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Urjit quits amid RBI-Govt feud

RBI Govt cites 'personal' reasons; Opp cries foul as PM hails Patel's contribution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The continuing standoff between the Government and the RBI finally claimed the chair of Governor Urjit Patel, who resigned on Monday citing "personal" reasons, something not many people are ready to digest.

Patel, 55, who took over as the 24th Governor of the Central bank on September 5, 2016, had the shortest tenure at the RBI since 1992.

"On account of personal reasons, I have decided to step down from my current position effective immediately," Patel said in a brief statement.

The Government and the RBI stood divided over several issues, including transfer of surplus reserves to the Government. The Government also wanted the RBI to provide additional liquidity to credit-starved MSME sector in the wake of ILFS bankruptcy and align Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) norms for public sector banks with global practices.

Though Patel has cited "personal" reasons for his resignation, his ouster was on the cards ever since the Government threatened to invoke certain provision of the RBI Act to force him to consider its views on relaxing lending norms for segments such as small and medium enterprises, appropriate size of reserves the Central bank must maintain and easing norms for weak banks.

On October 27, RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said Governments that "don't respect the RBI's independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets, ignite economic fire, and come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution".



Dr Urjit Patel is a thorough professional with impeccable integrity. He has been in the Reserve Bank of India for about 6 years as Deputy Governor and Governor. He leaves behind a great legacy. We will miss him immensely. **NARENDRA MODI**

The Government acknowledges with deep sense of appreciation the services rendered by Dr Patel to this country both in his capacity as the Governor and the Deputy Governor of the RBI. It was a pleasure for me to deal with him and benefit from his scholarship. **ARUN JAITLEY**

I think, this is something that all Indians should be concerned about because strength of our institutions is really important for our growth, sustainable growth and equity in the economy. **RAGHURAM RAJAN**

RBI Governor is resigning because he's protecting the institution of RBI. Taking away reserves from RBI to save your skin is an act against this nation. I am very proud that people from all walks of life and institutions are standing up to it. **RAHUL GANDHI**

Acharya said Governments that "don't respect the RBI's independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets, ignite economic fire, and come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution".

It is understood that with

an eye on the next year's poll, the Government would like to corner a portion of the RBI reserve to launch series of populist measures. The need for liquidity for the MSME sector and NBFC are also uppermost on the agenda of the Government to prevent slide in

the stock market and give a push to the lending scenario.

Soon after Patel quit as RBI Governor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded his contribution saying he steered the banking system "from chaos to order" and ensured discipline. He said Patel is a thorough professional with "impeccable integrity".

The PM said Patel leaves behind a great legacy and will be missed immensely. "Dr Patel is an economist of a very high calibre with a deep and insightful understanding of macro-economic issues. He steered the banking system from chaos to order and ensured discipline. Under his leadership, the RBI brought financial stability," the PM tweeted.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley too appreciated the service rendered by Patel saying it was a pleasure to deal with him and he has benefitted from his scholarship. "The Government acknowledges with deep sense of appreciation the services rendered by Dr Patel to this country, both in his capacity as the Governor and the Deputy Governor of the RBI. It was a pleasure for me to deal with him and benefit from his scholarship," Jaitley tweeted.

The Opposition has slammed the Government over Patel's resignation. Emerging from the Opposition parties' meeting, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, "RBI Governor is resigning because he's protecting the institution of RBI. Taking away reserves from RBI to save your skin is an act

against this nation. I am very proud that people from all walks of life and institutions are standing up to it."

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "From CBI to RBI, institutions have become total disasters; it is matter of great shock. BJP is behaving like dictators, there should be a campaign against this rule."

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal said, "People he (PM Modi) appointed are resigning, first Arvind Subramanian left as the Chief Economic Adviser and now it's Patel. The economy is suffering and Modi thinks that he's the biggest economist and he doesn't need them, so they are resigning."

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram said he is saddened but not surprised by the resignation of Patel as RBI Governor and claimed no self-respecting scholar or academic can work in the NDA Government.

In a series of tweets, the senior Congress leader said the last meeting of the RBI Board held on November 19 was the "day of reckoning" and Patel should have resigned on that day. "Patel may have thought that Government will re-trace its steps. I knew it would not. Good he quit before another humiliating meeting. Saddened, not surprised, by Patel's resignation. No self-respecting scholar or academic can work in this Government," he said.



Vijay Mallya speaks to the media as he leaves Westminster Magistrates Court in London on Monday

London court orders Mallya's extradition

Liquor baron gets 14-day time to appeal against order

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/LONDON

A UK court on Monday ordered the extradition of liquor baron Vijay Mallya, the fugitive businessman who is wanted in India for fraud and money laundering involving an estimated ₹9,000 crore of a consortium led by the SBI and another set of loans by the IDBI. Westminster Magistrates' Court Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot ruled that Mallya

can be extradited to India to stand trial on the charges brought by the CBI and the ED. The judge referred the extradition case to Secretary of State and Mallya will have 14-day time to appeal against the order.

The order is significant in the high-profile extradition trial that has lasted over a year and comes close on the heels of successful extradition of AgustaWestland accused Christian Michel. However, there is little hope that Mallya could be brought back to India shortly. His lawyers are set to challenge the order in the high court and that entire process could go on for months.

Hailing the UK court, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the offender who benefi-

ed during the UPA rule is being brought to the book by the NDA Government.

"Great Day for India. No one who cheats India will go scot free. The judgement of UK's Court is welcome. An offender benefited during the UPA. The NDA brings him to book," Jaitley said in a tweet.

The 62-year-old former Kingfisher Airlines boss was on bail since his arrest on an extradition warrant in April last year. Mallya called the decision to allow his extradition to India "unfortunate".

Earlier, Mallya sought to disprove the narrative before the reporters outside the case that he has "stolen" the money and said his offer to repay the principal amount to the Indian banks was "not bogus".

21 Opp parties vow to block BJP's comeback

SP, BSP give meeting a miss

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Top leaders of Opposition parties on Monday decided to come together to prevent the BJP from coming back to power in the next year's Lok Sabha polls.

In a meeting of Opposition parties attended by leaders and representatives of 21 political parties, including Congress president Rahul Gandhi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, former Union Ministers Sharad Pawar, Sharad Yadav, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal it was resolved to take every possible steps to defeat the BJP and protect the important institutions in the country.

However, two major political parties of Uttar Pradesh arch rivals Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party were conspicuous by their absence. Both the parties in recent times have fought together in some of the important bye elections.

Briefing the media about the meeting, while Rahul said



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses the media as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Loktantrik Janata Dal leader Sharad Yadav, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, DMK president MK Stalin, and other Opposition party leaders look on during a Press conference after a meeting of Opposition parties to discuss a grand alliance against the BJP for the 2019 Lok Sabha election in New Delhi on Monday

there was consensus that all parties will work together to defeat BJP/RSS, Mamata said the Opposition leaders will soon meet the President of India over misuse of agencies and Government institutions and accused the Modi Government of behaving like a dictatorial regime.

Rahul said there is con-

sensus among Opposition parties to work together to defeat the BJP and protect India's institutions. The meeting was coordinated by TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu.

The Congress president said India needs a Government that does not put a conspiratorial lid over multiple corruption scams like Rafale; nor

becomes an abettor to the escape of bank defaulters. "India needs a Government where economic growth focuses on addressing the concerns of small traders, shopkeepers and micro, small and medium enterprises that have been devastated by demonetisation and the ill-planned implementation of GST," said Rahul.

Man pumps bullets into youth as victim's bike grazes his car

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a shocking incident of road rage, a 21-year-old biker was shot dead by two men following an altercation after his motorcycle grazed their car in Acharya Niketan near Mayur Vihar Phase-1 in East Delhi in the wee hours of Monday. He was shot five times. Police are scanning the CCTV footage of the nearby areas to identify the killers who are at large.

The deceased has been identified as Yogesh Chaudhary, a resident of Chilla village near Mayur Vihar Phase-1. According to police, the accused drove away in their i-20 car after the crime.

"The incident took place outside a 24x7 store. A passer-by informed the PCR about a man lying in a pool of blood. He was taken to a nearby hospital by a PCR van where he was declared brought dead," said a police official.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that Yogesh had come to buy water for his ailing brother admitted in Kukreja Hospital from a 24x7 store with his two friends on a bike. While he was trying to buy water bottle, the two car-



The crime spot and (inset) victim Yogesh Chaudhary

borne men arrived there. Yogesh's bike grazed the car. This led to an altercation. In the meantime, Yogesh went inside the shop with his friends. The two car-borne men followed them.

They accused Yogesh and his friends of breaking the windshield of the car and picked up fight again. Meanwhile, one of the two accused pulled out a pistol and fired five to six bullets from

a point-blank range at Yogesh," said the senior police official.

"A case of murder has been registered at the Pandav Nagar police station. A police team is scanning CCTV cameras installed in the vicinity and its adjoining areas. It appears that the accused persons came from the nearby areas. There are certain leads and the same are being investigated to bring the killers to book," the official added.

Kushwaha parts with NDA, Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After sulking for the past few months, Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) president Upendra Kushwaha on Monday resigned from the Union Council of Ministers accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of reducing Cabinet to a "rubber stamp", "betraying" backward classes, and giving Bihar only "jumlas".

Making the announcement a day ahead of Parliament's Winter Session and counting of the votes in five State Assembly polls, the RLSP leader from Bihar said he is open to joining the Opposition alliance. He claimed the BJP-led NDA will not be able to win a single seat in the State.

Kushwaha had been targeting the BJP and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for weeks.

Congress congratulated Kushwaha saying the former Minister rejected the PM and decided to walk out of the NDA as he was distressed by the harassment of farmers, youth, women security and poor governance by the BJP and Nitish.

CAPSULE

EX-JAMIA V-C MUSHIRUL HASAN DIES AT 69
New Delhi: Noted historian and former Jamia Millia Islamia vice chancellor Mushirul Hasan passed away here early on Monday after prolonged illness, the university said. He was 69.

SENSEX DIVES 714 POINTS POST CRITICAL EXIT POLLS
Mumbai: In its worst session in two months, Indian equity benchmark Sensex on Monday tumbled by 714 points after "unfavourable" State exit poll results for the ruling BJP.

AGUSTA FIXER MICHEL'S REMAND EXTENDED
New Delhi: Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman chargesheeted and arrested in the graft-tainted AgustaWestland VIP chopper deal, was allowed by a Delhi court on Monday to be interrogated further by the CBI for five more days.

Green nod to projects issued sans study on traffic, pollution plan

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The required environment clearance for any Government or non-government constructions is "barely" a document as in a fresh reply on Monday, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change confessed that the environment clearance given for AIIMS expansion (755 beds) and Air India Colonies in Baba Kharak Singh Marg and Vasant Vihar was issued without conducting assessment on traffic, water management and pollution.

In a response to Society for Protection of Culture, Heritage, Environment, Traditional and

Promotions of National Awareness (CHETNA) query, a Group D Scientist said environment clearance was granted for AIIMS expansion without considering the facts.

The Group D Scientist wing of the Union Environment Ministry said the supply of water for the construction is a major issue as the groundwater table in Delhi has already depleted to an alarming stage.

The Union Ministry's reply says, "Delhi Jal Board is unable to supply water to Dwarka, Rohini and new pockets in Vasant Kunj, etc, and supplying water for projects is an issue."

Play radio to save self, big cats too

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With sugarcane harvest approaching and controversy over killing of Maharashtra's Avni tigress in mind, forest officials in the Tarai Belt of Uttar Pradesh are going from village to village, creating awareness on essential 'do's and don'ts' on how people should avoid conflict with predators like leopards and striped big cats.

People are being told to stay in group and carry stick and torch when going in forests for defecation or other reasons. In case anyone is alone, he should play radio on the way so that the big cats are wary of attacking and keep doors of homes locked in the night. Also since, tiger often lift the animal in the night, the livestock housings should be properly pro-



teded. "We are also educating the locals in identifying the pug marks so that they can avoid confrontation with the big cats. Sometimes, hyena is also mistaken for leopards. Also locals are being sensitising that how

Forest department issues do's and don'ts for UP villagers to avoid conflict with predators in sugarcane field

region, he said circulars in local languages as well as the posters illustrating pugmarks of predators like leopards, tigers and hyena have been distributed to help people identify the animals when venturing in the field. In case they sense its presence, they should inform the officials instead of tackling with the wild animals on their own.

The locals have been provided the numbers of the officials to be contacted. "In nights people usually sleep outside guarding their pump sets. But we have asked

them not to do so as personnel safety is more important. We have also suggested them not to get agitated in case the big cats kill their livestock. The Government provides ample compensation in such cases," said Kumar, adding there are insurance compensation also.

The villagers are also advised that make noise by beating the drums while entering the field for harvesting the crop will prompt the animal to flee the cropland on its own. Kumar explained that during winter, tigers prefer to look for easy prey hiding in sugarcane fields. It is only when people surrounds the animal or try to mob or catch its glimpse that the predator attacks in retaliation. It's advisable to give way so that the predator goes back to the forests.

Day before counting, parties jittery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the Assembly polls results, political parties are seemingly possessed with high expectancy and are almost on their edge given the split version of exit polls on Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh even as the sensetanked 714 points, indicating nervousness in the stock market.



impacted by the poll outcome. A win for the Congress in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana would be a great morale booster for the Opposition party which has been taking a regular beating at the hands of the BJP for a long time.

The Congress victory in any three of the five states may also galvanise the 'Mahagathbandan' at national and State levels against the BJP. On the contrary, if BJP

returns to power in three States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, it would be a win-win situation for the ruling party.

An indication of palpable uncertainty over the poll results came from Telangana where Opposition parties led by the Congress State president and possible Chief Ministerial candidate N Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the Governor to treat the People's Front (Congress, TDP & CPM) as a single entity and give it the first chance to form the Government in case it emerges a single largest formation in the new Assembly on Tuesday.

On the other hand, the Chief Minister and TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao held an unusual luncheon meeting with his ally Majlis-e-Ittehadul

Muslimeen president Asaduddin Owaisi.

Owaisi, who caught everybody by surprise by riding a motorcycle to Chief Minister's residence in Begumpet, had a detailed discussion with KCR. While there were speculations that in case of TRS falling short of numbers, MIM may extend outside support, Owaisi reiterated his confidence that the TRS will return to power with a clear majority.

Congress was also taking precautionary measures against the possibility of any attempt by the TRS to poach its members. Sources in Congress said that they were ready to follow the example of neighboring Karnataka where similar attempt by the BJP were foiled. It is learnt that the party has sought help from Karnataka strongman and

Minister DK Sivakumar, who had executed the plan to shift Karnataka Congress MLAs to Hyderabad and it led to collapse of BS Yeddyurappa Government in Bengaluru earlier this year.

The stock-market also felt the jitters on the eve of poll results with the benchmark indices settled around 2 per cent lower on Monday following a sell-off in the global markets.

The S&P BSE Sensex ended at 34,960, down 714 points or 2 per cent, while the broader Nifty50 index settled at 10,488, down 205 points or 1.92 per cent. This was a major slide in the stock-market in a about a year's time.

The rupee also traded on a weak note slipping to 71.44 against the US dollar in intra-day trade on Monday, down from its previous close of 70.82.

FROM SC 5 States get notice on amendments in 2013 land acquisition act

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to five States seeking their responses on a plea challenging the validity of certain amendments made by them to a central law of 2013 on land acquisition.

A bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta agreed to hear the plea which has sought to struck down the alleged "contradictory amendments" made by Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand in the Right to Fair Compensation and

Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The petition, filed by social activist Medha Patkar and others, has claimed amendments made by these states have "adversely affected the rights of livelihood of land owners and farmers". It also alleged that the State amendments were violative of constitutional rights of citizens as key aspects like consent provisions, social impact assessment, participation of representative local bodies in acquisition of land have been exempted. **PTI**

INSHORT

BJP RESORTS TO DIVERSION OF CLEAN ENERGY FUND

New Delhi: CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on Monday alleged that the BJP Government at the Centre has been resorting to "illegal diversion" of clean energy funds to pay the States their share of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

SC REJECTS PIL ON J&K ASSEMBLY DISSOLUTION



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a PIL challenging the dissolution of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly by Governor Satya Pal Malik. "We are not inclined to interfere (with the decision of the Governor)," a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul said. The bench was hearing a PIL filed by BJP leader Gagan Bhagat, who was an MLA before the Assembly was dissolved.

PMO'S PRO, 72, DIES AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

New Delhi: Public Relations Officer (PRO) in the Prime Minister's office and senior journalist Jagdish Thakkar passed away here Monday. Thakkar, 72, who was unwell for some time, passed away at AIIMS here. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited AIIMS and spent time with the family of Thakkar. Condoling Thakkar's demise, Modi said he was a wonderful person who loved his work.

ONLINE SKILL TRAINING FOR SECURITY GUARDS

New Delhi: Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI) on Monday introduced unique online skill enhancement programme for security guards. "Designed and developed by MTL, under the guidance of CAPSI and Security Sector Skill Development Council, the programme has been designed exclusively for training unarmed security guards," said CAPSI and SSSDC Chairman, Kunwar Vikram Singh.

RLY MAN GETS SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD

New Delhi: Shyam Sundar Besra, chief inspector of ticket working in Asansol Division of the Eastern Railway, was conferred the coveted Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel 'Marom'.

45 Bill set to see light of day, PM seeks Opp help

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sought Government and Opposition to cooperate in making Winter Session productive and successful, 45 bills are set to be part of the session that is set to witness much fireworks between the treasury and Opposition.

The controversial bill on triple talaq on which Government brought an ordinance will again be tested on the floor of the upper house where it could not be passed in the last session. Besides this, two other ordinances will also be replaced by the bills including Indian medical council (amendment) bill, 2018, and the companies ordinance (amendment) bill, 2018.

The last of the session of the 16th Lok Sabha will run for 29 days with 20 sittings which are expected to be full of political attacks and counter-attacks before the leaders set themselves into full campaign mode for the Lok Sabha polls which are only few months away.

The controversy over the purchase of Rafale fighter jet will also rock the session with the Congress taking its attack on the issue inside the Parliament. The Ram temple would be the Government's issue with one of its Rajya Sabha members expected to introduce a private member's bill in the upper house to force opposition take a stand on the politically sensitive issue.

According to leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Opposition made it clear during the meeting that it will press for a joint parliamen-

tary committee to probe the Rafale jet deal and raise several issues, including the "misuse" of probe agencies and autonomy for RBI

Addressing an all-party meet on Monday convened ahead of the Winter session, Prime Minister assured the Opposition that the Government was willing to discuss all issues, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said quoting the Prime Minister at the meeting.

The Government is also understood to have suggested that both the Houses could work late to transact important legislative business and discuss important issues.

The Prime Minister was of the view that both the Government and the Opposition have to cooperate in running the House smoothly as it was in the interest of the people.

"It is a prime responsibility for all of us to contribute to the service of the nation and its people by ensuring smooth functioning of the Parliament", Modi said.

The Minister said Modi also told leaders from various parties that the Government is willing to discuss all issues. There was a consensus that disruption should be avoided and deadlock to be resolved with discussions, Government claimed.

Two-minute silence was observed by all the leaders to pay homage to former Cabinet Minister Ananth Kumar.

The Centre will bring supplementary demands for grants in the session through which it will seek Parliament nod for more expenditure.

Opp leader on statutory bodies' panel: Court seeks Centre's reply

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday sought response from the Centre on a plea that the leader of the single largest Opposition party be treated as the Leader of the Opposition and be included in high-level committees involved in the appointment of heads of statutory bodies like CBI, CVC, CIC and Lokpal.

The apex court issued notice to the Centre and the four statutory bodies on the PIL seeking direction that wherever the appointing committee includes the Leader of the Opposition, the same may be read as to mean the leader of the single largest oppo-

sition party in that House.

The top court also sought response from the Centre on the plea by 'Youth for Equality' NGO, seeking the quashing of section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act which provides a blanket protection to all public servants regardless of status from enquiry in graft cases. The NGO contended that the amendment by which section 17A has been incorporated was discriminatory, manifestly arbitrary and ultra vires of Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution as it requires sanction for initiating action against the public servants. **PTI**

India Day held in run-up to Partners' Forum 2018

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan on Monday inaugurated India Day, an official side event organised jointly by the Union Health Ministry and the development partners in the run-up to the Partners' Forum 2018.

She said that flexibility has been at the core of all the initiatives in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent (RMNCH+A) programme and a major contributor to its success. She further added that States have launched various innovative initiatives under RMNCH+A that encourage people to be partners in



Preeti Sudan, Union Health secy

their own health and well-being. Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, stressed on the various aspect of RMNCH+A. "Our focus is on chil-

dren, adolescents and pregnant and lactating mothers, who we seek to strengthen through a series of initiatives like the Poshan Abhiyaan and Anaemia Mukh Bharat," he said.

India Day event is aimed to reflect on the journey of the RMNCH+A programme and to share and learn from the good practices and innovations implemented by different States/UTs and organisations to address various health challenges around maternal and child health in order to sustain progress on global goals.

In India, maternal, child, neonatal and adolescent health gained tremendous momentum

since RMNCH+A was rolled out. India's maternal mortality rate (MMR) has fallen from 556 in the year 1990 to 130 in 2014-16 (SRS data), as per a statement here.

It further said that the country's progress can be gauged from the 77% decline in MMR that it achieved during 1990-2015, compared to the global decline of 44% during this period. In child health also, India's achievements have been strong. Under-five mortality rate (U5MR) in India has fallen significantly from 126 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 39 per 1,000 live births in 2016, the statement said.

VVIP CHOPPER CASE

Christian Michel custody extended by 5 days

New Delhi: Christian Michel James, alleged middleman chasesheeted and arrested in the graft-tainted AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal, was allowed by a Delhi court on Monday to be interrogated further by the CBI in its custody for five more days. 57-year-old Michel was produced before Special Judge Arvind Kumar on the expiry of his five-day CBI remand during which he was confronted with various documents relating to the case.

He will be produced again before the court on December 15. Seeking extension of Michel's police custody by nine days, the agency contended that he was "not cooperating" in the investigation and was giving "evasive" answers and when he finds himself in prob-



Michel Christian, the alleged middleman in the multi-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal, arrives at CBI Special Court of the Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Monday

lem, he gets out of it by denying it.

It contended that Michel was required to be confronted with some witnesses to unearth the deep rooted conspiracy and to identify his accomplices including the IAF offi-

cials, bureaucrats and politicians.

Prosecutor D P Singh, appearing for CBI, argued that Michel was being "tutored" by his advocates during their visits at the agency's office and the court's order allowing

the lawyers to meet the accused twice a day was hampering their interrogation.

His counsel denied the allegation and said he was not being tutored.

Advocate Aljo K Joseph, appearing for Michel, said his police custody was not required any further and no incriminating evidence was shown to him during the interrogation.

When the defence counsel alleged that Michel was being "tortured", CBI prosecutor objected to the choice of the word and said the advocate was saying this only to create headlines in the media, and the accused was treated with "utmost respect".

Joseph said he sent a mail to the British High Commission on Saturday regarding an officer of the agency. **PTI**

Terrorists don't deserve privilege of human rights, says Naqvi

New Delhi: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said terrorists who kill innocent people do not deserve the "cover or privilege" of human rights.

Addressing the Human Rights Day Function organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), he said advocating the human rights of those who kill innocent people, terrorise them and violate their rights, was not right.

"It is unfortunate that some organisations and people are more interested in raising their voice for the human rights of these terrorists who challenge

the national security and kill innocent people.

"Such terrorist organisations and some anti-social elements consider killing of civilians, attacking security forces, spreading terror and conspiring to disturb peace of the world, as their human rights and do not deserve any cover or privilege of human rights," Naqvi said.

The minister said the "social, economic, religious and other human rights" of every community are more safe and secure in India than any other democratic nation of the world.

He added that except for a few isolated incidents in some

states, the total number of cases of human rights violations in the country were comparatively less.

Tolerance, communal and social harmony is in the DNA of India. Social and cultural harmony is the source of unity of the country despite the prevalence of various languages, religions and communities, he said.

"We have to remain alert to ensure that no evil forces can weaken our strength of unity," the BJP leader said while lauding the NHRC for its role in the promotion and protection of human rights on the occasion of the Human Rights Day.

GoM formed post MeToo movement holds first meeting

New Delhi: A group of Ministers formed in the wake of the #MeToo movement to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to prevent sexual harassment at workplace held its first meeting on Monday.

Although the issues discussed in the meeting were kept confidential, sources at the Women and Child Development Ministry said Union minister Maneka Gandhi pushed for strengthening the National Commission for Women (NCW). The group of ministers (GoM) is headed by Union Home Minister Rajnath

Singh. Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Gandhi, the Women and Child Development Minister, are its other members. According to sources, except Gadkari, who is not in the city, all other ministers participated in the meeting. They said two more such meetings would be held wherein the GoM would recommend action required for effective implementation of the existing provisions as well as strengthening these frameworks for addressing issues related to sexual harassment at workplace. **PTI**

JIBE AT MANMOHAN

'Chaiwala' did better job of running country than an economist: Shah

New Delhi: BJP president Amit Shah on Monday took a jibe at former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, saying he respected his knowledge of economy, but a 'chaiwala' has done a better job than him.

Speaking at the release of a book, 'Narendra Modi: Creative Disruptor-The Maker of New India', Shah also rejected the opposition's criticism that Prime Minister Narendra Modi functions like an autocrat, saying his critics don't understand the difference between "firmness and autocracy". **PTI**

Heaping praise on the BJP government at the Centre, he said it has not only controlled the fiscal deficit, but also brought down inflation.

"Manmohan Singh ji left the economy at the ninth position in ten years. We brought it to the sixth position in five years and in less than six months it will climb up to the fifth spot... "And they are teaching us economics. You (Singh) are an economist and we respect you. We have no issues with the depth of your knowledge, but a chaiwala did a better job of

running the country," Shah said.

Modi often refers to himself as a 'chaiwala'. The BJP president asserted that he could list 30 'historic' decisions taken by Modi, while some of the past Governments could only list 4-5 such decisions in the period of 30 years. "This Government has been here only for five years, but I can list 30 decisions which have secured a place in the history of the country... Whether it is the surgical strike, GST, demonetisation," he said.

Politics heats up hours before counting

Only Raman Singh will be CM, says Saroj

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Political temperature has soared in Chhattisgarh a day before the counting of votes for the 90-member state legislative assembly which will decide the fate of political stalwarts across the parties including Raman Singh, BJP's longest serving chief minister.

The BJP which is in power in the mineral-rich state since December 2003, is facing a challenging task to extend its regime for another five-year tenure amid rising anti-incumbency mainly among farmers and youths.

Chief Minister Raman Singh claimed hours before counting that his government would register fourth successive victory on Tuesday despite majority of exit polls predicted Congress comeback with comfortable majority.

"I don't trust exit polls, the exit polls outcomes are too divided," the 66-year-old Singh, who launched his political career in 1983 as a councillor in his home town Kawardha, told reporters in state capital Raipur.

"I am pretty sure about the BJP's fourth innings, no one should be in doubt, there is no



A file photo of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh with Ajit Jogi, the supremo of newly formed Janta Congress Chhattisgarh

vacancy for Congress in Chhattisgarh," Singh remarked quoting his lengthy recent meetings with presidents of the BJP in all 27 districts besides all

90 party candidates. He strongly rejected reports that the BJP might fall short of the simple majority mark of 46 seats and the saffron

party needed support of the Congress baiter and former chief minister Ajit Jogi. The wheelchair-bound Jogi has aligned with the BSP and the

CPI in a bid to win a few seats to use it as a bargaining chip if the results throw up a hung assembly.

Political pundits in the

state have written off the BJP after the two-phased polling ended on Nov 20. There is a consensus among intellectuals and analysts in the state that farmers have voted in bulk in favour of Congress in response to its promise to waive off farm loan within 10 days of coming to power.

Meanwhile mood in Congress camp is upbeat and the Pradesh Congress Committee chief Bhupesh Baghel claimed on Monday 'countdown for the corrupt BJP regime has begun'.

"The BJP regime is all set to end, the official confirmation will be just a formality on Tuesday, no power can save BJP in Chhattisgarh, the saffron regime is on its way out," Baghel told The Pioneer. He refused to make a statement about who would be the chief minister if Congress forms the next government.

Congress general secretary and party incharge for Chhattisgarh PL Punia is camping in Raipur and has been in constant touch with party candidates to keep the house in order amid reports of alleged attempts of poaching by the BJP in case of hung assembly.

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Saroj Pandey claimed on Monday that BJP would be forming the next government in Chhattisgarh and only Raman Singh would be the Chief Minister.

"Under Raman Singh's leadership the BJP will be forming the government for the record fourth time," she said, while interacting with media persons on Monday.

The Rajya Sabha MP from



Chhattisgarh is in Raipur as part of monitoring the election results on December 11. She also claimed that BJP would be forming governments in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as well.

Cong finalises strategy ahead of results

Hoping favourable results, says Singhdeo

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Congress which is desperate to end its 15-year long exile in Chhattisgarh, held a crucial review meeting on Monday hours before counting of votes and firmed up its strategy.

The majority of exit polls have predicted a comeback to power for Congress.

Congress general secretary and party incharge for Chhattisgarh PL Punia who is camping in Raipur, presided over the review meeting. Congress has established a control room at state party office to monitor the entire counting process.

Almost all the senior leaders of the party including



Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Bhupesh Baghel and T.S. Singhdeo were present at the review meeting.

While inspecting the control room, Punia denied the exit poll predictions that Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) Jogi (J) Supremo Ajit Jogi would be a king-maker.

"People have given their mandate to a winnable candidate and they have out rightly rejected Jogi's outfit which would not be able to win a single seat in the 90-member state assembly," claimed Punia.

He also mocked the BJP for its earlier claim of getting 65 plus seats and now further revising the tally to just 50 seats.

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Senior Congress leader TS Singhdeo remarked on Monday that he expected a favourable poll result for the Congress.

"We have played a role of sensible opposition in past five years and it is now the time for the good results to come and we will meet next time in a cheerful atmosphere," said Singhdeo.

He was speaking to a section of media here at party state headquarters. Singhdeo further said all of his party colleagues are eager for the poll



results which will be out on Tuesday.

Notable, Singhdeo is one of the key contenders for chief ministerial post along with Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Bhupesh Baghel, Former Union Minister Charandas Mahant, AICC Other Backward Caste chairman Tamradhwaj Sahu.

Party sources say that if a considerable number of MLAs are elected from the Congress party from Surguja region, the claim of Singhdeo for the CM post would get a bigger boost. There are 14 assembly constituencies in Surguja region.

Vikram inducted into Indian Davis Cup Committee

Cong all set to return to power: Baghel

BJP to form Govt with majority: Kaushik

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association president Vikram Singh Sisodia has been appointed as member of Indian Davis Cup Committee by All India Tennis Association (AITA).

Sisodia is presently executive member of AITA from Chhattisgarh.

Davis Cup Committee chairman Anil Jain along with appointment of Sisodia, has appointed other two members Anand Amritraj and AITA senior vice president Bharat N Oza, in a three-member committee.

Sisodia will participate in the draw for the 2019 Davis Cup Qualifiers (ties) where Indian team will clash against Italy in first week of February 2019.

Recently, Sisodia was chef de mission of Indian team for Commonwealth Games organised at Gold Coast, Australia where Indian team had performed well.



Sisodia had play key role in providing recognition to Chhattisgarh State Tennis Association at national level and also providing voting right in AITA. The office bearers and players of CSTA have extended greetings to Sisodia for his latest success.

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Bhupesh Baghel reiterated on Monday that Congress would be returning to power after a gap of 15 years because of blessings of youth, farmers and poor people.

"People have overwhelmingly supported the Congress during the voting in two-phased polls on November 12 and 20, to get rid of the corrupt BJP rule," Baghel told reporters.

Baghel is the front runner for the chief ministerial post if



his party gets majority. He stated that Congress would cross at least 55 seats in a 90-member state legislative assembly.

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State president Dharamlal Kaushik claimed on Monday that the BJP would retain power in Chhattisgarh with comfortable majority for results to be announced on Tuesday.

He further stated that Congress was all set to suffer a crushing defeat once again which would lead to serious infighting among its top leaders.

Kaushik added, "We believe in efforts and dedication of party workers. Our workers had reached out to each voter and urged them to use his and her franchise in favour of the BJP. The hard work of BJP workers will be bring in major success on Tuesday when results to be declared."

"I am convinced in wake of the feedback given by the party workers that BJP will form the government for the record fourth time in



a row. We don't require any support from any party from outside," the BJP state president opined.



HC dismisses plea for counting through VVPAT slips

STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur, had dismissed the plea of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee General Secretary, Girish Dewangan on Monday demanding counting through Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail's (VVPAT's) slips.

In the plea Dewangan demanded counting of assembly polls 2018 through VVPAT's slips instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) as there was possibility of its tampering and that the machine was not completely

hacking proof.

In the order, the court of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra had said "In exercise of jurisdiction under article 226, the court could not prescribe new counting norms which are not notified or adhered to the constitutional functionary."

"Election Commission has been vested the powers under Article 324 of Constitution the works of superintendence, direction and control of elections and the court would not venture to prescribe any set of new counting norms", the court said.

Stage is all set for the counting of votes in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday for the 90-member Sate legislative Assembly. Security has been heightened at all counting centres in the State including at Engineering College at Shejbahar on outskirts of Raipur. Santosh Sahu | Pioneer

Poll results to appear on display boards

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Office of Chief Electoral Officer has made special arrangements at key locations across Raipur city to put poll results and assembly-wise counting trends on display boards.

at Gudhiyari Garden before Raipur Municipal Corporation office, Anupam Garden near Rajkumar College and at Jaistambh Chowk. Similarly people can also know updates of the results through mobile phones, laptop and computer. For which the CEO office has provided special link, 'election.cg.nic.in/trmsace/ection2018'.

Admin to keep strict vigil at picnic spots

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

With onset of winter, denizens of the district have started heading towards the picnic spots and different tourist's destination. Places like Jubilee Park, Dimna Lake, Tata Steel Zoological Park, HUDCO Dam in Telco and Kanderbera, NH 33 are the favourites.



The police administration will provide adequate number of armed police personnel from December 1 till January 10. "We will provide security to the picnickers. We have decided to deploy two sections of police party at the Dimna Lake area from coming Saturday in view of providing security to the tourists," said Vijay Kumar Mahto, deputy superintendent of police. Similarly, the Jubilee Park which is another point of tourist attraction has also been covered with CCTV.

Tigers (cops on bike) and Pink Patrolling. "In view of visitors at Jubilee Park we have decided to engaged two units of Tiger Mobile exclusively for there. The Tiger Mobile units will remain deputed from 9 am till 9 pm every Saturday and Sunday from this week," said Sreeniwas, OC, Bistupur police station. He informed that Pink Patrolling comprised of only lady police official and lady constables will doing the patrolling of the park from morning till late in the evening during the week ends throughout the winter. The OC said that being located at the heart of the city, Jubilee Park becomes most crowded place during the week ends in winter. Moreover, as youngsters tend to create nuisance and sometime committing crime of serious nature, they have to remain extra cautious. Incidentally, a student of Sakchi-based Graduate School College for Women was recently assaulted by her former boyfriend at Jubilee Park. "The security arrangements have been fairly strict with about a dozen guards in each of the spots, keeping the crowd under control besides monitoring their safety. Since sometimes people are so excited that sometimes we have to be a little tough with them," said a senior police official.

Sources informed that since people love to visit places like Dimna, Ghatshila and Patamda additional guards have been stationed for the day shift and one security guard vehicle has been deployed. All dam sites, waterfalls and other picnic spots in the district are virtually overflowing with visitors these days. Check-posts have been erected at several places on the stretches leading to these spots to check the public, especially youths taking liquor bottles with them. The police have made elaborate security arrangements to ensure the safety of the tourists.

'Distribute blankets to needy soon'

Tripathi holds VC with DCs, Secretaries

PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Secretary Sudhir Tripathi today instructed officials to complete the process of blanket distribution at the earliest in the State. Holding a meeting with Deputy Commissioners and secretaries of several departments here on Monday the CS asked the DCs to complete the process of pending cases at the district level for the promotion of employees, so that the amount payable will be available by the end of the month. Under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the CS asked officials to ensure deployment of doctors at the empanelled hospitals that are facing crisis of doctors. He also told them to keep an eye on incidents where people are being treated out of the scheme despite being beneficiaries. He instructed the DCs

to increase the number of claims under Ayushman India. He said, the private hospitals are processing the cases under Ayushman Bharat but the claims are not generating. Health Secretary Nitin Madan Kulkarni said that 238 private hospitals in the State have applied for empanelment. He told the DCs that they should check the capacities of the hospitals, which are not up to mark and reject them. At the same time, he instructed officials to administer school students de-worming medicine during assembly. Principal Secretary, Home Department SKG Rahate directed the DCs to provide list for granting funds for the livelihood of people in drought affected areas after the visit of Central team. He said that for 30 to 90 days per adult per day Rs 60 and children will get Rs 45 per day. At the same time, instructions have been given to complete the process of issues related to grant under compassion. Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Aradhana Patnaik directed DCs



Chief Secretary Sudhir Tripathi holds a meeting with senior officials at Project Building in Ranchi on Monday. Pioneer photo

to upload pictures of the remaining toilets of ODF declared villages so that the funds could be received from the Centre on completion of 90 per cent of the work. She said that 80 per cent of the work has been completed. She also asked the officers to accept the demand of constructing toilets for those who are making new houses in the vilages. While emphasizing the motivation of the villagers to take advantage of the Govardhan Yojana, she instructed to add self help groups to the scheme.

Revenue and Land Reforms Secretary KK Soan requested to hand over all the cases related to the department that have come to CM Jan Samvad to the department so that the cases can be solved fast. He instructed to get the work of caste and income certificate done through the newly recruited employees. Food and Civic Supplies department Secretary Amitabh Kaushal told that if the ineligible ration card holders surrender their card by December 31, then no fine will be imposed, but if they are caught during any probe they will be fined.

He directed to keep a watch on the poor old people living in the house and give them regular benefits to the food scheme. He emphasized on the payment of the farmers coming to the Paddy procurement centers with paddy. Along with this, all the farmers should be asked to get the help of SMS etc for this. Referring to certain media reports, he directed the concerned deputy commissioners to investigate the cases related to the social boycott of rape victims and investigate the matter with the magistrate.

BJP flays Opp parties for double standards

PNS ■ RANCHI

State BJP Spokesman Pratul Shahdev today slammed the Opposition parties saying that the Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, RJD and Jharkhand Vikas Morcha are standing against each other in the Kolebira bypoll and the leaders of the same parties are holding each others' arms in the grand coalition meeting in Delhi today. Shahdeo said that it clearly shows that these political parties have no political character. He said that in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and RJD are supporting Jharkhand party candidate Memon Ekka in Kolebira, while the JVM is supporting the Congress candidate there. And, the most ridiculous thing is that the leaders of these parties are undergoing photo sessions in the name of unity in Delhi today. Shahdeo said that JPCC president Dr. Ajay Kumar has said that it was solely because of the request of Shibu Soren JMM supported Menon Ekka. "Who can understand nepotism and individualist politics better than Congress where one family has been at the top of the party for the last 60 years," he said. Shahdeo said that the alliance made without any policy and principle finally faces defeat. He termed Dr Ajay's statement as ridiculous where the latter had said that BJP is working as a Jharkhand Party's B team. He said that Congress did not even deserve to be the B team in Jharkhand. The Congress had 14 seats in 2009, which became half marginally in 2014. In the 2019 elections, Congress will be out of the State, he said.

School gets number 1 tag



PNS ■ RANCHI

Taurian World School has been ranked No.1 in Jharkhand and Ranchi and Ranked amongst Top 20 Day cum Boarding Schools in India during the India's School Merit Awards 2018 organized by Education Today in Bangalore, a press release said. Dr Subhash Kumar, Principal of Taurian World School was present on the occasion as a member in the Panel Discussion at the National Conference where more than 600 Principals, Directors and Decision Makers from different parts of the country were present. All the schools were assessed on many parameters which included academic reputation, competence of faculty, life skills, co-curricular education, safety, hygiene, infrastructure and community service & sports.

Devkamal hospital seeks support for chemical burn patient

PNS ■ RANCHI

Devkamal Hospital and Research Centre in the city has appealed to the common masses as well as institutions to financially and morally support a chemical burns victim, Rinku Devi, who has been saved by the efforts of doctors. Talking to media persons here on Monday Dr Anant Sinha, head of the hospital said that Rinku Devi (18), wife of one Balram Saw from Lesliganj, Palamu, allegedly sustained chemical burns on his face and body and was managed in

RIMS for about 2 and a half months. She was later shifted to Devkamal Hospital by some middlemen with the assurance that Government will take care of the treatment. "We did not believe the middlemen but the girl was in a very poor shape with eyes and lower jaw almost decaying and on humanitarian grounds admitted her. The Devkamal team led by Director Burns Dr Raj Kumar Pathak, Consultant Plastic surgeon took over the challenge of restoring her face. She underwent four surgeries and now all are vital organs are saved including her eyes," added Dr Sinha.

Girl ends life after fight with sister over clothes

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The fight between two sisters over a small issue claimed the life of one of them at Baro village in the district on Sunday. The deceased was identified Monalisa. She was an ardent learner of classical music and studying in Kasinath Mohavidyalaya at Kaipada in Jaipur district. Sources said Monalisa and her younger sister were learning classical music at Bhabagrahi Kala Niketan here.

Both were supposed to go to Cuttack with their teacher at around 11 am on the day. However, the duo started bickering over clothes. In a fit of rage, Monalisa attempted to commit suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of the house. She was immediately rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) and later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital



Monalisa was rushed to a private hospital in Cuttack, where doctors declared her brought dead. Monalisa had performed during Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit to the district on December 8.

River-locked villagers' demand in Baleswar fulfilled

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The State Government has sanctioned funds for construction of a bridge at Arad Kasmla under Nagar panchayat of Sadar block over the Budhabalanga river. The residents on the other side of the river are facing a tough time to come to the district headquarters town for various works without a bridge near Kasmla under Sadar block. They have to cover 22 km to reach to the headquarters town. As a result, they face lack of emergency facilities like ambulance and fire service directly. The foundation stone for the bridge was laid on Saturday by Baleswar MP RK Jena. Jena on the occasion said that the bridge was being built under the scheme of Biju Setu scheme of the State Government which would be built at a cost of nearly ₹ 14.5 crore. Sadar MLA JP Dash, Block Chairman Narayan Pradhan, BRIT Chairman Gouri Kumar Rout, former Municipality Chairman Alok Sahu, Barada Prasanna Pattmayak and Asish Ghosh were, among others, present.

Consumers enjoy free electricity due to shortage of meters

M FAIYAZ AHMAD ■ DALTONGANJ

Sheo Chandra Prasad of Goriyahee tola under Kachan panchayat of Ramgarh block in Palamu is consuming electricity without paying any charges. He doesn't have an electricity meter and he wants it for billing. He is consuming this free electricity for over the last two years. He does not find himself at any 'fault' saying the department has not provided the meter. Prasad is not alone in this Goriyahee tola. There is a village spice seller Chandra Shekhar, house wife Bhagmati Devi and others who are enjoying electricity without paying for its consumption at all in the last two years. The good thing about these people is that they are demanding for meters, which are not being given to them. They have no idea if the electricity department will charge bills for the period they so consumed electricity and no metering was done of this consumption. Bibash Chandra Pal superintending engineer of electricity here in Daltonganj said "There are numerous households here which have no meter. These households are consuming power. These households would be given meters. It may take some more time but all such consumption of electricity is to be metered and billed". He was silent on the issue of paying charges of electricity so consumed without meters by the households. Tata Project Limited and East India Company are to provide meters to households, where power connectivity has reached but these two companies are lagging behind the target of providing meters to households. According to an official figure Tata Project Limited has to provide meters in 1,417 revenue villages (not households) but this company has so far provided meters in only 813 villages. Again East India Company was to provide meters to 294 villages sbut this company has metered only 170 villages. Pal said, "Tata Project Limited is more struggling for meters. I am told 25,000 meters are on way here. East India Company is in somewhat comfortable position. But, it is a fact that meters are in too short supply here."

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POSSESSION NOTICE			
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)			
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers/guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.			
The under mentioned Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 .			
S. No.	Name of Account / Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Possession date
01	M/s. Shakti Enterprise, Prop. Mrs. Savita Ben Patel, Guarantors: Mr. Mehul Kumar Patel, Mr. Bhikubhai Patel, Mr. Dinesh Kumar Patel Branch: Padmanabhpur	Property located at Patel Complex, Padmanabhpur, Mouza Kasaridih, Durg, in the Name of Mrs. Savita Ben Patel, Mr. Mehul Kumar Patel, Mr. Dinesh Kumar Patel, bearing Kh. no. 958/1, 959/19(P), PH. no. - 18/25. A commercial complex area approx 46000 sqft with Godowns, offices, Shops, residential building etc constructed over it.	07.07.2018 CC Rs. 30,76,637.50 BG Rs. 10,65,250.00 +interest + other expenses 06.12.2018 (Symbolic Possession)
02	M/s. Dinesh Kumar Laxmanbhai Patel Guarantors: Mr. Mehul Kumar Patel, Mr. Bhikubhai Patel, Mrs. Savita Ben Patel Branch: Padmanabhpur	Property located at Patel Complex, Padmanabhpur, Mouza Kasaridih, Durg, in the Name of Mrs. Savita Ben Patel, Mr. Mehul Kumar Patel, Mr. Dinesh Kumar Patel, bearing Kh. no. 958/1, 959/19(P), PH. no. - 18/25. A commercial complex area approx 46000 sqft with Godowns, offices, Shops, residential building etc constructed over it.	11.07.2018 Rs. 69,86,976.99 +interest + other expenses 06.12.2018 (Symbolic Possession)
03	M/s. VEERAM STEELS Partner: 1. Mr. Vijay kumar Rampuriya 2. Mrs. Usha devi Rampuriya Branch: Abhanpur	Equitable Mortgage of land & building bearing the plot no. 36/1,37,44/1(part), kh. no. 1216/1,1216/2, 1216/7 total area 2240 sqft., situated at mouja Gudhiyari, Murra bhatti, P C no. 107/37/49, Thakkar bapa ward, ward no. 9, RIC & Tehsil Raipur.	05-09-2018 Rs. 36,08,703.25 + Interest & other Charges 05.12.2018 (Symbolic Possession)

The Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.
 The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Authorised Officer
Bank Of Baroda
 Date: 10.12.2018, Place: Padmanabhpur & Abhanpur (C.G.)

Stringent action against nurses, docs sought

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

The Manav Adhikar Surakhya Manch in its 72nd Ghanta Yatra (cymbal beating rally) held here on Monday demanded that the MKCG Medical College Hospital Administrative Officer take stringent action against the staff nurses and doctors responsible for administering expired saline. The Manch in a letter to the officer mentioned that a patient, Ranjan Sahu, was given expired saline by staff nurses and doctors, due to which his condition became critical. Later, he was rushed to a private hospital in



Bhubaneswar, where his condition still remains serious.

This type of medical negligence incidents have occurred earlier in the MKCG Hospital, for which a probe has been initiated; but no inquiry report is yet to be made public which is highly disappointing, said Manach coordinator Abani Kumar Gaya. Even though the incidence took place many days ago, is not made clear as to who were on duty, rued Gaya. Among others, Manch members Magini Nahak, Niranjan Dash, Manoj Kumar Tarai, Bhaskar Chandra Sahu and Laxmi Narayan Rout were present.

Parents should help develop kids' abilities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Apeejay School here conducted a parents orientation programme, "Self-Reliance to Roots and Wings" on Saturday with 230 parents of LKG to Standard-VIII students attending it. School Principal Dr Sasmita Tripathy welcomed resource person Dr Poly Sengupta. The counselling session brought forward effective parenting and the advantages associated with it. "Why parenting?" was the opening question. The resource person said parents have an important responsibility.

Effective parenting is not easy. It is a journey of trial and error. Towards the end, it is joyous to be parents when they enjoy the bliss of parenthood. Every child is unique with different abilities, which parents should help develop. Happy children are normally healthy and energetic engaging in constructive activities. Good parenting demands that parents remain non-judgemental; that is not to be harsh when the child fails to come up to their expectations. She said a different classification of preparing and presenting a child in the society is "The Push". What and how the Push is and what ought to be

done was made clear with the help of a documentary film by David Menally. The film showcased a frightened eagle being taught to fly by the mother eagle. The message that came through was 'Push' is needed in order to give a fillip to boost self-reliance. The workshop induced interactive parleys between the parents and the resource person. A parent voiced his concern of his son's preoccupation with the modern-day gizmos whilst ignoring studies. The resource person pointed out the father's flaw in parenting by having allowed this

habit to develop in his son and today it is too late and, hence, the resentment. He has to curb the habit at the 'Roots'. A mother pointed out that her daughter in Class-II is very intelligent and completes her studies on time but refuses to write any answers. Dr Sengupta suggested she consult a special educator as some children have a problem with writing. Another interesting observation came from a mother who had promised her six-year-old child a wrist watch that the child demanded if she learned to tell time, assuming she would fail to learn.

May faces fight for her political life in Brexit deal

AFP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May faces a fight for her political life this week in a parliamentary vote that will decide the fate of her Brexit divorce deal.

The beleaguered leader's splintered Government appears to be facing a heavy defeat in Parliament on Tuesday on the draft withdrawal agreement she signed with Brussels last month.

The text defining terms on which the island nation leaves its main trading partner after 46 years is the most important to face the House of Commons in years. A big loss could spark immediate challenges to May from both within her Conservative Party and the Opposition Labour party.

It would also leave the tortuous Brexit process in a state of flux — and raise the prospects of a no-deal scenario — less than four months before the March 29 departure date.

Media reports said May



was under pressure from her cabinet to try to salvage the deal by delaying the vote and flying to Brussels to seek more concessions ahead of a planned summit with 27 fellow EU leaders on Thursday and Friday.

But Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay told the BBC on Sunday: "The vote is going ahead."

May's team insists that her vision offers the cleanest break between the UK and EU that

A big loss could spark immediate challenges to May from both within her Conservative Party and the Opposition Labour party

has propped up her Government for more than a year. EU President Donald Tusk signalled that no concessions would be made after speaking to May by phone on Sunday.

Yet Brussels also wants to see May succeed and avert the economic nightmare that could unfold should Britain break away without any arrangements underpinning future trade. European officials said they might be able to find a way to offer a token concession in Brussels that May could take back to London.

But they stressed that such tinkering cannot alter the basis of the withdrawal agreement itself. The two sides might "work on the (accompanying) protocol or clarify a point that is deemed important so that she can take it back to parliament," an informed European source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

May would then be expected to submit the touched-up version for a second vote at an unspecified date.

EU insists will not renegotiate Brexit deal

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

The EU has already offered Britain the "best and only possible" Brexit divorce deal and will not renegotiate it, the European Commission warned Monday on the eve of a vote in the British Parliament.

"Our position has not changed and as far as we're concerned the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union on the 29th of March 2019," spokeswoman Mina Andreeva told reporters.

British Prime Minister Theresa May spoke with the president of the commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, on Sunday to give him "an update on the state of play" as she prepares to take the deal to parliament.

And earlier Monday, the European Court of Justice ruled that Britain has the unilateral right to withdraw its plan to leave the European Union if it so decides before Brexit day at the end of March.

UK can unilaterally cancel Brexit, rules EU top court

IANAS ■ BRUSSELS

The UK can unilaterally cancel its withdrawal from the EU without the permission of the other 27 bloc members, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled on Monday, a day ahead of a crucial vote in the country's lower house of Parliament on Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plan.

The ruling is likely to give fresh impetus to calls for a second Brexit referendum before May submits her draft deal to the House of Commons on Tuesday.

The MPs are widely expected to reject her proposal, reports said.

The court in a statement said: "When a member state has notified the European Council of its intention to withdraw from the EU, as the UK has done, that member state is free to revoke unilaterally that notification."



not entered into force or, if no such agreement has been concluded, for as the two-year period from the date of the notification of the intention to withdraw from the EU, and any possible extension, has not expired," stated the ruling tweeted by the court.

The judges ruled that this could be done without altering the terms of Britain's membership. The court rejected arguments from both the UK government and the European Commission that Article 50, the two-year-long process that triggers a member state's departure from the EU, could not be revoked unilaterally.

The case was brought to the ECJ by a cross-party group

of Scottish lawmakers. The court ruling matched legal advice given to the court last week by its Advocate General Manuel Campos Sánchez-Bordona, who said as a sovereign country Britain could reverse its decision even at this stage.

This legal decision is significant because it means Britain could prevent a no-deal Brexit from happening if it wanted, even if May's deal is voted down by MPs.

May, whose Conservative Party executive wields a minority in the Commons, enacted Article 50 on March 29, 2017, meaning the UK is due to withdraw from the EU on March 29, 2019, with or without a deal.

Some 52 per cent of the UK electorate voted to leave the EU in a referendum in June 2016, although regions like Scotland and Northern Ireland backed remain.

May lost her majority in snap elections she called in June 2017 in a bid to consolidate her Brexit mandate.

Israel becomes member of global watchdog on money laundering

Jerusalem: Israel on Monday became a full member of the global financial watchdog on money laundering and terror financing, officials said, after having previously been blacklisted by the organisation.

Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked said that membership of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) would make Israel part of the group of countries "leading the global battle against money laundering and terror financing."

UN members adopt global migration pact

AFP ■ MARRAKESH (MOROCCO)

A United Nations conference adopted a migration pact in front of leaders and representatives from around 150 countries in Morocco on Monday, despite a string of withdrawals driven by anti-immigrant populism.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration — finalised at the UN in July after 18 months of talks — was formally approved with the bang of a gavel in Marrakesh at the start of a two day conference.

But the United States and 15 other countries either opted out or expressed concerns, with some claiming the pact infringes national sovereignty.

Billed as the first international document on managing migration, it lays out 23 objectives to open up legal migration and discourage illegal border crossings, as the number of people on the move globally has surged to more than 250 million. Describing it as a "roadmap to prevent suffering and chaos", UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres sought to dispel what he called a number of myths around the pact, including claims that it will allow the UN to impose



Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel walks past UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for International Migration Louise Arbor after addressing delegates during the opening session of a UN Migration Conference in Marrakech, Morocco on Monday.

migration policies on member states. The pact "is not legally binding", he said. "It is a framework for international co-operation... That specifically reaffirms the principle of state sovereignty."

"We must not succumb to fear and false narratives", he told an audience that included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela and Greek Premier Alexis Tsipras.

Merkel launched an impassioned defence of the pact and multilateralism, saying her country "through Nazism brought incredible pain to

humanity". "The answer to pure nationalism was the foundation of the United Nations and the commitment to jointly searching for answers to our common problems," she said.

The pact, said Merkel, seeks to prevent, rather than encourage, illegal migration.

"This is about safe orderly and regular migration — it says (this) clearly in the title."

On Friday, the US hit out at the pact, labelling it "an effort by the United Nations to advance global governance at the expense of the sovereign right of states".

Armenian PM wins snap vote by landslide

Yerevan (Armenia): Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has won a landslide victory in snap parliamentary elections, results showed Monday, cementing his authority months after sweeping to power in a peaceful revolution.

Pashinyan, a 43-year-old former journalist, has pledged to root out endemic corruption and address widespread poverty in the impoverished, land-

locked ex-Soviet republic of three million people. With all votes counted, the bloc led by Pashinyan's Civil Contract party had taken 70.43 per cent of the vote, the central election commission said.

The Prosperous Armenia party led by influential oligarch Gagik Tsarukyan came a distant second with 8.27 per cent.

Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists, US should not give it even one dollar, says Haley

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists that turn around and kill American soldiers, US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said, asserting that Washington should not blindly give Islamabad even a dollar until it steps up efforts to combat terrorism. Haley, the first Indian-American ever appointed to a Cabinet position in any US presidential administration, said the US did not need to give money to countries that wish harm to America, go behind its back and try and "stop us from doing things".

"I think there should be a strategic view on which countries we partner with, which ones we count on to work with us on certain things, and move forward accordingly. I think we just blindly allow money to keep going without thinking that this is real leverage. We have to use it," Haley told US magazine "The Atlantic".

"The one example I'll give you is, look at Pakistan. Giving them over a billion dollars, and they continue to harbour terrorists that turn around and kill our soldiers — that's never okay. We shouldn't even give them a dollar until they correct it. Use the billion dollars. That's not a small amount of change," she said.



UN envoy at the end of this year. US President Donald Trump last week nominated chief State Department spokeswoman and a former Fox News journalist Heather Nauert as Haley's successor.

In October, Haley announced that she was leaving the post by the end of the year. The 46-year-old former South Carolina governor has served nearly two years in the post. She said Pakistan should be told "you have to do these things before we will even start to help you with your military or start to help you on counterterrorism".

Asked if she does not agree that foreign aid can turn an adversary into an ally, or can make a country more favourable than it would be otherwise, Haley said, "No, I think it absolutely can. I think that you do have to use it as leverage."

The Executive Engineer, Capital Complex Division, PWD(R&B), Agartala, West Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 12/EE/CCD/PWD/2018-19 Dated: 04-12-2018.

For Proposed construction for Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan as a Nation-wide flagship campaign for achieving Universal Accessibility for persons with Disabilities/SH: Construction of Parking bay, Accessible pathway with tactile guiding, Handrails on stair and corridors, Reception counter and Unisex toilet for disable persons etc. for 7(seven) nos. different existing Government buildings at different locations in West Tripura/Group-I.

With Estimated cost: ₹ 2,45,56,448.00, Earnest Money : ₹ 2,45,564.00, Time of Completion-6 (six) months. Last Date of bidding for bids 02-01-2019 upto 15.00Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>
Note:- *NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER*

Sd/- Executive Engineer Capital Complex Division, PWD(R&B) ICA/C-1897/18 Agartala, West Tripura

Corrigendum No.04
Corrigendum No.-04 to E-Tender Enquiry No-12/TS/FBD/2018-19
HARYANA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Shakti Bhawan Panchkula. CIN: U4010HR1997SGC033683
The last date of online bid submission is extended upto 14-12-2018 at 13:00 Hrs. and same will be opened on 14-12-2018 at 15:00 Hrs.
Detailed NIT and tender document is available at website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>, <https://www.hvnpn.org.in> (Sd) Executive Engineer/ TS Division Faridabad RO NO. 74062 Dt. 10-12-2018

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed one girl namely Kirti, D/o Late Rameshwar, R/o H.No. T-38, DDA Flat, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-06, Age 24 years, Height 4'6", Complexion Sallow, Face round, Build medium, Wearing white colour legi, blue colour kurta and chappal in feet has been missing from her home since 01:30 pm, Dt. 26.11.2018. In this regard a G.D. No. 79-A, dated 26.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi.

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi
DN/5897/C/18 Ph: 011-23210414, 23212482

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Deputy Director (Hort.) Horticulture Division No. 1, CPWD, South Avenue, New Delhi (Ph: 23018234), E-mail ID: hort.dhdh1@yahoo.in on behalf of the President of India, hereby invites online tenders from eligible contractors registered under CPWD (Nursery Category) at S. No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 and eligible contractors registered under CPWD (Horticulture Category) at S. No. 8 & 9.

NIT No. 127/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o Different Horticulture Works under Sub-Divn. 1/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of foliage plants at site), Estimated Cost: ₹15,77,550/-, Earnest Money: ₹31,551/-, Period of completion: 03 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 128/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o G.A. attached to JSC's and GOB's bungalows under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of group plants (Croton golden, Brassia variegated, Croton duck foot, Croton petra etc.), Estimated Cost: ₹19,08,690/-, Earnest Money: ₹38,174/-, Period of completion: 04 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 129/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o G.A. attached to HOR's bungalows under Sub-Divn. 3/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of plants (Gazania hybrid, Geranium double variety etc.), Estimated Cost: ₹11,91,135/-, Earnest Money: ₹23,823/-, Period of completion: 03 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 130/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o G. A. attached to Hon'ble Justice Bungalows under Sub-Divn. 3/HD-1 (Sunehri Bagh Section), CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of winter seasonal flowering potted plants), Estimated Cost: ₹18,60,750/-, Earnest Money: ₹37,215/-, Period of completion: 03 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 132/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: Making arrangement for potted plants and floral decoration for RDC year 2019. (SH: Providing and display of plants at Rashtriya Rangshala and Beating Retreat Vijay Chowk & Teen Murti House), Estimated Cost: ₹9,83,015/-, Earnest Money: ₹19,660/-, Period of completion: Upto February-2019, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 133/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: Upgradation of garden features of area attached to different JSC's and GOB's Bungalows at Ashoka Road and Dr. Zakir Hussain Road in Pandara Road Section under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and planting of different kind of ornamental & ground cover plants. (Ficus benjamina, Ficus nuda, Asparagus marrie etc.), Estimated Cost: ₹19,39,185/-, Earnest Money: ₹38,784/-, Period of completion: 02 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 134/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o G.A. attached to JSC's Bungalows in Pandara Road Section under Sub-Divn. 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and displaying of different types of specimen winter seasonal flowering plants (Calceolaria hybrid, Clianthus, Cylemen hybrid etc.), Estimated Cost: ₹19,75,410/-, Earnest Money: ₹39,508/-, Period of completion: 03 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 135/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o G.A. attached to Different Horticulture Works under Horticulture Division-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Providing and fixing of Agro Shading Net, Anti Bird Net and Laminated cloth), Estimated Cost: ₹11,20,000/-, Earnest Money: ₹22,400/-, Period of completion: 02 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

NIT No. 136/DD/HD-1/2018-19, Name of Work: M/o G.A. attached to Different Horticulture Works under Sub-Divn. - 2/HD-1, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH: Removal of garden garbage / refuse by L.M.V.), Estimated Cost: ₹15,04,500/-, Earnest Money: ₹30,090/-, Period of completion: 12 Months, Last date of submission of bid 20.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM, Date of opening of bid 20.12.2018 at 11:30 AM.

The Bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD. The Press Notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in

PAPER WITH PASSION

No quick fixes

Opposition unity has to go beyond optics and take everybody along if it wants voters to be serious

Whatever today's election results might be, they are bound to have some psychological hold in the run-up to 2019. The BJP needs the heart-land verdict, its core base, more than the Congress, which, post its dismal showing in 2014, will be happy to resurrect its credibility even if it wins one or two states, never mind the infighting among its satraps. If the cliffhanger verdicts do hold true, then it would again roundly be attributed to the monolithic vigour and purposefulness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his paratrooping ability in swinging undecided public minds in the last leg. But what is unpredictable is Opposition unity and will. Dominant regional parties could still stitch together a formidable anti-BJP front, lording over as they do in half of the total Lok Sabha seats. If they still see themselves as negotiating their personal terrain in terms of which way the tide goes, then the pre-winter session meeting, initiated by TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu this time, will just be another case of wasted optics. And at this juncture, the mahagatbandhan must stake its all and cannot continue to be iffy. Most Opposition Chief Ministers have attended the meet with UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi endorsing it beside Congress chief Rahul Gandhi. If the Opposition has to convert a ground swell of discontent into a semblance of a wave, then key players like BSP chief Mayawati, who is the most effective partner any party can have in terms of vote transference, and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav need to be assuaged immediately. Though both indicated that they would send their top aides, it is not enough considering they have proven with the bypoll results earlier this year that they can make things work on the ground in the most crucial electoral state. Both have avowedly maintained a distance from the Congress than be its B-team and the grand old party needs to make some ego adjustment here. For the unity platform won't be taken seriously if they are not on it. Already, TRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik, seated comfortably in their perches, are staying out from national ambitions, keeping doors open to the side that enhances their state-level interests. The BJP is already scenting chances in this drift and has reciprocally not lambasted either Patnaik or Rao.

The crucial factor is whether Congress will be secondary to the federal front or if the front will need Gandhi as sheet anchor. First, the Opposition needs to sew up a cohesive strategy for Parliament, showing strength on crucial bills, forcing discussions on farmers' issues and Rafale. Second, constituents must take care of overlapping catchment areas in their states and settle seat-sharing issues before the resultant tension dilutes their goal. In states where they are rivals, a ground level justification is difficult to work out but as the SP-BSP scenario has shown, there could be a need-based understanding and even post-poll arrangements. Third, 2019 is not 1977 where the Emergency-tainted Congress was easy to root out. Though his government has taken hits, Modi's personal standing remains unaffected. He has managed to project himself as the doer who is hemmed in by circumstance, not intent. No leader in the Opposition camp has been able to project himself/herself as an egotless servitor of the nation as effectively. The federal front is a mosaic of leaders with conflicting temperaments, each of whom would be king than kingmaker. Already there are noises bring made about TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, who got the Opposition initiative going in the first place, and Chandrababu Naidu, who is helming the second round of grandstanding, if only to show that it is a democratic platform of equals. But the leadership and anchorage issue is something that the BJP is already beginning to play up. The federal front has to battle coalition era ghosts which almost led to policy paralysis in UPA times. So the combined Opposition must fight hard for numbers because past minority governments, like those of PV Narasimha Rao and AB Vajpayee, have managed to pull full terms with success. And Modi knows that.

Growth pangs

India has the fastest growing cities in the world. Little wonder that urban infrastructure can barely keep pace

A recent study by the Oxford Economics has empirically showed that India has some of the fastest growing cities in the world, with Karnataka's capital and Indian information technology hub of Bengaluru being the fastest city economy in the world along with Surat as the fastest growing. Normally, the words 'fastest growing' would be considered an accolade and would be celebrated with countless advertisements and news television debates. However, this event was ignored

by Indian news television (which seems to suffer from severe tunnel vision) and Central, state and local governments hoped the population at large did not use the survey to question them on what they would describe as an 'infrastructure gap' between service and equipment providers. The business of inverters and generators to deal with unreliable electricity, water filtration systems to deal with the fact that no Indian city provides potable water from the tap and lately the fast-growing air purifiers with most Indian cities, not just Delhi as many suspect (indeed, as of today Kolkata's air quality is far worse than the national capital) points to the inadequate infrastructure that is incapable of handling surging volumes and demand. Public transport, while improving with new Metro systems in many cities, is for the large part overwhelmed and the costs of retrofitting mass rapid transport systems have been immense for Indian cities, financially and for pollution.

Yet, this study proves that despite all this, the allure of large metropolitan areas remains for people from small towns and rural areas. The government's plan to create a 100 new smart cities has been stillborn and the attraction of a Bengaluru, Hyderabad and a Gurugram far outweighs the negatives in the mind of a domestic immigrant, even if they end up living far from public transport and in an area lacking even basic amenities such as piped water and a sewage system. There are several reasons for this, the most uncomfortable one being a perverse celebration of the farmer and the agrarian economy which saw far too little investment in cities by our polity. This has led to the collapse of the subsistence agrarian economy and tottering cities. India's developmental focus has to shift dramatically towards making cities liveable. Even if the 2021 census might not capture the dramatic population shift from rural to urban, one has to be blind to say that it isn't happening, which this study proves. Like it happened in China, policy-makers have to figure out how to plan and build going forward.

Delimitation sore issue in J&K

Governor Satya Pal Malik has taken some tough measures that bode well for residents. He must continue to remove regional disparity and not be intimidated by parties



SANDHYA JAIN

Having boldly dissolved the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly to prevent horse-trading, and repealed the Roshni Act, it is hoped that Governor Satya Pal Malik will continue with bold reforms and not be intimidated by political parties. The decision to make the largely State-owned Jammu & Kashmir Bank a public sector enterprise was welcome, as was the reported plan to review the issue of Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC). Sadly, political outcry forced a re-think on both issues, to the detriment of citizens of the State.

The Governor reportedly asked the State Administrative Council to examine changes in the law for granting Permanent Resident Certificates (PRC) to remove impediments observed by the Revenue Department. The PRC is issued to domicile citizens of Jammu & Kashmir and Maharaja Hari Singh, who created the concept of State Subjects, provided that those domiciled in the State for at least 10 years could become subjects. However, Article 35A, added to the Constitution of India by a presidential order in 1954, empowers the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly to define 'permanent residents', which has made the PRC acquisition problematic.

Refugees who fled West Pakistan in 1947 are denied their legitimate citizenship rights. While Article 370 gives special status to Jammu & Kashmir, it also gives wide powers to the Governor. Unfortunately, the December 1, 2018, move to review the process of granting PRCs was fiercely opposed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), National Conference and even the People's Conference of Sajjad Lone, with whom the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has aligned for the next Assembly election. As the Supreme Court reviews the legality of Article 35A, the BJP should ponder the terms of its collaboration with Sajjad Lone so that it does not compromise (read sacrifice) its constituency again, as happened under PDP president Mehbooba Mufti. It is well-known that Rohingya illegal infiltrators secured PRCs in Mufti's regime.

Governor Malik's decision to repeal the Jammu & Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of ownership to the occupants) Act, 2001, (Roshni Act) is a desirable step. The legislation was originally mooted to help farmers, who were farming on State lands, to legally acquire title to the same, but was grossly abused by the elite to grab large tracts of State lands. The State lost around ₹25,000 crore that was to fund electricity generation schemes (hence the name 'Roshni'). In February 2018, the PDP tried to unilaterally allow Gujjar-Bakarwal squatters on forest land to become *de facto* owners and ignored opposition from the BJP.

It would be appropriate for the Governor to consider fresh delimitation of constituencies and appoint a Delimitation Commission to remove the regional disparity long suffered by Jammu province, and also provide representation to all reserved categories in the State Assembly. It is pertinent to note here that the



Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir, enacted in 1957, was based on the Maharaja's Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir of 1939, which was still in force. After accession to India, the State Constituent Assembly was constituted under the 1939 Constitution, but Sheikh Abdullah's administration arbitrarily carved out 30 seats for Jammu region and 43 seats for Kashmir region and two seats for Ladakh region. This regional disparity became entrenched thereafter: Kashmir (46), Jammu (37) and Ladakh (four).

The last delimitation exercise in the State took place under challenging circumstances and was finally accomplished by the Justice (ret'd) KK Gupta Commission in 1995, when the State was under President's rule. As the Constitution provides for delimitation every 10 years, the next delimitation of Assembly constituencies should have taken place in 2005. However, in 2002, the National Conference Government froze delimitation until 2026 by amending the Jammu & Kashmir Representation of the People Act 1957 and Section 47(3) of the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir. The amended Section 47(3) provided "that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State and the division of the State into territorial constituencies under this sub-section".

This means the next delimitation can only take place after Census 2031, unless the Governor intervenes and rectifies this irregularity. The BJP, Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party, Jammu State Morcha and even the Congress have demanded the constitution of a Delimitation Commission to ensure a just number of seats to each region. It is pertinent that owing to the disturbed conditions in the Kashmir region from 1990 onwards, there has been a huge migration towards Jammu province, an exodus not limited to the Kashmiri Pandits. The concomitant rise in the population of Jammu does not reflect in Census 2011, which lacks credibility among large sections of the people.

The Panthers Party approached the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, urging that stoppage of readjustment of the extent and boundaries of electoral constituencies adversely impacts democracy, as enshrined in the Constitution. On dismissal, senior advocate Bhim Singh approached the Supreme Court, which also dismissed the appeal, stating that Article 327 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to make laws regarding delimitation of constituencies, and Article 329A states that any law relating to delimitation of constituencies or allotment of seats to such constituencies "shall not be called in question in any Court". The Court said identical provisions have been made in Section 142 of the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir.

This failed to tackle the core issue of arbitrary deferment of delimitation. As a result, persisting problems call for fresh application of mind. As delimitation follows a census, which records demographic changes, it ensures that the numbers reflect in the composition of constituencies. Deferment has created an imbalance in the composition of various constituencies.

Moreover, the State Constitution, under Section 48, reserves 24 seats in the 111-member Assembly for the area under Pakistani occupation (since 1947-48). Members of the diaspora of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir have been urging the Centre to fill these seats by nomination; West Pakistan refugee families could also be accommodated this way. With Pakistan trying to incorporate Gilgit Baltistan as a province to safeguard the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, India must assert its claim to the region more forcefully before the international community.

Finally, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reserved seats in Jammu province, where rotation is overdue, but are unrepresented in the Kashmir valley. The backward Gujjar-Bakarwals received Scheduled Tribe status in 1991, but have not received their share of Assembly seats. These knotty problems are best resolved under Governor's rule.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

“ WITH PAKISTAN TRYING TO INCORPORATE GILGIT BALTISTAN AS A PROVINCE TO SAFEGUARD THE CHINA-PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR, INDIA MUST ASSERT ITS CLAIM TO THE REGION MORE FORCEFULLY BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ”

SOUNDBITE

It is unfortunate that the Government's priority is not to work for the poor and oppressed, but to fix political opponents by hook or crook.



RLSP president —Upendra Kushwaha

Washington should not blindly give Islamabad even a dollar until it steps up efforts to combat terrorism.



US Envoy to UN —Nikki Haley

I have made a career with unconventional choices and that's why I have created a different standing for myself in the film industry.



Actor —Anushka Sharma

The budget made unreasonable demands on GST. However, to judge the latter by what the Budget demands is unreasonable.



Ex-Chief Economic Advisor —Arvind Subramanian

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insensitive remarks

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Careful with words" (December 8). Janata Dal (United) leader Sharad Yadav is a known rabble-rouser. He has a habit of making distasteful remarks. Earlier too he has made controversial remarks which have evoked strong condemnation from his rivals. It is, however, sad that there has been no change in his attitude. He continues with his insensitive comments.

Yadav's recent sexist remark against Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje is not only in bad taste but reveals his patriarchal mindset that is unacceptable in a present times when women are as much capable as their male counterparts in terms of executing tasks in every field.

The Opposition, which has always made a hue and cry over remarks made any BJP member, must not rally around in support of Yadav. This would set a bad precedent. It will embolden rabble-rousers to sneer at women at the drop of the hat in future.
KR Srinivasan
 Secunderabad

It's high time we value precious lives

This refers to the editorial, "A gaping hole" (December 10). The Supreme Court's concern over people being killed in road accidents due to potholes is justifiable. The top court found that "such a large number of deaths takes place on roads due to potholes, probably more than those killed at the border or by terrorists." Though drivers must be held accountable, one cannot also overlook the poor road design and improper maintenance of the roads that are one of the leading cause for mishappenings.

During an inspection by officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) last year, 2,000 potholes were found on the roads in the national capital. This is terribly alarming. Besides potholes, broken footpaths, dislocated stones and uncontrolled growth of trees affecting the traffic are some of the other anomalies that account for an ever increasing number of road accidents in India. It is distressing to note that India ranks first in the



world in terms of road accidents with 1.46 lakh fatalities annually, as per the latest reports of the International Road Federation, Geneva. It is now obligatory for the Government to demonstrate its will and address the anomalies as soon as possible. It must be remembered that loss of any innocent life is indeed tragic.

Tushar Anand
 Bihar

Strike at the roots

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A gaping hole" (December 10). The Supreme Court's concern over 14,926 deaths in road accidents due to potholes in the last five years shows the gravity of the situation. It even went to whiplash various States and the Union Government, stating that

the large number of deaths caused due to potholes across the country was probably more than those who were killed at border. What a shame!

The apex court's concern, however, will not solve the problem. The problem will also not end by holding the respective authorities, like the Municipal Corporations, the National Highways Authority of India, or

the State road departments accountable. To end this menace we must strike at the root of the problem: Corruption and the unholy nexus between the contractors and Government officials. It is a known now that road contractors and employees work in tandem, flouting even the rules of the tender process and overseeing the road-laying/maintenance work.

Contractors often grease the palms of the authorities and get contracts worth crores even as work completed by them is not up to the mark. The need, therefore, is of political will to clean up the entire system.
M Pradyu Thalikavu
 Kannur

Well played

Sir — I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Indian wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant who finished with 11 catches, and equalled the record for most dismissals in a Test by a wicket-keeper, sharing it with England's Jack Russell and South Africa's AB de Villiers. Pant could have had 12 dismissals but unfortunately, he dropped Lyon in the 105th over off Bumrah.

Before Pant, Wriddhiman Saha held the record for most catches in a Test match by an Indian wicket-keeper. We hope he continues to playing well and makes the country proud.
MT Khan
 Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Saudi Game of Thrones

Muhammad bin Salman has many options at hand to save himself. He is likely to stay in power, perhaps to the ultimate ruin of the country he rules



GWYNNE DYER

Now is the moment of maximum danger for Saudi Arabia's *de facto* ruler, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MbS). He has weathered the immediate storm over the murder of Jamal Khashoggi two months ago. He even went to the G20 summit in Buenos Aires a week ago and persuaded several other national leaders to stand beside him for photographs. But the real threat to his power (and maybe his life) is at home.

It's not the Saudi public he must fear. He's quite popular with young Saudis, who are a large majority of the population. He's relatively young himself (33). He has loosened some of the tight social and religious controls (women can drive now, and you can even go to see a movie). And most of them don't even believe that he is responsible for the killing.

MbS's problem is his family, who know perfectly well that he ordered the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, and understand what that crime means for the kingdom's standing in the world. They also realise that his foreign policy has been an unmitigated disaster, from the futile war in Yemen to the blockade of Qatar, and that his economic policy hasn't been much better.

Many prominent Saudis also have personal reasons to hate him. Some were pushed roughly aside in order to facilitate his rapid rise to supreme power. Others were kidnapped, jailed and even tortured in order to extort billions of dollars from them, on the often shaky pretext that their money was the fruit of corruption. If you held a secret ballot among the 10,000 most influential Saudis, MbS would be gone in a flash.

It doesn't work like that, of course. This is still an absolute monarchy, and so long as MbS has the support of his elderly father, King Salman, he has absolute power — in theory. In practice, he must also have at least the grudging support of the royal family, which sees the Saudi state as a family business in which they all have a stake. It is a remarkable family, if only for its sheer size: An estimated 15,000 members, many of whom are direct descendants of the Kingdom's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Ibn Saud. When he died in 1953, he left 36 sons, and there are literally hundreds of grandsons. All these men, their spouses and their children and grandchildren are supported (quite lavishly) by the family business, but there are only a few hundred people who really matter. They matter a great deal, however, and by now they would be close to unanimous in seeing Mohammad Bin Salman as a wrecker who is endangering their own futures.

So how to get rid of him? In the past, the family's rule has survived the abrupt removal of kings: One king was forced to abdicate in 1964, another was assassinated by his own nephew in 1975. The Princes closed ranks, and the dynasty carried on with a new King. In theory, it should be even easier when you are only trying to remove the crown prince. Why not just work through his father, King Salman? After all, the King has already appointed and then dismissed two other Crown Princes; maybe he could be persuaded to do it again. The problem with this approach is that MbS zealously controls access to the 82-year-old King, who is believed to be suffering from mild dementia (Alzheimer's). An alternative would be for the Allegiance Committee, a family-run institution created in 2006 which adjudicates on succession issues, to declare King Salman incompetent because of illness, dismiss the Crown Prince, and appoint someone else as his successor. In the absence of more formal rules, any Prince descended from Abdul-Aziz would be eligible.

Plotters hoping to use this device would be risking their lives, of course, for MbS is a ruthless man who would strike first if he got wind of the plan. However, they may be emboldened by the fact that he has now arrested his own chief enforcers in an attempt to shift the blame for Khashoggi's murder. This betrayal will certainly have shaken the loyalty of their colleagues who still serve the crown prince. But there is one further consideration that is bound to give even the boldest plotters pause. If MbS concludes that he has decisively lost the support of the royal family, he still has a last card to play: War with Iran.

It's what he wants in the long term anyway, but his preferred option has been to get the US and Israel to do the actual fighting for him. If he had no other way of heading off a family-backed coup against him, however, he might take Saudi Arabia into such a war unilaterally, counting on the US and/or Israel to bail the country out. In the midst of a war, nobody at home would dare attack him. So on balance, MbS is likely to stay in power, perhaps to the ultimate ruin of the country he rules.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

RAM TEMPLE IS A CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE BECAUSE FAITH SAYS THAT LORD RAM WAS BORN THERE AND YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A TEMPLE.

—BJP LEADER SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY



THE SUPREME COURT DOES NOT GIVE A VERDICT ON THE BASIS OF SENTIMENTS OF ONE PARTY. VERDICT IS GIVEN AS PER EVIDENCE AND LAW AFTER HEARING IT.

—AIMPLB MEMBER ZAFARYAB JILANI

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Long road to education goals

Most children, who are still outside the ambit of schooling, are victims of child labour, migration of parents, trafficking, acute poverty and other such issues. We need to bring them into the system



JS RAJPUT

The Right to Education has now been accepted globally. Sustained efforts are being made nationally and internationally to bring every child within the fold of universal education. The global literacy rate of 86.2 per cent bodes well. But this great achievement also exposes the challenge of educating 57 million primary children who remain out of school. In actual practice, this number could indeed be higher. The task ahead — to bring these children to school — is really tough and has also been articulated among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals identified by the UN General Assembly in 2015, to be achieved by 2030.

Education is included as the SDG-4. The global promise is to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all." Considerable success has been made in bringing children under the fold of universal education. Making provisions for schooling is necessary but that alone is not sufficient. The Sustainable Development Goals Report of 2018 indicated that more than half of children and adolescents in schools worldwide are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. It also indicated that re-focused efforts are needed to improve the quality of education. Disparities in education along the lines of gender, urban-rural location and other dimensions still run deep. More investments in education infrastructure are required in less developed countries:

"At the global level, participation rate in early childhood and primary education was 70 per cent in 2016, up from 63 per cent in 2010. Lowest rates were found in sub-Saharan Africa (41 per cent) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (52 per cent). An estimated 617 million children and adolescents of primary and lower secondary school age worldwide — 58 per cent of that age group — are not achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics. In 2016, an estimated 85 per cent of primary school teachers worldwide were trained; the proportion was only 71 per cent for Southern Asia and 61 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa. In the same year, only 34 per cent of primary schools in LDCs had electricity and less than 40 per cent were equipped with basic hand-washing facilities."

At present, sincere efforts are being made by practically every nation to reach the target of ensuring elementary education to every child and provide equality of opportunity of access and success to each one of them. It is a tough task for countries that are facing acute economic crisis and are facing severe deficiencies in infrastructure and competent human resources. UNESCO, too, is making significant efforts to assist,



through international collaboration, exchange of experiences and making human expertise available wherever required. Challenges confront the policy-makers at the national level, as also the agencies that coordinate and monitor educational developments globally in context of the right to education.

The nature of challenge, to bring the remaining children within the fold of education, changes as countries move ahead on the ladder to total literacy. In India, in spite of all the problems, the constitutional directive to provide free and compulsory education to all children 'till they attain 14 years of age' was indeed a very bold step. This set the tone. During the initial stages, the priority task was to convince parents how essential education was to the future of their children, particularly girls. Issues like gender bias, segregation prevalent on caste lines, social hierarchies and traditional practices had to be confronted with considerable poise and sensitivity. Slowly, every group of the populace realised the advantages of sending their wards to schools.

Consequently, a stage has been reached wherein the system no more needs convincing the parents — all of them not only want their children to get educated but education of good quality in good schools. There are certain other factors that still make things tough in dealing with the enrolment of children in the bracket above 90 per cent enrolment. As India marched ahead from a literacy rate of about 20 to the present of over 75, it has realised that it requires far greater efforts to bring the remaining children within the fold of education than was necessary in earlier years. In fact, in this bracket, parents have little role as external and undesirable factors have taken over the fate of their children. Most children, who are still outside

the ambit of schooling, are victims of child labour, migration of parents, child trafficking, acute poverty and other such issues. Considerable attention is being given to liberate children from the clutches of circumstances that force them to become victims of unsocial and nefarious practices. While estimates differ, globally, over 200 million children are engaged in child labour. In India, estimates vary from 12 to 60 million. Even in the most posh areas of New Delhi, one could see children selling small items, obviously being managed and monitored by certain unscrupulous elements. The same is witnessed at railway stations. It is a well-known fact that forced to work in dirty, dangerous and unhealthy conditions, making match sticks, tobacco products and fire-crackers, children are invariably exposed to health hazards that could even be fatal. Many suffer on many counts, including emotional deprivation and malnutrition.

Further, deficient nutrition is a major concern in India. Around 3,000 children die every day due to malnutrition. Globally, three million children die of malnutrition every year. Overall, India suffers from "serious levels of hunger" and is ranked 103 amongst 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index. Obviously this is a very challenging situation, implications of which are most significant for children and their proper growth and right to education.

Considerable concern is being expressed globally for migrant children who are forced to leave their ancestral lands. A majority of them are forced to leave their home and hearth because of hunger, poverty, ethnic cleansing, racial discrimination, fundamentalism, insecurity and violence, among other problems.

Recently, UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report brought to fore details of the conditions

that children face in their new circumstance. It states: "The right of these children to quality education, even if increasingly recognised on paper, is challenged daily in classrooms and school yards, and denied outright by a few Governments... In the two years since the landmark New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, refugees have missed 1.5 billion days of school." The issue is indeed alarming. Hence, the 2019 report focusses on "migrant, displacement and education" and as expected, highlights the need for additional resources to countries that host most migrants and their children. Problems are well-known as they invariably arise in multi-cultural classroom everywhere. Most important is the right of the child to education in his own mother tongue. He/she also needs familiarity with his/her own culture, heritage and history. Even under tough conditions, initiatives must not get dampened. Every effort must be made by all concerned to put their best foot forward to support requirements of these groups of children.

It is in this light that the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, said: "Everyone loses when the education of migrants and refugees is ignored... increased classroom diversity, while challenging for teachers, can also enhance respect for diversity and an opportunity to learn from others." A huge amount of Government resources as also from donors will be necessary as trends in immigrants show increase in activity in the near future.

Now let's revert back to the national scene. Migrant children can be mapped in practically every major city of our country. Very often, one learns about migrants from one State being vandalised by elements of the host province, resulting in avoidable misery. One must remember how Maharashtra

for Maharashtrians' kept the migrants from south India on their toes. Similarly, the Hindi-speaking population in Mumbai from north India frequently become the target of parochial pride, resulting in loss of personal and public property, unnecessary disruption of professional pursuits and negative impact on the education of children.

Just a couple of months ago, a criminal incident that was highly deplorable led to attacks on the migrant population in Gujarat. There are several other encouraging signs as well. Kailash Satyarthi shared the Nobel Peace prize for his work on liberating lakhs of children from bonded labour. There have been numerous local-level initiatives that have been bringing excellent results in their respective areas. Sandip Singh runs a voluntary organisation in Gurugram. Singh began this initiative based upon his sensitive observation of children from Rajasthan who were loitering around.

After a decade, Singh has successfully changed the lives of several thousands of children by providing them education. He was quietly working on his own when others came to help him voluntarily. Today, his organisation — School Aapke Dwaar — is one major attraction for children in slum areas as also for their parents. One could find several such initiatives at individual and social levels. All they need is encouragement and support from the people. But India needs an effective organisation to deal with the issues of children suffering on several counts, some of which have been mentioned in this article. The efficacy, or otherwise of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, needs a thorough independent scrutiny.

(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

Disaster management a distant dream

The NDRF, bereft of funds, resources and staff, is today a truncated outfit. The armed forces continue to be the first responders in times of natural calamity. Better we hand over the languid set-up to them and create a composite response force



RAMESH DAVESAR

Thanks to nature's inheritance, perennial disasters are the worst holocaust humankind has been facing throughout. Incidents of natural calamities in the current decade, particularly the floods in Kashmir, Chennai, Uttarakhand and now the record-breaking flood fury in Kerala, are incidents enough to expose our helplessness in effectively combating the menace. They have raised serious questions about the efficacy of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Before we get into the nitty-gritty, it will be pertinent to understand the geographical and environmental legacies that we are confronted with.

India is the 10th most disaster-prone country in the world with 27 out of 29 States and seven Union Territories being most vulnerable. Out of a total

area of approx 32, 87,590 square km, 68 per cent is prone to drought; while 60 and 12 per cent are vulnerable to earthquakes and floods respectively. More alarmingly, it has been estimated that 30 per cent of all the world's landslides occur in the Himalayas.

These figures are not sacrosanct because, of late, due to global warming and the El-Nino/La Nina combo phenomena, global climate has undergone drastic changes, resulting in unpredictable situations. And on the seismic front, the "Indian plate" that saddles most parts of South Asia and South-East Asia, has undergone a major tectonic shift, making earthquakes a more recurring phenomenon in the region. From the earlier occurrence of 1:7 years during the 1950s, the frequency of tremors of magnitude five and above on the Richter scale has now gone up to 1:3 years.

Concomitantly, man-made fury, such as mass-scale deforestation, indiscriminate construction of hydel projects and unabated timber pirating have all imbalanced the already fragile eco-balance. The looming threat cannot,

therefore, be wished away. Without going into the matrix of men/material losses and political war games, we, as a nation, must imbue cogent measures in preparing for the disasters.

It is a gospel truth that even after a long hiatus since Independence, in the absence of any centralised agency, India has solely relied on the armed forces to cope with natural calamities. Thus, a need was felt to have a specialised nodal agency for Disaster Management (DM). This led to the creation of the National Disaster Response Force, under the aegis of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2006, with the charter to provide "specialised response to threatening disaster situation or the disaster".

At present, the NDRF has a strength of 12 battalions drawn from various Central Police Organisations; each battalion designed to provide 18 rescue teams of 45 people each. In all, 216 teams are available. Prima facie, keeping in mind the vastness, doubt arises on its pan-Indian capability to fight disasters. Next, the DM, besides initiating immediate relief, is the explic-

manifestation of restoring public services, communication, provision of medical and other administrative support. Sadly, the present organisation, bereft of captive resources such as air effort, specialised equipment and lack of wherewithal to administrative support, among others makes for a truncated outfit.

Without scratching the epochal records any further, let us study the recent Kerala floods which was the worst in the century. Lest I sound subjective and without taking away their credit, the NDRF deployed 55 teams with 38 boats that played a crucial role in providing relief in affected areas. But keeping in mind the magnitude, it drastically fell short of demand. To plug the void, axiomatically, the nation once again looked up to the Armed Forces.

True to their reputation of bailing the nation out of crises, it launched 'Operation Madad' — by far the largest rescue operation in the Indian history — and inducted over 100 columns (approx 80-100 personnel each), 10 Engineer Task Force, which were backed up by 1,350 boats, 37 helicopters

and 21 transport aircraft. Additionally, they took upon the task of providing logistic support to the victims. Out of the 23,000 persons rescued, around 660 were evacuated by the daringly specialised Winched up Rescue Missions, while the ETF repaired/reconstructed 15 bridges and cleared 22 landslides.

Similarly, unseasonal snowfall this September led to the cutting off and marooning of a number of habitats and tourists in Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh. Joint Army-Air Force operations not only restored the communication services but also ensured safe evacuation of tourists.

The aforesaid analysis highlights some glaring deductions. Keeping in mind the challenges and vastness of our country, the NDRF, with just 216 teams, is woefully inadequate, ill-equipped and becomes abnegated of handling the response independently. At best, it is just able to provide 'first aid' or carry out peripheral tasks. Also, even as the NDRF is around, the involvement of the armed forces has virtually remained unchanged. A point worth pondering is: If as a last resort

we have to fall back on the armed forces, then why not hand over the languid set-up to them and create a composite response force under their aegis comprising effective naval, air and specialised engineering support with corresponding representation from the civil administration?

This, besides encashing the inherent effective inter-services operational coordination, would not only enhance operability but also ensure sustained relief operations and remove overlaps, resulting in avoidable loss of resources. The Army's Corps of Engineers by virtue of their role are best suited and this organisation can be formed around this core strength. The existing number of NDRF units is woefully inadequate, and apart from working out detailed modalities, a fresh study on disaster threat should be carried out to enhance the response effort. We may consider raising specialist Territorial Army Units in disaster management that can be mobilised to provide additional support.

(The writer is a retired Infantry Officer with vast operational experience)



DONALD TRUMP: THE NET CLOSES

There is no more damning evidence of Trump's ignorance and dishonesty, or of his abiding faith in the stupidity of his audience and tweets. Now his inadequacies of character and intellect are damaging even his supporters. His erratic pursuit of a trade war with China has destabilised stock markets. How long will his party continue to protect him? *(The Guardian editorial)*

HAL tests flies light copter upto 6km

Ready for high-altitude cold weather trials

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU



Design Center (RWR&DC) of HAL to replace the ageing Cheetah and Chetak helicopters used by Indian Armed Forces. First flight of LUH PT-1 was carried on September 6, 2016 and the second Prototype flew on May 22, 2017. HAL has in principal order for 187 LUH that includes 126 for Indian Army and 61 for IAF.

The helicopter with Glass Cockpit can be deployed for Reconnaissance, Surveillance roles and as a light transport helicopter. The helicopter will be capable of flying at 220 Kmph, with a service ceiling of 6.5 Km and a range of 350 Km with 400 kg payload. The LUH is powered by TM/HAL Ardden 1U/Shakti 1U single turbo shaft engine with sufficient power margins to cater to demanding high altitude missions.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) built Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) has achieved an important milestone of flying at 6 km altitude here in Bengaluru, recently. The chopper was flown by Chief Test Pilot Wg Cdr (Retd) Unni K Pillai and Test Pilot, Wing Cdr (Retd) Anil Bhamhani.

According to a HAL press release the flight was carried out under the envelope expansion tests and flying at 6 km altitude is a critical requirement towards the certification of LUH. The helicopter exhibited satisfactory performance and handling qualities. With the completion of this milestone, LUH can now undertake high altitude cold weather trials planned in January 2019.

The LUH is a 3-ton class new generation helicopter designed and developed by Rotary Wing Research and

Kashmir shuts down on World Human Rights Day

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

The normal life was affected in Kashmir Valley on Monday in response to a shut-down call by separatist groups to commemorate the World Human Rights Day. The separatists alleged that the State authorities continue to suppress the human rights and disallow legitimate freedom of movement and speech to the common people.

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), a grouping of separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik, had asked the people of Kashmir to observe complete protest strike on December 10 to highlight the 'gruesome human rights situation' and also to register their regret at the apathy of international community and rights organisations towards the plight of people of Kashmir.

Shops, other business establishments, fuel stations remained closed while public transport was generally off the roads in summer capital

Srinagar. However, scanty private transport plied on the uptown city roads. The authorities deployed additional security forces personnel in parts of downtown Srinagar to thwart protests.

The train services had been suspended between Banihal and Baramulla due to law and order situation.

The speed of mobile internet was also reduced in Srinagar and some other places in Kashmir Valley.

"The JRL urges the world peace organisations, international community, Amnesty International Asia Watch, UNHRC and ICRC to take note of the Kashmir situation and put pressure on New Delhi to stop the grave human rights violations forthwith," the JRL said in a statement.

The JRL leaders wrote a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urging him to intervene to end the sufferings of the people of J&K. "We urge you (UN Secretary General) to initiate measures for the resolution of the dispute on Jammu & Kashmir which is on UN Agenda since 1948 and

Omar challenges BJP to announce CM candidate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

Two mainstream political parties in Kashmir National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have upped ante against BJP ahead of the announcement of Assembly and parliament elections in Jammu and Kashmir. On Monday, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accused the BJP of deceiving the people of Kashmir by rejecting their mandate twice.

Abdullah challenged the BJP to announce chief ministerial candidate if the people in the Valley give them a mandate. "I challenge the BJP to announce their chief ministerial candidate in the upcoming elections because they have cheated the people of Jammu and Kashmir twice... The people deserve to know whom the

BJP will make the CM if they give 25-26 MLAs to the BJP," Abdullah said.

Omar's reaction came in response to Union Minister of State Dr Jatindra Singh's statement that Kashmir's mainstream politicians are more dangerous than separatists.

In a similar reaction former Minister and senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar asked BJP to explain why it ignored its 25 MLAs and selected a CM candidate from Kashmir who has mere 2 seats in the assembly.

"Why were you (Jitendra Singh) or Kulvinder Gupta (former Deputy Chief Minister) or any other BJP leader not chosen as CM candidate of the party from the State. How can you people convince your own voters after such a decision has been taken by your party," Akhtar asked.

is the main cause of all Human Rights violations in Jammu & Kashmir," the letter reads.

The separatists had asked the people to observe human rights week between December 3 and 9. Protest demonstrations were organised at various places during the week to highlight human rights situation in

the valley. Meanwhile, clashes were reported between youth and the security forces in Hajin area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district following the burial of two teenage militants. Heavy stone pelting was reported from the area. Thousands of people

reportedly participated in the funeral prayers of two local LeT Mudaris Parrey (14) and Saqib Bilal Sheikh (17). Both were killed on Sunday along-with a Pakistani top LeT commander Ali Bhai in 18 hour gunfight with the security forces in Mujung area on the outskirts of Srinagar.

MAHA MARATHA RESERVATION LAW

Pro-quota activist assaults lawyer outside HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within a week after he moved the Bombay High Court challenging the newly enacted Maharashtra legislation granting 16 per cent reservations to Marathas, lawyer Gunratna Sadavarte was on Monday assaulted by a pro-quota activist outside the High Court.

Sadavarte, who has filed a PIL on behalf of his client Jayashree Patil of the Indian Constitutional Council (ICI) challenging the new Maratha Reservations Act, was roughed up by an unemployed youth - identified as one Vijaynath Mukne Patil from Jalna - soon after he finished briefing the media on the Maratha reservations outside the high court.

The drama unfolded soon after Sadavarte completed his media briefing and began to walk away. Patil, an unemployed graduate, suddenly came forward from the crowd, raised a now popular slogan 'Ek Maratha, Lak Maratha' (One Maratha is equivalent to one lakh Marathas), pushed and punched Sadavarte in the face. With his spectacles down on the ground, Sadavarte lost his balance.

Patil hurled abuses at Sadavarte and demanded to know from the latter as to why he had challenged the Maratha reservations in the court. Meanwhile, some policemen and lawyers rushed Patil's help and managed to catch hold of the attacker.

Meanwhile, attacker Patil taken to the Azad Maidan Police station where he was detained for questioning.

The incident took place within minutes after Sadavarte's PIL came up for hearing before a HC division bench of Chief Justice Naresh Patil and Justice MS Karnik.

The PIL, filed by Sadavarte, states that the new Maratha Reservations - better known as the Maharashtra State (of seats for admission in educational institutions in the state and for appointments in the public services and posts under the state) for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018 - is in violation of the 50 per cent cap imposed by the Supreme Court on reservations.

Among other things, the petition states that the Marathi community - the Kumbhikarnis - have already been

given a reservation under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and the additional reservations will only create a class within a class, affecting those who do not belong to any reserved category.

Earlier, talking to media persons, Sadavarte said that ever since he filed a petition in the high court challenging the new Maratha Reservation Act, said that he had received more than one thousand threats.

"I have registered a complaint about threats to my with the Bhoiwada police station. I have also informed the Chief Justice about the threats received by me ever since I filed an PIL in the court. I have also urged the high court to provide adequate police protection to me," he said.

The high court, meanwhile, ordered that Patil and his family members be provided police protection.

It may be recalled that on December 3, the Maharashtra a caveat in the Supreme Court seeking a hearing in the event of anyone challenging the new Maharashtra Reservation Act granting 16 per cent reservations to Marathas in education and jobs.

The move came two days after Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao signed the Maratha reservation bill enacting the law. The bill had earlier been passed unanimously by both the Houses of Maharashtra on November 29.

The caveat, filed by Advocate Nishant Kateswarkar on behalf of the Maharashtra Government in the apex court, reads thus: "No order be passed in the matter without notice to the Maharashtra Government. The caveat (Maharashtra Government) was the authorised party who issued the Maharashtra Act."

Their apprehension in the state government's mind that its new Maratha Reservation Act might get entangled in litigation can be evidenced from that by enacting a law granting 16 per cent reservations to Marathas, the Devendra Fadnavis dispensation has exceeded the 50 per cent cap on reservations imposed by the Supreme Court and in the process followed the suit of the Tamil Nadu Government.

Currently Maharashtra has 52 per cent reservations in jobs and educational institu-

tions. Of the total 52 per cent reservations, SCs and ST communities account for 13 and 7 per cent, respectively, while OBCs have 19 per cent per cent reservations. Together, Special Backward Class and Nomadic Tribes account for 13 per cent.

The Marathas, who have now been accorded 16 per cent reservations in education and Government jobs, account for nearly 33 per cent of the total 11.25 crore population of Maharashtra.

Once the Maharashtra State SEBC Act comes into force, then the total reservations in the State will go up to 68 per cent - next only to Tamil Nadu that has 69 per cent reservations.

Though Devendra Fadnavis dispensation has not clarified as to how it would face the scrutiny of the new law in the Supreme Court, it looks like the Maharashtra government will take the route taken by the Tamil Nadu government under late Chief Minister Jayalalitha, which achieved its objective of increasing reservations to 69 per cent by passing the Tamil Nadu Act of 1994 and adding the 1994 Act to the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

MAHA CIVIC POLLS

BJP romps in Dhule Municipal Corp, Sena emerges single largest party in Ahmednagar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling BJP on Monday captured power in the Dhule Municipal Corporation (DMC), while its alliance partner Shiv Sena emerged as the single largest party in the Ahmednagar Municipal Corporation (AMC).

Scoring a clear electoral victory over the ruling Shiv Sena and all Opposition parties, the BJP walked away with 50 out of the total 74 seats in the DMC. All other parties did not cross the single digit figure in the polls.

While the NCP and Congress won nine and six seats respectively, the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) four seats. Samajwadi Party bagged two seats, while the BSP, Samajwadi Party and Lokasangram Party won one seat each. An independent secured one seat.

However, in the 68-member AMC, the Shiv Sena emerged as the single largest party winning 24 seats, followed the NCP and BJP which

won 18 and 14 seats respectively. The Congress bagged five seats, while the BSP won four seats. Samajwadi secured one seat, while two independents romped home in the elections.

Available pointers said that the Shiv Sena might come to power in AMC in the alliance with the BJP.

Meanwhile, the BJP captured power in Shendurani Nagar Panchayat in Jalgaon district, Loha Municipal council in Nanded district and Mouda Nagar Panchayat in Nagpur district. The Shiv Sena came to power in Ner Nebarup in Yavatmal district, while the Congress captured power in Bramhapuri Municipal Council in Chandrapur district. Washim Nagar Vikas Agadi, a local outfit, captured power in Risod Municipal Council in Washim district.

The elections to the two municipal corporations and six smaller local bodies were held on Sunday. The counting of votes took place on Monday.

The BJP's success in DMC is in continuation of victories it had scored in the municipal

corporations of Jalgaon in north Maharashtra and Sangli in western Maharashtra in August this year.

In that election, the BJP had virtually swept the Jalgaon Municipal Corporation (JMC) polls by winning as many as 57 seats out of a total 75 seats and decimated hitherto-influential political outfit led by former minister and local Sureshdada Jain who controlled Jalgaon civic body for the last three and a half decades.

In the 78-member Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad Municipal Corporation (SMKMC) polls, the BJP secured a majority of its own by winning 41 seats as against 20 seats won by the Congress and 15 by the NCP.

Walking away with 57 out of the total 75 seats in the JMC, the BJP established supremacy over all the political parties. Its principal rival Shiv Sena managed to win just 15 seats in the JMC polls.

The AIMIM, which had contested the JMC polls for the first time, bagged three seats. Significantly enough, the Congress and NCP drew a blank in the polls.

Woman locked inside home by son, dies of hunger: Police

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

An octogenarian woman, who was locked inside her home in Shahjahanpur allegedly by her son, is suspected to have died of hunger, police said Monday.

The body of the 80-year-old woman was found on Sunday after neighbours complained to police about foul smell coming out of the residence in Railway Colony.

Salil Chowdhury, her son, is a Railway employee and had the house allotted. He has not showed up since the body was found.

Police said he had locked his mother inside the house and she died likely because of hunger. The body has been sent for postmortem.

Shahjahanpur Railway Station Master Om Shiv Awasthi said Chowdhury, a ticket collector, was suspended twice for remaining absent from duty without approval. "He is absent from duty for the past two months," Awasthi said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Dinesh Tripathi said Chowdhury is a resident of Alambagh area in Lucknow and was posted in Shahjahanpur in 2005.

Nothing in medical report of accused showing torture: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said there was 'absolutely nothing' in the medical examination report to suggest that Brajesh Thakur, prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case, was physically or mentally tortured in Patiala jail.

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta said they have perused the report of medical board and the doctors have not found any injuries to substantiate the claims of physical and mental torture of the accused in the jail.

Thakur was shifted to Patiala high-security jail in Punjab from Bihar's Bhalgalpur jail following the apex court's

October 30 order.

Over 30 girls were allegedly raped and sexually abused at the Muzaffarpur shelter home. The issue was first highlighted in an audit report submitted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to Bihar's social welfare department.

An FIR was lodged on May 31 against 11 people, including Thakur, who was running the shelter home. Later, the probe was taken over by the CBI and so far 17 people have been arrested in the case.

During the hearing on Monday, the bench referred to

MUZAFFARPUR SHELTER HOME

the medical report of Thakur and told senior advocate Vikas Singh, who was representing him, that no injuries were found during the medical examination.

On December 6, Singh had placed before the court a letter 'purportedly written' by two children of Thakur in which it was alleged that he was being tortured physically and mentally in the Patiala jail.

The court had then directed the jail superintendent to produce Thakur before the medical superintendent of a Hospital in Patiala in presence of a judicial magistrate.

It had asked the medical superintendent to constitute a medical board to examine him and submit its report in the court by Monday.

The court had passed the order to shift Thakur out of Bihar after the CBI had said he was an influential person and was found in possession of mobile phone inside the Bhalgalpur jail.

At the fag end of hearing on Monday, Singh told the court that the NGO which was running the shelter home at Muzaffarpur has received a notice from the concerned department of Bihar government with regard to its four-story building there. PTI

Tharoor files defamation case against Ravi Shankar Prasad

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has filed a defamation case against Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad for allegedly making derogatory remarks in connection with his wife, Sunanda Pushkar's death.

Tharoor had earlier sent a legal notice to Prasad, the minister for law Justice and IT, seeking an 'unconditional apology' for calling him a "murder accused".

The complaint was filed before the Thiruvananthapuram Chief Judicial Magistrate court. Tharoor stated in the com-

plaint that the investigation in the Pushkar case had been completed and the Delhi Police had filed a final report before the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate court, in which he was charge sheeted under Sections 308 and 498 A of the Indian Penal Code.

"The final report does not state that the death of the deceased was a murder", Tharoor, who appeared in the court on being summoned and was granted bail, stated.

He alleged that "it was after much pressure from the external power centres" that the Delhi Police charge sheeted him, years after Pushkar's death.

Bikinis should be worn in private spaces only, not in temples, churches: Goa Min

IAN S ■ PANAJI

Bikinis should only be worn in private spaces in Goa and the swim wear should not be allowed in the state's temples and churches, Goa's PWD Minister Sudin Dhavalikar said on Monday.

Dhavalikar, who recently returned from an official trip to Portugal, said in the past, his comments on bikinis were blown out of proportions, in the same way as his demand for an apology for injustices meted out to Goa during the colonial rule from Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa were also blown out of proportions. The latter, the Minister said, cost him several seats in the 2017 Assembly elections.

"I had then said that they (those wearing bikinis) should not visit temples. This is not our culture. They should not come to churches (wearing bikinis) and people in your

Dhavalikar had come under flak in 2014 after he said that bikinis and short skirts were 'unsafe' and against Indian culture and should not be worn in public places, including beaches

family will also agree that bikinis should not be worn in temples, in public places. They can do that in private places," Dhavalikar told a press conference in Panaji.

Dhavalikar had come under flak in 2014 after he said that bikinis and short skirts were "unsafe" and against Indian culture and should not

be worn in public places, including beaches.

Lavu Mammedar, an MLA from the Maharashtra Gomantak Party, which Dhavalikar is a senior member of, had also demanded setting up of a special "bikini" beach on Goa's beaches, where access would be allowed only with an entry fee.

Dhavalikar had demanded an apology from Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa to Goa in 2016, a few months before the February 2017 state Assembly elections, while the Assembly discussed moving a motion to congratulate Antonio Costa, who is of Goan origin, on his appointment as PM. Dhavalikar now hints at a political motive behind the controversy.

"It was just two months before elections. That (comment) was hyped by everyone. Because of that I lost seven seats," Dhavalikar said.

Develop Gorakhpur as education hub: Prez

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Advocating that Gorakhpur be developed as an education hub, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Monday that education was the key to development of the country and without the development of poorvanchal, Uttar Pradesh could not move ahead.

Addressing the Founder's Week celebration of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad on the Gorakhnath temple campus in Gorakhpur, the President said that Gorakhnath Peeth had made important contributions in spreading awareness and knowledge in the east UP region.

"It is high time that Gorakhpur be made an education hub. It should emerge as a platform to spread light of knowledge across eastern UP," Kovind said.

Speaking about the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad that has been imparting education to children since 1925, the President said, "It has

helped in building character of youths by inculcating in them respect for culture, devotion for nation and readiness for social work."

Recalling the great men from the region like Paramhans of Nath sect, Sufi saint Roshan Ali Shah, Baba Raghav Das, Munshi Premchand, Ram Prasad Bismil and Firaq Gorakhpuri, Kovind asked the students to follow the path of Maharana Pratap, a Rajput warrior from the Mewar region of Rajasthan.

The President also praised the contribution of saints from Nath sect in the field of education and their contributions to society and during the freedom struggle.

Exhorting students to follow the path shown by Maharana Pratap, Kovind said that UP had the highest number of youth in the country who could change the scenario by contributing in the development of society and making Gorakhpur a knowl-



President Ram Nath Kovind presents an award to a student during the founder's week celebration of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad in Gorakhpur on Monday. Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik is also seen. PTI

edge city by 2032.

On the occasion, the President also honoured 10 meritorious students and a teacher of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad.

Lauding Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for all-round

development of Gorakhpur, Kovind said that it was his first visit to the city as President of India but he had been coming here for the last two decades regularly.

"The city is fast changing and all credit goes to the Chief

Minister," he said.

The President also expressed sadness on the blocking of roads during his visit to different parts of the country, creating problems for the local people. "This is one reason why I try to visit less places," he disclosed.

TO FORM MAJORITY GOVT IN J&K

NC top brass eyeing voters in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



“A single party Government alone can meet the challenges confronted by the State, adding that his party will give a strong and stable Government at the strength of the peoples’ massive support and NC’s presence in every nook and corner of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh”

Top brass of the National Conference has started making rounds of Jammu, ahead of Assembly polls, with an aim to garner popular votes in the region.

After losing 2014 polls and winning only three seats from Jammu region, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid little attention towards expanding the base of the party across Jammu region.

Occasionally, he visited frontier Rajouri and Poonch districts and addressed public meetings to stay connected with their traditional voters but largely speaking party made little efforts towards strengthening the party base in the region.

With the emergence of third front led by Peoples Conference Chairman Sajjad Lone in Kashmir valley, National Conference, is gradually gearing up its poll machinery across Jawahar tunnel to improve its performance in the forth coming Assembly polls.

Last week, party President and Member Parliament from Srinagar, Dr Feroz Khan Noon, tutored party workers and local leaders in Jammu to remain united and strengthen the hands of the party candidates than stabbing them in the back.

“I will bury you in the ground if you will not support the party candidate during crucial Assembly polls”, warned Dr Abdullah.

On Monday, it was the turn of former state Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to motivate them to work towards clinching majority votes in the 87 member legislative assembly. Addressing a day long con-

vention of party functionaries here at Sher-e- Kashmir bhawan Omar Abdullah announced the decision of the party against forming any alliance in the state. He said, “We will go alone without forging any alliance”.

“A single party Government alone can meet the challenges confronted by the State, adding that his party will give a strong and stable government at the strength of the peoples’ massive support and NC’s presence in every nook and corner of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh”.

He also urged the workers not to go on rumours of rotation of reserved seats in the Jammu region, as the Governor had assured the party delegation recently about no such move under the consideration of the government.

Exuding confidence about massive victory, the NC Vice President said Jammu and Ladakh will have to hugely contribute to the strength of National Conference in giving a responsive and accountable Government.

In 2014 National Conference had won only 3 Assembly seats out of 37 in the region. Party had won 12 seats from Kashmir valley, recording

its lowest ever score in the state elections so far.

On the occasion he also dared BJP to declare its chief ministerial candidate for Jammu and Kashmir ahead of elections to Legislative Assembly, saying it had lost face and credibility among people of Jammu by indulging in rhetoric and false claims.

“The BJP’s bravado to have its own Chief Minister from Jammu fell flat twice, first by stitching alliance with 28-member PDP in 2015 and later while unsuccessfully attempting to form the government by surrendering before a party with two MLAs from North Kashmir”, Omar Abdullah said.

Launching a scathing attack on BJP, Omar said, “With which face the BJP will now go to the electors of Jammu in upcoming elections, who know that after seeking their mandate they will again fall in the trap and lap of a few MLAs from Kashmir to share the power”.

On the BJP’s communal plank, the National Conference Vice President said that an atmosphere of fear and mistrust is being created across the country. He said passions are being generated over the issue of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya before the general elections.

ASSEMBLY POLLS RESULTS

Stage set for vote counting in Telangana

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The fate of 1,821 candidates contesting the Telangana Assembly election will be decided Tuesday when the counting of votes will be taken up.

The maiden polls for the 119-seat Telangana Assembly were held on December 7 with a voter turnout of 73.20 per cent.

Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar said necessary arrangements have been made for the counting day and the strongrooms, where EVMs are kept, secured with central paramilitary forces providing “first cordon of security”.

One of the strongroom keys is kept with the external observer and as precaution, political parties are also keeping a watch, he said.

The counting will begin at 8am.

“EVMs will be brought out polling station-wise and kept at the counting centres which will have 14 tables (except in Medchal which will have 28). And counting will go on. This will be done after the completion of the full postal ballot count. Counting will be done in the respective constituencies”, Kumar told PTI.

“The winning candidate will be declared and certificate will be prepared after obtaining clearance from the Election Commission. With the approval of the ECI, the Chief Electoral Officer, will submit the list of winning candidates party-wise to the Governor”, he added.

Though some exit polls indicate a clear edge to K Chandrashekar Rao-led Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the “Praja Kutami” alliance of

Though some exit polls indicate a clear edge to K Chandrashekar Rao-led Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the “Praja Kutami” alliance of Congress, TDP, CPI and Kodandaram-led Telangana Jana Samithi, appears confident of forming the Government

Congress, Telugu Desam Party, CPI and Kodandaram-led Telangana Jana Samithi, appears confident of forming the Government in the country’s youngest state, separated from Andhra Pradesh in June 2014.

“We will win 100 seats,” Rao said repeatedly in campaign meetings.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi had said the alliance led by his party is confident of winning the election “hands-down” and claimed Rao was showing “signs of nervousness and insecurity” in meetings he addressed as the campaign winded down.

Predicting a fractured poll mandate in Telangana, the BJP claimed Sunday it would play a “vital role” in the formation of the government in the southern state.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi Friday exuded confidence that his party would be successful in the Telangana Assembly election.

The party has fielded candidates in eight assembly segments in Hyderabad and is supporting TRS in other segments.



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik meets Pakistan High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood at the secretariat in Bhubaneswar on Monday

Pawar cites Shah remark to slam Fadnavis over Maratha quota

PTI ■ PUNE

NCP president Sharad Pawar Sunday accused Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of giving ‘false’ promises to the Maratha community over the issue of reservation in government jobs and education.

Pawar cited a reported statement of BJP chief Amit Shah and asked Fadnavis if he will defy his party chief in granting quota to the influential community.

The NCP leader said Shah’s had recently remarked, while opposing quota to a minority community in Telangana, that the Supreme Court has set a limit of 50 per cent on reservation.

The SC limit will be breached when the Maratha reservation is implemented in the state.

He was speaking at a congregation of NCP workers and office-bearers here.

Pawar said Fadnavis had asked people to celebrate for his

government passing a law on 16 per cent reservation to the Maratha community.

But Shah, according to Pawar, said at a rally in Telangana that any quota beyond the SC-set limit will not stand in court.

“When the president of the party (BJP) says it (more than 50 per cent quota) cannot stand in court, why are you giving false promises to the people of Maharashtra?” Pawar said while hitting out at Fadnavis.

The former Union Minister said people in Ayodhya are upset over the decision to take over buildings located near the disputed site in the temple town.

“People are saying they are not opposing construction of a (Ram) temple, but are complaining that in the name of temple, there is an attempt to destroy everything”.

Pawar, talking about pre-poll unity of opposition, said importance will have to be given to regional parties on the

basis of their strength in their respective states while deciding on seat sharing.

चालको NALCO
National Aluminium Company Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Nalco Bhawan, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha, India
CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Digitally signed online bids through Central Public Procurement Portal are invited on **Two Part Open Tender mode with Reverse Auction** for following the Work:
1.RFP No. TNCC-049/2018 : Road Transportation of Aluminium Metal Products from NALCO’s Smelter Plant at Angul to Nalco Stockyard at Delhi.
2.RFP No. TNCC-051/2018 : Assistance/Support Services for Maintenance of Electrical Installations at Township, HCE & NALCO Bhawan.

For details please visit www.e-procure.gov.in or www.nalcoindia.com. Any updates / Amendments / Extension will only be hosted in above websites.

Bulandshahr: Cops force Jeetu to confess crime

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP Police agencies, including Special Task Force and Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the Bulandshahr violence case are reportedly focusing on coercing arrested armyman Jitendra Malik alias Jeetu Fauji to own up the killing of Inspector Subodh Kumar Singh.

On the other hand, it appears that no serious effort is being made to nab the accused having allegiance to right wing

outfits as they are freely appearing in television interviews and uploading videos on social sites, pleading their innocence.

Even as four top police officers, including district police chief of Bulandshahr were shunted out as the Chief Minister felt that the incident was a well orchestrated conspiracy to disturb harmony, the cops seem to be least bothered on dropping the net on the prime accused ostensibly due to their right leanings.

Sources said that after pro-

ducing armyman Jeetu Fauji in Bulandshahr court for the alleged killing of the inspector, the STF and local police claimed in case diaries that the accused had confessed to the crime.

Ironically, they failed to produce the murder weapon used by the armyman to kill the inspector on the fateful day.

Interestingly, the armyman has denied his involvement in the killing of the inspector. He has said that he was present at the spot but neither was he

involved in the violence nor did he open fire at anyone.

The team probing the case sought custody remand of Jeetu to grill him further and recover the murder weapon but it was overturned.

Sources said that all police agencies were merely focusing on Jeetu and were making little effort to nab prime accused Yogesh Raj, Shikhar Agarwal and Upendra Raghav who have connections with the right wing organisations.

Mangroves could cure diabetes, claim Tamil Nadu scientists

KUMAR CHELAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Researchers of Centre for Advanced Studies in Marine Biology (CASMB) at Parangipettai in Tamil Nadu’s Cuddalore district has developed a new drug capable of curing Type-1 and 2 diabetes as well as having the potential to be an anti-oxidant and anti-plasmodial properties. “It can function as an anti-cancer and anti-HIV drug”, Thiruganana sambandam Ramanathan of the Marine Sciences Department, CASMB, told *The Pioneer*.

The surprising part of the invention made by the research team led by Dr Ramanathan is that the drug has been developed from the fresh leaves of mangroves which are quite common along the shores of estuaries adjoining the CASMB. Prof Kathiresan, former head of the Department of Marine Sciences, CASMB, was the one who found out that mangroves were effective in mitigating the effects of tsunami waves which ravaged Tamil Nadu coast in December 2004.

The CASMB and nearby areas were saved from the deadly tsunami waves because of the thick growth of mangroves along the Parangipettai shore and since then the plant was a subject of interest to Prof. Kathiresan and his colleagues. They planted many varieties of mangroves along the shoreline and it has paid rich dividends now.

The extract from the leaves of mangrove plants were tested in rats administered with type 1 and 2 diabetes mellitus. It was found that the rats responded

“These mangroves were commonly used ethnomedicinal plants in the area. Our studies found that the plant has hypoglycemic, anti-oxidant, anti-cancer and anti-HIV properties because of the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids and terpenoids”

to the extracts from the leaves of mangroves found along the Parangipettai coastline. “These mangroves were commonly used ethnomedicinal plants in the area. Our studies found that the plant has hypoglycemic, anti-oxidant, anti-cancer and anti-HIV properties because of the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids and terpenoids,” said Ramanathan.

According to Ramanathan, diabetes mellitus patients can have either Type 1 or 2 diabetes. “Type 1 is characterized by reduced production of insulin due to damaged pancreatic cells. Type 2 diabetes is caused by increased resistance to insulin unaction,” said Ramanathan. He said the rats showed positive results when administered with extracts prepared from the mangrove leaves.

It may take couple of years for the drug to hit the market as clinical trials are a time consuming process. “But we are confident of developing a medicine from mangroves for diabetes,” said S Gurudeban, one of the researchers in the team.

Siddaramaiah’s foreign trip casts shadow on Cong

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister and chairman of the coalition Government Siddaramaiah’s foreign trip ahead of the winter session has led to lot of political speculation in the State.

The winter session of the Karnataka assembly which began on Monday at Belagavi and the absence of Siddaramaiah who has declared that the cabinet expansion of the coalition government led by chief minister HD Kumaraswamy will take place on December 22 has left many congress aspirant MLAs high and dry.

The century old party which is facing a revolt for not expanding the cabinet has set out speculation of operation Lotus by the BJP with 104 seats to garner required seven seats to topple the government. Many of the aspirants from the Congress like MB Patil and others are on their toes to attack the party for not including them in the ministry.

A senior Congress leader on the condition anonymity said that many rebels including powerful Jharkihole brothers of Belagavi are up against the party and threatening to quit. He said “they are also questioning the credibility of the party in aligning with the regional party JDS which is only playing opportunistic and politics of survival. The tomorrow’s election results of the five state is crucial and its going to impact Karnataka politics”.

Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, which was scheduled to be held in Belagavi on December 10 just before the start of the session, has been deferred to December 18.

Siddaramaiah has left for Malaysia to attend the wedding of one of his family friends and will return to Bengaluru on Friday. The aspirants according to an insider are threatening to boycott the session putting the party in a fix. Chief Minister Kumaraswamy who is heading a fragile coalition has to face the winter session both inside and the outside where sugar cane farmers are protesting for MSP.

Congress has reason to worry as some of the dissident party MLAs are mulling to stay away from the legislature session during the debate on crucial issues to embarrass the ruling coalition. However, KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao dismissed such apprehensions. “We have able leaders to face opposition BJP in the Belagavi session,” Gundu Rao said.

Siddaramaiah is expected to return on December 15 and he will remain absent during the first week of the two-week session, which has commenced on Monday.

Sources said that he is going to Malaysia to attend the wedding of his friend’s daughter. While Siddaramaiah himself has clarified that it was an earlier scheduled tour, the timing of his tour has led to speculation since the Congress is internally under stress from its legislators who are ministerial aspirants.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur - 492 099 (CG), www.aiimsraipur.edu.in
No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect./Pub./SE/2018/536 Date: 11.12.2018
Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, GoI, invites e-tender for following:
E-SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE

Tender Title	Estimated Cost	Published on CPPP/Website	Pre-bid Meeting Date	Closing date
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 25LPH Ion Exchange RO Water Purifier and USHA 150L Usha Water Cooler installed at AIIMS Raipur and AIIMS Residential Complex, Kabir Nagar, Raipur	Rs. 26,02,500/-	28/11/2018	NA	17/12/2018 03:00 PM

The details terms & conditions are available on the website - www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in
Executive Engineer (Civil), AIIMS Raipur

NORTHERN RAILWAY
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
(Authority: Railway Board’s letter No. 2014/CE-1/CTO/10/TN dated 18.06.2014/01.07.2014)
Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against: Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2018-19-16. A Manual offers is not allowed against this tender. The details are as under- (1) N.I.T. No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2018-19-16, Dt. 08.12.2018. (2) Name of the work: Repairing of driver seat assembly of 3-phase and conventional locomotives. (3) Tender cost: ₹ 3,540/- (TD cost ₹ 3,000/- + GST@18% i.e. ₹ 540/-) Note:- online payment mode available on IREPS website. (4) Approximate cost: ₹ 29,19,084/-. (5) Earnest Money: ₹ 58,400/- Note:- online payment mode on IREPS website. (6) Completion period: 24 Months. (7) Validity of offer: 45 days. (8) Date from tender advertisement on IREPS website: 07.12.2018. (9) Date up to which Contractor(s) may update Notices/Corrigendum/ revised date of opening: 26.12.2018. (10) Bidding Start date: 27.12.2018. (11) Tender closing Date & Time: 10.01.2019 (15:00 Hrs.). (12) Tender opening date: 10.01.2019 (15:30 Hrs.). (13) Eligibility Criteria: Only those firms which in their individual capacity satisfy Standard Financial Criteria(s) need to quote for this tender. As a proof of sufficient financial capacity and organizational resources, bidder should have produce/upload evidence of his capacity to carry out the proposed work for supply/service efficiently and of a sound financial capacity. Authentic certificate shall be produced by the bidder(s) to this effect which may be an attested certificate from the employer/client. Audited balance sheet duly certified by chartered Accountant etc. Note (i): All participant Bidder(s) will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer on IREPS website. i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void". Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in. No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2018-19-16 Dt.: 08.12.2018. 3103/2018
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CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
The Executive Engineer (Elect), Parliament House Electrical Works Division, CPWD, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids for the following work- **NIT No - 74/EE(E)/PHEWD/2018-2019, Name of Work - AM & O (2018-19) Fire Detection, Fire Alarm & Fire Fighting System in Parliament House, New Delhi.** (SH: Operation and maintenance of NAFS-III fire suppression system) **Estimated Cost- Rs.9,79,884/- Earnest Money - Rs. 19,598/- Period of Completion- 12 Months. Last time & date of submission of bid - 17.12.2018 upto 03.00 PM**
The bids forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD or www.eprocure.gov.in.

Road/IV Division, Civil Engineering Department
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Room No. 215, SBS Place, Gole Market, New Delhi
E-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender ID : 2018_NDMC_163288_1
Name of Work: Repair and Maintenance of Infrastructure Assets in R-IV Division during 2018-19.
SH : Closing the left Turn Entry from S.P. Marg to Abal Marg alongwith Road Sign Board, Road Reflector and thermoplastic paint.
Estimated Cost : ₹ 5,97,363/-
Date of release of tender : 06.12.2018
Last date/time for receipt of tenders : 14.12.2018 upto 04.00 PM
Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note :- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is Mandatory. Executive Engineer (R-IV)
To be the global Benchmark for a Capital City

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 45 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Identification : A tattoo of "गम्बर सुनिता" written on left hand in hindi, wearing grey colour jacket and grey colour linerad pant, was found dead on 26.11.2018 on Divider Metro Pillar No. 253, Rohtak Road, Near Multan Nagar Red Light, Paschim Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 38-A dated 26.11.2018 has been lodged at PS Paschim Vihar, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.
SHO - P.S. Paschim Vihar, Delhi.
Tel. No. 011-25267286, 25263471
DP/1704/OD/18

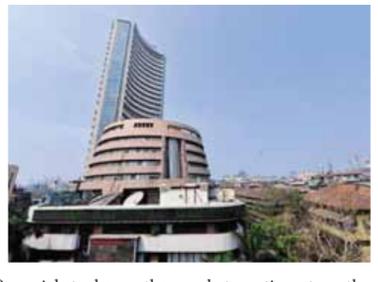
APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
It is publically informed that, one male namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age about 52 years, Height 5'5", Complexion Sallow, Build medium, Face round, Wearing grey colour pant, blue colour linerad shirt and hawai chappal in feet was found from the area of P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi on dated 29.11.2018 and expired in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a D.D. No. 7-A, Dated 02.12.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the dead body but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this male dead body please inform undersigned.
SHO
P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24671281, 26882346
DP/5140/SD/18

The Executive Engineer, Dharmanagar Division, PWD(R&B), Dharmanagar, North Tripura, invites e-tender against press NIT No 22/EE/DD/2018-19 Dated: 27-11-2018.
For "Improvement of Bagbassa-Dharmanagar road from intermediate lane to double lane /SH: Widening, BM, Carpeting, Protection wall etc. Portion from Ch. 0.00 km to Ch. 8.00 km. (Job No TP/COM/107/2016-17) (3rd call)."
With Estimated cost: Rs. 8,88,80,727.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 8,88,807.00,
Time of Completion - 06 (six) months Last Date of bidding for bids: 28-12-2018 upto 15.00Hrs.
For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Dharmanagar Division, PWD(R&B)
ICA/C-1898/18 Dharmanagar, North Tripura

Sensex falls 714 points after exit polls results

Exit polls predict a close fight between Congress and BJP in State elections

fund outflows further pulled the key indices. All sectoral indices on the BSE and NSE ended in the red, led by realty, banking, metal, pharma, and financial stocks.



PTI ■ MUMBAI
Market benchmark Sensex buckled under heavy selling pressure on Monday, plummeting 714 points as investors panicked over exit polls suggesting the Congress giving a tough fight to the ruling BJP in state elections as also the bruised rupee and weak global cues further dampened sentiment. The BSE Sensex cracked below the 35,000 mark, plunging 713.53 points, or 2 per cent, to close at 34,959.72. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 205.25 points, or 1.92 per cent, to 10,488.45. Exit polls for the recently concluded assembly elections have predicted a tight finish between the ruling BJP and the Congress in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and a win for the opposition party in Rajasthan, impacting trading pattern on the domestic bourses in a big way. Besides, a weakening rupee, which hit 71.44 per dollar intra-day, and fresh foreign

Kotak Bank shares cracked over 6 per cent after the bank said it had moved the Bombay High Court against RBI's decision with respect to the bank reducing promoter holding using preference shares. In August, Uday Kotak, the founder and promoter of Kotak Mahindra Bank, has pared down his stake in the bank to 19.70 per cent from about 30 per cent following issuance of preference shares. Within few days, the Reserve Bank said the stake dilution by Kotak does not meet its regulatory norms on the same, something the private sector lender contested. Other top losers include Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Tata Motors, Adani Ports, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, L&T, PowerGrid, HDFC, Axis Bank and Bajaj Auto, falling up to 4 per cent. Coal India and Maruti were the only two gainers on the 30-share index, rising up to 0.79 per cent. Multiple factors impacted

the market sentiment as the bears held complete control of the market from opening till the closing bell, said Joseph Thomas, Head Research, Emkay Wealth Management. This was the biggest one-day fall in the last two months for both indices, falling up to 2 per cent, he said. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold shares worth ₹817.40 crore Friday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers to the tune of ₹242.56 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed. Brent crude oil futures was trading at 0.31 per cent down at \$61.48 per barrel. Elsewhere in Asia, Korea's Kospi fell 1.06 per cent, Japan's Nikkei dropped 2.12 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.19 per cent and Shanghai Composite Index tumbled 0.82 per cent. In Europe, Frankfurt's DAX shed 0.67 per cent and Paris' CAC 40 fell 0.47 per cent in early deals. London's FTSE too slipped 0.41 per cent.

Jet Airways tumbles 7% on Icr rating downgrade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Shares of Jet Airways on Monday cracked over 7 per cent after the credit rating agency Icr downgraded the airline's long-term ratings. The scrip, on BSE, fell 6.77 per cent to settle at ₹257.5. Intra-day, it lost 7.67 per cent to ₹255, its lowest during the day.

Following the downtrend, the stock tumbled 7.15 per cent to close at ₹256.5 on NSE. It had touched an intra-day low of ₹255.1, a decline of 7.65 per cent. On the equity volume front, over 19.5 lakh shares were traded on BSE while over 84 lakh scrips changed hands on NSE. Jet Airways, in a regulatory filing Friday, said that credit rating agency Icr had downgraded the cash strapped air-carrier's long-term ratings from 'B' to 'C'. This has been the second such action by the agency since October. Instruments with 'C' rating are considered to have very high risk of default regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, as per the agency. The rating downgrade considers delays in the implementation of the proposed liquidity initiatives by the management, further aggravating its liquidity, as reflected in the delays in employee salary payments and lease rental payments to the aircraft lessors, the agency said.

Jet Airways in codeshare pact with Saudi carrier Flynas

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Private carrier Jet Airways on Monday announced signing of an agreement with Saudi budget airline Flynas to operate codeshare flights in each other's territories. The codeshare pact is effective December 11, Jet Airways said in a release. Codesharing allows an airline to book its passengers on its partner carriers and provide seamless travel to destinations where it has no presence. As part of the agreement, Jet Airways will place its marketing code '9W' on Flynas flights between the gateway cities of Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh, thus providing its guests travelling from India the ability to travel into Saudi Arabia via one point and depart from another, the release said. Jet Airways will also be placing its code via Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh to the Saudi Arabian cities of Medina, Gizan, Gassim, and Abha, thus extending our reach into Saudi Arabia, it added. Flynas will also place its marketing code on certain destinations on the Jet Airways domestic network, via Mumbai to Delhi, Kochi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Lucknow as well as via Delhi to Bengaluru, Lucknow, Chennai and Kochi, it added. Bander Al-Mohanna, chief executive officer, Flynas, said this partnership is an important step in-line with the airline's expansion and development strategy. "Through such agreements, we aim to offer a continually improved service to our passengers by adding more travel routes and expanding our reach regionally and internationally, in particular to key markets such as India," he added.

Business Corner

POWERGRID ENTERS IN TERM LOAN FACILITY
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has entered into a Term Loan facility agreement for JPY 22 Billion with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Singapore Branch (SMBC), towards part financing of its capital expenditure for its on-going and new projects and renovation and modernisation of its stations. The facility has door to door maturity of 12 years and is on floating rate interest basis linked to JPYLIBOR.

BAIN & COMPANY NAMED AS BEST PLACE TO WORK LIST
Bain & Company is once again number one on Glassdoor's 2019 Best Places to Work list. The firm has earned the most number one rankings in the history of the annual list, topping the charts on four separate occasions. Bain has now made the list eleven consecutive times.

2K WOMEN TO GO TO HAJ WITHOUT MEHRAM: MIN
Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said here that a large number of Muslim women are likely to go to Haj 2019 without 'Mehram' (male companion). During a meeting in New Delhi with representatives of organisations associated with Haj in various states, Naqvi said that more than 2000 women have applied yet to go to Haj 2019 without "Mehram". This number is expected to increase further.

CRPF PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY
Addressing the students of the CRPF Public School, Rohini, at its 30th Annual Day function yesterday, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, DG, CRPF and the Chief Guest of the occasion said that the school has been promoting well-grounded education while subsuming extra-curricular activities. Sounding a word of caution to the students and the parents, Bhatnagar said that all concerned must guard against the lure of the digital world.

AAI WOMEN WING LAUNCHES MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PROJECT
Airports Authority of India Women's Welfare Association of Kalyanmayee formally launched the Sanitary Napkin Usage and Menstrual Hygiene Project on 5th December, 2018. Started earlier this year, the three-year project includes installation of Sanitary Napkins Vending Machines & Incinerators in schools in 20 cities across the country having AAI Airports and awareness camps in the slum areas. Some of them being Amritsar, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Trivandrum and Mangalore.

CISF ORGANISES CURTAIN RAISER FUNCTION
A curtain raiser function for the 67th All India Police Athletics Championship-2018 was organised at CISF HQs, New Delhi. The function was presided over by Alok Kumar Pateria, IPS, Addl. DG, CISF HQs. PT Usha, renowned Indian Athlete, known as 'Queen of Indian track and field', Dutee Chand, winner of silver medals in 100 mtrs and 200 mtrs in Asiad-2018 and Shakti Singh, silver medallist in Shot Put in Asiad-1988 and Bronze medallist in Asiad-2002, were the guests on the occasion of the Curtain Raiser.

BIS, IEC ORGANISE SMART CITY STANDARDISATION EVENT
To give thrust to standardisation activities in the area of Smart cities, BIS and IEC are jointly organising an International Conference on "Smart city standardisation" with the theme "Smart Standards Smarter Cities", along the sidelines of the 4th plenary and working group meetings of IEC Systems Committee (SyC) Smart cities during 9-14 Dec 2018. The event is being organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Leading national and international standardisation and Smart city experts from more than 20 countries are expected to participate in the conference.

Ex-Nissan chief Ghosn charged, served with fresh arrest warrant

AFP ■ TOKYO
Japanese prosecutors Monday formally charged Carlos Ghosn with financial misconduct for under-reporting his salary and also served him a fresh warrant on separate allegations, meaning the tycoon

will likely spend Christmas in a cell. It represents a stunning turnaround for the 64-year-old Franco-Lebanese-Brazilian executive, a once-revered colossus of the auto sector who won wide acclaim in Japan for saving car giant Nissan. In a move that sent

shockwaves through the business world, the former Nissan chairman was arrested on November 19 on suspicion of under-declaring his income by some five billion yen (\$44 million) between 2010 and 2015. Prosecutors on Monday pressed formal charges on Ghosn — and key aide Greg Kelly — over this allegation, which both men are said to deny.

Sebi considering changes in regulatory framework for debenture trustees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi is considering steps to strengthen the framework for debenture trustees, including raising minimum net worth requirement for registration of such entities and introducing e-voting provision to obtain consent of the unitholders. The proposal is likely to be discussed at Sebi's board meeting this week. In order to secure the interests of debenture holders and to enable debenture trustees (DTs) to perform their duties effectively and promptly in the interests of investors, Sebi had floated a public consultation paper on the proposed changes in October. The board of Sebi may make new framework for debenture trustees based on the public comments received on the consultation paper. The proposed changes include raising minimum net worth requirement for registration of debenture trustees to ₹10 crore from the current ₹2 crore. Further, a three-year time would be given for attaining this network requirement. The new criteria will help in restricting registration of debenture trustees to financially sound entities. It has been proposed that there should be no requirement of calling for a meeting of debenture holders in the event of default by the issuer in case of public issues. The DT can directly enforce the security without obtaining any consent

Kotak Bank shares slump over 6%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Kotak Mahindra Bank tanked more than 6 per cent on the bourses after the lender moved Bombay High Court against RBI's decision with respect to the bank reducing promoter holding using preference shares. The stock plummeted 6.56 per cent to close at ₹1,198.15 on the BSE. Intra-day, the scrip touched a low of ₹1,188.8, a decline of 7.28 per cent. On the NSE, the stock fell 6.11 per cent to settle at ₹1,201.5. During the trading session, the scrip touched a low ₹1,188, down 7.16 per cent from the previous close. In terms of equity volume, over 1.9 crore scrips were traded during the day. On Friday, shares of Kotak Mahindra Bank soared nearly 14 per cent intra-day amid speculation that Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc was planning to pick up a stake in the private sector lender in a multi-billion dollar deal. Among others, it has been proposed that DTs should disclose the nature of compensation arrangements with their clients on their websites. The disclosure include the minimum fee that a DT will charge and factors determining the fee charged. Also, e-voting has been proposed as a valid option for obtaining the consent of debenture holders wherever applicable. A debenture trustee, in market parlance, is a person or entity that serves as the holder of debenture stock for the benefit of another party. Debenture is a debt instrument that is not secured by physical assets or collateral. According to Sebi, there have been cases of delay in enforcing the security in the event of default, which is detrimental to the interests of the investors. Data received from the Trustee Association of India (TAI) indicates that DTs have been able to enforce the security successfully in around 35 per cent of the issues that have defaulted in the past five financial years, thereby building the case for strengthening the framework for DTs by Sebi. Under the proposal, DTs should display on their website the details of interest/ redemption due to the debenture holders in respect of all issues during a financial year within five working days of start of financial year.

Taneira launches its store in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taneira, a saree brand from Titan, on Monday launch its store in South Extension-1, New Delhi. The flagship store, spread across 7500 sq. feet showcases an array of handcrafted sarees from across the country. The collection ranges from Mugas from Assam, Ikats from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa; Jamdhanis from Bengal, Chanderis & Maheshwaris from Madhya Pradesh and a vast collection of Tussars, India's indigenous silk. Store also has separate floor dedicated to bridal trousseaus and is resplendent with Banarasi silks including the rare-to-find Raktambari, Shwetambari, Gysar and Hazaar buti. This section also showcases a wide range of rich Kanjeevarams in myriad hues. Speaking at the launch, Bhaskar Bhat, Managing Director, Titan Company Limited said, "As a company, we believe that sarees is a natural extension for Titan — we have created design-led lifestyle brands that enable self-expression — Titan, Tanishq, Fastrack, Xylys, Raga, Skinn (fragrances) and now Taneira. Similar to the jewellery market when we began, this 5000 year old category is a large, unorganized market and underserved in terms of authenticity of the product. Seeing the tremendous reception we have had in our pilot stage of the business, we are confident this venture will be an opportunity for us to build relevance and enable transparency & authenticity for the customer." The store has been designed using purely natural materials, handmade by artisans across India.

SCOPE addressing the International women participants from countries like, Nigeria, Syria, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Ghana etc. regarding gender issues in the world of work organised by VV Giri National Labour Institute.



CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Assistant Engineer (E-VI, Electrical Division-I, CPWD, AHQ, Vayu Bhawa, New Delhi (Ph: 23062436/7083 & E-mail: delaeed1.cpwd@gov.in) on behalf of the President of India, hereby invites online item rate tenders - From the Eligible Contractors enlisted in CPWD in the appropriate class in Composite Category for the following work:-
NIT NO.191/AE(ES)/SD-VI/ED-1/2018-19, Name of Work: MOEI and fans i/c replacement of fused tubes and lamps at common places at Vayu Bhawan New Delhi. (SH: Replacement of unserviceable wall fan at various remaining locations of Air HQ, Vayu Bhawan) **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 6,00,000/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 12,000/- **Period of completion :** 03 (Three) Month, **Last time and date of submission of bid** 17.12.2018 up to 3:00 PM.
The Bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD. The Press Notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in

FORM A - PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF PIYUSH SHELTERS INDIA PVT. LTD.

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of corporate debtor	Piyush Shelters India Pvt.Ltd
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	05/05/2006
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies -Kanpur
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U40108UP2006PT031945
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Regd Office:396,WK Road,Chippi Tank Near Bachha Park,Meerut UP 250002 IN Other office:1st Floor,Piyush Global I, PLOT NO 5 YMCA Chowk, NH-2, Main Mathura Road, Faridabad 121005 HR
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	03/12/2018 (Delivery of certified copy of order - (18) No.322/ALD/2018 from Hon'ble NCLT Allahabad Bench to Interim Resolution Professional is still awaited. However Public Announcement is being issued based on order copy received vide email dtd 04/12/2018
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	31/05/2019 (180 days from the date of commencement of insolvency process i.e. 03/12/2018)
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Swami Deen Gupta IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N000132/2017-18/11458
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Address: 2/64 Vishesh Khand Gomi Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Email:sdgupta@gmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Swami Deen Gupta 2/64 Vishesh Khand Gomi Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Email:sdgupta@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	24/12/2018
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	"Allottees under Real Estate Project"
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	1.Pramod Goel 2. Prayod Kumar Sharma 3. Sayed Mohammad Anwar Hasan
14. (a) Relevant Forms (b) Details of authorized representatives available at:	*Web link: www.ibbi.gov.in/downloadform.html IBBI (Insolvency resolution process for Corporate Persons) Regulations-2016 1.New Delhi 2. Agra 3. Allahabad

*Form B: Claim with proof by Operation Creditors except workmen and an employee, Form C: Claim with proof by Financial Creditors, Form CA: Claim with proof by Financial Creditors in a Class, Form D: Claim with proof by Workmen or an Employee, Form E: Claim with proof by Authorised representative of Workmen or Employee, Form F: Claim with proof by Creditors other than Financial creditors and Operation Creditors.
Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Piyush Shelters India Pvt.Ltd on 03/12/2018.
The creditors of Piyush Shelters India Pvt.Ltd. are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 24/12/2018 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.
A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class "Allottees under Real Estate Project" in Form CA.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/
Swami Deen Gupta
Interim Resolution Professional
IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N000132/2017-18/11458

Date: 10.12.2018
Place: Lucknow

PRASAR BHARATI
(INDIA'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER)
CIVIL CONSTRUCTION WING
ALL INDIA RADIO

PRESS TENDER NOTICE FOR e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer (Civil) Soochna Bhawan Project Division, Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio, 11th floor, Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-03 (Ph. No. 011-24367729), on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate e-tenders from approved and eligible contractors of CPWD and those on appropriate list of Railways, MES, BSNL, Department of Post and Delhi State PWD for the following work:-

NIT No- EE(C)/SBPD/2018-19/03, **Name of Work:** Addition/Alternation work in RNI office at G.F. & 9th floor, Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 11,54,077/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 23,082/-, **Period of Completion:** 03 (three) months

Last Date & Time of Submission of online bid for above work: 21.12.2018 upto 11.00 AM.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/AIR. The press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in

Sd/
Executive Engineer(C) SBPD

davp/22446/11/0027/1819

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Satnam Singh Slo Bagh Singh R/o B-45/2, DDA Flats, Naraina Vihar, Delhi-110028, have disowned and debarred his son namely Indermeet Singh and daughter-in-law Manpreet Kaur from his all moveable and immovable properties due to their Immoral attitude, behaviour and misconduct. If anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibility. My client and his family members shall not be responsible in any manner.
HEMANT KUMAR JHA (Advocate)
CH.No.1104, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

Corrigendum No.05 against E-Tender Enquiry No-08/2018-19/XEN/TS Div. HVPNL, Hisar (Tender ID 99838) Dated: 22-09-2018

Last date of online bid submission is extended upto 11-12-2018 (13:00) Hrs

The other terms and conditions of NIT shall remain the same. For detailed NIT please visit website <https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> or our website at <https://www.hvnpn.org.in>

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
TS Division,
HVPNL, Hisar

RO No. 74056 Dt. 10-12-2018



England, France win in cross-over

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

A dominant England sailed past New Zealand 2-0 in the first cross-over match to book their place in the quarterfinals of the men's hockey World Cup here on Monday.

England scored through Will Calnan's (25th minute) field strike and penalty corner conversion by Luke Taylor (44th) to register the comfortable win.

England will face Olympic champions Argentina in the first quarterfinal on Wednesday.

World No 7 England were by far the better side against New Zealand in the opening two quarters, creating more goal scoring chances than their ninth ranked opponents.

England had the first scoring chance in the fifth when they earned their first penalty corner but they failed to utilise the opportunity.

After a barren and eventless first quarter, England drew first blood in the 25th minute when Will Calnan deflected in a high ball from skipper Phil Roper from the left flank.

Two minutes later, a Liam Ansell strike from close range went just inches off the target as England wasted a golden opportunity.

The Black Sticks tried to forge a comeback towards the end of the second quarter and in the 28th minute a Nick Ross' strike from top of the strike was padded away by England goalkeeper George Pinner.

Seconds later, England were awarded a penalty corner but they failed to stop the push and wasted the chance to go into the breather a goal down.

England continued from they left after the change of ends and secured back-to-back penalty corners just after the resumption of play but wasted both the chances.

The Black Sticks tried to bounce back but they could find the net after entering the England circle.

England earned their fourth penalty corner just a minute away from the final quarter and Taylor scored after David Condon's initial try was saved by New



England's players celebrate after winning the cross-over match against New Zealand; (below) French and Chinese player battle for possession during the second match

PTI/Hockey India

Zealand goalkeeper Richard Joyce.

New Zealand came close to reducing the margin in the 49th minute but Stephen Jenness' shot from inside the box was easily parried away by England goalie Pinner.

With two goals down, a desperate New Zealand took out their goalkeeper Joyce nine minutes from the final hooter for an extra player but the move backfired as England became the only team to earn two penalty corners without a goalkeeper but Cory Bennett put his body on the line and took a heavy knock to keep England at bay.

In the final minute of the match, New Zealand secured another penalty corner but Pinner made a smart save to keep a clean slate and keep intact England's record of never finishing below eighth in the World Cup.

CHINA WENT DOWN LOSING
 France eked out a narrow 1-0 win over debutants China in the second cross-over match to advance to the quarterfinals.



The lone goal of the match came in 36th minute from the stick of Timothee Clement.

France might be the lowest ranked team in the tournament at 20, but they had already shown the world that rankings hardly have any significance by stunning Olympic champions Argentina 5-3 in the pool stages.

France will face two-time defending champions and world number 1 Australia in the second quarterfinal on Wednesday.

The Frenchmen started on a bright note against world number 17 China and took the early initiative by earning four back-to-back penalty corners as early as in the second minute but wasted all the opportunities.

China made a subdued start to the game and allowed France to dominate the possession, relying mostly on their counter-attacking ability to stun their opponents.

In the 19th minute, a selfish play from

Charles Masson denied France a great opportunity. After cutting inside the box from the right flank, Masson, instead of passing the ball to his teammate, went for glory and hit straight at the body of Chinese goalie Caiyu Wang from a tight angle.

China came close to scoring in the 21st minute but E Wenhui missed from close range after Ao Suozhu controlled a long ball over the French defence and made his way into the circle showcasing 3D skills.

Two minutes from half time, France were unlucky as Etienne Tynevez's deflection from a Jean-Baptiste Forgues pass hit the crossbar.

In the never next move, the Chinese goalkeeper once again came to his side's rescue by keeping out Blaise Rogeau's reverse hit from top of the box as the Frenchmen failed to break the 'Great Wall of China' in the opening two quarters.

China came out with more purpose after half time and came tantalisingly close to breaking the deadlock in the 33rd minute but a sliding E Wenhui's deflection from Zixiang Guo pass was parried away by an alert France goalie Arthur Thieffry.

France finally broke the resolute Chinese defence in the 36th minute through Clement.

The move was started by Viktor Lockwood, who got to the baseline with a blazing run down the left flank and cut back to Maximilien Branicki in the centre. Branicki unleashed a fierce reverse stick at the far post which was deflected by Clement into the net.

A minute later, China secured their first penalty corner of the match but failed to capitalise on it.

The third quarter witnessed three penalty corners — one to France and two to China.

In a desperate need for a goal to take the match into shoot-out, China pressed hard and earned two penalty corners in succession minutes away from full time but the French goalkeeper Thieffry was upto to the task on both occasions to keep a clean slate and ensure a last eight berth for his side.



Spurs face make-or-break Barca clash

AFF ■ LONDON

Tottenham are sitting pretty in the Premier League but face a potentially season-defining match against Barcelona in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Mauricio Pochettino's men have amassed 36 points from 16 Premier League matches, with 12 wins, leaving them in third place behind Liverpool and Manchester City.

That they have managed that despite playing in their temporary home of Wembley and after a World Cup in which so many of their players featured until the final weekend, makes their achievement all the more impressive.

However, with City and Liverpool in such rampant form, few expect Spurs to win the Premier League, putting increased emphasis on their match against the Spanish league leaders in Group B.

Pochettino must somehow find a way past Lionel Messi's Barcelona to reach the knockout stages but he remains positive ahead of the daunting trip to the Camp Nou to face the five-time European champions.

"We need to win and deserve to win. The mentality is going to be 200 percent to try to win. We are going to arrive in the best condition, Barcelona are one of the best teams in Europe," Spurs took just one point from their first three games in Group B, losing to Inter Milan and Barcelona and drawing with PSV.

But they beat PSV at home and then scored late through Christian Eriksen to beat Inter 1-0 at Wembley, leaving them in second place on seven points, the same as the Italians.

With Barcelona already guaranteed to top the group, Spurs must match Inter's result to guarantee progress.

Barcelona vs Spurs
 Live from 1:30am IST
 SONY TEN 2 & 2 HD

'NEXT LEVEL'
 Pochettino has in the past talked about how only the Premier League or the Champions League title will take the club to the 'next level', even though the trophy cabinet has been empty since 2008.

Spurs have played in the Champions League for the past three seasons but they cannot boast the pedigree or history of Manchester United or Liverpool in Europe's top club competition.

They have only progressed beyond the Champions League group stage twice, reaching the quarter-finals in 2011.

Barcelona, who beat Spurs 4-2 at Wembley, have already made sure of winning their Champions League group for a record 12th successive season.

Daunting for Spurs, Barca are unbeaten in 28 Champions League home matches and the Londoners will not be encouraged by the fact that the Spaniards have only lost two home matches in 33 against English opponents.

But Spurs themselves, with a vibrant collection of attacking players including Kane, Eriksen, Dele Alli and Son Heung-min, have won eight out of their past nine fixtures in all competitions and will be hoping that Ernesto Valverde's side take their foot off the gas.

Beating the Catalan club would be particularly sweet for Pochettino, a former player and coach at Barcelona's city rivals Espanyol. The Argentine earned his first win as a manager in a derby at the Camp Nou in 2009.



Liverpool look to Salah & Anfield for Napoli battle

AFF ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool must again rely on fortress Anfield to inflict Napoli's first Champions League defeat of the season if they are to avoid the disappointment of a group stage exit just over six months since appearing in last season's final.

The five-time European champions will most likely even have to win by two goals if they concede due to Napoli's 1-0 triumph when the sides last met in September.

Yet, such a scenario is nothing new for Liverpool and even rekindles fond memories of similar permutations when they hosted Olympiakos in the final Champions League group game of the 2004/05 season.

Brazilian legend Rivaldo's early free-kick left the hosts needing three goals, which they got in dramatic fashion in the second half as Steven Gerrard's spectacular strike sealed a famous 3-1 win four minutes from time.

Inspired by Gerrard, the Reds



went on to win their last Champions League title that season with a far inferior squad to the one that is off to a club record unbeaten start and top of the

Premier League after 16 games. Overcome the huge challenge facing them in midweek and Liverpool will again be among the favourites to lift the Champions League in Madrid next June.

However, in stark contrast to their consistency in the Premier League, Jurgen Klopp's men have lost three of

their five European encounters in Group C to put their chances of reaching the last 16 in serious peril.

There is some comfort for Klopp that all three defeats came on the road to Napoli, Red Star Belgrade and Paris Saint-Germain, while Liverpool haven't lost in 18 European games at Anfield.

The German coach also isn't as reliant on an individual figure for inspiration as Rafael Benitez's vintage 14 years ago were on Gerrard.

The signings of centre-back Virgil van Dijk and goalkeeper Alisson Becker over

the past year have drastically improved Liverpool's defensive record.

'BACK TO HIS BEST'
 But the focus will be on Mohamed Salah to produce the goods up front after looking more like the player that scored 44 goals in his debut campaign at Anfield with a hat-trick in a 4-0 win at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Liverpool rode the free-scoring form of Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, who each scored 10 Champions League goals, to reach last season's final.

Salah's weekend treble took his tally for the season to 12, but the Egyptian's only two goals in the Champions League came in a routine 4-0 win over Red Star in October.

Against a Napoli side that has only failed to score in three games this season, Liverpool may well need another two or more from Salah or another source to avoid a big European night at Anfield falling flat.

'Try something new, come to Italy,' Ronaldo urges Messi

AFF ■ MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo has urged long-time rival Lionel Messi to be more like him and push his limits by challenging himself in another league than Spain.

"I'd like him to come to Italy one day. I hope he accepts the challenge like me, but if he's happy there then I respect that," Ronaldo told the Italian press on Monday.

The two strikers have been rivals for the past decade winning five Ballon d'Or trophies each before their domination was bro-

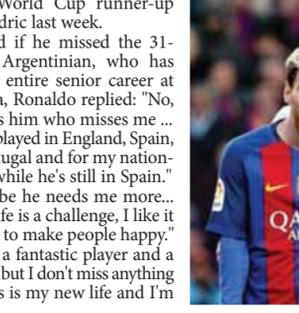
ken by World Cup runner-up Luka Modric last week.

Asked if he missed the 31-year-old Argentinian, who has spent his entire senior career at Barcelona, Ronaldo replied: "No, maybe it's him who misses me ...

"I've played in England, Spain, Italy, Portugal and for my national team, while he's still in Spain."

"Maybe he needs me more... For me, life is a challenge, I like it and I like to make people happy."

"He's a fantastic player and a good guy, but I don't miss anything here. This is my new life and I'm



happy."

"I left my comfort zone and took on this challenge here in Turin, everything has gone well, I've proven I'm still an incredible player," said Ronaldo.

Ronaldo joined Juventus for 100 million euros (\$114 million) last summer as the Turin giants bid to lift the Champions League trophy after two runners-up finishes in the past four seasons.

To mark his 150 days in Italy he gave interviews on Monday to three leading sports dailies: La Gazzetta dello Sport, Corriere

dello Sport and Tuttosport.

"I had different options. I won't say which but I had them. Juventus is a solid club. It has a long history," he said of his decision.

"I knew the atmosphere in the stadium. I'd played several times in Italy. I like the city, the people and the club. I knew it could work."

"I couldn't be 100 percent sure I was joining the best club in the world. After nine years at Real Madrid it was difficult to compare."

"Now I'm 100 percent sure it was the right option."

Sindhu handed tough draw in Tour Finals

PTI ■ GUANGZHOU

Olympic Silver medalist shuttler P V Sindhu has been handed a tough draw in women's singles but debutante Sameer Verma will fancy his chances of making it to the men's singles knockout stage at the BWF World Tour Finals starting here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, who had finished runners-up at the last edition in Dubai, will have a tough task at hand as she has been clubbed with defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, world number 1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei and United States' Beiwen Zhang in Group A.

Sameer, who defended his title at the Syed Modi International last month to qualify for the \$ 1,500,000 event at the last moment, has been put alongside Japanese world number 1 Kento Momota, Indonesia's Tommy Sugiarto and Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen.

The top two players from each group will qualify for the semifinals, after which a knockout draw will be conducted.

Only eight top players compete in the prestigious season-ending event.

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 the Indian has lost twice in the last three meetings, which included a final defeat at the India Open World Tour Super 500 tournament in New Delhi.

Sameer, who is the second Indian men's player after K

Srikanth to qualify for the tournament, will have a less difficult path to the semifinals. He has a 1-1 head-to-head record against both Sugiarto and Wangcharoen. Sameer'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.

Saina Nehwal has represented India at the prestigious tournament — earlier known as Super Series Final — seven times, reaching the finals at the 2011 edition.

Indian mixed doubles pair of Jwala Gutta and V Diju also had finished runners-up at the 2009 edition.



INDIA END 10-YEAR BARREN RUN

Dominant visitors cash in on late hiccups by Aussie lower order to win first Test by 31 runs & lead four-match series 1-0



Indian players celebrate after dismissing last Australian batsman and winning first Test by 31 runs on the final day of first Test at Adelaide AP

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India gave wings to their quest for a maiden series win in Australia with a 31-run victory in the opening Test, their first in the country since 2008, with Rishabh Pant equalling a world record along the way here Monday.

Chasing 323, the hosts were bowled out for 291 in 119.5 overs shortly before tea on day five with Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami taking three wickets each for a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

This was the first time India won the opening Test of a series in Australia in 70 years.

Things went too close for comfort for India as Nathan Lyon (38 not out) and Josh Hazlewood (13) put on 42 runs for the last wicket and frustrated the Indian bowling. The sparse crowd at Adelaide Oval cheered every single as the duo edged closer and the odd

INDIA'S SMALLEST WINS BY RUNS IN TESTS

Margin	Opponent	Venue	Season
13 runs	Australia	Mumbai	2004-05
28 runs	England	Kolkata	1972-73
31 runs	Australia	Adelaide	2018-19
37 runs	West Indies	Port of Spain	2001-02
49 runs	West Indies	Kingston	2005-06

Faisel Features

boundary didn't help matters.

Finally, things came to a close as Ashwin had Hazlewood caught at second slip in the 120th over to register India's sixth Test win on Australian soil.

"It's important to stay calm. The odds were stacked up against them as soon as we got Pat Cummins out. I wouldn't say I was cool as ice but you try not to show it," Kohli said at the end of the match.

Post lunch, India had a big early breakthrough when Australian skipper

Tim Paine (41) played an uncharacteristic pull shot off Bumrah and only managed to loop it up for Pant to take an easy catch.

The visitors then were bothered by two lower-order stands. First, Mitchell Starc (28) and Pat Cummins (28) put on 41 runs for the eighth wicket and carried Australia past 200 in the 89th over. While Shami broke through that partnership, things didn't ease out. Pant could have had 12 dismissals but he dropped Lyon in the 105th over off Bumrah.

Four overs later, Kohli didn't make any mistake at first slip as he helped dismiss Cummins, albeit he was frustrated with his 31-run stand with Lyon.

In the morning session, India removed Travis Head (14) and Shaun Marsh (60) as Australia reached 186 for six at lunch.

Starting from overnight 104 for four, the Head-Marsh partnership lasted only 7.4 overs before India

T W I T T E R R E A C T I O N S

Sachin Tendulkar
"What a way to start the series! #TeamIndia never released the pressure. Superb batting by @cheteshwar1 with crucial knocks in both innings, @ajinkyarahane88 in the 2nd innings and excellent contributions by our 4 bowlers. This has brought back memories of 2003."
— Sachin Tendulkar

Michael Clarke
"Congratulations Team India! What a way to start the test series! Congratulations on the win. Top stuff by @cheteshwar1 and all the bowlers doing a great job."
— Harbhajan Singh

Michael Clarke
"So close.... Fighting effort from the Aussies today. Congratulations to India on a very impressive Test Match victory."
— Michael Clarke

Mitchell Johnson
"Congratulations to India. Loved Australia's fight to the end, need to move on quickly from this loss & prepare for Perth which is a quick turn around."
— Mitchell Johnson

Shane Warne
"I love test cricket & its drama! Great fight from Australia's lower order today and it should be - this is test cricket. Terrific test match & congrats to @imVkohli & his men on a wonderful victory! Bring on Perth."
— Shane Warne

Virinder Sehwalg
"Test Cricket is Best Cricket. Great fight by Australia in the end but India were too good. Winning after being 41-4 in first innings is a special effort. Outstanding Test match for Pujara and great effort from our bowlers. Promises to be a great series."
— Virinder Sehwalg

WVS Laxman
"Amazing fight displayed by the Australian lower order, but this is a moment to savour for a long time for India. The bowlers gave it everything and let's just enjoy this and carry the momentum into the Perth Test."
— WVS Laxman



'Collectively we were better & deserved to win'

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Captain Virat Kohli on Monday said he was not "cool as ice" after the Australian lower-order's spirited resistance delayed India's march to victory in the opening Test here.

"These things happen in Tests, ups and downs through a game. Odds were stacked against them. They fought really well but we executed our plans well," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Asked if he felt the heat, the India skipper said, "I wouldn't say I was cool as ice but you just don't try to show it. Jasprit was getting worked up in his last over but I just told him to relax. Super proud (of the bowlers), to have four bowlers and take 20 wickets is a great achievement. Something that we haven't done in the past."

Kohli said India were "collectively better" in the Test and hoped his batsmen would step up regularly after the bowlers played a part.

"(It) shows us that if the batsmen step up regularly, we will be gunning for a win in every Test match. Collectively we were the better team and deserved to win," Kohli said.

It was Cheteshwar Pujara's century, which bailed India out of a difficult situation on the first day, and the senior pro contributed handsomely in the second essay too, scoring 71 and attracting Kohli's praise.

Did he think the target of 323 was enough and Kohli replied, "I think our lower middle order and lower order could have done better. We could have added another 30-35 runs more which could have taken the game totally beyond Australia."

"So these are things that we have to think about going to Perth but if someone had told me before the series that I would be 1-0 up as soon we started the series, I would have taken it with both hands."

PANT EQUALS RECORD OF MOST CATCHES

ADELAIDE: Rishabh Pant on Monday equalled the world record of most catches in a Test by a wicketkeeper, snaring 11 in the first match against Australia while breaking the Indian mark.

The 21-year-old is now level with Englishman Jack Russell (vs South Africa at Johannesburg in 1995) and South Africa's AB de Villiers (vs Pakistan at J'burg in 2013). He eclipsed the India record of 10 catches in a game by Wriddhiman Saha.

Pant equalled the world record after taking Mitchell Starc's catch off Mohammed Shami's ball in the second innings at the Adelaide Oval. The wicketkeeper caught six batsmen in first innings and five in the next on way to the record.

"I'm happy to contribute to the team. I always enjoy troubling batsmen, I love it when they concentrate on me and not on the bowlers," said Pant, who was heard egging on the stump mic. PTI

SINGLES

RIVER WIN COPA LIBERTADORES

MADRID: River Plate won the Copa Libertadores by beating their fiercest rivals Boca Juniors 3-1 after extra time on Sunday, bringing an end to a final tainted by violence and moved more than six thousand miles away from Argentina. Boca took the lead through Dario Benedetto but Lucas Pratto equalised before Juan Quintero and Gonzalo Martinez scored in extra time, aided by Wilmar Barrios being sent off, to win a fittingly dramatic contest for River. It means River prevailed 5-3 on aggregate after the first leg finished 2-2 and reclaim the trophy they had last won in 2015, lifting it for the fourth time in their history. "We have shown we are superior," River's Leonardo Ponzio said. "After trying to stay quiet about everything that happened, we showed on the pitch we were better." "The only thing I feel is sadness for not winning the cup and giving it to the people of Boca," Boca coach Guillermo Barros Schelotto said.

AKILA SUSPENDED FOR ILLEGAL ACTION

DUBAI: Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya has been suspended from bowling in international cricket over an illegal action, the International Cricket Council announced on Monday. Dananjaya was reported over a suspect bowling action during last month's first Test of the England series in Sri Lanka, which the tourists won by 211 runs on their way to a 3-0 whitewash. He underwent an independent assessment of his bowling action on November 23 in Brisbane which revealed his deliveries exceeded the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted under the regulations. Dananjaya's suspension will be also enforced by all national cricket federations for domestic matches, though he may be able to play domestically in Sri Lanka with the permission of Sri Lanka Cricket. The 25-year-old must now modify his action before applying for further testing and possible reinstatement.

AC MILAN LET INTER OFF THE HOOK

MILAN: AC Milan missed a chance to pile pressure on local rivals and fellow Champions League chasers Inter Milan in Serie A after being held to a goalless draw by Torino at the San Siro on Sunday. Gennaro Gattuso's fourth-placed Milan are three points behind Inter, who lost to leaders Juventus on Friday, after wasting opportunities to win the match, with forward Patrick Cutrone missing a golden chance with four minutes left and Gonzalo Higuain, returning from a two-match ban, also denied late. Milan's wastefulness wasn't punished by Torino, four points behind Milan in sixth and still unbeaten away from home, thanks to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma denying Iago Falque and Andrea Belotti. "I don't consider it a missed opportunity, as we knew very well that Torino are a difficult team," said Gattuso.

HARDIK NAMED IN BARODA SQUAD

VADODARA: All-rounder Hardik Pandya, out of cricket since September due to back injury, has been named in the Baroda squad for their Group A Ranji Trophy game against Mumbai commencing in Mumbai on December 14. Snehal Parikh, secretary in-charge of the Baroda Cricket Association, confirmed Pandya's inclusion in the Baroda squad on Monday. Hardik has replaced Babashafi Pathan, also an all-rounder, in the Baroda Ranji squad to take on hosts Mumbai at the Wankhede Stadium. While, Shreyas Iyer has been roped into Mumbai's squad in place of Suryakumar Yadav. Agencies

'CAN'T BE HAPPY WITH JUST ONE WIN'



Virat Kohli walks back to pavilion AP

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Adelaide done and dusted, Indian captain Virat Kohli on Monday warned Australia that there will be no let up in intensity and the visitors will go for the kill in the remaining three Tests.

"We can't be happy with just one Test match. We will not be satisfied with just one Test. Yes we are happy about this victory but this is something we need to build on. We literally have nothing to lose," Kohli said.

India had come close to winning the opening match at the Adelaide Oval in 2014 before losing by 48 runs.

"Four years back, it was 48 runs on the other side. This one is way better — 31 on our side. It is a great feeling — never taken lead in a series in Australia, that for us is a huge boost," Kohli said after India notched up their sixth Test win on Australian soil.

'STAY LONGER AT CREASE TO FRUSTRATE AUSSIES'

ADELAIDE: India did not bat smartly in the first innings, reckoned skipper Virat Kohli on Monday, asking his team-mates to show more patience and application to frustrate the Australian bowlers in the remaining Tests of the four-match series. "In the first innings, we did not bat smartly in the first session and allowed their bowlers to get back in the game," said Kohli after India bowled out Australia for 291 in their innings to take a 1-0 lead in the series. "The longer we stay at the crease, they will have to bowl 2nd or 3rd



spells and you have more scoring opportunities because when the kookaburra gets softer, you can play shots easier," he said. "In the second innings we had to take a different approach because there was time in the game, we did not want to score runs too early

because if we keep them in the field, they will get frustrated and we will get runs later. That was one thing that we have to keep in mind for the next Test," he said. The Indian skipper underlined the importance of Adelaide win in the context of the team's overseas cycle. "Earlier we used to say that we have played very well but didn't win — we don't even want to think about. We don't want to think about playing well and not winning. Our aim is just to win and if the opportunity is there we will go to win," he said. PTI

"It has given us the right momentum to play in a big series like this. We have had to work hard for five days. The physical and mental toil, and the emotion of it all come together in a result, so it

is a very special feeling. "Having never done it in Australia, to take the lead first up, is a good achievement on the team's part, and something we are looking to build on."

The Indian skipper also hailed his four-man bowling attack for scripting the victory. "That's a very positive sign (to take 20 wickets with four bowlers). Especially with the Kookaburra, we

We will go Perth with real belief: Paine

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australian skipper Tim Paine found the 31-run defeat to India "hard to take" but said they will take inspiration from their fighting fifth-day effort in the opening Test and head to Perth with "real belief".

"It won't be any more difficult than this is. Every Test match is a huge challenge and we've expected this series to be an absolute arm-wrestle from the get go," Paine said at the post-match press conference.

"If you want to be a good team you have got to be hard to beat and today we were hard to beat, we made India work really hard, I think we made them work harder than they thought they were going to have to work."

"We have picked the same team for the first two Tests and we are going there (Perth) with real belief."

Australia batted more overs than India in this Test, yet ended up on the losing side. Paine said this was an area of improvement for the series ahead.

"Sitting back now it is a huge opportunity because we didn't cash in the first innings and didn't have batters out there today when they were tiring. Had we taken either of those chances, we would have won this Test match, so it's pretty hard to take."

It's a really key element for us, to get lots of overs into them and I am sure



India are thinking the same with us. They want to see our fast bowlers bowl a hell of a lot of overs."

Paine underlined that they need to get more runs from the top-order going ahead.

"The batting conditions in first innings were not easy. It was hard to score. India bowled superbly throughout, built a lot of pressure on us and we couldn't quite get through those tough periods," Paine said at the post-match press conference.

"There were a number of reasons why we lost. I thought we could have cleaned them up on day one for 200-210 and we let that slip a little bit."

Australia were bowled out for 235 in their first innings, in reply to India's 250.

"Clearly we would like to score more than 230 in the first innings in Australia and there were other things along the way. We need to tighten up."

Talking about the lower order's batting contributions, which almost proved to be the difference between victory and defeat, in both innings, he added, "The lower order gets to face the bowlers when they are a little bit more tired traditionally and that makes a difference."

"If we can get through tougher conditions at the start we want our top six batting. This Test we haven't been able to get a set batter right through or a number of batters right through."

To hell with the nets, boys need rest: Shastri



Ishant Sharma celebrates after dismissing Aaron Finch during the second day of first Test AP

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

To hell with the nets," was what Ravi Shastri said on Monday after a memorable 31-run win in the opening Test against Australia, the India coach stressing more on resting his players.

Having suffered back-to-back defeats in South Africa and England, India began the Test series against Australia in earnest, winning the opening match Down Under for the first time in over seven decades.

"We lost the first Test in England by

31, lost the first Test in South Africa by 60-70, so this is a very good feeling for the boys to come out on top. When you get off to a good start, there's belief," Shastri said.

The teams will be heading to Perth for the second Test that starts on December 14 and Shastri, who is confident that the fast bowlers will have a crucial role to play, hinted at ditching net practice ahead of the clash.

"They have to rest up, to hell with the nets. You just come there, mark your attendance and get away to the hotel. We know the Perth track is quick, it's a drop in surface, there will be something there for the fast bowlers."

A collective performance by the four-man Indian bowling attack — pacers Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and spinner Ravichandran Ashwin — helped India earn a 15-run first innings lead before they completed a rare win in this part of the world.

"The bowlers were brilliant in the first innings, defending 250, the discipline was magnificent. They've worked on it, it's not come in overnight. As a bowling unit, when you show that discipline, it doesn't matter which side you play against. You will be successful," Sahstri said.