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RBI REMAINS NET SELLER OF
US DOLLAR

BHOPAL, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2018; PAGES 12 ₹3

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**BUMRAH
RISES IN TEST
RANKINGS
12 SPORT**

ACHCHHE DIN FOR CONGRESS

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

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

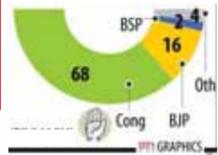
The BJP's moral-shattering defeat in the saffron bastions of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has placed the Congress on a much-needed revival path and thrown the next year's Lok Sabha contest wide open. The Congress' victory in the three crucial Hindi heartland States will also firmly establish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

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

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

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Loan waiver pledge does trick in C'garh



SUJEET KUMAR ■ RAIPUR

The Congress, which was out of power for 15 years in mineral-rich Chhattisgarh, staged a stunning comeback on Tuesday, courtesy a key promise to waive bank loans to millions of farmers who are reeling under steep debts. The BJP bit the dust in its bastion as it refused to honour its commitment to help out farmers in a State which is categorised as the rice bowl of the country. Political analysts admitted that the arrogance and deep-rooted corruption in the rank and file of the BJP Government scripted its crushing defeat. The Congress bagged a two-third majority in the 90-member State Assembly. Former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, who aligned with the BSP



and the CPI in a bid to win a few seats to use it as a bargaining chip in the case of a hung Assembly, was left high and dry because of the landslide victory of the Congress. Analysts say the Congress' promise to write off bank loans of farmers within 10 days of coming to power and give a massive hike in minimum support price (MSP) and slash power tariff up to 50 per cent were the prime reasons for the Congress win and the downfall of BJP's longest serving Chief Minister Raman Singh, who began his political career in 1983 as a councillor.

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Baghel's never-die scripts win

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Congress had never imagined to register a two-third victory in Chhattisgarh in a three-way fight for the 90-member State Assembly but it brought curtain down on 15-year-old BJP regime largely because of State party president Bhupesh Baghel who never gave up fight against the dominant BJP Government. The powerful OBC community leader Baghel who was appointed Pradesh Congress Committee chief roughly five years ago, displayed tremen-

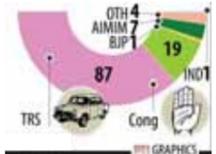


he was jailed recently in a politically motivated chargesheet filed by the country's premier investigating agency CBI for his alleged role in circulation of a sleaze CD against a powerful Minister Rajesh Munat, a key loyalist of the outgoing Chief Minister Raman Singh. The race for the Chief Ministerial candidate in Chhattisgarh is wide open and at least four leaders have started intense lobbying but there is a buzz in a political circle in the State that Baghel deserves to be the next Chief Minister. Baghel was always in centre-stage of the BJP's attack for challenging its might and even

KCR gamble pays dividends

M MADHUSUDAN ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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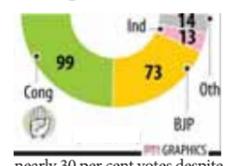
BJP fails to break Raj 20-yr trend

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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



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



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

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I did my best for people, says Raman

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh resigned on Tuesday taking moral responsibility for the BJP's stunning defeat in the Assembly election and stated that he did his best for the people of Chhattisgarh in his 15-year-long stint as Chief Minister. He told the media that he had sent his resignation to Governor Anandibhanu Patel. "I got the credit for the BJP's successive win in the State and as this election was fought on my name, I take moral responsibility for the defeat," said Raman Singh after Congress returned to power with a two-third majority in the



90-member State Assembly. He congratulated the Congress on its splendid success and said he would continue to serve the state from the opposition ranks. He opined that the result will have no bearing on the next Lok Sabha polls. He said the BJP would analyse the exact reasons for its debacle in the State soon.

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

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

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

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

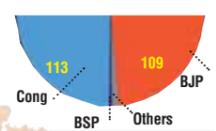
People rejected Mandir-Masjid politics, results show political awakening on rise in India
MEHBOOBA MUFTI

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

Cong holds fort, but Shivraj shows fighting spirit

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

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



jubilant since Tuesday morning when the early trends showed an edge to the Congress. A big LED screen was placed at the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) office and the party workers and leaders remained glued to the screen throughout the day. In the afternoon, Kamal Nath, former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh and Congress parliamentarian Jyotiraditya Scindia reached the PCC and reviewed the polls results.

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Rahul's a year at helm rejuvenates party

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI



A year after Rahul Gandhi was anointed as Congress president, he has silenced all those who chanted the slogans of "Congress mukt Bharat" and kept writing the obituary of the grand old party on daily basis. December 11 marked the completion of "Rahul's first year in office as president. Last year same day, Rahul took over as president of the Congress and led the party with remarkable vigour in Gujarat Assembly elections and thereafter brought Karnataka to the party's kitty. Emboldened with these wins, challenge from Rahul to Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears more serious than ever before. The gains for the Congress in the Hindi heartland States assume significance though the party suffered a severe drubbing in Telangana and Mizoram. Addressing the media, Rahul termed the victory of Congress as victory of farmers and the youths. "It's now

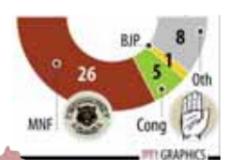
time for change. We are going to provide the three States with a vision for overall development. There is a clear feeling in the country that PM Modi has failed to deliver what he committed. The Opposition is now strongly united and will fight together in 2019 polls to defeat Modi to end the politics of hatred. I have learnt about a lot of things since 2014 and most important being humility," Rahul said. He said Modi taught him what not to do in politics. "He (Modi) taught me not to be arrogant," Rahul quipped. Hitting at the BJP for its often-stated remark of Congress-mukt (Congress-free) Bharat, Rahul said, "The BJP has a certain ideology and we will fight against it."

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Cong loses last bastion in N-E at MNF hands

PTI ■ AIZAWL

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



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

Continued on Page 4

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT BEGINS

Take issues of public interest, urges PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Referring to the Lok Sabha elections due next year, the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Internet giants were in agreement that objectionable contents should be removed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and UU Lalit said the guidelines or SoP in this regard might be implemented within two weeks. "The Government of India may frame the necessary guidelines/SoP and implement them within two weeks so as to eliminate child pornography, rape and gang rape imageries, videos and sites in content hosting platforms and other applications," the bench said in its order.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INSHORT

DELHI GOVT TO REIN IN FAT WEDDING

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

SC ADJOURNS HEARING TO JANUARY 10

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

SC TO HEAR STUBBLE BURNING CASE IN JAN

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

EXAMINE PAPERS: SC TO OFFICER, CHIEF SECY

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

SC REFUSES TO SCRAP ₹50K FINE FOR PIL

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

SINGLE AGENCY CAN PROBE ALL MURDER CASES: SC

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



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

SUPREME COURT ON RAPE CASES

'Media should be cautious in sensationalisation'

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

that is the sessions judge.

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

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

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

India signs ascension pact to the thirty member T-RMN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has inked the ascension agreement to the Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) which facilitates information exchange on the movement of commercial traffic on the high seas and will contribute to increased maritime domain awareness. Commodore KM Ramakrishnan signed the agreement on behalf of the Indian Navy at the Italian Naval Headquarters in Rome on Monday, the Navy said here in a twitter here on Tuesday.

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

The AIS information comprises name, MMSI number, position, course, speed, last port visited, destination and so on. This information can be picked up through various AIS sensors including coastal AIS chains and satellite based receivers. Indian Navy is mandated to conclude white shipping information exchange agreements with 36 countries and three multi-national constructs, officials said here. Till date, 19 white shipping agreements have been signed of which 12 have been operationalised.

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

UPSC seeks applications for Central Govt's JS posts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pradesh and West Bengal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INDIAN BUSTARDS' SAFETY

NGOs demand removal of all overhead power lines

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cong to fulfil poll promises, says Punia

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Promises made by us to farmers, unemployed and other sections of social strata in the poll manifesto were trusted by them and they rejected the allurements of Bharatiya Janata Party while providing a clear mandate to us, said Chhattisgarh In-charge of All India Congress Committee (AICC) P.L. Punia on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference here at State Congress Office Rajiv Bhawan on Tuesday, Punia asserted that it was a historic moment to see when the people of the State prepared their mindset for a change and they proved that allurements don't work when people make up their mind.

He further assured the people of the State that the new government formed would

work on the agendas set in the manifesto and would work for their fulfillment.

Punia further thanked party's State leadership of working unitedly and also to the party's workers for achieving the uphill task of uprooting 15-year-old BJP regime.

"Booth-level workers stood firm like a rock and the all the senior leaders of the State worked matching shoulder to shoulder and that ascer-



tained the victory of the party," he said.

Punia further asserted that this was a semi-final and expressed his hope that same performance by the party would be repeated in the finals of 2019 general elections.

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee (CGPCC) Chief Bhupesh Baghel who was also present on the occasion dedicated the victory to the martyrs of Jheeram incident.

He also thanked party's National President Rahul Gandhi for providing ample time to Chhattisgarh affairs and for providing valuable guidance from time to time.

Baghel also appreciated the able guidance of Punia and said it was the foresightedness of the AICC Chief to send Punia to the state which ensured victory for the party.

LED screens update residents on poll results



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Tuesday.

The Office of Chief Electoral Officer had put up four LED screens in Raipur city for the residents to watch the Assembly poll results on Tuesday.

The screens were put up at Marine drive, Telibandha, Gudiari, near Rajkumar College and near Anupam Garden.

The screens were put up for the first time in Raipur.



Celebration at State Congress office outside Rajiv Bhawan in Raipur



Congress party worker celebrate the party's good show in Assembly elections

Satisfied, we emerged as third front in State: Jogi



Regional parties would be an alternative to BJP, he says

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

After getting considerable representation in the Chhattisgarh State Assembly, I am satisfied that my outfit of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) (Jogi) has emerged as a third front, former Chief Minister and party Supremo Ajit Jogi said on Tuesday.

"The bipolar politics of the State and the emergence of a regional party as a third force and showing its presence itself was an achievement", he said while addressing a press conference here.

Jogi further claimed that if Congress leadership was declined by the 'Mahagathbandhan' and Congress is excluded from the alliance, regional parties would be able to prove as an alternative to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the general elections of 2019.

JCC (J) will also be an essential member of the alliance of the regional parties and will play an important role for it from Chhattisgarh, he said.



A garland seller at a counting center at Sejbahar



CGPCC president Bhupesh Baghel lifted by supporters after results started pouring in



The deserted State BJP headquarters

Santosh Sahu | Pioneer

Congress Shukla wins with record margin of 58,132 votes



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Former Minister and senior Congress leader Amitesh Shukla secured victory with record margin of 58,132 votes from Rajim assembly constituency of the state.

Shukla got 99,041 votes and beat his nearest rival Santosh Upadhyay of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who got 40,909 votes.

The other candidates who ensured victory with considerable margin include Congress candidate from Gundardehi assembly constituency who beat his nearest rival Deepak Tarachand Sahu with a margin of 55,394 votes, Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader T.S. Singhdeo beat Anurag Singhdeo of BJP with an impressive margin of 39,624 votes.

Another senior Congress leader of

Surguja region and President of Tribal Wing, Amarjeet Bhagat also recorded victory with a considerable margin of 36,137 votes from Sitapur assembly segment.

Anila Bhedra of Congress beat her nearest rival Lal Mahendra Singh Tekam with a considerable margin of 33,103 votes while Vinod Chandrakar of Congress beat Poonam Chandrakar of BJP in Mahasamund with a margin of 23,066 votes.

Shaktikanta Das named RBI Governor



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

While it was widely expected that the Government will name an interim RBI head during its search for Patel's replacement, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose Das within a day.

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

'Vidhan Sabha victories set trend for BJP's 2019 ouster' Cong celebrates win in 3 States

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Commenting on the Assembly elections in five States the results of which have been declared on Tuesday, the State Congress chief Pritam Singh said that the triumphal march of the party in three States-Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh-where BJP has been ousted from power would continue into the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, a beaming Singh said that the election result has helped the Congress president Rahul Gandhi emerge as the principal force of the opposition politics. "Rahul Gandhi would now become the fulcrum around which the anti-BJP parties would revolve in the days to come," he said.

He reminded that the victory in three States has come on the very day on which Gandhi assumed leadership of the party as the president one year ago.

Termining the election result as the rejection of the policies of the BJP Government both at the Centre and in the States, Singh said that the victory is a morale booster for the Congress ahead of the crucial 2019 Lok Sabha election. "Instead of talking about development, the BJP leaders harped on the Gotra of Rahul Gandhi while Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said that Lord Hanuman was actually a Dalit. The BJP said nothing about their achievements as they didn't have any. This is why they questioned Rahul Gandhi's vis-



its to temples. The people have taught them bitter lessons," he said.

Launching a diatribe on the Union Government and BJP Governments in the States, Pritam Singh said they have just misguided the people by dishing out flamboyant promises which are beyond them to execute. "Narendra Modi in 2014 promised to generate two crore new employments, bring back black money and control prices but he has failed miserably on all these fronts. Discernible as they are, the people have seen through them and the election results are confirmation of their rejection by the people," he said.

Taking pots shots at Modi, the Congress leader said that BJP had tried to take electoral advantage of the surgical strikes launched by the Army. "Such strikes are performed regularly by the armed forces but they are not made public. But BJP has ruptured this tradition and run amok to appropriate credit for the army's achievements," he said. The State Congress chief further said that the peo-

ple of the country have realised that there is a gulf between the words and action of BJP. "More severe debates are awaiting the saffron party in the days to come," he said.

Echoing the same, the State Congress Vice-president Surya Kant Dhasmana said that the victory of the Congress amounted to victory of policies and leadership. "The countdown for BJP before the Lok Sabha elections has begun and the party harping on 'Congress Mukta Bharat' is on its way out," he added.

Another senior State Congress leader Jot Singh Bisht who was entrusted with important assignments in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the elections said that the people are now fed up with the verbosity of the BJP leaders. "Besides, it makes it clear that the people have rejected personal attack on the Congress president Rahul Gandhi with the scorn it deserved," he said.

The State Congress spokesperson Garima Dassani said that the victory of Congress has infused verve in the Congress rank and file.

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After being kept on the edge of the seat suspense for hours with the trends from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan showing neck and neck fight, the State Congress headquarters here erupted into celebration late in the afternoon after it turned nearly clear that the party was set to form Government in these States as well.

A large number of party leaders and supporters started to gather at the State party office on Rajpur Road when the initial trends showed that the party was forging ahead in three important saffron-ruled States.

As some overenthusiastic workers brought sweets and set on the premature triumphalism the old timers advised them to wait till the final picture emerged.

After sometime, it became clear that Congress was sweeping Chhattisgarh. However, the trends from MP and Rajasthan seemed to signal a cliff hanger with BJP and Congress going neck and neck. The electoral seesaw with the parties experiencing highs and lows at regular intervals forced the Congress workers to hold the celebration.

Amid the prevailing suspense, the State Congress president Pritam Singh arrived at the State office. He too cautioned the party workers



against embarking on premature celebration. At around 4 pm, when it became clear that Congress was set to wrest MP and Rajasthan from the saffronites, the Congress workers finally erupted in celebrations.

They applied colours on one another's faces and distributed sweets. They busted firecrackers too to celebrate the long-awaited electoral victory. Some of them were heard saying that they cherished the victory as it had come after a long time. "There is no going back

now. The rejuvenated Congress under the dynamic leadership of Rahul Gandhi is all set to oust the BJP from power dur-

ing the 2019 hustings," said a veteran Congress activist triumphantly.

Congress workers applied colours on one another's faces and distributed sweets. They busted firecrackers too to celebrate the long-awaited electoral victory. Some of them were heard saying that they cherished the victory as it had come after a long time

Rahul's a year at helm rejuvenates party

From Page 1

We have won elections, we will also win in 2019. However, we do not want to get rid of anyone, 'hum kisi ko mutk nahi karna chahtein'."

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

On naming the Chief Ministers in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Rahul said this

will be done smoothly.

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

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

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

the Opposition parties to stop the Modi juggernaut in six months.

Before the Assembly elections, the rivals of Uttar Pradesh BSP and SP snubbed Congress and went alone in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The clean sweep by Congress in Chhattisgarh and a comfortable win in Rajasthan and satisfactory performance in MP will now keep the "political bargainers" in check.

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

Keeping in the mind the need of political circumstances, Rahul created several new departments right from farmers wing to unorganised labour wing to NRI wing.

He systematically divided the work among new leaders and also created a system where daily to weekly reports are

directly sent to him. Even in ticket distribution, Rahul went by the internal survey and insisted on giving tickets to the winnable leaders.

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

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

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

Cong loses last bastion in N-E at MNF hands

From Page 1

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

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

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

The MNF led by Zoramthanga, a former under-

ground, had won the assembly elections in 1998 and 2003.

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

The MNF bagged 37.6 per cent votes as against 30.2 per cent secured by the Congress. The BJP opened its account in the Christian-dominated state as the party candidate and former Minister Buddha Dhan Chakma won from the Chakma-dominated Tuichawng seat in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district. Chakma had resigned from the Congress. The BJP, which fielded 39 candidates, secured eight per cent votes. Lal Thanhawla met Governor K Rajasekharan and submitted his resignation, official sources said.

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

Mizoram People's Conference (MPC) captured eight seats.

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

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

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

Cong...

From Page 1

There was no clear majority for the Congress, but the senior leaders discussed the possibility of forming a Government.

Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is seen as a contender for the chief ministership, was evasive when asked by reporters as to who would be occupying the top post.

"Let the result come first," he said, adding, "We will create an environment of peace, justice, and development if we come to power in Madhya Pradesh," Scindia added. The Congress, which has been trying to dislodge the three-term BJP Government in the State, expressed confidence that the party would cross the majority mark. "As I said, the Congress is winning. We are going to get full majority," Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee chief Kamal Nath said.

Loan waiver...

From Page 1

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

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

The victory in the Congress has already set off serious competition among five key contenders for the Chief Minister's post. Baghel clearly leads the pack but political pundits are also betting on Rahul Gandhi's blue-eyed boy and party's lone Lok Sabha MP from Chhattisgarh Tamradhwaj Sahu, former Union Minister Charandas Mahant and scion of erstwhile Surguja royal family TS Singhdeo.

Raman Singh visibly looked down and out as he addressed media briefly and conceded defeat. He also owned up moral responsibility for the massive loss. The humiliating defeat of the BJP in a State having 20 per cent of India's coal and iron ore reserves is expected to unleash open infighting in the saffron party. A section of powerful leaders led by seasoned politician and Cabinet Minister Brijmohan Agrawal were waiting the right time for years to settle scores with Raman Singh. Party insiders say that BJP national general secretary and Rajya Sabha member Saroj Pandey is also known as Raman Singh's foe and she was pushing for a long time in party for a change of leadership.

BJP fails to break Raj 20-yr trend

From Page 1

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

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

Political experts said Vasundhara Raje's personal traits are believed to be one of the main reasons behind the BJP's defeat in Rajasthan Assembly election. Her image of behaving like a Maharani and being inaccessible did not go along well with the voters. The slogan doing the rounds is "Modi Tujh Se Bair Nahin, Rani Teri Khair Nahin" (Modi, we don't dislike you, but Queen (Raje) we will not spare you.) Caste groups having a small voting percentage are likely to go with new alliances for electoral benefits, as they had done in the past. Communities such as Rajputs and Gujars, who constitute 9 per cent each of the State's population, have witnessed a major churning. Besides, the Rajputs went against the BJP particularly after the killing of gangster Anandpal Singh by police in an encounter. He was popular among a large section of his caste people.

Anger against the film, Padmaavat, turned the Rajputs against Vasundhara and the BJP. On the issue of SC/ST act, the upper caste (Rajputs and Brahmin) went against the ruling BJP in the state.

Rahul's promise of farm loan waiver within 10 days of the Congress Government coming to power has been one of the most important factors for the BJP's defeat.

The farmers, suffering from distress, seem to have lapped up Rahul's promise. The Vasundhara Government seems to have failed to dispel the notion that the farmers were under severe stress in her

State. The Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme in the health sector, undertaken by the Government also failed to woo voters towards it.

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

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

Among the Ministers who lost the elections are: Agriculture Minister Prabhu Lal Saini (Anta), Food & Civil Supply Minister Baboo Lal Verma (Baran-Atru), Revenue Minister Amra Ram (Pachpadra), Tourism Minister Krishnendra Kaur (Nadbai), Housing and Urban Development Minister Srichand Kriplani (Nimahera).

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

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

Rajasthan has a 200-member Assembly but polling on Alwar's Ramgarh constituency was postponed following the death of the BSP candidate there.

A party now needs to win 100 seats to form Government in the State. Independents have improved their tally from 8.2 per cent to 9.5 per cent, while bagging larger number of seats.

BJP's crushing defeat gives...

From Page 1

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

The outcome shows that both in tribal and Dalit belts the Congress has done far better than the BJP in all the three States. The same trend has been witnessed in case of the upper caste vote. A sizeable section of the upper caste voters in Madhya Pradesh shifted away from the BJP, according to preliminary analysis of the result. The upper caste voters were unhappy over the amendment to the schedule caste atrocity act and launched major Statewide movement against the BJP on this count. Nearly two lakhs NOTA votes are believed to have come from the upper caste voters.

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

The BJP has to worry on another major count. The fact that both Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Raman Singh had excellent track record in governance and yet they lost shows that they might have become victim of anti-incumbency against the Central Government. It's obvious the Modi magic did not work in the three key States. This should give serious food for thought to the BJP, which heavily counts on the PM for its electoral successes.

KCR gamble pays dividends

From Page 1

From distributing sheep to the shepherds to saarees to the poor on Bathukamma festival; from acreage-wise financial assistance to the farmers to pension to the elderly; from mopeds to fishermen to allowances to pujaris - KCR had been doling out sops at regular intervals.

Going into the polls, KCR chose to wait till the fag end of the electoral process to kick-off to open his bounty bag. And out came the promises that ranged from doubling of the pension amounts to unemployment allowance to double bedroom houses to reservations to the minorities and Scheduled Tribes to increasing retirement age of Government employees. And in election rally after rally, he trumpeted his sop story to convince the voters there was no better Santa than him.

KCR's reading of the ground realities has been bang on. Riding on his populist policies, his gamble to dissolve the Assembly eight months before its term ended and go for elections paid off as the TRS' pink (party's traditional colour) wave swept the urban and rural divide alike cornering nearly 47 per cent of the popular votes. That KCR remains the most popular leader with a standing unmatched in the State needs no further proof.

No wonder then that the TRS' ranks under him regularly swelled during the last four years. The TRS won 63 seats in 2014 but by the time it went to polls its numbers stood at 82, with Chandrababu Naidu's TDP being the biggest victim as it saw a dozen of its MLAs switching allegiance over time. The TRS betted even that tally now as it bagged 88 of the total Assembly 119 seats, with the Congress at a distant second with 19 seats, three less than it got in 2014.

The verdict also made it clear that TRS would need neither the support of Asaduddin Owaisi's AMIM nor the BJP, both of whom had offered their support to KCR in case of a fractured verdict. While the AMIM could somehow retain its tally of seven seats, the BJP saw a fall in its numbers, from five to just one seat, despite the party giving it all in the State.

Whether KCR will live up to his threat and try to inflict losses on Naidu in Andhra Pradesh will be keenly watched, just as his bid to outshine his arch-rival to cobble up an anti-BJP anti-Congress front at the national level.

CS reviews progress of schemes of Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief secretary Utpal Kumar Singh instructed the District Magistrates of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar to submit proposals for the demand of funds with justification for a string of important schemes which are left incomplete due to lack of funds within a week while reviewing the condition of funds and achievements involving such projects with the DMs of the two developmentally aspirational districts via video conferencing at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

During the video conferencing, he instructed the health department to take necessary action to fill the vacant posts of medical officers, ANMs, Asha workers and statistical officers in Haridwar.

He directed the DM Haridwar to pay special attention to the children who need proper nutrition.

He instructed the DMs of both the districts to regularly monitor the problems related to the education, health and women/ child development in their respective districts.

He asked them to send proposals with justification to the Government within a week, mentioning the amount required for completing such works.

Notably, for the financial year 2018-19, the District Plan has a provision of ₹37.05 crore and ₹40.81 crore for Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts respectively against which an amount of ₹26.10 crore for Udham Singh Nagar and that of ₹23.34 crore for Haridwar have been approved.

The CS also reviewed the physical progress of the schemes now underway.

He instructed the DMs to ensure that the remaining funds are utilised fast. He stressed that the projects which are important for the people should not be allowed to be left incomplete for lack of the required funds.

"Send proposals with justification and we would consider," Singh said.

The in-charge secretary Ranjit Sinha, additional secretary Planning Ramvilas Yadav, chief engineer Y Singh, general manager Jal Sansthan Neelima Garg and coordinator Swachh Bharat Mission D R Joshi were among others present during the video conferencing.

May meets Merkel in bid to save Brexit deal

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

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

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

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

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

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

due to lack of support. "The Government will ensure that the matter is brought back to the Commons before January 21," May's spokesman said. **AFF**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Death toll in suicide attack near Kabul jumps to 12

AFF ■ KABL

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

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

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

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

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

Najib Danish told AFP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I also placed Comoros,

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

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

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

GLOBE TROTTER

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

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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

SHO :
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Outer Distt, Delhi
Ph. 011-25947225, 25949470

DP/1705/OD/18

China introduces credit-based security check for air passengers

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

The system was a part of the Civil Aviation Administration of China's attempt to improve the service. The Shenzhen International Airport will now classify passengers according to their social credit scores and divert them to different channels of security checks, Efe news reported citing the Chinese media.

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

Iran confirms recent missile test amid Western criticism

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

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

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

Russian fighter jets in Venezuela raise tensions between Kremlin, US

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

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

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

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

New bug forces Alphabet to expedite Google+ API shutdown

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

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

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

NASA probe finds water on asteroid Benu

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

Launched in September

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

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

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

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

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

FORM-G
Invitation of Resolution Plans
(Under sub-regulation (5) of regulation 36A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	M/s. Earth Iconic Infrastructures Pvt. Limited.
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	13th September, 2011
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Registrar of Companies (Reg.) Delhi & Haryana
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U72000DL2011PTC225002
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	B-100, Second Floor, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-1 Delhi South West Delhi 110028
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	20 April, 2018 (As per order dated 20.04.2018 of NCLT, New Delhi in Company Petition No. 18/15/PB/2017)
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	12.12.2018
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants (RAI) under section 25(2)(b) of the Code is available at:	As mentioned in Request for Resolution plan (RRFP), it will be sent by mail to RA
9. Norms of eligibility applicable under section 25A are available at:	As mentioned in Request for Resolution plan (RRFP), it will be sent by mail to RA
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	11.01.2019
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	21.01.2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	26.01.2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	05.02.2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	26.01.2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan (RRFP), evaluation matrix (EM), information memorandum (IM) and further information	Prospective resolution applicant shall be provided copy of RRFP/EM/IM Electronically on submission of Non-Disclosure Undertaking of Rs. 25,000 towards interest free deposit.
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	25.02.2019 before 6 PM
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Resolution plan to be submitted in sealed envelope to Resolution Professional at below mentioned address
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	27.03.2019
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Yogesh Kumar Gupta IBBI/PA/003/P/NO0078/2017-18/10701
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Yogesh Kumar Gupta C-178, Basement, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 ykgupta4@yahoo.co.in ykgupta4@gmail.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	Same as at S.No.20
22. Further Details are available at or with	Yogesh Kumar Gupta RESOLUTION PROFESSIONAL C-178, Basement, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 ykgupta4@yahoo.co.in
23. Date of publication of Form G	12.12.2018

YOGESH KUMAR GUPTA
IBBI/PA/003/P/NO0078/2017-18/10701
C-178, Basement, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019
For Earth Iconic Infrastructure Pvt Ltd

Date : 12.12.2018
Place : New Delhi

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

Letter No. 18637/Nivada/214 Date: 10.12.2018

e-Tender Notice

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

2. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 20.00 Lakh

3. Period of Completion :- 03 Month

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project Manager

Notice Inviting Tender

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

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

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

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

Estimated Cost:- Rs. 21,58,170/- Earnest Money Deposit:- Rs. 43,163/-. Period of Completion:- 30 Months Last time and date of submission of Bid: 22-12-2018 at 3.00 p.m. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> in I.D. No. 2018_PWD_163401_1

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph.: 011-27921168, 27922186

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

SHO
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Outer Distt., Delhi
Phone: P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Ph. No. 011-25947225, 25949470

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

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

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27581559, 27581223

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

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

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

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

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

SHO
Police Station, Paschim Vihar, Delhi
Tel.: 011-24368638/24368641
Ph: 011-25263471, 25267286

Rahul's day dawns

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



The *Kaalchakra* (wheel of time), philosophers tell us, never stays stationary. But this time, the electoral *Kaalchakra* stopped short of a complete revolution, although its direction was quite clear. The other significant trend emerging from the results of five State elections is that after a long time voters have given a less than decisive verdict in at least two States, in fact the two big States of the Hindi heartland which went to the polls. The so-called Hindi heartland States — Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan — have traditionally been the BJP's pow-

erhouse, along with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These are the States that gave Prime Minister Narendra Modi the thunderous mandate to lead his party to an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha for the first time in 2014. The BJP's crushing triumphs in the States also contributed to party president Amit Shah's ascendancy as the Superman of poll battles and a modern-day Chanakya, whose election-winning strategies were deemed infallible. Whatever the final outcome the aura of the Modi-Shah combine's electoral invincibility has been dented, perhaps, beyond repair.

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

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

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

Turmoil in Central bank

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



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

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

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

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

High cost of reservations

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



PRAFULL GORADIA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

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



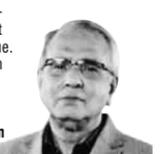
Actor — Arshad Warsi

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



India's Ambassador to the US — Navtej Singh Sarna

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



NITI Aayog chairman — Rajiv Kumar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Miles to go

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

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Unwanted controversy

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

Cheteshwar Pujara is here to stay

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

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



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

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

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

Tharcus S Fernando
Chennai

United or not?

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

Sanjay
Via email

Black day

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

NR Ramachandran
Chennai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The rocky road to 2019

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a senior political commentator)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS A STRONG SUSPICION THAT EVM MACHINES WERE MANIPULATED. WE DEMAND THAT 100 PERCENT COUNTING OF VVPAT MUST BE TAKEN UP.
 —CONGRESS TELANGANA PARTY PRESIDENT
 N UTTAM KUMAR REDDY



LOSING PARTY ALWAYS SAYS THE EVMS HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH. PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN VICTORY TO TRS, WHAT CONGRESS IS CLAIMING IS FALSE.
 —TELANGANA RASHTRA SAMITHI MP
 K KAVITHA

Accession of J&K: Breaking myths

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



ANIL GUPTA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pandit Nehru's blind love for him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Invest in gold: Diversify your portfolio

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



HIMA KOTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)



FOREINEYE



Theresa May is on the run

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

4 cops guarding Kashmiri Pandit hamlet shot dead

JeM claims responsibility

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sena happy with BJP losing 3 States

Uddhav Thackeray congratulates voters for showing courage

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

SP hails Cong victory

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had skipped the mega Opposition meet in Delhi on Monday, where top opposition party leaders met to work out a mechanism for stitching a

grand alliance to take on the BJP in the 2019 polls.

After the success of Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal in three Lok Sabha and one Assembly bypolls in UP, the SP and BSP had distanced themselves from the Congress and had expressed reluctance in accommodating the grand old party in the alliance.

During poll campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Akhilesh had adopted a strident anti-Congress posture, terming the Congress and the BJP as two sides of the same coin.

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

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

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

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

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Railway Minister

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

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

Muzaffarpur shelter home vacated for demolition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"With the completion of voting, overall 74 per cent

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

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

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



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

Marriage set to get political colour in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

music band as part of the reception.

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

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

But Padmanabhan too had a guest, a VIP guest indeed. Sevor S Ramachandran, minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Department had assured Padmanabhan that he would attend the marriage and bless the couple.

Hence Padmanabhan, a district level leader of the AIADMK asked Rajagopal to remove the DMK flags and festoons which definitely would have embarrassed the AIADMK minister.

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

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

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

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

Neglecting Lord Ram led to defeat of BJP: VHP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

e-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender ID No. 2018_NDMC_162707_1
Name of Work: M/o Parks and Garden 2018-19.
Sub Head: Procurement of Ground Cover for beautification of Aurobindo Marg from Ring Road to FOB Yusuf Sarai with Green Belt AIIMS Flyover.
Estimated cost: ₹ 32,32,500/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution: 08.12.2018
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution: 19.12.2018 at 3:00 PM
 Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT in Delhi is mandatory. S/d
 Dy. Director (H-V)

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth	Name of Work/Notice Tender	Opening Date (ETM)	Closing Date (ETM)	Amount / End (Approx.) in Rupees	Website of the Board/Corp./Auth	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1	BHAGAT PHOOLSINGH MAHILA VISHWAKSINI YALAYA, KHANPUR KALAN SONBAT	RENOVATION OF FACILITY OF LAW DEPTT BUILDING (RE-INVIT)-5 OTHER WORKS	07.12.2018	23.12.2018	126.97 LACS	https://www.bpswamesoniversity.ac.in	senjagupta@sonbat.com 0363-288007
2	GMDA, GURUGRAM	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR AUTHORITY ENGINEER FOR SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF FOG AND UNDERPASS WITH CARRIAGE AT MAHAVIR CHOWK, OPPOSITE POLICE LINE, GURUGRAM (HARYANA) - I	07.12.2018	31.12.2018	65.33 CRORES	https://www.gmda.gov.in	se7gmda@gov.in 0174-2746610
3	HWP DIVISION, PALWAL AT FARIDABAD	REPAIR OF INTERNAL ROADS IN GROUP HOUSING AREA, SEC-2, PALWAL, FILLING POT HOLES, PAVING CAT EYES, SPREAD BREAKERS, KEBB CHANNEL, THESEPARATORS, ETC.	31.12.2018	03.01.2019	34.80 LACS	https://www.palwalharyana.gov.in	sechoudhary@palwalharyana.gov.in 0129-4005561
4	GMDA, GURUGRAM	INTERIOR WORKS OF THE INTC BUILDING AT PLOT NO. 3, SECTOR-44, GURUGRAM	10.12.2018	02.01.2019	6.31 CRORES	www.gmda.gov.in	adityajain@gmda.gov.in 011-862298835
5	GMDA, GURUGRAM	REPAIRING OF ROAD / CENTRAL VERGE / FOOTPATH AT VARIOUS PLACES IN GURUGRAM FOR EMERGENCY WORKS WHEN AND WHERE REQUIRED FOR DAMAGED ANYWHERE IN GMDA AREA (RECALL)	11.12.2018	26.12.2018	38.49 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in	fgkrobb@gmda@gmail.com 8853838858

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

JOLT TO BJP IN ASSEMBLY POLLS

Excessive centralisation did BJP in

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

Rajasthan, which is traditionally known for not return-

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

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

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

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

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

Setback for BJP in RS after defeats

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The BJP is set to introduce triple talaq bill again in the RS in the winter session that commenced on Monday.

With clear defeats in Rajasthan (Assembly strength 200) and Chhattisgarh (90 seats) and losing numbers in Madhya Pradesh (230 seats) to the Congress, BJP may accede RS strength to the Congress

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

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

The results of March biennial elections across the country had given an edge to the

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

With the winning trend in different States, BJP was hoping that the NDA could inch forward towards a majority in the Upper house by next year when at least eight vacancies are up for grab.

The poll reverses in three states would put a sudden halt on NDA's ambitions to work out its RS strength to its existing heavy presence in LS.

Besides Cong, others also ate into BJP pie

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

has now got about 10.7 per cent votes.

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

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

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

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

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
e-TENDERING NOTICE

Name of work: Sanitation Work
 SH: Providing Safal Karamcharies for Housekeeping Work at Shivaji Stadium, Chander Lok Building, Mayur Bhawan, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Pragati Bhawan, and Zonal Centre at Fire Brigade Lane.

E.C. :- Rs. 11,54,659.00 Tender ID No. 2018. NDMC. 163415_1
 Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution is 07.12.2018
 Date and time for pre-bid meeting is - N.A.
 Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution is : 17.12.2018 upto 16:00 Hours.
 Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/nicgep> & www.ndmc.gov.in (e-Tendering System, Government of NCT of Delhi).
 Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-Tendering System, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.
 The tender shall be read only through e-Procurement procedure and this supersedes all conditioning of NIT for issue/receipt of tender in normal tendering processing for the purpose.
 Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-PK)
To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi					
TENDER NOTICE Date: 12.12.2018					
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.					
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimate Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/18-19/SV/AR/749	AWARD OF WORK FOR LAYING OF 11 KV FEEDERS FROM BODELLA GRID IN BRPL	208.05 Lacs	4.16 Lacs	26.12.2018 1530 HRS	26.12.2018 1545 HRS
CMC/BR/18-19/SV/AR/750	AWARD OF WORK FOR LAYING OF 11 KV FEEDERS FROM HASTSAL GRID IN BRPL	127.40 Lacs	2.54 Lacs	26.12.2018 1530 HRS	26.12.2018 1545 HRS

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

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

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

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

The tenders shall be uploaded in two envelopes marked 'A' & 'B'. i.e. Envelope 'A' (earnest money, proof of e-registration fee & eligibility criteria) and Envelope 'B' (Financial bid). Envelope 'A' will be submitted on-line as well as hard copy and Envelope 'B' will be submitted on-line only on Schedule of quantities of Price bid format. The Earnest money shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT in to the account of Sr. A.O./CAU (NZ), DDA having A/C No. 0287111000022 with HDFC Bank, B-3-2 Ashok Vihar phase-II, New Delhi-110052 (IFSC Code HDFC0000287) & MICR CODE 110240039. The unique transaction reference of RTGS/NEFT along with proof of e-registration fee paid shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in the e-tendering system by the prescribed date. The Executive Engineer concerned will get earnest money verified from CAU based on the unique transaction reference number against the each RTGS/NEFT payment before the tenders are opened.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at Google play
 Visit DDA Website: www.dda.org.in or toll free No. 1800-110332

Didi: Countdown for BJP begins

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

RBI remains net seller of US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

The Sensex had plunged 714 points Monday in its worst session in two months on pre-poll jitters. The opposition Congress was leading in the BJP-ruled states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh while the TRS forged ahead in Telangana and the MNF in Mizoram, trends indicated on Tuesday.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will see an investment of about \$300 billion over the next decade in setting up of refineries, oil and gas pipelines and expansion of city gas distribution network as it builds infrastructure to cope with the massive demand surge, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Tuesday.

Speaking at KPMG's ENRICH 2018 energy conference here, he said India is the third largest energy consumer in the world after the US and China and its energy demand will grow three-fold by 2040.

According to BP Energy Outlook, India will be the key driver of global energy demand in the next 25 years. To meet the massive demand, it is building world's largest oil refinery in Maharashtra at a cost of \$40 billion, he said adding about \$3 billion is being spent on laying gas pipelines to connect the eastern part of the country to the gas grid.

City gas distribution network to supply CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households is being expanded to cover 70 per cent of the population in the next 2-3 years. "Up to 2014, only 66 districts in the country were covered under city gas distribution. Work on 174 districts has begun which will further expand to cover over 400 districts in the next 2-3 years covering 70 per cent of the population and 52 per cent of geography," he said.

Business Corner

ASSAM RIFLES ORGANISES NATINAL INTEGREATION TOUR

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



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

RPF BUSTS SILVER RACKETEERS IN TELANGANA EXPRESS

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



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

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

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura

Sd/- (Er. Dilip Das)

Executive Engineer

Belonia Division, PWD(R&B)

ICA/C-1915/18

FORM G INVITATION FOR RESOLUTION PLANS	
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROSPECTIVE RESOLUTION APPLICANTS OF VTL (INDIA) LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	VTL (India) Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	05/02/1985
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi Ministry of Corporate Affairs under the Companies Act 1956
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U99999DL1985PC020062
5. Address of this registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	52/124 Property No.124, Pocket-52, EPDP Colony, Chhatraj Park Delhi-110019
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	27.05.2018
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	11.12.2018
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(b) of the Code is available at:	Details can be sought by emailing on E-Mail: vtfindia.ip@gmail.com
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	As per section 29A and other provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 Available at the website of IBI https://ibi.gov.in/webfront/legal_framework.php
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	25.12.2018
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	04.01.2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	09.01.2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	19.01.2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	09.01.2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Information Memorandum shall be shared by the resolution Professional with prospective resolution Applicants(s) after obtaining a duly signed confidentiality undertaking as per provision of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 by via e-mail at Email id: vtfindia.ip@gmail.com
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	08.02.2019
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Prospective resolution Applicants(s) may submit their plan to the resolution professional by E-mail at vtfindia.ip@gmail.com followed by the physical copy to the address of the resolution professional at 407, Indraprastha Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	28.01.2019
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	Mr. Ashish Singh (IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00416/2017-18/11230)
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Name: Mr. Ashish Singh Add: Flat No. 515, Baghban Apartment, Sector - 28, Rohini, New Delhi - 110 042 Email id: ashishsingh@gmail.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	407, Indraprastha Building, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 Email id: vtfindia.ip@gmail.com
22. Further details are available at or with	Email id: vtfindia.ip@gmail.com
23. Date of publication of Form G	11.12.2018

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC

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

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

6-7, Rishi Bhawan, Community Centre, Phase-1 Mayapuri Delhi-64
Tel.: 011-28115786, 28114971, 28115814, Fax: 28115786
RTGS/IFSC : SYNB0090208, SWIFT : SYNBNB152
E-mail : Br.9028@syndicatebank.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY OWNED BY

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Govt likely to make announcement on RBI soon: Finance Secretary



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Patel, who is the first governor since 1990 to step down before his term ends, in a brief statement, cited "personal rea-

sons" for the decision.

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

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

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

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

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

Case launches Case 1110 EX in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Case Construction Equipment, a brand of CNH Industrial, unveiled its latest product Case 1110 EX Soil Compactor on Tuesday at the 5th Indian edition of the International Trade Fair, Bauma Conexpo. This will be available for the Indian market from 2019 onwards.

The Case 1110 EX is specially designed with operator comfort in mind. With its closed HVAC cabin and a more powerful engine, the compactor is highly suitable for heavier application usage. It is a product that will cater to activities as diverse as urban construction, road building, infrastructure, and mining.

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

Commenting on the launch, Ajay Aneja, Brand Leader, Case construction equipment India said, "Case India is the market leader in the compactor segment and the only company to have rolled out more than 12,000 compactors from the Indian manufacturing plant. With the launch of Case 1110 EX soil compactor, we aim to strengthen our roots in the Compaction range. Case India has always endeavored to innovate and upgrade its machines from time to time and our new machine is another step in this direction as an Industry first product offering."

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA
(Regd. Office - Viduyat Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna) (Contact No- 0612-2504655, M No- 7763817701, Fax No- 0612-2504655, Email ID - ce.trans664@gmail.com)
(GST No. :- 10AAFCB2393H121, CIN - U40102BR20125GCO18889)
(Department of Project-I of BSPTCL)

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

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

Last date of online sale of Bid Document/Request of bid/bid documents up to 15.00 Hrs. on 19.12.2018

Last date of online submission of tender up to 16:00 Hrs on 19.12.2018

Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I) at 16.00 Hrs. on 20.12.2018

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

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

Chief Engineer (Project I)

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

E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs.

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

सिवादां के निष्पादन के लिए लोक अदालत का काम उठाये, परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें, समय एवं खर्च की बचत करें

PR. No. 13042 (Ni Ni) 2018-19
विटिया मेरी अभी पढेगी, शादी की सूली नहीं चढेगी!

STICKATHON



Belgium, Dutch secure K/O spot

Red Lions, The Netherlands reach World Cup quarters after securing five-goal victory in cross-over

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Pakistan's miserable campaign at the men's hockey World Cup finally came to an end after Olympic Silver medallists Belgium thrashed the four-time champions 5-0 in the third cross-over match at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday.

Staring the match as favourites, the Red Lions toyed with the Pakistani defence which somehow managed to hold on in the opening 10 minutes.

But once Alexander Hendricks (10th minute) converted a penalty corner, the Pakistani defence broke apart and gates opened up for Belgium. Besides, Hendricks, skipper Thomsa Briels (13th), Cedric Charlier (27th), Sebastian Dockier (35th) and Tom Boon (53rd) were the other goal getters for Belgium.

While Pakistan will pack their bags and return home, Belgium will take Germany in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The Red Lions, ranked third in the world, came into the match as outright favourites against the world No 13 Pakistan and they played like champions, dominating the proceedings for major part of the 60 minutes.

Belgium's first scoring chance came from the very first move in the form of a penalty corner but the Pakistani defence did enough to thwart the danger.

Belgium kept up the pressure on the fragile Pakistani defence and secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 10th minute, the second of which was converted by Hendricks with a powerful low flick to the left corner of the goal.

Three minutes later, Belgium doubled their lead through skipper Briels, who deflected in after being set up by Nicols de Kerpel's fine work pass from the right flank.

Pakistan improved their game in the second quarter and made some impressive moves but they lacked ideas once inside the opposition circle.

The final pass was lacking from the Pakistanis as a result of which their build-ups hardly troubled the Belgian defence.

Pakistan earned their first penalty corner in the 16th minute but wasted the opportunity while opting for a



variation. Minutes later Ali Shan's reverse hit from inside the box sailed over the Belgium goal.

The missed chances hurt Pakistan as Belgium extended their lead three minutes from half time through Charlier whose reverse hit from a tight angle found the back of the net after a getting a slight deflection of Pakistani skipper Ammad Butt's sticks.

Five minutes after the change of ends, Belgium made the scoreline 4-0 through Dockier, who pushed in after a fine one-two touch play from Charlier and Simon Gougnard.

While Belgium wasted two more penalty corners in the third quarter, Pakistan too got a short corner but Ali Mubashar's attempt went wide.

Down by four goals, Pakistan knew it was the end of the road for them. It was a one way thereafter as Belgium made all the forays and earned two more penalty corners in the process. The last penalty corner resulted in a penalty stroke as the ball hit the body of a Pakistani defender and Boon made no mistake in converting the chance.



DUTCH SET INDIAN CLASH

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

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

fortable win at the Kalinga Stadium. Netherlands will now play India in the last-eight round on Thursday.

In the match between world No 4 Netherlands and world No11 Canada, the Dutch were early aggressor as they made continuous forays.

The Canadians, on the other hand, preferred to sit back and defend while looking for counters to surprise their opponents.

Canadian goalkeeper Andrew

Charter too made a number of brilliant saves to keep his side in the hunt.

The Netherlands' first chance came in the ninth minute but Charter came out of his line to pull off brilliant save and deny Bob de Voogd.

Seven seconds from the first quarter Netherlands earned their first penalty corner but Mink van der Weerden's attempt sailed over the goal.

After 15 minutes of resistance, Canada's resolute defence finally broke down seconds into the second quarter when an unmarked Lars Balk sliding try from Glenn Schuurman's pass found the back of the net past Charter.

Seconds later Netherlands got a golden chance to double their lead when they were awarded a penalty stroke but Charter once again came to his side's rescue to keep away Jeroen Hertzberger's try.

The Netherlands, however, doubled their lead in the 20th minute through Robert Kemperman, who slap shot from top of the circle found the Canadian net for the second time in the game.

Canada's James Wallace feeble try from close range was then easily parried away by Dutch goalkeeper Pirmin Blaak.

Chances came thick and fast for the Netherlands as Thierry Brinkman was the next to be denied by Charter before the Canadian goalie pulled off another fine save to keep away Hertzberger's reverse hit.

The Dutch resumed the second half at the same pace and continued to mount attacks on the opposition goal and in the process secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 38th minute but the chances went wasted.

The Netherlands tripled their lead in the 40th minute Van Dam scored from a rebound after Seve van Ass's initial shot was saved by Canada keeper Charter.

A minute later, the Dutchmen extended their lead when Brinkman pushed in an open goal after being set up by Kemperman, who beat three Canadian defenders with his brilliant stick work.

After wasting another penalty corner, Netherlands made the scoreline 5-0 in their favour two minutes from full time through Van Dam's second goal of the day.

Attacking is our strength & we will not deviate: Manpreet

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Expecting the Netherlands to be their quarterfinal opponents in the World Cup, India captain Manpreet Singh on Tuesday said they will continue to play attacking hockey in a game where there will be no margin for error.

India's quarterfinal opponents was decided after Netherlands beat Canada 5-0 in the fourth cross-over match.

Like everyone else, Manpreet too expected the Dutch to sail into the last-eight round earlier only.

"We are expecting Holland to come through because they are a much better team. But whoever goes through our aim would be to give our best. It is a knockout, do-or-die match and there is no second chance. We can't afford to miss chances. At the same time, we need to be cautious and give less chances," the midfielder said.

"We need to play attacking hockey, our strength. When we try to play defensive, we tend to be too much defensive which provides more chances to opponents. We need to put pressure on them (from the start)," Manpreet explained.

The skipper said utilising chances would be crucial to success in the quarter-final.

"But it will be a very tough match and whichever team utilises its chances will win," he said.

"If you progress to the semi-finals you always have an option of finishing in the podium. You are just one match away from a medal. But if you lose in the quarterfinals, you don't get a second option.

"In the end it all boils down to how we play. If we get good chances and miss them and obviously the opposition team will take advantage of it," he added.

Manpreet listed out a series of do's and don'ts if they are pitted against three-time champions Netherlands.

"In the past we had good matches against Holland. In the Champions Trophy we drew with Holland. We have also defeated them in the past.

"Our aim would be to strengthen our defence. Holland has very good and experienced midfield. They also have good strikers. So, our aim would be to break their moves early. We can't give them easy chances and also need to convert our chances," he said.

Manpreet said the Hockey India League played a big part in the progress of the Indian team.

"Before HIL we didn't know these players of Holland, Australia etc. But since HIL started we all know each other having played against them and shared the dressing room with them. The team has improved a lot after HIL," he said.

Manpreet didn't play the entire match against Canada in their last pool match because of fever but he has since recovered and will be a key figure in India's midfield on Thursday.

"I am fine now. In the last match I had fever so I couldn't play the full match. But I am feeling better now," he said.



BAYERN HEAD TO AJAX FOR SHOWDOWN

AFP ■ BERLIN

Resurgent Bayern Munich head to Ajax for Wednesday's Champions League group showdown with clear winners and losers among the star-studded squad after Niko Kovac's decision to end rotation.

"We want to keep going," said Leon Goretzka, now a firm fixture in central midfield alongside Joshua Kimmich with Bayern having won their last three games after Saturday's 3-0 league home win over Nuremberg.

"Now we travel to Amsterdam and want to finish first in the group — that's important for us."

Bayern need just a point at Ajax's Johan Cruyff Arena to win Group E with the Bavarian giants currently top of the table, two points ahead of their Dutch rivals, and both teams already into the last 16.

A 5-1 thrashing of Benfica at the Allianz Arena a fortnight ago, with Robert Lewandowski and Arjen Robben both scoring twice, signified an end to the poor results of October and November which also saw Bayern slide down the Bundesliga table.

Bayern have now clawed their way back up to third in the league and coach Kovac has taken a gamble by ditching



Ajax vs Bayern Munich
Live from 1:30am IST
SONY TEN NETWORK



rotation, risking ruffled egos with stars left on the bench.

"The rhythm is there, the boys are in the flow — that's why we don't want to change anything," explained Kovac.

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

their path blocked by Kimmich and Goretzka, both 23, who each hit the woodwork against Nuremberg.

"Both have a very good understanding of football and read the game well," said Kovac, at the helm at Bayern since July.

"They get on well off the pitch and are in the national team together.

"It's an axis that's really fun right now — not only for those two, but the whole team in the last three games."

However, Hummels looked like he was having anything but 'fun', storming through the mixed zone after Saturday's win without a word as Jerome Boateng and Niklas Sule are now established as Kovac's centre-backs.

Disgruntled stars watching from Bayern's bench has caused problems for Kovac's predecessors and Robben's imminent return from a thigh injury threatens Serge Gnabry's place on the right wing.

Thiago Alcantara, a second-half replacement on Saturday who is returning to fitness after a knee injury, threatens to break up Kimmich and Goretzka's partnership in central midfield.

However, Kovac's decision has reaped dividends in attack with striker Robert Lewandowski scoring four goals in his last three games, supported by Thomas Mueller who is reveling in the attacking midfield role.

MUMBA HUMILIATE DABANG DELHI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

U Mumba underlined their title credentials yet again as they trounced Dabang Delhi 44-19 in a lopsided encounter of Vivo Pro Kabaddi Season 6 in Vizag.

It was an all-round team effort from U Mumba as its raiders and defenders put in a convincing display. Siddharth Desai (12 points) and Rohit Balian (8 points) were excellent in raid department whereas Fazel Atrachali got a high five and Surrender Singh with 4 points marshaled the defence superbly.

Dabang Delhi struggled to get going against a robust opposition and one of its players had a standout match. Meraj Sheykh had a match to forget for Dabang Delhi as he failed to get off the mark.

Despite the defeat Dabang Delhi



remain in the hunt for a place in the playoffs.

Rohit Balian got U Mumba to a quick start with two raids in two minutes as they led 4-1. The first half saw

Chandran Ranjit pick up a couple of raid points and no other raider from Dabang Delhi could get going. It was Dabang Delhi's defence that kept them in the match's first half.

For U Mumba Rohit Balian was in fine form and Surrender made crucial tackles at the back. U Mumba inflicted the first all out of the match in the 16th minute to lead 16-8. It was an impressive first half display from U Mumba as they went into the break leading 19-11.

Dabang Delhi were on equal footing at the start of the second half as they matched U Mumba point for point but still trailed 15-23 after 27 minutes. Siddharth Desai's successful raid in the 30th minute led to another all out as U Mumba led 30-15.

After the second all out of the match U Mumba completely asserted the dominance. Dabang Delhi surrendered haplessly as in the last 10 minutes they could score just four points. U Mumba inflicted another all out in the last five minutes and registered a comfortable win in the end.

TOUGH ROAD AHEAD FOR SINDHU

PTI ■ GUANGZHOU

P V Sindhu's bid to end the season with a Gold will be a tough one while debutant Sameer Verma too will need to produce his absolute best to make the knockout stage when the BWF World Tour Finals begins here on Wednesday.

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

On Wednesday, the 23-year-old from Hyderabad, who had finished runners-up in the last edition at Dubai, will begin her quest to put a golden touch to her Silver-filled cabinet.

But the road to the women's singles title will be a stiff one, considering she has been clubbed in what can be called a 'group of death', which includes world No 1 and her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying, Japan's world No 2 and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi



Sindhu vs Yamaguchi
Live from 9:10am IST
STAR SPORTS NETWORK

and her India Open conqueror Beiwen Zhang of USA. Sindhu, who will be making her third successive appearance at the tournament, have a 9-4 head-to-head record against Yamaguchi but she has lost four times to the Japanese in five meetings this season. The 23-year-old from

Hyderabad also has 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

'DRS isn't perfect system'

Australian skipper questions DRS saying it's frustrating to deal with imperfect technology

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australia Test skipper Tim Paine has questioned the decision review system, saying it has been "frustrating" to deal with the technology that is "not a perfect system".

Australia endured some frustrating moments during their 31-run loss to India in first Test when a few decisions went against the hosts after reviewing the umpires calls.

Umpire Nigel Llong had given Ajinkya Rahane out caught at bat-pad for 17 early on Sunday but the decision was overturned on review when replays indicated that the ball had hit the batsman's front pad outside the line of off stump and missed his bat and gloves.

Similarly, Cheteshwar Pujara, who had scored a gritty 123 in the first innings, was adjudged out on eight and 17 to Lyon on Saturday but the dismissals were overturned.

Replays found no contact with bat or gloves in his first dismissal and the second one was overruled as ball tracking suggested that the ball would have gone over the balls.

"Look, it's (DRS) not a perfect system and I haven't got the answers. It's just frustrating. I'd imagine it's frustrating for everyone. But it is what it is," Paine was quoted as saying in the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

The Australian skipper initially said the calls had been "interesting," then when later asked why DRS was interesting, he said: "I think everything. I don't want to talk about DRS. It's just — it is what it is."

"A lot of balls seem to be going over the top of the stumps, I know that, that live don't look like they are. So yeah, it is what it is."

In Australia's second innings, Aaron Finch was caught in close to off-spinner R Ashwin but he didn't use the DRS after consulting partner Marcus Harris.

Reviews suggested that the ball had not touched the gloves and later third umpire Chris Gaffaney informed Nathan Lyon there was not enough evidence to overturn the decision.

Paine said: "It's one of those things. You can't do much about it. We've been told Aaron's for instance would still not have been overturned. Yeah, the DRS is interesting."

"It's a bit different when the batters are



Indian players celebrate the dismissal of Australia's Aaron Finch, second left, on day four during the first Test between Australia and India in Adelaide

LOOK, IT'S (DRS) NOT A PERFECT SYSTEM AND I HAVEN'T GOT THE ANSWERS. IT'S JUST FRUSTRATING; I'D IMAGINE IT'S FRUSTRATING FOR EVERYONE. BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS



out there, it's up to those two, isn't it? Aaron felt something on his glove, it ended up being his pad, that can happen.

"From a bowling and in-the-field perspective, we've got a process we go through with myself and the bowler. Nathan Lyon's at point a lot, he gives us the indication of height. You have to take everyone's piece of information and make good decisions. We got a couple wrong but that can happen."

Former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni has avoided the technology for eight years after its introduction in Test cricket in 2008.

But after Virat Kohli became the captain, India agreed to the use of DRS in 2016.

Paine also backed pacer Mitchell Starc to rediscover his best in the bouncy tracks of Perth in the second Test after the opening Test where he didn't look menacing despite taking five wickets.

"When Starc's on song, there is no better bowler in the world, particularly with the new ball," Paine told cricket.Com.Au.

"In Perth, the conditions will suit him down to the ground... From what I am hearing, the wicket is going to be really fast so he'll be a handful."

Paine admitted Starc was not at his best at Adelaide but acknowledged his role in the team.

"He didn't set the world on fire but I think, for a long time, there's been a really big gap between Starc's best and his worst," Paine said.

"And from what I'm seeing, that is getting closer and closer every day. Was he at his best? Probably not. But I still thought he played his role."

Perth will suit Aus more than India: Ponting

PTI ■ PERTH

Australia might have been outwitted in the opening Test but former skipper Ricky Ponting believes the hosts will hold an edge over India in the second Test at the Perth beginning on Friday.

India defeated Australia by 31 runs in the first match to take a 1-0 lead in the four-Test series for the first time in 70 years.

Ponting believes the nature of the new-look Perth pitch will suit the Australians.

"I think Perth will definitely suit our guys a lot more than the Indian players, but the Aussies need to bounce back pretty quickly," Ponting told cricket.Com.Au.

Ponting said Australia need to find out their shortcomings quickly and learn from them after putting a poor show in the first Test.

"They played pretty poorly this week and got within 30 runs. And that's not saying India played at their absolute best either, but they're absolutely capable," he said.

"There's some positives to take from it but they've also got to take a good hard look at what they've done through this game and make sure they do it a lot better."

Ponting said Australia should avoid any knee-jerk reaction and retain the batting order and field the same playing XI in the second Test, despite Aaron Finch's failure as an opener.

The selectors, coach Justin Langer and skipper Tim Paine had backed Finch to open the Australian innings in Adelaide and Ponting feels they shouldn't change their opinion after just one Test.

"Why wouldn't they do that for this game if that's their best lineup?" Ponting asked if Finch should bat down the order.

"I just think that would be really reactionary. The selectors have made a decision, or whoever is setting the batting order, that they think Aaron Finch is the right guy to be opening the batting for Australia."

"When you start moving guys around, it just creates more uncertainty. Finch would potentially train differently next week than he had this week because he's not opening (and) Usman has to train differently because he is opening."

"Little things like that would come into their minds. If I was them, I'd be tempted to keep it the same way."

Finch got out for nought and 11 in the two innings of the first Test.



'Aussies will fight back, but India has upper hand'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Test pacer Karsan Ghavri expects beaten Australia to fight back in the remainder of the four-match rubber starting with the second Test at Perth, but backed the Virat Kohli-led India to hold fort.

He also hailed Cheteshwar Pujara, who pulled the chestnuts out of the fire with a batting century in the Indian first innings of the opening skirmish at Adelaide and followed it up with another half century to help the visitors consolidate, as the "Indian Wall".

"We are up 1-0 in Australia right now and there are three more Tests to go. But I will not be surprised (if) there will be a big fight on the field from the Australian team. They (Australia) will fight back. But I can tell you we (India) have an upper hand. We have an advantage of being a great team," the former left-arm pacer said on Tuesday.

India gave wings to their quest for a maiden series win in Australia with a 31-run victory in the opening Test in Adelaide, their first in the country since 2008 on Monday.

On the contribution of Pujara, declared the man of the match at Adelaide, Ghavri said, "Cheteshwar Pujara is the wall (of Indian cricket) after Rahul Dravid. He is the Indian wall like the China Wall (referring to the Great Wall of China). For Indian cricket, in Tests, Cheteshwar Pujara is the wall of India."

"His (Pujara's) wicket is a very prized wicket one in Test cricket. Like when Rahul Dravid used to play, his wicket was a prized wicket (for



the opposition). Today Indian cricket can depend on him (Pujara) and as long as he delivers the goods, it's great for Indian cricket," said the 67-year-old Ghavri who also hails from Saurashtra like Pujara.

Ghavri, who switched over to Mumbai from Saurashtra early in his career, had also helped Pujara during the latter's fledgling days.

"Personally I feel we have won this Test in Australia in Adelaide because of Pujara, his great performance. He gave Indian bowlers (something) to bowl at as you require runs on the board. His contribution was sizable," said Ghavri, who was the senior in his new ball partnership with the legendary Kapil Dev.

Ghavri also felt the Australian team was missing the banned duo of Steve Smith and David Warner. "I am sure they are missing them, as they were the main run-getters for Australia in the last couple of years," the former speedster remarked.

Pujara moves to 4th spot, Bumrah reaches career-best

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli has maintained his top spot, Cheteshwar Pujara returned to top five while Jasprit Bumrah achieved a career-high ranking of 33 in the latest ICC Test rankings for batsmen and bowlers.

Pujara's knocks of 123 and 71 were the cornerstone of India's victory in the opening Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval. Pujara has now moved ahead of Joe Root and David Warner in fourth position. He trails third-ranked Smith by 55 points, and leads Root by 39 points.

India fast bowler Bumrah has achieved a career-high ranking of 33rd, after his three for 47 and three for 68 at Adelaide helped him to rise five places.

Kane Williamson has become the first New Zealand batsman and 32nd overall to break the 900-point barrier in the ICC Player Rankings for Test Batsmen following a stellar performance in the third Test against Pakistan, which helped his side to win their first away series in 49 years.



Jasprit Bumrah celebrates after dismissing Australian batsman

Williamson scored 89 and 139 in Abu Dhabi last week, which set up New Zealand's convincing 123-run victory over Pakistan.

This performance not only helped Williamson to win the Player of the Match award, but also earn 37 points in the latest player rankings, which, in turn, has allowed him to leapfrog Australia's Steve Smith into second position on a career-high 913 points.

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

points, just seven points ahead of Williamson.

With Williamson breathing down Kohli's neck, the India captain will be under pressure to perform strongly with the bat in the second Test starting in Perth from Friday otherwise he will potentially lose his number-one ranking he has been holding since the Edgbaston Test against England in August.

While Williamson shone with the bat in Abu Dhabi and was richly rewarded, number-one ranked Kohli managed only three and 34 in his side's impressive 31-run victory over Australia at the Adelaide Oval.

The other two notable movers from the Adelaide Test are Ajinkya Rahane in 17th (up by two places) and Mitchell Starc in 16th (up by two places).

Amongst the newcomers, Australia's Marcus Harris has entered in 116th batting position, while amongst the bowlers, off-spinner William Somerville of New Zealand has emerged in 63rd spot and Pakistan fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has popped up in 111th place.

Pant pays rich tribute to Dhoni

PTI ■ PERTH

India's new record-holder wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant has described Mahendra Singh Dhoni as "the hero of the country" and said the former skipper taught him to be patient and handle pressure situations.

Pant, on Monday, equalled the world record of most catches in a Test by a wicketkeeper, snaring 11 in India's 31-run win in the first Test against Australia.

"He's (Dhoni) the hero of the country," Pant, who took six catches in Australia's first innings to equal Dhoni on that mark, told cricket.Com.Au.

"I've learnt a lot from him as a person and as a cricketer as well. Whenever he's around, I feel more confident as a person. If I've got any problems I can share it with him and get a solution right away."

"As a wicketkeeper and a player (he's taught me) to be patient in pressure situations like this (in Adelaide). You have to keep calm and keep composed and try to give 100 per cent."

Talking about the record, Pant said: "I never thought of the record but it's good to take some catches and put it inside my kitty. It's good to have milestones, but I'm not thinking about that too much."



Edulji bats for Powar's selection

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Diana Edulji on Tuesday said if Virat Kohli can have a say in appointment of the men's team coach, COA chief Vinod Rai should also respect the views of the women's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who wants Ramesh Powar to continue as their coach.

The women's team is without a coach at the moment following the controversial exit of Powar.

In a letter written to Rai, COA member Edulji accused the chairman and BCCI CEO Rahul Johri of breaking rules while appointing Ravi Shastri as the men's team coach in July last year.

"I see nothing wrong in women cricketers writing e-mails regarding the coach. They were truthful in expressing their views unlike Virat who frequently sent sms to the CEO (Johri) on which you acted and there was a change in the coach," wrote Edulji.

"There also I had objected and my dissent is recorded when the timelines were extended for someone to apply as he (Ravi Shastri) didn't apply in time. Mr (Anil) Kumble a legend in his own right was subjected to loss of face and made to look like a villain. He was gracious enough to move on for which I respect him. There also, rules were broken and



I had raised objections back then."

Edulji said Harmanpreet and Vice Captain Smriti Mandhana's views on the coach must be considered.

"The captain and vice captain have requested their choice so why can't we respect their choice for New Zealand tour till we get clarity on the committee. We can go ahead and continue with the same coach. The views of the two senior players must not be ignored."

"Virat did not accede to Kumble continuing in spite of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) saying, so then why not these two players get what they feel is best for the team."

The BCCI on Tuesday formed an ad-

hoc panel to find Powar's replacement but Edulji said the decision was made by Rai without consulting her.

According to Edulji the CAC comprising Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and Sourav Ganguly should have been allowed more time to decide on the way forward in finding the next women's coach.

The BCCI instead named a three-member ad-hoc committee comprising Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy to pick Powar's successor.

"The CAC has to select the Head Coach but before their availability was checked, Saba Karim (BCCI GM) had already spoken to Kapil, Anshuman and Shubhangi Kukarni. I enquired for clarity on their conflict (of interest) roles as how an ad-hoc committee was being formed without proper authority."

"But legal (department of BCCI) as usual gave an contrary opinion - 2 different versions on 2 issues. On one hand COA has no powers to look into the COI (Conflict of Interest) issue and on other hand COA has powers to appoint an Ad hoc committee."

"I still maintain that the CAC should have been given time like requested and their roles should be defined. There is enough time till the next tour."

Kapil, Anshuman to pick Eves coach

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Tuesday confirmed the formation of an ad-hoc committee, comprising India's first World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev, former opener Anshuman Gaekwad and ex-Indian women cricketer Shantha Rangaswamy, to pick the head coach of the Indian women's team.

The interviews will be conducted on December 20 at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced the ad-hoc committee to conduct the interviews of the eligible candidates for the selection of head coach for Team India (Senior Women)," the board announced in a statement.

The Indian women's team was recently embroiled in a controversy after the World T20 semi-final exit.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side failed to enter the final after going down meekly to England in the semis, post which veteran batswoman Mithali Raj lashed out at the current coach Ramesh Powar's behaviour towards her, describing it as "unfair and discriminatory".

The deadline for applying for the women's team head coach expires December 14 and till now the names of former India all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar and ex-South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs have been doing the rounds.

Powar re-applies for Eves job

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ramesh Powar, whose controversial tenure as women's coach ended on November 30, on Tuesday reapplied for the job after receiving strong support from T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana.

The 40-year-old former India spinner confirmed that he has applied.

"Yes, I have applied this evening because Smriti (Mandhana), Harmanpreet (Kaur) have supported me and I can't let them (the girls) down by not applying," said Powar.

Powar's stint after the Indian women's team lost to England in the semifinals of the World T20 last month. The team management including Powar and Harmanpreet dropped senior player Mithali Raj for the knock-out game, triggering a massive controversy.

After returning home from the West Indies, Mithali went on to accuse Powar and COA member Diana Edulji of trying to destroy her and being biased against her.

Powar, on his part, accused Mithali of threatening to retire midway into the World T20 after being denied the opening slot and creating chaos in the team.

Following the controversy, the BCCI decided to invite fresh applications for the post and set the application deadline for December 14.



Harmanpreet and Smriti have already said that they want Powar to continue while Mithali is against his return.

The women's team is a divided lot at the moment and so is COA running the BCCI. The COA comprising Vinod Rai and Edulji at loggerheads over the women's coach appointment.

The BCCI invited fresh applications for the vacancy after Rai's approval while Edulji said that the decision was taken without consulting her and the board could have continued with Powar till the New Zealand tour which starts next month.