress.

The Tuesday's Assembly results will certainly strengthen Rahul's position within the party and will give him a strong voice in the national politics and leverage in unifying the Opposition parties to stop the

Modi juggernaut in six months.

Before the Assembly elections, the rivals of Uttar Pradesh BSP and SP snubbed Congress and went alone in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The clean sweep by Congress in Chhattisgarh and a comfortable win in Rajasthan and satisfactory performance in MP will now keep the "political bargainers" in check.

In his first year Rahul focused on farmer's distress, unemployment and constantly attacked the Modi Government over Rafale deal. Rahul as head of the grand old party focused on strengthening the organisation.

Keeping in the mind the need of political circumstances, Rahul created several new departments right from farmers wing to unorganised labour wing to NRI wing. He systematically divided the work among new leaders and also created a system where daily to weekly reports are directly sent to him. Even in ticket distribution,

Rahul went by the internal survey and insisted on giving tickets to the winnable leaders.

As compared to the high voltage political campaigns by Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah, Rahul campaigned in a low pitched manner focusing more on the farmers and the unemployed sections of society.

The Congress president, once dubbed by critics as a "reluctant politician", addressed 82 public rallies and seven road shows since October 6, criss-crossing Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telanagana and Mizoram on an almost daily basis.

The result will also help the Congress re-energise party workers, who have been demoralised by a string of electoral defeats. Several Congress leaders from the Hindi heartland such as Sachin Pilot, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel credited Rahul's dynamic campaign as the reason for party's good showing.

Cong loses last bastion in...

From Page 1

No party in the state has so far been able to form a Government thrice in a row since 1987 when Mizoram became a full-fledged State.

Outgoing chief minister Lal Thanhawla suffered defeats from both the seats he contested, including his home turf Serchip. He also lost from Champai constituency.

The MNF, previously an underground outfit, had signed the Mizo Accord in 1986 with the Central Government renouncing secession and violence and its leader Laldenga became the Chief Minister.

The MNF led by Zoramthanga, a former underground, won the assembly elections in 1998 and 2003.

It is now a constituent of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), formed by the BJP.

The MNF bagged 37.6 per cent votes as against 30.2 per cent secured by the Congress. The BJP opened its account in the Christian-dominated state as the party candidate and former Minister Buddha Dhan Chakma won from the Chakma-dominated Tuichawng seat in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district. Chakma had resigned from the

Congress. The BJP, which fielded 39 candidates, secured eight per cent votes. Lal Thanhawla met Governor K Rajasekharan and submitted his resignation, official sources said.

The MNF at a meeting of its newly-elected legislators unanimously elected Zoramthanga as the leader of the MNF legislature party. The Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), a conglomerate of two political parties — the Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP) and Mizoram People's Conference (MPC) captured eight seats.

The ZPM's performance was commendable as they bagged 22.9 per cent votes. Former Mizoram Assembly speaker Hiphie who resigned from the Congress and contested as a BJP nominee lost from Palak constituency. Former Mizoram home minister R Lalzirlana who defected from the Congress to the MNF won from Tawi seat.

Another former Congress leader and Health Minister Lalrinihana Sailo won Chalfith seat as a MNF candidate. F Lalnunmawia of the MNF defeated agriculture minister K S Thanga by a margin of 2,037 votes in Aizawl South-III seat.

Another former Assembly speaker, Lalchamliana of the MNF, defeated the Cooperation Minister Vanlalawmpui Chawngthu in Hrangturzo seat, while Lalrinawma of the MNF retained the Tuikum seat by defeating Sangzela Tlaw of the Lalruatkima of the MNF also retained their seats, Siaha and Aizawl West-II, respectively.

GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH U. P. WATER SECTOR RESTRUCTURING PROJECT-Phase II INVITATIONS FOR BIDS

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID Dated-05.12.2018

- The Government of India has received a credit (Credit 5298-IN) from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of UP Water Sector Restructuring Project (UPWSRP)-Phase-II and it has applied part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the services mentioned in the following table.
- The Chairman, State Water Resources Agency (SWaRA) on behalf of Government of Uttar Pradesh now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for services mentioned in the following table

Sl. No.	Name of Non-Consulting Service	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
01	Annual Maintenance Contract Back to Back with pro active services of HP Server's Hardware and Software for the period of 02 years at SWaRA Office.	44,500.00	2000.00+ 360.00 (GST) = 2360.00	24 Months from signing of Contract

- It is compulsory for bidders to have all eligibility as given in bid document.
- Eligible, Interested bidder may see and download the bid document from 17.12.2018 at 10:00AM to 16.01.2019 upto 5:00 PM from website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Fee as mentioned in table Column-4 in the form of Demand Draft/Bankers Cheque (non-refundable) on any nationalized scheduled bank payable at Lucknow in favour of Chairman, State Water Resources Agency Lucknow should be deposited at the office of Manager Administration, State Water Resources Agency, Utrathia, Lucknow on or before 05:00PM dated 16.01.2019 and scanned copy of it, should be uploaded with e-tender also.
- All bidders who want to participate in e-procurement should make their registration on UP Electronics Corporation, 10, Ashok Marg, Lucknow and obtain Digital Signature/Registration form there.
- Bid must be accompanied by security of the amount as mentioned in table Column-3 drawn and pledged in favour of Chairman, State Water Resources Agency, Lucknow. Bid Security will have to be in form of FDR as specified in the bid document and shall have to be valid for 90 days beyond the validity of bid. This bid security would be compulsory deposited to the office of Manager Administration, State Water Resources Agency, WALMI Bhawan, Utrathia, Lucknow on or before 5:00 PM date 16.01.2019 and scanned copy of this should be uploaded with e-tender.
- If there is any discrepancy in tender document uploaded by website and as available in office of Manager Administration, State Water Resources Agency, WALMI Bhawan, Utrathia, Lucknow then document available on office would be valid.
- Tender can be uploaded through e-tendering process only by website <http://etender.up.nic.in> upto 5:00PM dated 16.01.2019 Technical Bid shall be opened on 17.01.2019 at 03:00PM online in the office of Manager Administration, State Water Resources Agency, WALMI Bhawan, Utrathia, Lucknow by the Committee. Financial bids will be open after evaluation of Technical Bids, the time and date for opening of financial bid will be informed to the bidders who qualify in technical bids through e-mail.
- Pre bid meeting for clarification regarding this work would be held at 03:00PM at 28.12.2018 at the office of Manager Administration, State Water Resources Agency, WALMI Bhawan, Utrathia, Lucknow.
- Contractors with criminal background or black listed under state government may not participate in e-procurement process.
- It is mandatory for bidders to make available following documents/certificates to Manager Administration, State Water Resources Agency, WALMI Bhawan, Utrathia, Lucknow upto 5:00 PM of dated 16.01.2019.

a. Original copy of demand draft/Bankers Cheque of tender fee.
b. Bid Security in original in form of FDR.
c. All documents attested by self uploaded with Bid Document.
d. Affidavit by the bidder on stamp of hundred rupee certified by notary for truthness of all information given by him.

12. Tender opening Committee may cancel/amend bid without giving any reason. All corrigendum would be uploaded only on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and no corrigendum would be published in newspaper.

Manager Administration,
State Water Resources Agency (SWaRA),
Walmi Bhawan, Utrathia, Lucknow-226029
Ph.: 0522-2443893, 2443973, Fax: 0522-2440853

Note: In case of any difference in Hindi and English version, terms and conditions mentioned in English version would prevail.

उपरोक्त 135175 दिनांक 09.12.2018
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Manager Administration,
SWaRA

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

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



Ujit 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 Ujit 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.

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 percent. 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 be it a Governor.

RBI 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, "Ujit quits amid RBI-Govt feud" (December 11). Ujit 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. Three 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, "Ujit quits amid RBI-Govt feud" (December 11). The resignation of Reserve Bank of India Governor Ujit 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.

Tharcius 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 Chamling 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 Chamling 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)

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



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 ready 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 Bagra 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)



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)



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 Manupur 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

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 be 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

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

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.

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.

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.

Eligibility: High school students aged 15-18 years are eligible to apply through BrainGain Magazine, a leading study-abroad online portal that is collaborating with KWHS on this programme.

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

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.

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.

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 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 Chandrasekar, 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, Telangana, 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, Punjab 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

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-

Gopi regales IIM-A students



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

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 Pullela 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,

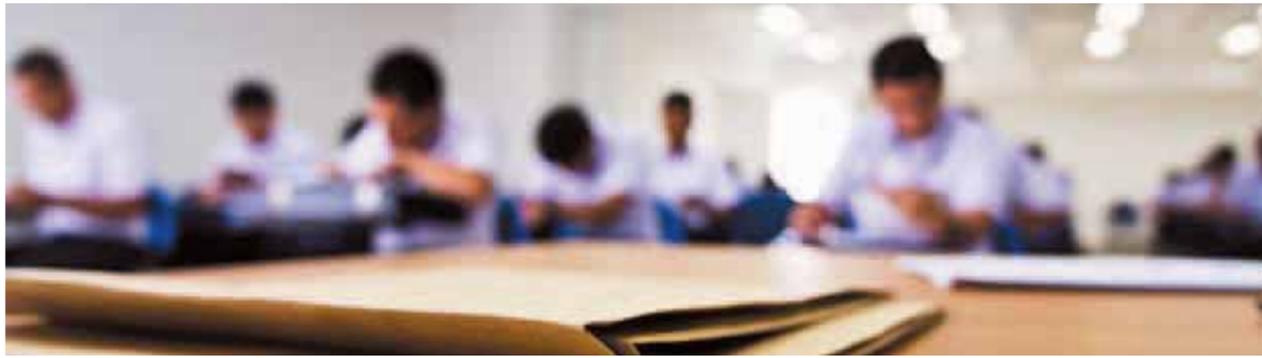
and emphasised that medals, though are significant achievements in each sport, aren't inherently equitable measures. Olympics, though a combination of their origins and history, have always incorporated multiple variants of sports that Europeans originally excelled at. While pitting ourselves against 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 leather 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 exam acts as a unique platform for the students to check their capabilities and potential. It also points out the weaknesses and shortcomings in the domains covered by the exam. Every year, lakhs of students appear for this scholarship exam, out of which 1,000 scholarships are awarded. The scholarship is open only to the students of Indian nationality, whether they are studying in India or abroad in Class X or equivalent.

First Level-Stage I: The first level test takes place every year in

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 scholarships 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 realize 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 makeover 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 low 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 WYNK 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 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 ailments 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."

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 Ujrat 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 poor-

ly 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 Ujrat 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 Ujrat 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 Ujrat 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 weakening of the rupee after 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 Ujrat 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."



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.

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.

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	1268.00	1336.45	1252.15	1328.85	48.65
KOTAKBANK	1189.00	1239.00	1171.00	1239.00	40.65
BAJAJFINSV	5643.00	5870.00	5623.10	5870.00	176.05
SBI	288.35	283.25	268.35	281.75	7.55
TITAN	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	3749.00	3896.00	3725.05	3873.70	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
BAIFINANCE	2360.00	2446.50	2332.10	2432.00	36.45
COALINDIA	233.75	244.05	233.75	241.3	3.15
ONGC	136	138.95	134.75	138.9	1.8
DRREDDY	2668.50	2749.95	2666.10	2725.00	34.55
GRASIM	784	804.95	775	800.15	9.75
TECHM	690	708.9	685	696	8.1
NTPC	134.05	138.05	134.05	137.1	1.5
TCS	1970.00	2010.00	1961.00	1997.05	21.25
IBULHSFGIN	669.2	711.4	665.05	693.85	7.25
EICHERMOT	22011.00	22766.05	21800.00	22600.00	195.15
VEDL	191.9	195	190.05	194	1.45
TATAMOTORS	155	159.5	154.65	158.25	1.15
RELIANCE	1066.00	1102.10	1055.00	1098.00	7.75
WIPRO	325.4	333.8	324.8	328.85	2.25
INFRATEL	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	27100.00	27600.00	26850.00	27377.75	12.65
POWERGRID	177.8	181.3	177.15	180	0.7
GAIL	330.2	335.45	329.7	332.85	0.8
INDUSINDBK	1476.75	1564.75	1475.00	1556.75	2.3
HEROMOTOCO	3010.00	3062.50	2982.00	3049.70	3.2
TATASTEEL	495.6	503.7	486.15	503	0.15
HINDUNILVR	1781.00	1819.90	1770.10	1795.70	-0.1
HDFC	1878.00	1912.65	1855.25	1904.00	-2.5
LT	1358.00	1369.85	1343.65	1363.25	-4.5
MARUTI	7240.50	7346.00	7215.55	7305.00	-45.5
HINDALCO	215	218.45	214	216.4	-1.5
ADANI PORTS	347	363.55	347	355.5	-3.65
ICICIBANK	337.4	345	336	342.6	-3.75
BPL	326	330	321.6	326	-4.25
HDFCBANK	2056.00	2071.30	2032.00	2056.15	-32.68
TIARTL	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
SIRTRANSFIN	1070.10	1164.85	1067.85	1142.40	51.15
LICHSGFIN	413	440.7	407.7	437.3	17.45
HAVELLS	660	696.45	660	691.4	25.35
ABCAPITAL	92.7	98.9	92.65	98.5	3.6
MARICO	347	363.35	346.85	359	12.75
ICICI	832.65	899	830.75	890	31.6
ASHOKLEY	987.5	1043	984	1040.5	3.6
AMBUJACEM	200.25	215.7	200.25	212.1	7.2
DLF	164	172.9	163	172.45	5.8
BOSCHLTD	18449.95	19226.85	18425.00	19102.00	618.15
BHEL	62.05	65.5	61.7	64.95	2
IDEA	32.65	34.45	32	34.05	1.05
BIOCEN	609.5	642	604.4	629	18.4
COLPAL	1190.00	1278.00	1190.00	1239.00	36.05
MRF	6366.00	66500.00	6366.00	66290.00	1925.40
LUPIN	803	842	803.2	836	23.25
DMART	1499.70	1550.00	1491.30	1550.00	39.8
BANKBARODA	103.3	110	103.3	108.7	2.75
L&T	130.65	138.35	130.65	137	3.15
PEL	2010.00	2117.95	2010.00	2088.00	45.4
INDIGO	981.05	1031.85	981.05	1026.00	21.45
OFSS	3421.00	3545.00	3421.00	3549.95	69.95
DABUR	396.25	416.3	396	412.25	6.65
CADILAHC	337.1	348	336.15	345.55	5.15
SAIL	491	511.5	49	508	27.5
HINDZINC	265.6	275	265.6	274	4
BEL	76.5	79.8	75	78.75	1.1
ACC	1385.00	1439.85	1385.00	1431.75	19.95
PGH	9499.00	9742.10	9411.05	9602.00	109.75
NIACL	192	199.9	192	198.1	2.1
GODREJCP	730	765	728.25	745.2	7.4
SIEMENS	912	954	910.35	935.25	8.1
GICRE	269.05	277.9	268.55	272.25	2.15
BRITANNIA	2970.00	3009.95	2945.00	3000	19.35
OIL	171.95	174.7	171	174	0.65
AUROPHARMA	722	743	721	736	2.7
ABB	1389.75	1418.75	1380.00	1400.00	3.25
MOTHERSUMI	144.5	151.45	147.05	149.9	0.25
SRECHCEM	15900.00	16124.00	15805.15	16038.95	17.25
PIDILITIND	1119.00	1136.90	1105.25	1123.75	0.7
NHPC	259	263	259	261.5	0
ICICIPRULI	301.2	310.4	301.2	306.55	-0.65
SBLIFE	556.15	565.95	556.15	560.95	-1.5
NMDC	90.05	91.8	88.6	91.25	-0.3
HDFCLIFE	380	388.95	379.95	384	-
L3PTECHNET	207	208.65	203.4	207.2	-1.25
CONCOR	649.7	670	649	659.75	-4.35
MCDOWELL-N	6125	624	606.25	614.5	-8.3
BANDHANBANK	462	476	462	465.5	-6.5
SUNTV	566	579.5	552.85	560.5	-14.55

BSE 500

Script	Last Traded	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
3MINDIA	21100	132.75	0.63	0.48	CONCOR	660	-2.85	-0.43	HERITGOOD	499.95	14.35	2.96	JUBLFOOD	1256.2	56.2	4.68	NITITECH	1107.5	50.65	4.79
8KMILES	155.15	-8.15	-4.99	-3.21	COROMANDEL	406.05	0.05	0.01	HEROMOTOCO	2994	-48.1	-1.58	JUSTDIAL	469.25	0.8	0.17	NILKAMAL	1460	-4.8	-0.33
AARTIIND	1414	25.2	1.81	CRISIL	1510	15.05	1.01	HEXAWARE	331.15	13.2	4.15	JYOTHYLAB	182.15	0.15	0.08	NLCINDIA	68.2	-1.55	-2.22	
ABB	1400	3	0.21	CROMPTON	221	5.05	2.34	HEXAWARE	331.15	13.2	4.15	KAJARIACER	443.6	18.55	4.36	NMDC	91.2	-0.1	-0.11	
ABOTINDIA	7349.15	-47.5	-0.64	CUB	176	4.8	2.8	HINDALCO	216.25	-1.35	-0.62	KALPAPOWR	350.05	11.75	3.47	NOCL	165.8	6.05	3.79	
ABCAPITAL	98.15	3.05	3.21	CUMMINSIND	781.2	9.05	1.17	HINDCO	46.2	0.7	1.54	KEC	280.5	8.25	3.03	OBEROIRTY	449.95	-10.25	-2.23	
ABFRL	183.75	3.5	1.94	CYENT	617	-0.55	-0.09	HINDPETRO	220.35	-6.2	-2.74	KEI	360	-6.3	-1.72	OFSS	3540	62.1	1.79	
ACC	1435	24.5	1.74	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	
ADANI PORTS	355.8	-3.55	-0.99	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	
ADANIPower	50.95	1.95	3.98	DBL	439.3	5.6	1.29	HONAUT	227.55	105.1	0.46	KOTAKBANK	1218.5	20.35	1.7	ONGC	139.05	1.8	1.31	
ADANITRANS	209.9	-0.2	-0.1	DCBBANK	152.7	2.45	1.63	HSCL	132	3.75	2.92	KPIT	212.05	2.75	1.31	ORIENTBANK	83.75	1.6	1.95	
ADVENZYMES	173.05	6.5	3.9	DCMSHRIRAM	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	
AEGLISLOG	204.1	-1.7	-0.83	DEEPAKERT	142	3.9	2.82	HUDCO	41.1	0.85	2.11	KRBL	292	6.55	2.29	PAGEIND	2414.7	62.6	0.26	
AIENG	1611.25	-34.8	-2.11	DEPAKNI	230.1	6.15	2.75	IBREALEST	71.55	1	1.42	KSCCL	534.2	5.7						

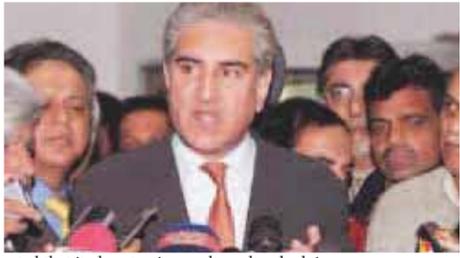
India's role crucial for Af peace process: Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Probably for the first time, Pakistan has acknowledged that India has stakes in Afghanistan and its cooperation is necessary for the peace process in the war-torn country. Speaking in the National Assembly on Monday, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Pakistan alone could not bring peace in Afghanistan as it was a "shared responsibility" of regional countries.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that peace could not be established in Afghanistan through military power. Today the US, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Taliban also wanted a solution through dialogue," The Express Tribune quoted Qureshi as saying.

"Some meetings have taken place [among key stakeholders] for establishment of peace in Afghanistan. India also has stakes in Afghanistan and its cooperation will also be needed," Qureshi said. The US has indi-



ated that it plans to give a role to India in Afghanistan, whereas Pakistan's stance over the years was quite clear that India had no role to play in Afghanistan.

Pakistan perceives India's development contributions in Afghanistan as part of New Delhi's strategic encirclement policy that Islamabad feels would leave it vulnerable in any potential conflict.

He said US president Donald Trump in a letter to Prime Minister Khan had asked Pakistan to help and facilitate the peace process in Afghanistan which Qureshi said Pakistan was

already doing.

Speaking about relations with India, Qureshi expressed the hope that New Delhi will reciprocate Pakistan's goodwill gesture of taking the initiative to open the Kartarpur corridor for Indian Sikh pilgrims.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of India "unwillingly" had to accept the Pakistani offer to open the corridor and they later approved it through a resolution in a Cabinet meeting, he said. Pakistan hopes that India will review its policy in Kashmir, he said.

Indian, China begin military drills

PTI ■ BEIJING

India and China on Tuesday began the 7th round of their 'Hand-in-Hand' military drills in the Chinese city of Chengdu as part of the focussed efforts by the two militaries to improve ties after last year's standoff at Doklam.

Both sides have fielded 100 personnel to take part in the seventh edition of the exercises focussing on tactical level operations in an International Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorist environment as per UN mandate.

The drills are being held after a gap of one year as they could not be held last year because both armies were locked in a 73-day standoff at Doklam in the Sikkim sector. The drills would conclude on December 23.

The Indian military contingent headed by Col. Puneet Tomar arrived in Chengdu city Monday to take part in the exercises to foster closer ties between the two militaries which guard the 3488-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China has fielded its troops from the Tibetan military command. "Opening Ceremony of the 7th India-



China joint Hand-in-Hand joint training exercises was held in Chengdu. Indian Army contingent and Tibetan Military command of People's Liberation Army (PLA) are participating in the exercises," the Indian Embassy here tweeted on Tuesday.

"The aim of the Hand-in-Hand exercises is to build closer relations between the militaries of India and China. The exercises involve tactical level operations in an International Counter Insurgency/Counter

Terrorist environment as per UN mandate," it said in another tweet.

China on Monday expressed hope that the resumption of military exercises between the Indian and Chinese armies would inject impetus and yield good results for the improvement of bilateral ties.

"We wish to see good outcomes," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told media here. He referred to the informal summit between

Iran confirms missile test amid Western criticism

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran confirmed on Tuesday that it had carried out a recent test of a medium-range ballistic missile after Western powers sharply criticised a December 1 launch. "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," the conservative news agency said, adding that Iran carried out between 40 and 50 missile tests a year. Iran has pressed on with its ballistic missile programme after reining in much of its nuclear programme under a landmark 2015 deal with major powers. A UN Security Council resolution adopted after the agreement calls on Iran to refrain from testing missiles capable of carrying a nuclear weapon, but does not specifically bar Tehran from missile launches.

The UN Security Council convened at the request of Britain and France on December 4 to discuss the latest test which both governments described as "provocative" and "inconsistent" with Resolution 2231.

Britain said that the types of missiles fired had capabilities that "go way beyond legitimate defensive needs". Iran has developed several types of ballistic missiles with a range of up to 3,000 kilometres (1,875 miles) - sufficient to reach Israel and Western bases across the region.

In its report, Fars did not specify the date of the latest test or say which types of missile were fired. Washington, which quit the nuclear deal in May, described the test as an outright "violation" of Resolution 2231 and called on the Security Council to condemn it. But veto-wielding Moscow has defended Tehran's right to carry out the missile tests, and the December 4 meeting ended with no joint statement or any plan for follow-up action.

The council is due to meet again on December 19 for a regular review of the resolution's implementation. Iran has received regular certifications of compliance with the provisions of the nuclear deal from the UN atomic watchdog.

India pledges support to Myanmar's peace process

PTI ■ NAY PYI TAW

Acknowledging that Myanmar is going through a "challenging time", India on Tuesday pledged full support to its national peace process and the country's quest for better connectivity during President Ram Nath Kovind's wide-ranging talks with his counterpart U Win Myint and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. Kovind, who arrived here on Monday on a five-day visit, received a military guard of honour at the Presidential Palace. He held wide-ranging discussions with his counterpart.

"President Kovind led delegation-level talks with President U Win Myint of Myanmar.

The President said that India attaches special priority to its relations with Myanmar. Myanmar is a key partner for India's 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First' policies," the president's office tweeted.

The two leaders witnessed signing of two MoU/Programme of Cooperation between two countries in the area of judicial training and sci-

ence and technology. India also handed over 50 housing units to Myanmar. India is building 250 houses in Myanmar's Rakhine province as part of a developmental project. The first batch of 50 houses was formally handed over to the Myanmar authorities on Tuesday.

India signed a development programme for Rakhine State in Myanmar late last year which was designed to assist the Myanmar government in Rakhine State to build housing infrastructure for return of displaced persons.

More than 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 2017 after a military crackdown. Kovind also held talks with Myanmar's State Counsellor Suu Kyi.

"President Kovind met Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and appreciated her role in the modern history of Myanmar and assured India's commitment to common prosperity and better connectivity," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.



Nay Pyi Taw: President Ram Nath Kovind being welcomed by Myanmar's President U. Win Myint at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday. AP

PM May tours Europe in bid to save Brexit deal

AFP ■ BERLIN

Embattled British Prime Minister Theresa May embarked on a tour of European capitals on Tuesday in a desperate bid to salvage her Brexit deal, a day after delaying a parliamentary vote on the text to avoid a crushing defeat. May had breakfast with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in The Hague before heading to Berlin for lunch with Chancellor Angela Merkel, and was then to travel on to Brussels. She is seeking "reassurances" over provisions in the EU withdrawal agreement concerning Northern Ireland, which she hopes could persuade her rebellious Conservative party to support it.

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said ahead of meeting May that he was "surprised" at being asked for more talks.

"I'm surprised because we had reached an agreement on November 25" at the last EU summit, he told the European Parliament in Strasbourg. "The deal we have achieved is the best deal possible, it's the only deal possible." "There is no room whatsoever for renegotiation



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, welcomes British Prime Minister Theresa May prior to a meeting in the chancellery in Berlin, Germany on Tuesday. AP

but of course there is room, if used intelligently, to give further clarification and further interpretations." MPs in the House of Commons were due to vote on the deal on Tuesday night, but May deferred it on Monday, admitting she expected to lose by a "significant margin". Her spokesman said Tuesday the vote would be rescheduled before January 21 — just months before Britain leaves the EU on March 29. EU President Donald Tusk, who was also to meet May in Brussels, has called a meeting of

the other 27 EU leaders on Thursday to discuss the latest Brexit developments.

They and May were already due to attend a European Council summit on Thursday and Friday, which the British prime minister is expected to use to further press her case. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said his government ruled out changes to the wording of the withdrawal agreement, but said there could be "a political declaration coming from a European Council".

Teenager in Sydney jailed for planning attack

Sydney (AP): An Australian court sentenced a Sydney teenager to at least 12 years in prison on Tuesday for planning an attack inspired by the Islamic State group for which he bought knives and bayonets from a gun shop two years ago. The now 18-year-old male, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested outside a Muslim prayer hall in the western Sydney suburb of Bankstown in October 2016, and found guilty of plotting an attack by a jury in September. Handing down his sentence at the Parramatta Supreme Court in western Sydney, Judge Geoffrey Bellow rejected the man's claim that he had purchased the weapons for hunting animals.

"At the time of his arrest, the offender was ready, willing and able to carry out a terrorist attack," the judge said. "It reflects a deep and unstinting motivation to act upon and put into specific effect the irrational, immoral and heinous advice propounded in extremist propaganda issued by Islamic State," the judge added.

The teenager acknowledged to the court that he sympathized with the Islamic State group when he bought the weapons, but denied any plan to use them in a terror attack, saying he wanted them for camping and hunting. Bellow said there was overwhelming evidence against the teenager, and sentenced him to 16 years in prison with a non-parole period of 12 years. The judge said it was significant that the teenager's arrest came little more than a month after he had downloaded an IS magazine which mentioned Bankstown in an article urging readers to "alleviate the pain afflicting the hearts of the Muslims by striking the kuffar in their homelands."

Thai junta lifts ban on political campaigning

AFP ■ BANGKOK

Thailand's junta on Tuesday lifted a four-year ban on political campaigning ahead of 2019 elections, prompting Thaksin Shinawatra — the exiled billionaire who sits at the heart of the kingdom's political rupture — to hail a "new hope" for the nation. One of the military's first acts after seizing power in May 2014 was to outlaw political activity of all kind, as it muzzled opposition in a country notorious for its rowdy — and often deadly — street politics. But the ban was officially lifted on Tuesday, prompting the Election Commission to confirm an expected poll date of February 24.

"Political parties should be able to campaign to present their policies," according to an order signed by junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha and pub-



lished by palace mouthpiece the Royal Gazette.

The junta "has decided to amend or abolish the laws" which could inhibit campaigns before elections, it said.

Thailand's rulers began easing restrictions in September, allowing political parties to recruit new members and elect leaders. But campaigns and street rallies remained banned. Tuesday's order raises the

prospect of a return to Thailand's rambunctious politics and the potential for street rallies that have defined much of the turbulent last decade of Thai politics. In that time, Thai politics has been sharply polarised between supporters of the powerful Shinawatra clan — popular in the poor, populous north and northeast — and the royalist, conservative Bangkok-centric elite backed by the army.

The military loathes Thaksin, the former cop turned telecoms tycoon who won a landslide election in 2001, and is hellbent on blocking the Shinawatra clan from returning to power.

A new charter embeds government policy for the next 20 years, dilutes the number of elected parliamentary seats available and introduces a hand-picked upper house and the possibility of an appointed prime minister.

"I'd like to congratulate the Thai people as today is the start of a new hope we'll get freedom and equality back," Thaksin said in a rare Facebook post responding to the lifting of the campaigning ban. He also called for the constitution to be changed in a post accompanied by a photo of him making the three-fingered salute from "The Hunger Games" movie franchise, an



U.S. Border Patrol agents make arrests during a pro-migration protest by members of various faith groups showing support for Central American asylum-seekers who arrived in recent caravans and calling for an end to migrant detentions and deportations, in San Diego as seen through the border fence from Tijuana, Mexico. Dozens of protestors were arrested for trespassing as they tried to approach the border wall, and one person for assaulting an officer. AP

Indian-origin man jailed for 7 years in S'pore for stabbing his pregnant wife

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

A 30-year-old Indian-origin man in Singapore was Tuesday sentenced to seven years in prison and ordered to be given six strokes of the cane for stabbing his pregnant wife with a 10-cm long knife, according to a media report. Jayselan N Chandrasegar stabbed his 27-year-old wife Mayuri Krishnakumar twice in her abdomen and twice on her lower back, causing her to suffer puncture wounds on December 30 last year.

He also slashed her back before fleeing the scene. Mayuri was taken to hospital and discharged after a few days. "The court heard that the unborn baby was not harmed in the attack. Chandrasegar was sentenced to seven years' jail with

six strokes of the cane," The Straits Times reported.

He pleaded guilty to one count of causing grievous hurt to the woman with a weapon, and one count of failing to provide his urine sample after he was caught for suspected drug-related offence, it said.

According to the report, Chandrasegar flew into a rage after he spotted his pregnant wife, who used to be a sex worker, talking to a man he assumed was a pimp.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Houston Johannus said the couple were married in 2013. However, their marriage soured in October last year because of frequent quarrels over money and their three-year-old child. "The accused was also made aware that the victim's ex-

boyfriend was trying to reconnect with her," Johannus told District Judge Ng Peng Hong. "This caused the accused to become overly possessive and distrustful of the victim. He then banned the victim from going out of the house," Johannus said. When Mayuri told Chandrasegar that she was pregnant, he refused to believe that the child was his and accused her of infidelity, the report said. Unable to tolerate his aggression and verbal abuse, she ran away from their home in December last year and sought refuge with her old friends, who were mainly sex workers, it said.

Before this incident, police officers caught Chandrasegar for suspected drug-related offences, the court heard.

James Bond has severe drinking disorder

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

British secret service agent James Bond may be licensed to kill, but scientists say that his severe alcohol use disorder may prove to be fatal for the popular fictional character. Researchers from University of Otago in Australia analysed 24 Bond movies produced between 1962 and 2015, and found the secret agent has been drinking heavily and consistently over six decades.

Despite his preference for martinis (shaken, not stirred), the researchers found Bond was ready to drink any alcoholic beverage that was available, from neat vodka to champagne — even occasionally beer. Bond frequently engaged in hazardous activities while under the influence, according to the study published in the Medical Journal of Australia.



"Chronic risks include frequently drinking prior to fights, driving vehicles (including in chases), high stakes gambling, operating complex machinery or devices, contact with dangerous animals, extreme athletic performance and sex with enemies, sometimes with guns or knives in the bed," said Nick Wilson of the University of

Otago. Dangerous animals he has dealt with after drinking include a snake, a scorpion and a komodo dragon. Neither does 007 shy away from performing complex tasks after indulging.

This was illustrated graphically in the 1962 movie Dr. No in which Bond operates nuclear power plant machinery, destroys Dr. No's nuclear/space complex, kills Dr. No, rescues Honey Ryder and escapes the island.

Wilson said that there are many problematic aspects to Bond's drinking behaviour, with one binge drinking episode involving six 'Vespers,' a gin and vodka-based cocktail. This equates to 24 units of alcohol that would produce a blood alcohol level that is well into the known fatal range.

However, this was low compared to his drinking in

one of the James Bond books at 50 units of alcohol in one day, "a level of consumption which would kill nearly everyone." A Vesper cocktail differs from Bond's usual 'shaken, not stirred' vodka martini, in that it has a base of both gin and vodka, and substitutes Kina Lillet for vermouth and lemon peel for an olive.

The recipe was given by Bond to a barman in the 2006 movie Casino Royale.

"Other notable features include a medical scan that showed his liver was 'not too good' and a MI6 report on Bond that stated, 'alcohol and substance addiction indicated,'" Wilson said. While ideally, Bond should seek professional help for his drinking, the authors suggest a few strategies which may minimise his risks in the short term.

'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 bails.

"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-up 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 forth.

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 in a 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

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 (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.

As a result, Kohli has conceded 15 points to slip to 920

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 Ramesh 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 an 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

IAN'S ■ 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.

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 Kerpel's 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 Gougard.

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 mauled lower-ranked Canada 5-0 in the final cross-over match to set up a quarterfinal clash against hosts India.

Dominating the proceedings, Netherlands scored five field goals through Lars Balk (16th minute), Robert Kemperman (20th), Thijs van Dam (40th, 58th) and Thierry Brinkman (41st) to register the com-

fortable win at the Kalinga Stadium. 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 aggressor 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
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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.

His decision has significant winners and losers.

World Cup winners — Germany defender Mats Hummels, and Spain midfielder Javi Martinez — languished on the bench against Nuremberg alongside Euro 2016 winner Renato Sanches.

Martinez and Sanches find

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 reveling in the attacking midfield role.

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.

Sindhu has been the most impressive among the Indian shuttlers as she claimed Silver medals at all the major events — Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championship — besides finishing runners-up at the India Open and Thailand Open.

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 and 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. The last time Sindhu defeated Tzu Ying was at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Against Zhang, Sindhu has a 3-3 head-to-head record but he has defeated en route to his Swiss Open title but the Japanese has emerged as a formidable force ever since.



Super 500 tournament in New Delhi.

Sindhu has exuded confidence ahead of the tournament, saying she would be in top form after getting enough time to put in the hard yards.

Asked if she would be in better form this time, Sindhu had said: "Ya, I have enough time to prepare this time."

"I hope I do well in this tournament. I am confident of giving my best. It is one of the biggest tournaments with all the top players and it will be tough but I really want to win it," added the Indian, who had skipped the Syed Modi International to prepare for the \$ 1,500,000 event.

In men's singles, Sameer, who defended his title at the Syed Modi International last month to qualify for the year-ending event at the last moment, has been put alongside Japanese world number 1 Kento Momota, Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto and Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen.

Sameer, who is the second Indian men's player after K Srikanth to qualify for the tournament, has a 1-1 head-to-head record against both Sugiarto and Wangcharoen but the Indian still will have to put his best to avoid any hiccups.

The 24-year-old's main worry will be Momota, whom he has defeated en route to his Swiss Open title but the Japanese has emerged as a formidable force ever since.

LOCAL EVENTS

UP EMERGE CHAMPION

Host Uttar Pradesh bagged 16 gold, 10 bronze and 12 silver medals to annex the 6th Thaiyogaart (Sport) National Championship at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Tuesday. Madhya Pradesh finished second with 22 medals while Punjab settled for third place with 17 medals. Deputy director (sports) SS Mishra and RSO Jitendra Yadav gave away the prizes.

LUCKNOW OVERALL CHAMPION

Lucknow bagged nine gold, four silver and five bronze medals to win the overall championship in the Vovinam State-Level School Championship at Chowk Stadium. Devaria and Rae Bareilly finished second and third respectively. Minister Swami Prasad Maurya gave away the prizes.



Shambhavi Tiwari beat Abhishikta Verma 6-3, 6-0 to enter the U-18 girl's semifinals in the All-India Tennis Association Championship Series at La Martiniere Tennis Facility on Tuesday. Chavan Paris, Tanushree Pandey and Chahana also made it to the last four.

SHAMBHAVI ENTERS SEMIS

Top seed Shambhavi Tiwari beat Abhishikta Verma 6-3, 6-0 to enter the U-18 girl's semifinals in the All-India Tennis Association Championship Series at La Martiniere Tennis Facility on Tuesday. Chavan Paris, Tanushree Pandey and Chahana also made it to the last four.

OTHER RESULTS:

(Boy's U/18 2nd round) Vaibhav Singh Bisht bt Shourya Singh 6-0, 6-0, Torus Rawat bt Aditya Saraswat 6-3, 6-3, Siddhant Bhavnani bt Arjun Sharma 6-1, 6-0, Samit Kesari bt Kanishk Pandey 6-1, 6-2, Arnouf Majumdar bt Parth Ratra 6-2, 6-1, Daksh Kumar bt Yash Verma 6-0, 6-1, Aroun Sameul bt Akshay Garg 6-1, 6-2, Pranjal Tiwari bt Rahul Kumar 6-1, 6-2 (Boy's U/16 2nd round) Arnouf Majumdar bt Tarun Randhawa 6-2, 6-2, Shourya Singh bt Ankit Kumar 6-2, 6-2, Arjun Sharma bt Aaron Sameul 6-4, 6-2, Kanishk Pandey bt Pranjal Tewari 6-1, 6-1, Daksh Kumar bt Rahul Kumar 6-4, 6-0, Devansh Verma bt Shikhar Shukla 6-0, 6-0, Shubham Jeet Lal bt Chinmay Kacker 6-0, 6-1, Torus Rawat bt Mukul Lodhi 6-0, 6-0

(Girl's U/16 2nd round) Chahana bt Durba Gain 6-0, 6-0 Kisha Yadav 6-2, 6-2, Eram Zaidi bt Nishita Singh 6-1, 6-1, Amishi Shukla bt Yati Besain 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-4, Harshshali bt Shagun Kumari 6-1, 6-0, Chavan Pari s bt Sachi

Patwardhan 6-2, 6-2, Tanushree Pandey bt Tanisha Pranjal 6-0, 6-1, Yashita Singh bt Satakshi Tiwari 6-3, 6-4, Shambhavi Tiwari bt Shakti 6-3, 6-4

(Boy's doubles QF) Siddhant/Mohit bt Samit/Daksh 6-3, 6-2, Devansh/Torus bt Shubham/Jeet/Veerbhadra 6-0, 6-1, Aroun/Amishi bt Karman/Arjun 6-4, 6-1 (Girl's doubles QF) Tanisha/Shambhavi bt Durba Shagun 6-1, 6-0, Chahana/Harshshali bt Vaishnavi/Kisha 6-0, 6-0, Yati/Tanushree bt Aditi/Satakshi 6-3, 6-2, Pari/Sachi bt Eram/Yashita 6-4, 6-1

LPS BEAT AR JAIPURIA

LPS South City Green beat Seth AR Jaipuria School by two wickets while Maa Shri Vindvasni Inter College defeated Seth MR Jaipuria School by seven wickets in AICC 2nd SAJS Alambagh Campus Inter-School Cricket Tournament at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School on Tuesday.

BRIEF SCORES:

SAJS: 139 (Abhinav Maurya 31, Aman Ahmed 21, Kunal Singh 19; Rajat Rastogi 18/4, Saksham Joshi 24/2)
LPS: 140 (Rajat Rastogi 46, Aditya Singh 17; Aryan Sharma 18/3)

SMRJS: 81 (Raghav Mishra 28, Kartik Srivastava 12; Atharv Sangwan 7/3, Aman Gupta 13/3)
MSVIC: 83 (Natesh 42, Prashant Rai 12; Kastubh Saroj 21/2)

MILKHA TO VISIT CITY

Padamshree Milkha Singh will be in the city to inaugurate the newly-laid track and ground named after him at Excellia School on December 16. He will also inaugurate the 'Kala Utsav' - the art and craft exhibition of the school.



Former Sri Lankan skipper Arinda D'Silva being introduced to the players before a Tinter-School cricket match at CMS, Kanpur Road on Wednesday



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COOPERATION

YCTB signed agreement with Indian Travel Agents Association

Yunnan Culture and Tourism Bureau (YCTB) signed a framework cooperation agreement with Indian Travel Agents Association recently. Two sides will further carry out exchanges in high-level visits, information, tourists and talents.

A relevant person from Yunnan Culture and Tourism Bureau invited Travel Agents Association of India to organize more tourists to Yunnan, and hope Yunnan and India strengthen tourism and cultural exchanges in

tourism resources, information, visitors, market and other aspects to promote internet + tourism to open new prospects for China-India tourism cooperation.

Mr. Sunil Kumar, president of Travel Agents Association of India, said that Yunnan is a tourist destination suitable for health and recreation, and the association promote the exchanges and cooperation between Yunnan and India in the field of tourism.

By Liu Ziyu

EXCHANGES

Chinese firms participate in India's "LED Expo"

Over 300 companies from India and several countries, including China, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Finland and Turkey, have been participate in the three-day "LED Expo" held on the outskirts of the Indian capital recently.

According to the organisers, this was the 19th edition of the expo which was focusing largely on IoT (Internet of things technology) infused lights that would not only help cut down the living cost but also provide convenience.

Among the Chinese companies participating in the event are Guangdong Yanyang Lighting Co Ltd, Shenzhen CYT Semicon-

ductor Technology Co Ltd, Yiyang Anxing Electronics Co Ltd, Jiangmen Zhongyang Optoelectronics Co Ltd, Guangzhou Tianxin Photoelectric Co Ltd, Jing Ming International Ltd, said the organisers.

With the help of initiatives taken by the government and awareness among the millennial generation, LED lights have reached a level above and entered the smart LED revolution. The millennial generation is now looking for lighting technologies that offer them savings, sustainability (eco-friendly), uncomplicated and affordable solutions.

(Xinhua)

ECO

Deqin Villagers: Clean water and green mountains are our common treasure

The fifty-year-old Arong is a member of Luorong villagers group, Hongpo Village Committee, Jiantang Town, Shangri-La City, Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province and lives in Pudacuo National Park. The villagers there still follow the tradition of farming and grazing.

In Pudacuo National Park, there are lakes, wetlands, forests, meadows, valleys, streams, and rich resources of rare animals and plants. The national park covers an area of 602 square kilometers with an elevation of 3500 meters on average. In the past, Luorong village was not the same. Due to the lack of roads and the cold, variable weather, the villagers' life was not easy. The highland barley and potatoes planted were not enough to fill their stomachs. In order to solve the problem of livelihood, some villagers began to go up to the mountains to log woods and hunt animals. Logging to build houses and for firewood were common practice.

"We did not have a good relationship with forest rangers in the past." Arong said that many villagers did not understand it when a logging ban was announced in Diqing in 1998 for it affected their livelihood.

With openings of Shudu Lake and Bitahai Lake, villagers seized the business opportunities brought by tourism. Some villagers organized their own horse tours and sold food and barbecued on the meadows. The influx of tourists, trampling horses and increas-

ing garbage seriously damaged the vegetation and affected the ecological environment.

Tang Hua, director of Pudacuo National Park Management Bureau, said that since 2006 the local government has been trying to build a national park and set up a strict ecological protection zone, a bio-diversity protection zone, a recreation and exhibition zone and a traditional resource utilization zone.

"Projects that can destroy environment must be banned and people's livelihood must also be considered." Ding Wendong, chief of Conservation Division of Pudacuo National Park Management Bureau, said that since 2008, franchising companies started to ecologically back-nurture its surrounding communities. According to the agreement, the back-nurture fund is 10 million yuan annually for the first round and around 20 million yuan annually for the second. A compensation contract is signed every five years. Now, the back-nurture fund reaches 150 million yuan.

Arong's family receives nearly 40,000 yuan ecological back-nurture fund each year. Her family members also can work as cleaners in the National Park. The reporter learned that the back-nurture project has increased the awareness of villagers for conservation. Now, Villagers carefully minimize the impact on the surrounding environment, even when they go into the mountains to pick up mushrooms.

(Xinhua News)

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(Xinhua News)



Pudacuo National Park is welcomed by tourists at home and abroad (Photo by LI Jujuan)

China, India agree to bring ties to higher level

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 summit and they agreed to increase mutual trust and bring the bilateral ties to a higher level.

Xi said that China-India relations have seen an increasingly positive momentum, which

not only brings growth impetus for the two countries but also injects stability and certainty into the global system at a time of profound changes.

President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov 30, 2018. [Photo/Xinhua]



Yunnan achieves win-win with neighbouring countries by opening up

As Yunnan province opens its door wider, it is providing more opportunities for neighbouring countries to board the express train of China's economic development while enhancing its own development momentum and improving its own development quality. A win-win situation has been achieved among involved parties.

Following the 5th China-South Asia Expo in June, the Cambodian jasmine rice has entered 20 Zhijia convenience stores

in Kunming.

"This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia. The cooperation between the two countries has gradually borne fruits. China's favourable import policies and Chinese consumers' pursuit of quality have strengthened our confidence to explore the Yunnan market," said Ye Yongming, regional manager in Nanning of Canadian Group, the parent company of Golden Daun Keo

Rice Mill Co Ltd.

Kunming International Flower Auction and Trading Centre is the largest fresh cut flower auction market in Asia. During peak hours every day, eight to ten million flowers are sold to more than 50 countries and regions. Among them, 20 percent to 30 percent are exported to South and Southeast Asian countries.

As the opening up and cooperation deepens, the foreign goods such as Myanmar jade, Sri Lankan gems and Indian

blue crabs have made their ways into the homes of ordinary Chinese people.

Yunnan is becoming an increasingly important height of China's opening up to South and Southeast Asia. Statistics show that the province's import and export volume grew from 104 million US dollars in 1978 to 23.39 billion US dollars in 2017, and nearly 60 percent of the increase was from the trade with South and Southeast Asian countries.

(Abridged from Xinhua)

51 countries and regions participated in 2018 SCO Marathon



The Yunnan Salt Industry 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Kunming International Marathon was held on December 2. Twenty thousand contestants from 51 countries and regions marched happily through beautiful scenery with blue sky, white clouds and seagulls competing for a good performance. Belay Olkeba Jene, an Ethiopian runner, finished the men's full marathon by 2 hours 20 minutes and 49 seconds and achieved the best result. The competition was directed by the SCO Secretariat and Yunnan Provincial Government and hosted by Chinese Athletics Association, Yunnan Sports Bureau, the Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Provincial Government and Kunming Municipal Government

Photo by Zhang Tong

FURTHER READING

Guests praise Kunming warmth

The Yunnan Salt Industry 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Kunming International Marathon was held on December 2. Kunming's pleasant climate, high quality of the competition arrangement, the warm and hospitable people made visitors from all over the world praise the event.

Russian Ambassador to China who started to learn Chinese since he was 16, said that Kunming is a unique city, and he and other people from north countries were really impressed by Kunming's warm climate. He enjoyed his stay in Kunming very much. He said, "When I go back to my home country, I will recommend this beautiful place to people around me so that they can come for a visit."

Kazakhstan's Am-

bassador to China, said that Kunming is a very beautiful city. The site selection for SCO is successful. There are blue sky and white clouds, beautiful lakes and mountains, and fresh air. It was unimaginable that the marathon could be held on such a sunny day in December winter, but it is true here in Kunming. "I hope the race will be better and better and more runner will come to Kunming to get to know it." The Ambassador said that the beauty of Yunnan and the hospitable people made him feel at home.

Evans Nyakamba Mayaka, Men's half marathon champion, said, "Kunming is a very beautiful place. That's the reason I come here to participate in the event. This is the first time for me to participate in the race in Kunming. Though it

is winter but the climate here is wonderful." He was impressed by the beautiful scenery and hospitable citizens along the track, and he enjoyed the race very much.

Belay Olkeba Jene, Men's full marathon champion said that he was glad to participate in the Kunming competition and won the championship. In the competition, the warm and sunny climate made the runners happy, which was conducive to the level of their performance. They were also touched by the enthusiasm of the audience along the way. This is a beautiful and friendly city.

John from Uganda said, "This is my first visit to Kunming. The temperature in my home country Uganda is between 25 and 27 C0. Therefore I feel the coolness in Kunming and the

warmth of the sponsor. "The marathon is well organized. All the staff are very warm, and the citizens are very friendly which makes people feel warm."

Suminda Liyanage comes from Sri Lanka and now is a foreign teacher at Yunnan Vocational College of Tourism. "It is a happy thing to run at the Haigen Dam," said admiringly that he must try to register for the competition next year. He has been working in Kunming for two years and has visited quite many tourism sites. "Yunnan is a place with beautiful mountains and water and people. I like Dali, Lijiang and Xishuangbanna. I also like seagulls and they are old friends of Kunming. It is a beautiful picture of living in harmony with nature."

Comprehensive report

Four-decade makeover just the beginning

Editor's note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of the launch of China's reform and opening-up policy. From this issue on, we will profile people who experienced or witnessed the important drive.

Hugh Davies, Former commercial counselor at the British embassy in Beijing fondly remembers the time he introduced a British publisher to Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1985, when Davies was commercial counselor at the British embassy in Beijing.

Deng asked the publisher, "When you go back, could you tell them that the Chinese would like to join the Eureka program?"

visionary approach to economic development, combined with the entrepreneurial spirit of the Chinese people, will continue to propel the nation forward.

"China has a huge population, it has a huge geographical spread, a massive industrial base, huge financial resources, and experiences in both participating in international organizations and also peacekeeping operations," Davies said. "In the next 40 years, China will undoubtedly become the most important country in the world."

In 1998, he took early retirement from his diplomatic career, but continued to work with China, spending time as an adviser to British insur-



Founded in 1985, the program was a European platform for sharing jointly funded research and development projects. China did not end up joining Eureka, but Davies still likes to tell the story to demonstrate Deng's forward-looking attitude.

"It was extraordinary that the Chinese wanted to join. For me, that was a fine example of how China needs to move forward in working with other countries," said Davies, whose enthusiasm is tangible as he makes observations about China's 40 years of dramatic transformation.

He said he thinks the next four decades will be even more exciting.

Davies, who first visited China in 1966, has many insights into how the country has transformed from a planned economy to a market economy thanks to its reform and opening-up policy, which was initiated in 1978.

The former diplomat said the Chinese government's vi-

ance companies Prudential and Old Mutual and helping them plan their strategies for entering China's life-insurance market.

He said "mutual benefit" drives the growing collaboration between China and the UK. In addition to trade, the UK's advanced technology sector and the English language remain influential on China and its internationalization, he said.

Looking to the future, Davies said he would like China to open up further to foreign investment, saying it will help Beijing step into the role of responsible global leader.

"If China can continue to open, then the international community will feel that China is playing by the rules, and will see China as a good neighbor in the world," he said. "I'm not saying that other countries are doing that well themselves. But China, being such a huge country, has massive responsibilities."

(Abridged from China Daily)

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Ethnic village gets life with new crops

Yu Shaogui and his neighbors were once discouraged by their village's location. But now the situation has changed dramatically, thanks to China's opening-up policy and the rapid growth of a new port built adjacent to the community.

Yu, 37, is from Kou'an New Village, a native Lisu ethnic enclave in the town of Houqiao in Yunnan province's Tengchong city. The community lies along the China-Myanmar border and next to Houqiao port, now a national-level trading port.

The area is mountainous and local farmers have limited arable land, Yu said. Over the years, residents depended on limited agricultural incomes. Lacking confidence in their skills, few dared to venture out to look for jobs in cities.

However, the growth of border trade and enhancement of traffic has greatly benefited their lives in recent years.

Better connections with the outside world allowed the villagers to advance their agricultural skills. They introduced new economic crops, such as caoguo, a ginger-like plant, to replace the traditional crops of corn and rice.

"Today, every family in our village is growing caoguo, and it has become the major income source for us," Yu said. "Our incomes are growing fast, too." Caoguo is used both as a seasoning and an herbal medicine.

According to Cai Wenhui, the village Party chief, the entire village grows more than 200 hectares of caoguo, and villagers can earn around 8,000 yuan (\$1,150) per year growing it.

Meanwhile, the villagers have also been growing other things, such as tea-oil and walnut trees, in recent years.

Last year, the average income reached almost 10,000 yuan, which puts them above the poverty line by local standards.

Since 2016, a new policy has allowed people from several villages along the border to participate in cross-border trade. Each resident is given a daily tax-free quota for goods in certain categories, including bananas and bamboo, from neighboring Myanmar states, so long as the goods' value is less than 8,000 yuan.

The villagers gradually organized themselves to share their quotas, so that they can sell a truckload of goods and reduce transportation costs.

According to Cai, last year, more than 900 villagers out of a population of 1,700, joined the business. Some of them have learned to speak a bit of the Myanmar language to communicate better.

This year, the scale of border trade in our village is expected to reach 5 million yuan, the policy is helpful for increasing villagers' incomes and eliminating poverty.

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