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J&K Guv scuttles Govt formation bids

Assembly dissolved soon after PDP-NC-Cong and Lone-BJP stake claim to form Govt

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

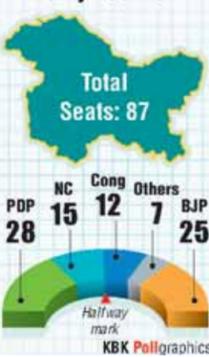
In a controversial move, Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday dissolved the Assembly and torpedoed the attempt by the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the National Conference (NC), and the Congress to form a coalition Government.

The order for dissolution of Assembly came hours after former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, in her capacity as the president of single largest party with 29 legislators, wrote to Malik to convey that her party would stake claim for the Government formation with the support of the NC and the Congress.

In a separate letter to the Governor, Sajjad Gani Lone of People's Conference (PC) too staked claim to form a Government. Lone, whose PC has two legislators in the Assembly, claimed that he has the support of 26 BJP legislators and 18 others, referring to possible dissenters of the PDP.

"The Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik, has passed an order in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 53 of the

**Jammu & Kashmir
Assembly
Party Position**



Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir dissolving the Legislative Assembly," Governor's Principal Secretary Umang Narula said in an order.

Mehbooba earlier took to her twitter handle saying, "Have been trying to send this letter to Raj Bhavan. Strangely the fax is not received. Tried to contact HE Governor on phone. Not available. Hope you see it @jandkgovernor."

"Sending the letter also by mail," Mehbooba wrote in another tweet.

FALL AT THE FINAL HURDLE

Mehbooba Mufti, in her capacity as the president of single largest party with 29 legislators, wrote to the Governor to convey that her party would stake claim for the Government formation with the support of National Conference and the Congress



In a separate letter to the Governor, Sajjad Gani Lone of People's Conference too staked claim to form a Government. Lone, whose PC has two legislators in the Assembly, claimed that he has the support of 26 BJP legislators and 18 others, referring to possible dissenters of the PDP

The formation of PDP-NC-Congress "grand alliance" took the formal shape a day after senior PDP leader and Lok Sabha member Muzaffar Hussain Beigh hinted at formation of a "third front" comprising BJP, Lone's PC and PDP's rebel legislators.

The dissolution of the Assembly culminated the political drama that unfolded on Wednesday afternoon after news broke that the PDP would be embracing its arch-rival NC to form a coalition Government to keep the BJP at bay and safeguard the special status of the embattled State.

The surprising developments began unfolding on Wednesday morning when Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad confirmed in New Delhi that talks on Government for-

mation were going on among the NC, the PDP and the Congress. Senior PDP leader and former Finance Minister Altaf Bukhari told reporters in Srinagar that around 60 legislators were supporting their move and negotiations were on to give a proper shape to the Government formation.

Bukhari said the alliance has been formed to protect the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, Article 370 and Article 35A. "We have to keep communal forces at bay. To

Keep the BJP away, we are coming together to form a Government. An alliance has been made with over 60 MLAs together of the Congress the PDP and the NC to protect our special identity. I have no details about the contours of the alliance but it is to protect the special status, 370 and 35A," he added.

Mehbooba wrote to the Governor, "Since I am presently in Srinagar, it would not be possible for me to call on you immediately and this is to keep you informed that we would be seeking your convenience shortly to stake the claim for forming a Government."

The State is under Governor's rule since June 19, a day after Mehbooba-led coalition Government was sacked following the withdrawal of support from the BJP. The Governor's rule is competing its six months on December 19, which would have necessitate implementation of President rule.

Governor Malik had already hinted that he would not allow any Government formation in the State through "backdoor dealings" and also hinted at conduct of Assembly elections.

However, last week he had

indicated State Assembly, which was under suspended animation, would not be dissolved.

J&K Congress chief Ghulam Ahmed Mir said that his party would support the secular forces to form a Government. "We are ready to support secular forces. The formal meeting will take place soon regarding the formation of a Government in the State as all the three parties are reaching a consensus," Mir said. "All secular parties have come together for the bigger interest of State and public. For saving Constitution, may it be Article 370 and 35A, we have to rise above party lines especially when eminent dangers are bigger," he said.

The formation of "grand alliance" of the PDP-NC-Congress took the formal shape a day after senior PDP leader and Lok Sabha member from north Kashmir Muzaffar Hussain Beigh hinted at formation of a "third front" comprising the BJP, Lone's PC and PDP's rebel legislators. Even as Beigh did not announce quitting the PDP, he openly criticised several decisions of the party, including the decision to boycott the municipal and panchayat polls in the State.

High-profile cases take hit in absence of CBI top bosses

Probe in Mallya, INX media, IRCTC bribery, Agusta deal cases halted

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In the absence of two top CBI Officers, agency Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana, both benched by the Government last month, probes into several high-profile cases of the agency involving bribery and special crimes have virtually been halted. The registration of cases has also steeply declined in the last one month.

Besides Verma and Asthana, Additional Director AK Sharma has also been virtually made ineffective following the shake-up as he has been given the charge of inconsequential Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) handling the Rajiv Gandhi murder case.

Following the Government's decision to bench Verma and Asthana, interim CBI Director Nageshwara Rao, a Joint Director rank official, transferred 13 officials posted in the headquarters to different places. This has also adversely affected the functioning of the agency.

The Supreme Court has barred Rao from taking any major policy decision in the pendency of Verma's petition challenging his forced leave.

Sources said the major concern is lack of clarity on who will represent the CBI in the UK court which is going to pronounce its order on liquor baron Vijay Mallya extradition case on December 10. Till now, a team has not been constituted to represent the case, officials said, adding a decision is likely to be taken only after the SC pronounced its verdict on November 29.

A decision by the Interpol for issuing a Red Corner Notice against ₹14,000-crore PNB credit fraud case accused Mehul Choksi is also pending in the absence of proper representation by the CBI, sources



Other cases in which investigation will be affected include the IRCTC bribery case involving Lalu Prasad's family, Agusta Westland case and INX media case. Other high-profile cases being probed by the agency include NRHM scam of Uttar Pradesh and Saradha scam of West Bengal. However, the Muzaffarpur shelter home case and Manipur encounter cases are progressing well as they are being monitored by the apex court. Asthana was handling the IRCTC case, Agusta Westland probe and Saradha ponzi scam case.

"In the wake of benching of Verma and Asthana by the Government and SC restraining interim Director from taking any major policy decision, case files are stuck as the officials are not able to seek legal opinion from the Law Ministry or the in-house legal wing when clarity is required," an official said.

Officials said the case files move right from the investigation officers, mostly comprising DSPs and ASPs, to the SP, then to DIG, Joint Director, Additional Director, Special Director and the Director.

CAPSULE

WON'T ABANDON SAUDI OVER KHASHOGGI: TRUMP

Washington: US President Donald Trump has defended his decision not to hold Saudi rulers accountable in the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying maintaining strategic ties with the kingdom and keeping the global oil prices down were in the best interests of America. The US had imposed sanctions on 17 individuals of Saudi Arabia for serious human rights abuse resulting from their roles in Khashoggi murder. P12

SABARIMALA: ANOTHER MINISTER HITS KERALA

Pamba: Hitting out at the CPI(M)-led LDF Government in Kerala on the Sabarimala issue, Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan on Wednesday said its "masterplan" was to "harass" the devotees and not allow them to go to the temple.

ALOK NATH BOOKED FOR VINTA NANDA'S RAPE

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police has registered a rape case against actor Alok Nath following writer-director Vinta Nanda's complaint that he allegedly sexually assaulted her 19 years ago during the shooting of a TV show, officials said on Wednesday.

BCCI CEO CLEARED IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

New Delhi: The sexual assault allegations against BCCI CEO Rahul Johri were rejected as "mischievous and fabricated" by a three-member probe panel on Wednesday but the Committee of Administrators was divided on him resuming office with Diana Edulji reiterating her demand for his resignation.

1 held for terror blast in Amritsar

Punjab CM says Pak ISI brains behind attack

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The Amritsar blast was triggered by Pakistan's ISI-backed terrorists who planted the grenade — brought from across the border — with Pakistan Ordinance Factory mark under a tree at a gathering at Adliwal's Nirankari Bhawan on Sunday.

This and much more was revealed by Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Wednesday following the arrest of one of the two suspects in the blast case.

Within 72 hours of the blast that took three lives and left 20 others injured, the Punjab Police solved the case by identifying the two attackers, and arresting one of them from Loharka village in Amritsar's Raja Sansi.

The attackers have been identified as Bikramjit Singh of Dhariwal village under Raja Sansi police station, who was arrested on early Wednesday morning from near Loharka village in the area, and another as Avtar Singh of Chak Mishri Khan village in Lopoke, Ajnala in Amritsar.

Declaring that the second assailant would soon be arrested, the Chief Minister minced no words to say that the attack



Punjab CM Capt. Amarinder Singh shows a picture of Amritsar grenade blast co-accused Bikramjit Singh to the media during a Press conference in Chandigarh on Wednesday PTI

was masterminded by Pak-based Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) with the "sole aim to disturb Punjab's peace". "ISI has masterminded this attack...It is using our men as tools. The grenade has POF mark, made with know-how of Austria's Arges," said Capt Amarinder.

"Bikramjit Singh, who was the biker and attacked the gatekeeper, has been arrested by the police. We are on to the second person and it is just a question of time," said Capt Amarinder adding that he has admitted the crime and disclosed that he is working for the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF).

Kushwaha set to dump NDA for Sharad for respectable seats

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Led by Union Minister UPendra Kushwaha, NDA partner RLSP is all set to walk out of the Modi Government and join hands with Sharad Yadav's newly outfit Loktantrik Janta Dal (LJD) next month. The RJD is in touch with the Congress in Bihar to get Kushwaha "respectable" number of seats to change side.

Sources said leaders of both the Congress and the RJD are engaged for the seat-sharing talks even as the BJP and the JD(U) indicated they will not spare more than two seats to the RLSP.

Currently the RLSP has three Members of Parliament. For past few months, Kushwaha has been sending



signals of leaving the NDA over seat-sharing issue.

Hours after BJP chief Amit Shah and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, in a joint statement last month, announced agreement on seat-sharing for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, UPendra Kushwaha met RJD

BIHAR 2014	
NDA	UPA
BJP: 22	RJD: 04
LJP: 06	Cong: 02
RLSP: 03	NCP: 01
JD (U) : 02	

leader Tejashwi Yadav fuelling talks of him joining the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan in Bihar.

"In Bihar, the RJD is in the driver's seat and whichever way they drive we have to ride," quipped a top Congress leader. He added that both the Congress and Kushwaha are confident that in present circumstances RJD's Tejashwi Yadav has an upper hand in Bihar in comparison to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Half of ATMs may close down by March

Changes in regulatory landscape are making it unviable to operate ATMs, says CATMI

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nearly 50 per cent of the total Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) across the country may be forced to shut down by March 2019, due to "unviability" of operations owing to "recent regulatory

guidelines for ATMs hardware and software upgrades, recent mandates on cash management standards and the Cassette Swap method of loading cash."

Handing out a warning to this effect, the Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI) said on Wednesday that of the current 2,38,000 ATMs, around 1,13,000 ATMs, including 1,00,000 off-site and more than 15,000 white label ATMs, are expected to down shutters. "The forced closure is on



account of unviability of operations brought about by recent regulatory guidelines for ATMs hardware and software upgrades, recent mandates on cash management standards

and the Cassette Swap method of loading cash," CATMI Director V Balasubramanian said.

According to a CATMI statement, a large number of ATMs in non-urban locations may be shut down due to unviability of operations.

"If this happens, the financial inclusion programme would be severely impacted as millions of beneficiaries under the Government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) scheme, who with-

draw subsidies in form of cash through ATMs, may find their neighbourhood ATM shut," the CATMI spokesperson said.

The CATMI has predicted the closure of ATMs may result in long queues and chaos at ATMs.

"Several hundred thousand jobs ride on this industry and as per CATMI estimates, the closure of ATMs may result in considerable job losses that would be detrimental to financial services in the economy," the ATM industry body said.

Intruding American tourist killed by protected Sentinelese

PORT BLAIR ■ NEW DELHI

An American national was killed by members of a protected and reclusive tribe in the Andamans, possibly with arrows, when he tried to enter the North Sentinel Island, police said on Wednesday.

John Allen Chau, 27 was killed by the Sentinelese Tribes on November 17, they said.

"His body was most probably buried in the sands last week," SP (Headquarters) and PRO of Andaman and Nicobar Police, Jatin Narwal, told PTI.

"His death was caused by traditional weapons but we cannot specifically say whether he was killed by arrows or spears. The details will come out in course of detail investigation," he said.

When the US Embassy

here was reached for a response, its spokesperson said, "We are aware of reports concerning a US citizen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The welfare and safety of US citizens abroad is one of the highest priorities of the US Department of State."

"When a US citizen is missing, we work closely with local authorities as they carry out their search efforts. Due to privacy considerations, we have no further comment," the spokesperson said in the email response.

The Sentinelese people are among the tribes that survived the tsunami of 2004 without any help from the outside world. For the 2011 Census, enumerators could locate only 15 Sentinelese people — 12 men and three women.



However, their numbers could be anything between 40 and 400, according to experts.

PC Joshi, professor of Department of Anthropology at Delhi University, said the

tribe has remained completely isolated from the outside world and despite efforts of the Anthropological Society of India which has tried to contact them indirectly by leaving

bananas, coconuts for them, they have failed to make contact.

"We have tried but the tribe has not shown any interest. They are the most private of the tribes in the Andamans. They are aggressive and are known to attack outsiders with arrows and stones. I do not

know what made this American visit the island, but this tribe has stayed in isolation for so long that I do not blame them for what they saw as an intrusion and a threat," said the professor.

In 2006, two Indian fishermen, who had moored their boat near North Sentinel to sleep after poaching in the waters around the island, were killed when their boat broke loose and drifted onto the shore.

While the timeline leading to Chau's death is still not clear, the fishermen who took him near the island have told the police that he had visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands five times earlier. He had expressed a desire to meet the Sentinelese Tribe, whose name is derived from that of

the island they inhabit, Sentinel, which is at a distance of 102 km from Port Blair.

Chau had hired a fishing dinghy from the Chidiyatapu area and reached close to the island on November 16, from where he travelled in his own canoe. He had made a failed attempt to reach the island on November 14 as well, they said.

His absence was first red flagged by the fishermen who took him near the island. They informed Chau's friend about his trip who in turn informed the US Consulate.

Two FIRs have been registered with Humfrignj police station under IPC sections 302 and 304 and seven fishermen who took the American to the island have been arrested, police said.

Joshi said it was a cause of concern that this island, where the Sentinelese have lived for hundreds of years with no outside contact was recently opened for visitors.

"These people are not specimens for tourists to see. They are extremely vulnerable to diseases and any contact might lead to their extinction. We cannot expose them for a few dollars. We need to respect their choice," said Joshi.

In a major step earlier this year, the government excluded this island and 28 others in the Union Territory from the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) regime till December 31, 2022.

The lifting of RAP meant that foreigners could be allowed to visit these islands without permission from the Government.

COMMUNAL APPEAL FOR VOTES

BJP wants EC to crack whip on Kamal Nath

Also questions, why Nath was removed as Punjab Cong in-charge?

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



of conduct by the Congress MP Chief.

Fuelled by the poll season adrenaline, the BJP on Wednesday attacked Congress Madhya Pradesh chief Kamal Nath for pandering to the Muslims and charged his party with working against the victims of 1984 Sikh riots while also pointing out that Nath was removed as Punjab-in-charge following the anti-Sikh killings. The BJP demanded the EC to take legal action against Nath. Making Nath its target in the poll-bound State, where voting is due on November 28, BJP referred to a video figuring him on social media wherein he is purportedly saying that it would be a huge loss if the Congress does not get 90 per cent of Muslim votes. A BJP delegation, led by Union Minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, visited election commission and sought suitable penal action against Nath for inciting communal and religious feelings by appealing to a particular religious community. The party also drew EC's attention to the alleged violation of code

THE NINE-TIME LOK SABHA MEMBER FROM CHHINDWARA IS REPORTEDLY URGING A GATHERING OF MUSLIM CLERICS TO ACCOUNT FOR EACH AND EVERY MUSLIM VOTE IN THE STATE

get it done to 80 to 90 per cent. If we don't get 90 per cent vote share of the Muslim community today, then it will be a big loss for us," Nath can reportedly be heard saying. In the clip he is seen telling the members in the gathering to 'identify' Muslim booths and target the voters there. "You know which is a Muslim booth. In that booth, what was the percentage of voting that took place? If 60 per cent voting has taken place there, there would be a reason

behind it," Nath says. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra hit out at Congress for practicing 'divide and rule' politics brazenly. He also went on to say that Nath's fresh comments are an extrapolation of Congress president's comment where he allegedly asserted that Congress is a party of Muslims. Patra also implied that the Congress was undermining the votes of backward class and tribals. In another video, circulated in social media earlier, Nath was purportedly commenting on the so-called divisive politics of the BJP and asking the Muslim voters to bear with it until polling concludes. On Wednesday, the BJP also charged the Congress with denying justice to the 1984 Sikh victims and also simultaneously targeted Nath saying he was removed as Congress in-charge for the Punjab Assembly polls following protests by Sikhs. A day after a Delhi court awarded death sentence to an accused and life imprisonment to another in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said the

probe carried out by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Narendra Modi Government led to the sentencing. "We (BJP) are very satisfied," the Union Minister told reporters about his party's stand on the verdict and added that people needed to be told that the Congress had, during its rule, tried to ensure that the Sikh riot victims did not get justice. The Opposition party did it to save its own people, Prasad alleged. Targeting Nath, who has been accused by some Sikh bodies of having links to the riots, Prasad noted that the Congress had removed him as its in-charge for the Punjab polls last year following protests by people. The Congress should answer as to why was Nath removed, he said. Nath had in the past rejected the charges against him and said he had no links with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards.

PM mocking DeMo-hit farmers, says Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Continuing his daily attack on the Modi Government, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that demonetisation had "destroyed" the lives of farmers and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making "fun" of their plight during his poll campaigns. Taking to Twitter, he cited a media report that claimed the agriculture ministry has admitted that demonetisation has hit the farmers hard. The Ministry, however, rejected the claims. "Noteban has destroyed the lives of farmers. Now they do not even have enough money to buy seeds and fertilizer," Rahul tweeted in Hindi. "But, Modi ji is making fun of our farmers' plight. Now his Agriculture Ministry has also said that farmers were badly affected due to demonetisation decision," he said on Twitter referring to Modi's campaigns in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. On Saturday, the Congress chief tagged on Twitter a video of the prime minister's speech during the poll campaign in Chhattisgarh, where he alleged that people were hiding their black money under beds and in

wheat stocks in their homes before the note ban. He had also asked if absconders like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, who have allegedly committed bank frauds, have ever sown wheat. "Have you seen Mallya, Mehul bhai and Nirav Modi sow wheat. Modiji, don't insult the farmers. You first indulged in a scam by collecting farmers money by noteban and handed it over to your suit-boot friends. "Now you are saying that farmers' money was black money. India will not tolerate this insult of farmers," he had tweeted. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has defended demonetisation, saying it was a "highly ethical" move and not merely a political one. Jaitley also said hard data showed an increase in tax base, greater formalisation of the economy and India retaining the fastest growing economy tag for the fifth year in a row.

INSHORT

FRENCH NAVY RESCUES 12 DROWNING INDIANS



New Delhi: Twelve Indians were rescued from a sinking vessel in the Persian Gulf by a French Navy ship on Tuesday, the French embassy said in a statement here. Those rescued were crew members of the Durban Queen bearing a Saint Kitts and Nevis flag. Despite some minor injuries, they are safe and in good health, it said.

EU UNVEILS STRATEGY PAPER TO BOOST TIES

New Delhi: The European Union on Wednesday unveiled a 'strategy paper' outlining the broad contours to significantly scale up ties with India in a plethora of areas like investment, infrastructure, defence, security and counter-terrorism, and proposed a military-to-military cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

ASIA ENVIRONMENT GOES TO WILDLIFE BUREAU

New Delhi: The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been selected among the winners of the Asia Environment Enforcement Awards for its work in combating trans-boundary environmental crime, Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Wednesday.

DGBR Singh reviews work on critical border roads

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh on Thursday reviewed the progress of works on operationally critical roads in the Area of Responsibility of Project Arunank in Arunachal Pradesh. Singh also called on the Governor and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and apprised them about the status of road works in the State. During the review on Wednesday and Thursday, the DGBR inspected Road TCC-Taksing and TCC-Bidak. The officer also inspected the ongoing road construction work and took stock of plan of Bailey bridges on various nallahs and rivers for fair weather connectivity to Taksing and Bidak.

HRD Ministry launches innovation cell for research

This will encourage, inspire and nurture young students, says Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launching the IIC through video-conferencing on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

With an aim to promote new ideas for innovation in all higher education institutions (HEIs) across the country, HRD Minister on Wednesday established an innovation cell at the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said the new cell will be a significant step in institutionalising innovation and developing a scientific temperament in the country. "The purpose of formation of network of Institution's Innovation Councils (IICs) is to encourage, inspire and nurture young students by exposing them to new ideas and process-

es resulting in innovative activities in their formative years," Javadekar said. "More than 1,000 HEIs have already formed IICs in their campuses and enrolled for the IIC network managed by MHRD's innovation cell to promote innovation through multitudinous modes leading to an innovation promotion eco-sys-

tem in their campuses," he said. Javadekar said varieties are the main research centers of developed countries and because of their research they are at the top in global innovation ranking. "Now Indian universities are also setting up research centers through the IIC programme and we are expecting good rank in global innovation ranking in next two to three years through this initiative," he added. The Minister said that the educational advancement in higher education can only be achieved by encouraging best practices in innovation and advance research and Innovation Cell has undertaken many initiatives in this direction such as implementing programs like Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA), Smart India Hackathon (SIH)- 2019, etc.

76.35% voting in C'garh polls lower than 2013 elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Releasing the final voting figures, the Election Commission on Wednesday said that Chhattisgarh recorded 76.35 per cent voter turnout in the two-phase polls to the 90-member State Assembly, which is slightly lower as compared to the last elections. The second phase of polling, held on Tuesday in 72 Assembly seats, recorded 76.34 per cent voter turnout, the EC said. In the first phase, the poll percentage was 76.39. The overall voter turnout of both the phases comes out to 76.35 per cent, it said. A total of 38 seats out of 90 recorded above 80 per cent voter turnout, which the EC said, is a record for Chhattisgarh. In the 2013 assembly polls, the voting percentage was 75.93 per cent and 77.72 per cent in the two phases respectively. The overall voter turnout was 77.40 per cent. The voters turnout dipped by 1.05 per cent as compared

to 2013, according to data from the EC. As many as 13 cases of people boycotting polls over a variety of reasons including jobs, road construction and removal of encroachments were recorded. The EC also said that at the 19,336 polling stations in the second phase of polls, a total of 25,640 ballot units, 19,336 control units and 19,336 paper trail machines were used. Only 47 ballot units, 37 control units and 131 paper trail machines needed replacement during the polls. Given sufficient reserves available, these replacements were han-

The Kurud seat recorded 88.99 per cent turnout, the highest in the state. Raipur (North), the commission said, recorded the lowest turnout of 60.3 per cent.

11-member team to review poll preparedness in T

A 11-member team headed by Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat will be visiting Telangana for two days beginning Thursday to review the poll preparedness. During the visit, the team would hold a meeting with Chief Secretary S K Joshi, Director General of Police Mahendar Reddy, district electoral officers, superintendents of police and others, the official said. Election Commissioners Sunil Arora and Ashok Lavasa would also be coming here as part of the team. The State is going to poll on December 7.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the NASI SCOPUS Young Scientist Awards-2018 in New Delhi on Wednesday. PIB

Sealing: SC order on contempt proceedings against Tiwari today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce on Thursday its order on contempt proceedings against Delhi BJP chief and Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari for allegedly breaking the seal of a premises here. The property was sealed by the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC). A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur had on October 30 reserved its order after hearing arguments in the matter during which Tiwari had accused the court-mandated monitoring committee on sealing of "terrorising" people of Delhi. The panel, however, had

claimed that he was trying to make the court a "political battleground". An FIR was also lodged against Tiwari by the EDMC for allegedly breaking the seal of the premises in Gokalpuri area in north-east Delhi on September 16. The apex court had on September 19 issued contempt notice against Tiwari, a Member of Parliament (MP) from the north-east Delhi constituency, after taking note of a report filed by the monitoring committee which had alleged that the BJP leader had broken the seal of the premises. Tiwari had claimed before

the top court that monitoring committee has exceeded its jurisdiction and conducted sealing drive in unauthorised colonies here that were protected under the law. Senior counsel Vikas Singh, appearing for the BJP leader, had claimed before the bench that "monitoring committee want to terrorise the people of Delhi. This is only for publicity". Countering his arguments, advocate A D N Rao, appearing for the committee, had said the panel does not need any "publicity" and its members were "only performing their jobs entrusted to them by the Supreme Court". PTI

400 paramilitary personnel killed due to firing from Pak in last 3 yrs: Officials



New Delhi: Nearly 400 paramilitary personnel were killed due to firing from across the Indo-Pak border, and terrorist and insurgency violence in the country in the last three years, officials said on Wednesday. The highest number of personnel killed in action were from the Border Security Force (BSF). The force lost 167 personnel between 2015 and 2017, and a majority of them were killed while guarding the highly sensitive border. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has lost 103 personnel in the last three years, mostly while fighting Naxals and militancy in Jammu & Kashmir, a Home Ministry official said. While the BSF lost 62 personnel in action in 2015, 58 in 2016 and 47 in 2017, the CRPF lost nine personnel in action in 2015, 42 in 2016 and 52 in 2017. As many as 48 personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) were killed in action in the last three years of whom 16 were killed in 2015, 15 in 2016 and

17 in 2017, the official said. The SSB guards the Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Nepal border. The troops of the force is also deployed in internal security duties. A total of 40 personnel belonging to the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the Sino-Indian border, were killed in action between 2015 and 2017. Among them, 15 personnel were killed in 2015, 10 in 2016 and 15 in 2017. Altogether 35 personnel of the Assam Rifles, which guards the Indo-Myanmar border and fights militants in the northeast, were killed in action in the last three years. Eighteen personnel of the Assam Rifles were killed in 2015, nine in 2016 and eight in 2017. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has lost two personnel in action in the last three years — one each in 2016 and 2017. There were no casualties in 2015 from the CISF, which guards airports, nuclear installations, metro services and other sensitive locations, another official said. PTI

Age is just a number for Barmer BJP MP

Barmer (R'than): The age of the Barmer BJP MP, who is contesting the Rajasthan Assembly election, has remained constant at 73. As per the details mentioned by Sonaram Choudhary in the affidavits for the 2014 Lok Sabha and the upcoming Assembly election, he has mentioned his age as 73. The affidavits are available on the election department's website. Sonaram had contested the 2008 Assembly election from Baytu seat, in which he had mentioned his age as 65. In the 2013 state election, his age, as per the affidavits, was 72. Sonaram could not be contacted for his comments as he was busy in campaigning in his Barmer Assembly constituency. PTI

India to host 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health in 2019

New Delhi: The 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health will be held in Hyderabad next year, a global organisation working in this field announced on Wednesday. The conference 'Ending the Emergency: Science, Leadership, Action' which will be held from October 30 to November 2 next year, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease said. It will focus on what is needed to ensure commitments become action and targets are met, the organisation also called The Union said. Tuberculosis (TB), a preventable and curable disease, now kills more people than HIV/AIDS and is the world's largest infectious disease, it said.

India has the highest TB burden in the world with one in four people ill with tuberculosis globally residing in the country, Prabodh Bhambal, Deputy Executive Director at The Union, said. "In Hyderabad we need to be seeing signs that we are seeing real leadership that is translating into both investment in diagnostic tools, new drugs and a vaccine and action on the ground," he said. The 50th Union World Conference is expected to be attended by around 6,000 researchers, policy makers, health practitioners, political leaders, and UN and community representatives. The latest research into prevention, cure and vaccines will be presented at the conference. The Union has its South-East Asia Office in Delhi employing and implements the

Declaration they signed at the UN meeting." José Luis Castro, Executive Director at The Union, said. "In Hyderabad we need to be seeing signs that we are seeing real leadership that is translating into both investment in diagnostic tools, new drugs and a vaccine and action on the ground," he said. The 50th Union World Conference is expected to be attended by around 6,000 researchers, policy makers, health practitioners, political leaders, and UN and community representatives. The latest research into prevention, cure and vaccines will be presented at the conference. The Union has its South-East Asia Office in Delhi employing and implements the

Call to Action for a TB-Free India with support from the USAID's Challenge TB project. The Union's Project Axysha, launched in 2010, engages all sectors to strengthen TB care and control in 128 districts across 14 states, Bhambal said. Financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and partnering with local organisations across India, since 2015, Axysha has reached over 48 million people, identified and tested 643,000 people and placed 70,000 TB patients on treatment and prevented countless cases of infection, he said. The conference's theme resonates with TB, but it will also raise awareness on all threats to lung health, includ-

ing air pollution and tobacco abuse, The Union said. Dr Vedant Kabra, Head of the Department of Surgical Oncology, Manipal Hospitals Groups, said an estimated seven million people across the globe die each year from exposure to ambient and household air pollution according to the WHO. India accounts for 1.6 million deaths annually, he said. On an average, Indian citizens are exposed to PM2.5 concentrations between 15 and 32 times the air quality guidelines set forth by the WHO. Dr Raj Kumar, Director, Vallabh Patel Chest Institute, Delhi, emphasised that implementing stricter emissions standards in India could save hundreds of thousands of lives each year. PTI

1.05 pc drop in voting recorded in 2nd phase: CEO

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Releasing the final figures of voting percentage registered during second phase of Assembly polls, State Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo on Wednesday said that the total polling registered was 76.34%.

This is compared to polling percentage in the year 2013 in second phase which was at 77.72% indicating 1.05 percent drop in voting this time round, he said.

"In year 2013, during the first phase of polls, the polling percentage was 75.93% and this year it was 76.39% while in second phase in year 2013 it was 77.72% but in year 2018 it is 76.34%," Sahoo said while addressing a press conference here.

The highest percentage of polling has been recorded at Kurud with 88.99% fol-



No. Name of Constituency	Percentage
1. Raipur	76.34
2. Bilaspur	76.34
3. Durg	76.34
4. Jagdalga	76.34
5. Jashpur	76.34
6. Raigarh	76.34
7. Sarguja	76.34
8. Surguja	76.34
9. Raipur	76.34
10. Raipur	76.34
11. Raipur	76.34
12. Raipur	76.34
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100. Raipur	76.34

lowed by Kharisa assembly constituency registering 86.81% while the lowest has been recorded at Raipur (North) with 60.30% followed by Raipur (West) 60.45%, he said.

Sahoo said that in 24 Assembly constituencies out of 90, women recorded 28% higher polling while in 38 assembly constituencies 40% higher polling rate of more than 80% was recorded.

Bharatpur-Sonhat Assembly constituency recorded highest voting by women at 3.45% while it was 3.27% in Kunkuri rural area.

Sahoo said that one company of security personnel each has been deployed in all strong rooms except in Raipur where two companies of forces have been deployed.

The machines have been kept in double lock sealed system. Whenever, the candidates or their representatives want to inspect the storage areas, the arrangement would be made for it. The whole area is under CCTV surveillance also. Visitors log books are also being maintained, he said.

Regarding the claims being made through social media on number of seats, the CEO said, "Personal level opinion is being given by the candidates and political parties and if exit poll is conducted, action would be taken."

He pointed out that two youth had taken selfies inside the polling booth and FIR has been registered against them. There were several sons who brought their parents and other relatives while carrying them to booth. On Himanshu Mishra of Koriya district was in coma for last 50 days but as he became conscious and stable, he came to cast his vote, Sahoo said.



Sikhs perform traditional sporting feats on the occasion of 'Prakash Parv' to celebrate the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in Raipur on Wednesday.

Santosh Sahu | Pioneer

NMDC's Bailadila Mine bags Greentech Safety Gold Award



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bailadila Iron Ore Mine at Bachel Complex in Bastar had been conferred 17th Annual Greentech Safety Gold Award, 2018' by M/s Greentech Foundation, New Delhi, a NMDC press release informed.

The award was bestowed in a grand Award presentation ceremony conducted at Guwahati (Assam) on November 17, 2018.

Sanjeev Sahi, Joint General Manager (Min) & Mines Manager, Bachel Complex received the Award on behalf of BIOM, Bachel Complex.

The Project bagged the Greentech Safety Gold Award for excellent work in Safety and Health and effective implementation of Safety Management System in the mine.

Dantewada Admin looking for reputed firm to manage Science Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Dantewada District Administration wants a reputed firm to manage the Science Centre for kids at the insurgency infested district.

The administration had invited Expression of Interest invited from reputed firms on October 3 this year for the purpose of operating a Science Centre which strives to instill the interest for science among the students from different levels.

Notably, Dantewada is among the districts in Chhattisgarh which are very remote and affected severely by LWE activities. And in these adverse conditions, it is a prime goal and also a herculean task for district administration to provide a education of good standards to the children of the area.

To further achieve this larger objective, administration took several initiatives in the past and in this continuation and also in consonance with the fundamental duties written in the constitution of India under article 51A, which is to develop the scientific temper and instill interest for science among the students of the district, administration had established Centre for Science Education.

The Dantewada district administration in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh will also be deploying a unique and comprehensive Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Mobile and Web application solution for the purpose of data collection, extension, monitoring and management of school learning outcomes of children in the district.

The district administration is making efforts to improve standards of education in the district and has been working on various models and tools to do the same.

In the process, the administration has taken a decision to have an application which can capture the skills of the students in various areas and measure the learning outcomes of the students from their schooling.

Dantewada is among the notified aspirational districts of the Central Government. Lower literacy rate and poor

Woman Maoist Commander killed in encounter



STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA

One Maoist woman Military Commander carrying award of ₹eight lakh is reported to have been killed in an encounter with security forces at village Dondipadar near the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border on Wednesday, police said.

Confirming the encounter, Sukma District Superintendent of Police Abhishek Meena said, "One Naxal woman Military Commander identified as Jyoti has been killed in bordering area to state." The other details are awaited, he said.

Two including Nigerian held for hacking bank accounts

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Capital police succeeded in nabbing two Nigerians from Mumbai for allegedly hacking bank accounts and transferring the amount to their accounts.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Raipur, Ambresh Mishra informed media persons that a complaint was lodged in recent days by Senior executive of Devendra Nagar branch of Yes Bank, Mahesh Kumar Rathi.

In the complaint to Devendra Nagar Police Station, the official said that the accused had hacked two of YES Bank accounts and had transferred Rs 2.47 crore through NEFT and RTGS to 26 of their different accounts. The entire act was carried out on the day of Diwali, the official informed.

The Devendra Nagar police had then registered a case under sections 419 and 420 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and IT Act against unknown persons. After the complaint was lodged, the SSP, Raipur instructed the teams of crime branch and cyber cell to investigate into the matter.

With the brisk action, 90% of the amount hacked was kept on hold and a police team was sent to Mumbai where the accounts of accused belonged.

Osajee Godstime. According to the police, he was residing in India since 2009 and the police had recovered three passports from him with three different names. Osajee after the arrest had informed about his other associates and the police is trying to nab them, the official informed.



The police succeeded in nabbing one Rakesh Singh who provided his bank account to the Nigerian gang.

Osajee Godstime. According to the police, he was residing in India since 2009 and the police had recovered three passports from him with three different names. Osajee after the arrest had informed about his other associates and the police is trying to nab them, the official informed.

Dayaldas Baghel lands in soup after 'EVM' worship

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

It was height of superstition by the State Minister Dayaldas Baghel when he performed rituals at a polling booth where he had to cast vote.

He also performed Puja of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and lighted incense sticks in front of it. A video of it later went viral.

Taking cognisance over the matter the Office of Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Subrat Sahoo has directed the Returning Officer (RO) of polling booth of the Nawagarh Assembly constituency to issue notice to Baghel for carrying out religious rituals before the polling held on November 20.

On a query, Sahoo in a press conference said, "The complaint has been received where the BJP candidate Dayaldas Baghel had conducted religious rituals in the polling booth; the concerned Returning Officer has been asked to issue notice," he informed.

As per the viral video, BJP candidate first lighted the incense stick and then performed 'Parikrama' of booth by touching around it. After that he moved the cover put up on the EVM and worshipped it.

He then went to take the of the polling booth and broke the coconut and only thereafter that he went to cast his vote.

Baghel's supporters were also present in the polling booth.



Troopers enjoy a break from hard poll duties at a water Park near Raipur on Wednesday.

BJP will form Govt for 4th term in C'garh: Netam

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Rajya Sabha Member and Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Tribe Cell National President Ramvihar Netam on Wednesday claimed that the BJP will form the government in Chhattisgarh for the fourth consecutive time with a massive mandate.



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and State Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, Chhattisgarh has been touching new heights in development and once more with support of people, 'Nava Chhattisgarh' (New Chhattisgarh) dream would be fulfilled, for which the mandate has been given, Netam said.

Netam said that people of the State have further strengthened the tradition of democracy by registering their participation in large numbers in voting. As earlier, the people of the State had given massive support to the party. "With blessings of people, party will form government for the fourth term in the state," he said.

Elephants barge into Yashwant Sinha's house

Herd of 22 elephants damage boundary walls and standing crops

PNS ■ HAZARIBAGH

A herd of 22 elephants barged into the house of former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha and his son Union Minister Jayant Sinha on November 19, damaging the boundary walls first and then the standing crops. Sinha's house Rishab Vatika is situated at Demotand of Hazaribagh, some 6kms away from town. This was second time when elephants entered in Rishab Vatika in last few years.



The damaged boundary wall of Yashwant's Sinha's house near Hazaribagh

Pioneer photo

Yashwant's wife Nilima Sinha said the herd damaged potato and tomato besides trampling banana trees. She said something should be done in this regard to put a check on elephants' menace. She said in

Chattisgarh, elephants provided enough food in forests so that they do not stray into villages. The State Forest Department should also take similar action, she added. According to regional chief conservator of forests, Sanjeev Kumar, the Union Minister's

house falls in the corridor of elephants. He said department has prepared a route chart (read corridor) of elephants stretched in four districts namely Hazaribagh, Chatra, Ramgarh and Koderma. He said in this corridor in which Sinha's house fall, elephants

find bamboos which they loved to eat and so keep visiting here every year. He said this herd now moved away from Demotand and reached Ichak where a team of experts from Bankura keeping eyes on their movement. Sources said in year 2013,

elephants entered in Canary Hill area of town unleashing a reign of terror among residents besides damaging properties. Again in 2016, similar incident took place. Forest department sources said as elephants are in Ichak area close to Canary Hill, they are on alert this time.

Kumar said people should avoid going closer to elephants for selfie as it could be a risk on their lives. He said this herd is in this area from last three months killing four including the two who went closer to take selfie. He said they were assessing the loss and ensure compensation for loss of lives and properties. He said corridors of elephants now having human settlements and so they didn't get food and water properly resulting in such incidents regularly. He said for loss of life, victim's relatives get ₹4 lakh as compensation whereas for injuries, the amount is ₹1 lakh.

BRO starts work to open Rohtang Pass

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Border Road Organisation (BRO) started the work on opening of Rohtang Pass on Wednesday, Additional Chief Secretary, PWD, Revenue and Disaster Management Manisha Nanda said here.

She said the State Government had aggressively taken up the matter with the BRO to restore the Rohtang Pass for vehicular traffic to facilitate the people of Lahaul valley, which was closed due to recent snowfall.

Nanda said that since the work on construction of Rohtang tunnel was under progress, it was not safe for plying of vehicles.

She said that in case of any emergent situation, the people concerned can talk to the Deputy Commissioners of Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti districts so that assistance could be made available.

Garhwa readies to host Banshidhar Mahotsav

PNS ■ GARHWA

Chief Minister Raghuvar Das will inaugurate Banshidhar Mahotsav here on November 24 where Tourism Minister Amar Kumar Bauri, Health and Family Welfare Minister Ramchandra Chandravanshi, Palamu MP BD Ram, MLA SN Tiwari, MLA Bhanu Pratap Shahi, MLA Manoj Chaurasia will be present as Chief Guests.

To portray the Banshidhar temple on national map, a postal stamp will also be issued, the DDC informed

"We are in the process to give a final touch to the Mahotsav," said Naman Priyesh Lakra, DDC cum President Banshidhar Mahotsav organising committee here on Tuesday. To portray the Banshidhar temple on national map a postal stamp will also be issued, the DDC informed.

Lakra said that artists of national repute, such Flute maestro Malini Awasthi, Indian idol fame flute player Suleiman, Runner up in Indian idol singer Amit Sana, singer Bipin Mishra, hymn singer Brijwasi brothers and Rasleela presentation by the artists of Vrindavan will perform at the Mahotsav on different occasions.

Int'l Sarna Mahadharam Convention in Bokaro today

PNS ■ BOKARO

Bokaro district administration is all set to conduct a two-day State festival 'International Sarna Mahadharam Convention - 2018' at Lugu Buru Thambardhi, Drolomad, at Lalpania in Gomia block. The festival will begin today.



Notably, Under the Mukhyamantri Tirtha Darshan Yozana' people will be brought here from every district for the religious journey

Bokaro DDC Ravi Ranjan Mishra on Tuesday visited the venue to take stock of the preparations. Mishra directed all the concerned officials that there should not be any discomfort in drinking water and toilets for the visitors under the Chief Minister's pilgrimage scheme at the festival. Notably, Under the Mukhyamantri Tirtha Darshan Yozana' people will be brought here from every district for the religious journey. He asked his officials to make it sure that the pro-

gramme is conducted successfully in a peaceful atmosphere. Later DDC minutely reviewed each and every preparation for the Mela. "We are fully prepared successful conduct the program. All the concerned officials have been given responsibility related to the preparation of the festival," he

said. "Since it is a state festival, so we will leave no stone unturned for its successful completion," added Mishra. A few days earlier the State Land and Revenue Minister Amar Kumar Bauri also visited the site and directed the officials to make it ensure that the

Body recovered from Nilanchal express at Gomoh

Bermo: The body of an unknown man was recovered from New Delhi-Puri Nilanchal express train at Railway Station, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Gomoh, sources said.

THE BODY WAS SHIFTED TO MORTUARY ROOM OF GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, DHANBAD FOR IDENTIFICATION AND POSTMORTEM

According to a police official, the body of an unidentified man of age about 50-55 years was recovered from S-6 coach of New Delhi-Puri Nilanchal Express on Wednesday afternoon. He said that the dead body was shifted to mortuary room of Government Medical College and Hospital, Dhanbad for identification and postmortem. He said the deceased man has round face, black complexion and is 5 feet 5 inches tall.

Anybody having any clue about the identity and residential particulars of the deceased man may contact GRP Gomoh, GRP sources said. Other passengers sources said that his health has been deteriorating last night, and soon after he died. He having a railway ticket which was from Amethi to Lucknow and also having a cough syrup. PNS

Speculation rife over Dilip's rejoining BJD

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

As the general and Assembly elections are drawing close, the future political career of senior BJP leader and Rourkela BJP MLA Dilip Ray has been a talk of the town.



Though Ray was elected in 2014 as MLA Rourkela on BJP ticket but he pulling off in the party as his demands for expediting the two projects such as second Brahmani bridge in Rourkela and upgradation of the IGH to a medical college hospital have been ignored by the Central Government led by BJP.

Consequently, Ray has been found rather lukewarm in the party organisation and meetings over last few years. On the contrary, a speculation that he may leave BJP and join the BJD has become rife. Ray had played a key role in the formation of the BJD after the death of former CM Biju Patnaik and had been very close the BJD ideologue till his last breath. While Ray is visiting the city on November 23, many say he may first resign from

joining the BJD. many people who are close to him have started talking about getting ticket from the BJD by the blessing of Ray.

It is because they claim that if Ray joins BJD he will play an important role in ticket allotment for the entire Sundargarh district.

If sources are to be believed, more than a dozen of aspirants claim here that they are assured of BJD ticket in 2019 election though Ray has not ever mentioned about his switchover to BJD anywhere. Besides, many others who are in party since last many years and having good organisational ability also expect the party ticket in coming election.

In total now more than 20 aspirants are in steel city to get BJD ticket for the most prestigious Rourkela Assembly seat. A similar situation is also found in Raghunathpalli Assembly segment.

J'khand Govt cannot dismiss para teachers, says Secy

Situation worsens as deputed teachers face threat, non-cooperation

SANTOSH NARAYAN ■ RANCHI

As the deadline set for the warring para teachers to resume work comes to an end on Tuesday the Government is still indecisive about its future course of action. Situation has worsened even further after threat perception to regular teacher and unenthusiastic response seen to the appeal of District Education Officers and Block Education Extension Officers to find replacement of the agitating teachers.



Para teachers raise slogans during a protest in Ranchi

When asked about what is next with the Government's primary Primary Education Secretary Amrendra Pratap Singh talked about appropriate legal action. "When it is being said that those para teacher who would not join their service would be dismissed it does not mean that the State Government would do that. Since the State Government is not their appointing authority how can it remove them? We can only follow the legitimate process in place," the Secretary told *The Pioneer* on Wednesday.

Unofficially it is being said at the Department level that if the situation continues like this for couple of more days the State Government would report to the Center that has been the funding agency for the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and had appointed around 67000 para teachers in Jharkhand. In the meanwhile many DEOs and BEOs following the directions of the Department have issued an

appeal to retired teachers. Teacher Eligibility Test passed candidates and trained persons to apply as replacement. "It is appealed to those who are retired teachers or JAC organised TET qualified or have attained training from any Government approved training institute to apply with scanned copies of their TET certificate and training certificate with name, photo, address and contact details and send their applications on the email id given by

THERE ARE 471 SCHOOLS COMPLETELY RELYING ON PARA TEACHERS

22.11.2018 so that your honorarium based service can be considered to be taken," reads such a notice issued by Latehar DEO. There are 471 schools completely relying on para teachers. Simdega DSE went on calling a meeting of the aspirants on November 22 in order to deal with the situation. Such appeals are being issued on the directions of the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPCC) on November 16 after the agitating teachers went on indefinite strike

across the State badly affecting teaching and other activities in primary schools. However response to the appeal is negligent looking at threat, poor remuneration on offer and possibility of losing the engagement once the phase is over. The Department at the same time had also deputed regular teachers to the affected schools and the BEOs have been told to issue directions in their respective areas. Nevertheless the measure has so far failed to yield results amid reports of obstructions put in place by aggrieved para teachers. "I went to join the new school after being relieved from the parent school but found the school locked. I am being told the keys are with the para teacher. There are reports of para teachers issuing warning to the deputed teachers," said a teacher requesting anonymity. On their part para teachers have planned to give arrest on Thursday in support of their jailed companions who have been put in Hotwar after violent clashes with the police on November 15.

KALAPANI NARRATIVE

Dignified space for Punjabi freedom fighters demanded

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab has demanded dignified space for Punjabi freedom fighters in the narrative of Port Bali's Cellular Jail in Andaman, earlier known as Kala-pani.

staged there every evening. He asserted that the Prime Minister's intervention was necessary "to preserve this national heritage in the right perspective".

This is all part of record," he said. He demanded that the names of all the freedom fighters from Punjab deported to Andaman should be displayed, along with photographs. The Light and Sound programme should be recast to reflect the totality of situation in a balanced way with addition of Punjab's contribution to freedom struggle in the context of Kalapani, he added.

Randhawa said that Cellular Jail in Andaman is the most distinctive symbol of the struggle for freedom of the country. "This jail also sym-

bolises composite culture of India. It would not be an exaggeration to describe Cellular Jail as the emblem of contribution of Punjab to the freedom struggle. Unfortunately, the same is not reflected in the museum to which this jail was converted in the seventies, including the Light and Sound programme," he said.

He pointed out many of the Punjabis were executed when the Japanese took over these islands, the most prominent among them being Dr Diwan Singh Kalepani. Jail Minister detailed that the deportation of freedom

'Give land for Mahtab statue, Paika memorial'

Dharmendra urges State Govt

Bhubaneswar: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday criticised the State Government alleging that it is providing land to open a beer factory but not giving land for establishing a Paika memorial.

He made this demand on the occasion of 119th birth anniversary of Mahtab. "The State Government has not yet provided land for establishment of Paika memorial despite repeated requests made by the Union Government," he said and ridiculed that the Government provided 600 acres and felled thousands of trees for establishment and of a beer factory.

He demanded that the Government provide land at Barunei so that a Paika memorial can be build and allot a piece of land at Agarpada in Bhadrak district for erecting a statue of Harekrishna Mahtab, one of the makers of modern Odisha.

He said the Union Government has sought only 50 acres of land at Barunei for keeping memories of Buxi Jagabandhu and Paikas' contribution for the State and the nation.

Won't 'abandon' Saudi over Khashoggi killing: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has defended his decision not to hold Saudi rulers accountable in the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying maintaining strategic ties with the kingdom and keeping the global oil prices down were in the best interests of America.



Trump said there will be no punishment for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi.

The death of Khashoggi, a longtime insider turned critic of the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, and a resident of the US, has spurred a wave of international anger against Saudi Arabia and its rulers.

The US last week imposed sanctions on 17 individuals of Saudi Arabia for serious human rights abuse resulting from their roles in the killing of Khashoggi at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

"Because it's America first to me," Trump told reporters, adding that despite Khashoggi's murder, the US will remain a "steadfast partner" of Saudi Arabia to ensure its interests as well as those of Israel and all other partners in the region.

"I'm shocked that President Trump said there will be no punishment for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi," Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein said as she and several other lawmakers announced their plan to bring in legislations to block arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Responding to questions from reporters at the White House before leaving for Florida to spend his Thanksgiving holidays, Trump said his decision was all about America first.

"We're not going to give up hundreds of billions of dollars in orders and let Russia, China and everybody else have them. It's all about — for me — very

simple, it's America first," he said.

"Saudi Arabia, if we broke with them, I think your oil prices would go through the roof. I've kept them down. They've helped me keep them down. Right now, we have low oil prices, or relatively I'd like to see it go down even lower.

"But I think that it's a very simple equation for me. I'm about making America great again and I'm about America first," Trump argued.

He denied the allegations that this was at the expense of human rights.

"No, I'm not saying that at all. If you look at Iran... And you look at what they're doing, they are a terrorist nation right now. Although, I must tell you, they're a lot better right now than they were when I took office. When I took office, they were heading in a very, very bad direction.

"At some point, things very positive, frankly, could happen with Iran, but we also need a counterbalance. And Israel needs help also. If we abandon Saudi Arabia, it would be a terrible mistake," Trump warned.

The President refuted the Washington Post's allegations that by taking such a decision, he was putting his personal and commercial interests ahead of national interests.

RUSSIA PROBE Trump's lawyers submit written answers to Mueller

Washington: Lawyers for US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said they have submitted his written response to questions posed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and the Trump campaign's collusion with them.

"The President today answered written questions submitted by the Special Counsel's Office. The questions presented dealt with issues regarding Russia-related topics of the inquiry. The president responded in writing," Jay Sekulow, the President's counsel, said in a statement. Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani also issued a statement.

"It has been our position from the outset that much of what has been asked raised serious constitutional issues and was beyond the scope of a legitimate inquiry. This remains our position today," he said in his statement.

"The President has nonetheless provided unprecedented cooperation. The Special Counsel has been provided with more than 30 witnesses, 1.4 million pages of material, and now the president's written responses to questions. It is time to bring this inquiry to a conclusion," Giuliani said.

Interpol picks S Korea's Kim as president over Russian rival

AFP ■ DUBAI

Interpol announced on Wednesday that Kim Jong-yeon of South Korea had been chosen as its new president, beating a Russian official whose candidacy had unnerved Western nations.

The US-backed Kim, acting president of the global police body, was picked at a meeting of delegates from member nations in Dubai to replace Meng Hongwei, who went missing in his native China in September.

Beijing later said Meng resigned after being charged with accepting bribes.

There had been growing calls within Western nations for Interpol to reject Russian candidate Alexander Prokopchuk — a Russian interior ministry official and current Interpol Vice-President — over fears Moscow could abuse the role to target political opponents.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threw his weight behind Kim, who will serve out Meng's term until 2020.

"We encourage all nations and organisations that are part of Interpol and that respect the rule of law to choose a leader with integrity. We believe Mr Kim will be just that," Pompeo told reporters.



Kim Jong-yeon.

cerns over Russia's previous applications for Interpol "Red Notices", or international arrest warrants, to target those who have fallen foul of the Kremlin. Interpol's president chairs its General Assembly while day-to-day operations are handled by the organisation's Secretary general Juergen Stock.

In an open letter this week, a bipartisan group of US senators said choosing Prokopchuk would be like "putting a fox in charge of a henhouse".

"Russia routinely abuses Interpol for the purpose of settling scores and harassing political opponents, dissidents and journalists," they wrote.

Harriett Baldwin, a minister of state at the British foreign office, told parliament on Tuesday that London would support Kim's bid. Anti-Kremlin figures had

also raised concerns, including Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader who has been repeatedly jailed by authorities.

"Our team has suffered from abuse of Interpol for political persecution by Russia," Navalny wrote on Twitter.

"I don't think that a president from Russia will help to reduce such violations."

US National Security Council spokesman Garrett Marquis echoed the endorsement for Kim.

"As recent events show, the Russian government abuses INTERPOL's processes to harass its political opponents," he said on Twitter.

The controversy also comes amid security concerns over accusations of Russian agents attempting to poison an ex-spy in Britain and trying to hack the network of the global chemical weapons watchdog.

Ukraine, deeply at odds with Moscow over its annexation of Crimea and support for separatists, threatened to pull out of Interpol if Prokopchuk prevailed.

Lithuania also said it would consider withdrawing from the network.

Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the US senators' letter as a "vivid example" of an attempt to interfere in the vote.

GLOBE TROTTER

CALIFORNIA FIRE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 81
Los Angeles: The death toll from the devastating wildfire in northern California rose to 81 on Tuesday with the discovery of two more sets of remains, officials said. The number of people listed as unaccounted for in the deadliest and most destructive fire in state history jumped up by nearly 200 to 870.

3 CHILDREN KILLED IN BLAST IN PAKISTAN

Peshawar: Three children were killed when an old mortar shell they were playing with exploded in Pakistan's restive northwest tribal region on Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred in Matta Tehsil of Swat valley — once the stronghold of Pakistani Taliban terrorists. The children were playing with the mortar shell in a field, unaware of it being a bomb, when it went off injuring five of them, police said.

FUEL TAX HIKES: 2ND DEATH IN FRENCH PROTESTS

Paris: A second person has died in France amid nationwide protests against fuel tax hikes that saw hundreds injured and key roads paralysed by demonstrations.

EU AGAIN REJECTS ITALY BUDGET

Brussels: The European Commission on Wednesday rejected Italy's draft budgetary plan for 2019 again, paving the way for disciplinary procedures against the eurozone's third-largest economy.

'China wants to make a deal very badly'

Washington: China "very badly" wants to have a trade deal with the US, President Donald Trump has said ahead of a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Argentina on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.

China and the US are currently locked in an ongoing trade war as each country has introduced tariffs on goods traded between each other.

Trump has promised to fix China's "longtime abuse of the broken international system and unfair practices". Over the past six months, Trump has

imposed additional trade tariffs on import of Chinese products worth \$ 250 billion. He said another tariff of equal amount is in the pipeline.

Trump and Xi are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina on November 30 and December 1. President Trump said that the US was doing very well with China.

"We're doing very well with China. China wants to make a deal very badly. They might not say that to you, but they want to make it very badly," Trump told reporters.

UAE court sentences British student to life for spying

AFP ■ DUBAI

A United Arab Emirates court sentenced British student Matthew Hedges to life in jail on Wednesday after convicting him of spying, a family spokesperson said.

"We can confirm that he was sentenced to life in prison," the spokesperson told AFP.

"The hearing lasted less than five minutes, and his lawyer was not present." British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he was "deeply shocked and disap-



Hedges, a 31-year-old PhD student, was researching the UAE's foreign and internal security policies after the Arab Spring revolutions of 2011 when he was detained at Dubai airport on May 5.

He was granted temporary release on October 29 but constantly monitored until Wednesday's court hearing, only his third since his arrest. His wife Daniela Tejada, who had campaigned vigorously for his release, had said last month she could not allow herself to get too excited by his bail until he was fully free.

Committed to protect democracy despite personal abuse: Lankan Speaker

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Parliament Speaker Karu Jayasuriya said on Wednesday that he was committed to protect democracy despite personal abuse and slander thrown at him by the government led by disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

In a statement, Jayasuriya said the baseless allegations are levelled against him "through regular press conferences by political parties that failed to show their majority in parliament in the proper manner and through political protests organised with the participation of their party members can be observed."

Jayasuriya also filed a complaint with the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) over a fake letter circulating on social media claiming it was sent by him to the Chief Justice, the Colombo Gazette reported. The letter quoted Jayasuriya as requesting the opinion of the Chief Justice on if President Maithripala Sirisena was in a situation where he could not exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of his office, the paper said.

Jayasuriya said he had never sent such a letter and has requested the CID to investigate the fake letter. Sri Lanka is witnessing a political crisis since President Sirisena abruptly sacked Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and installed ex-strongman Rajapaksa in his place on October 26.

British, EU leaders to meet as Brexit deadline looms

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May told skeptical lawmakers on Wednesday that rejecting her divorce deal with the European Union would mean uncertainty and division, before a meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to help finalize the Brexit agreement.

The U.K. and the European Union agreed last week on a 585-page document sealing the terms of Britain's departure, but are still working to nail down agreement on future relations before EU leaders meet in Brussels on Sunday to rubber-stamp the package.

But May is under intense pressure from pro-Brexit and pro-EU British lawmakers, with large numbers on both sides of the debate opposing the divorce deal. Brexiters think it will leave the U.K. tied too closely to EU rules, while pro-Europeans say it will erect new barriers between Britain and the bloc, its neighbor and biggest trading partner.

May fended off a barrage of criticism from both opposition and government legislators Wednesday during her weekly Commons question-and-answer session moderated by Brexit. One lawmaker, Andrew Rosindell, urged her to ditch the plan and remove "the tentacles of the EU over our cherished island nation."



May replied that "we want to ensure we continue to have a close trading relationship with the European union" after Brexit.

She said the alternative to the agreement was either "more uncertainty, more division or it could risk no Brexit at all."

As May flew to meet Juncker, some aspects of the future relationship agreement remained unresolved. Spain has said it will vote against if Gibraltar's future isn't considered a bilateral issue between Madrid and London.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Tuesday that his government "cannot accept that what will happen to Gibraltar in the future depends on negotiations between the U.K. and the EU."

But May reassured British lawmakers that "we will not exclude Gibraltar from our negotiations on the future relationship." German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday that she hoped Spanish reservations could be overcome before Sunday's summit. But, she added, "I can't say how we will solve this issue."

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
National Office: DHFL House, 4th Floor, 19, Sahar Road, Off Western Express Highway, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai-400099
Branch Office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, first floor, L.B.S Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00002920 of New Delhi Branch) Yogabar S Gosain (Borrower) Poonam Gosain (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3102093/- (Thirty One lakh Two Thousand Ninety Three) NPA (01-01-2017)	Flat No-J-1101, 11th Floor, Block-J Grand Savana(KDP Group Project) Nh-58, Noor Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201001
(LC No. 00003120 of New Delhi Branch) Mahesh Arya (Borrower) Achal Arya (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3052428/- (Thirty lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-04-2017)	Flat No. M-1214, 12th Floor M Block, Piyush Heights Sector 89 , Faridabad, Faridabad-121001
(LC No. 00003177 of New Delhi Branch) Sandeep Kumar (Borrower) Sujata Sankhwar (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 1373838/- (Thirteen lakh Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Eight) NPA (01-07-2014)	Kh. No-217/1, Flat No. S-204 Iind Floor Village Kandoli, Pargana Pachwadon, Dehradun, Dehradun-248001
(LC No. 00003228 of New Delhi Branch) Upender Kumar (Borrower) Rakhi Vats (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3697776/- (Thirty Six lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (01-12-2014)	Flat No. 104 , First Floor Tower No. - 5 / Surya Tower Vip Road Zirakpur, Zirakpur, Punjab- 140603
(LC No. 00003232 of New Delhi Branch) Mibin Babichan (Borrower) Cbin Babichan (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2541273/- (Twenty Five lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-04-2018)	Unit D-903, 9th Floor, Tower/ Block D La Galaxia, Plot No. H R A -11 Greater Noida, Greater Noida,-201308
(LC No. 00003249 of New Delhi Branch) Rajiv Das Gupta (Borrower) Dipali Das Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 3009963/- (Thirty lakh Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Three) NPA (01-12-2017)	Unit No. 802, 8th Floor, Tower/Block A La Galaxia, Plot No. H R A -11 Greater Noida, Greater Noida-201308
(LC No. 00003255 of New Delhi Branch) Shivandhan Gupta (Borrower) Swati Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2749668/- (Twenty Seven lakh Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight) NPA (01-02-2015)	Flat No.304, 3rd Floor Tower B-7 Surya Tower, Vip Road, Zirakpur, Chandigarh-160003
(LC No. 00003286 of New Delhi Branch) Mamta Kapoor (Borrower) Shakuntala Kapoor (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2759448/- (Twenty Seven lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eight) NPA (01-10-2017)	Flat No:- 523, Second Floor Shivjot Enclave, Kharar, Kharar, Rupnagar- 140301
(LC No. 00000101 of Ghaziabad Branch) Sumit Ghosh (Borrower) Subrata Ghosh (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 5023490/- (Fifty lakh Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety) NPA (01-08-2012)	Flat No. 601, 6th Floor, Block - A7 Samiah Garden City, Nh-24 Hapur Hapur, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-245101
(LC No. 00000904 of Ghaziabad Branch) Pardeep Kumar (Borrower) Meenu Hans (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2954951/- (Twenty Nine lakh Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-06-2017)	Unit No. 1401, 14th Floor, Block-C Plot No. - Gh-005 A, Antriksh Golf View Sector-78, Noida, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar- 201301
(LC No. 00000933 of Ghaziabad Branch) Poonam Shokeen (Borrower) Sunil K Malik (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 2644727/- (Twenty Six lakh Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven) NPA (01-05-2017)	Flat No. A-2 / C-12, Type C, Block A-2 12th Floor, Shubhkamna Advert Techomes Plot No. G H 05/ B, Sector 137, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00000118 of New Delhi-West Branch) Tanzimraza Qureshi (Borrower) Nighat Khan (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 1258750/- (Twelve lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty) NPA (01-12-2012)	Flat No. A8- 303, 3rd Floor, Type-A Block-A8, Samiah Garden City, N H-24 Bulandshahr Road, Hapur, Ghaziabad- 245101
(LC No. 00000637 of New Delhi-west Branch) Shishir Jaiswal (Borrower) Akansha Jaiswal (Co Borrower 1)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 1077257/- (Ten lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven) NPA (01-09-2014)	Kh. No-217/1, Flat No.S- 306 3rd Floor Village Kandoli Pargana Pachwadon, Dehradun- 248001
(LC No. 00000553 of Gurgaon Branch) Vtronix Infocom Private Limited (Borrower) Virender Singh (Co Borrower 1) Charanpreet Kaur Kalsi (Co Borrower 2)	30/10/2018/ ₹ 10149162/- (One Crore One lakh Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (01-10-2015)	Plot No 1 A Block A1 Naraina Industrial Area Phase 2, New Delhi - 110028

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
Date: 22-Nov-2018
Place: DELHI
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Indebted Maldives sending envoy to China

Male: The Maldives Foreign Minister will visit Beijing before the end of 2018, officials said on Wednesday, likely seeking to renegotiate the archipelago's Chinese debt.

China has loaned billions of dollars to countries around the Indian Ocean and beyond

for infrastructure development, stoking fears of a debt trap.

The new Maldives government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has called for a review of Chinese-bankrolled projects initiated under predecessor Abdulla Yameen.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Subhash Mittal S/o Late Shri S.C. Mittal, owner of Flat No. 105, Laxmi Apts, Bhayya Laxmi CHS, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110065, Original Allottee, has applied for freehold of the aforesaid flat in DDA. The Original Documents (Share Certificate/Possession SLIP/Letter for Handing over) of the said flat property have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged vide FIR No.106 dt 10/11/2018 with Tuglak Road Police Station, New Delhi. Any Person claiming any right/interest/ having any objection or found in possession of original documents may please contact with the above named person at above address/ Phone No.011-41685300, or The Dy Director (GH) Vikas Sadan, New Delhi within 7 days from the date of publication of the notice.

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the following 100 share certificates of DFM Foods Ltd. have been lost as per details given below:
Sl. No.: 1, Folio No.: 9501, Name of Share Holder : Neelam Batra, Certificate No., Nil, No. of Shares: 100.
If any person have any claim or interest in the above said share certificates can contact at (09811639019) or address: B-541, Second Floor, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi-85 mentioned herein under within 10 working days, after the lapse of which no claims, rights or interests shall be entertained.

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

REF No. : ECL/HQ/GM (Civil)/33/e-Tender/1165 Date : 20.11.2018

CORRIGENDUM FOR CANCELLATION

Due to Technical reasons the following tenders are hereby cancelled : e-Tender Notice No. : ECL/HQ/GM(C)/e-Tender/18-19/144 Date : 10.11.2018. Name of Work : Construction of RCC Boundary wall (Length 1165 Mtr) at Bansra Railway Siding under Kunustoria Area ECL. Updated Estimated Cost : ₹ 1,45,74,630.06

Sd/-
General Manager (Civil)/HOD
VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTITY OF UNIDENTIFIED LADY

General public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely** : Poonam, **Parentage** : Unknown, **R/o** : Unknown, was found at D-24, Jai Vihar, Ph-III, Baprola, Delhi on 17.10.2018 from the area of **P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 34-A, dated 17.10.2018 has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** The description of the unidentified lady is as under.

Age: 25 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5' 5", **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Green Sari-Blue & White Colour Blouse and Hawai Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the address and family of unidentified lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the unidentified lady then please inform P.S. Ranhola, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/1564/OD/18

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
Ph. 011-2836001, 2836002 & 28363003

POONAM

Aid group: 85,000 children may have died of hunger in Yemen

AP ■ CAIRO

A leading international aid group said on Wednesday that an estimated 85,000 Yemeni children under the age of 5 may have died of hunger and disease since the outbreak of the country's civil war in 2015.

Save the Children based its figures on mortality rates for untreated cases of severe acute malnutrition, or SAM, in young children. The United Nations says more than 1.3 million children have suffered from SAM since a Saudi-led coalition went to war with Yemen's Houthi rebels in March 2015.

The aid group said its "conservative estimate" was that 84,701 children may have died, based on historical studies that find that 20 to 30 percent of untreated cases lead to death. Save the Children says it calculated the figure based on the number of cases reported in areas where aid groups were



unable to intervene.

"For every child killed by bombs and bullets, dozens are starving to death and it's entirely preventable," said Tamer Kirolos, Save the Children's Yemen director. "Children who die in this way suffer immensely as their vital organ functions slow down and eventually stop."

The war has given rise to the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Three-quarters of Yemen's people require life-saving assistance and more than 8 million are at risk of starvation. Tens of thousands of people are believed to have been killed in

the fighting. The Associated Press has reported from areas of Yemen that are on the brink of famine.

Save the Children blamed the widespread starvation on a Saudi-led blockade that was tightened a year ago after the Iran-aligned rebels fired a ballistic missile at the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

The charity also cited recent fighting in and around the port city of Hodeida, a lifeline through which Yemen imports some 70 percent of its food and humanitarian aid.

It said commercial imports through the rebel-held port have fallen by more than 55,000 metric tons a month — enough to meet the needs of 4.4 million people. Save the Children said it had been forced to bring supplies for the northern Yemen through the southern port of Aden, slowing aid deliveries. The overwhelming poverty in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished nation, has compounded the situation.

A dignified exit

Sushma Swaraj chooses to assess her political future on her own terms



Grace under pressure. This one value sets apart veteran BJP leader Sushma Swaraj, who has bowed out of the electoral race of 2019 knowing full well that it is better to let go of things not meant to be. Her health may have given her the pretext but she has realised she would rather step back as a protégé of the old guard helmed by Vajpayee-Advani than risk being benched into a retirement home called *margdarshak mandal* by BJP 2.0. In that sense, she has shown some spark of her old fiery and determined self, going out on her own terms rather than compromising her core beliefs in a system that has its own revamped priorities, starred hierarchies and a strait-jacketed agenda. It is well-known that she was ill at ease in the Modi-Shah party with all her mentors forced into hibernation. She was among the second-rung leaders that BJP rightly has a culture of grooming but didn't have the Sangh's monolithic endorsement which it reserved for Narendra Modi. Yet she survived and re-calibrated her loyalties to her one-time peer and newly anointed leader. But it was a stifling tenure. Though she was the only woman Foreign Minister after Indira Gandhi, she was seldom allowed operating space, the bulk of foreign policy being conducted by the PMO. Still Swaraj pushed the envelope, adding a personal touch to resolving people's procedural problems and holding her own in forum discussions like ASEAN. In fact, Prime Minister Modi even acknowledged her publicly in his assessment of ministerial records. She equally made her presence felt on social media, the new tool of interface, and became a pro in social media diplomacy, helping in cases that users put up for her intervention and attention, something that led *The Washington Post* to term her the "supermom" of diplomacy. But when she transferred an official for refusing passports to an inter-faith couple, she came into direct confrontation with hardliner trolls, some of whom followed the present leadership and were seen as having their tacit endorsement. With hardly any peer support or defence, that episode highlighted the ideological gap between two generations of the BJP and how she was too different to negotiate a DNA switch. An old BJP leadership, operating in a different contextual dynamic, could afford to be more omnitheistic and share the spotlight democratically. The new leadership, coming as it does on the back of a consolidated verdict, a re-activated cadre base and a distinctly RSS-dominated agenda, will predictably go by what it succeeded with in the first place, a presidential style of operations and one that is aspirational and robust. With Swaraj's departure, the new leaders are expected to reassert this credo more volubly.

Nevertheless, Swaraj will be remembered within the party and even across party lines as a seasoned parliamentarian with many firsts to her credit. And perhaps it was her versatility and magnetic appeal that necessitated her inclusion in the Modi Cabinet, as one who needed to be neutralised rather than be allowed to be free-spirited given her facility with media projection. Besides, among a male-dominated leadership of the BJP, she broke through as the party's first female Chief Minister, Union Cabinet Minister, general secretary and even spokesperson. And that needed acknowledgment. She was perhaps one of BJP's most proactive I&B ministers, ushering in industry status for film producers and propagating community radio. A passionate and arresting orator, she has had Parliament in thrall with her speeches, particularly as the Leader of the Opposition from 2009 to 2014. She famously vowed to shave off her head if Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi was made Prime Minister and took on her creditably from the Bellary Lok Sabha seat. The Lower House will surely miss that fire and brimstone. But Swaraj is a master of reinvention and it would be foolhardy to write her off.

Storm in a Tweepup

Should the Twitter head honcho have held up a poster that says 'Smash Brahmanical Patriarchy'? Perhaps not. But...



The India visit of Jack Dorsey, chief executive and co-founder of social networking site Twitter, has been compared to the disastrous visit of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to our country earlier this year. That might be stretching it but there is no doubt that Dorsey, who posed holding a poster that urged us all to apropos of nothing in particular 'Smash Brahmanical Patriarchy', could have avoided controversy. But some of the hysteria that has followed is downright silly and lacks understanding of Indian social history. Hilariously, an 'editor' went as far as to call him anti-India and a retired Indian Police Service officer suggested that the tweet and picture qualified as evidence fit for a case of sedition to be filed against Dorsey. Frankly, at the risk of offending more people, let us not get so worked up about it. Should Jack Dorsey have posed with the poster? Maybe not. Is the poster offensive? While many and not only from the Brahmin community do find it offensive, and the creator of the poster herself has admitted she meant the slogan as a pejorative, the fact that India still suffers from caste-based patriarchy — along with many other causes — is difficult to deny even by those offended by the poster. Looking at the posts and anger that has followed, however, is like staring down a dark hole of ignorance. Anytime anyone advocates the application of Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code, it must be done very carefully. This newspaper has argued in the past that this section of the IPC is an anachronism that has no place in a modern society and is so vaguely defined that the authorities are liable to misuse it for imagined wrongs. This is exactly what has happened to Abhijit Iyer-Mitra in Odisha where slighted Odia pride has meant that he has spent two weeks in jail on dodgy grounds.

The irony of the situation is that it is Twitter itself that gives a voice to the easily offended, allowing them to be perpetually offended at some silly thing or another. In fact, one could argue that Twitter, in particular, and Facebook and other social networks in general, have led to the extinction of common sense. Indians should take heed from two people that Jack Dorsey met while in New Delhi, Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. No matter what your politics, the vitriol that these two men catch on a daily basis on Twitter is mind-boggling; yet, they do not lash out as they have both developed a thick skin. This is not to excuse the tremendous violence, virulence and abuse that users, particularly women, face on Twitter on a daily basis which the service has been in largely ineffective in curbing. That needs to change. But screaming and shouting blue murder over a poster in a picture, even if provocative, is a waste of time and energy.

CLAUDE ARPI

The 40th anniversary of "China's reform and opening up" is being celebrated across the country this year as the Chinese propaganda affirms: "Over the past 40 years, the country has transformed itself from a largely agricultural nation into the second largest economy in the world."

One of the most remembered events took place in 1978, when 18 farmers in Xiaogang village in Anhui Province signed a secret agreement to divide collectively-owned farmland into individual pieces and drop the collectivisation of the Great Leap Forward (GLF), which between 1958 and 1960, resulted in some 40 million casualties; in Xiaogang itself, 67 villagers out of 120 had died of starvation between 1958 and 1960.

Forty years later, the name Xiaogang is being used for a different project, which should worry India: The building of a large number of 'model' villages in Tibet, along the border with India.

On October 19, *China Tibet News* reported that since the beginning of 2018, Tsonga County, north of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district, has been "vigorously promoting the construction of border 'Xiaogang' villages" (the literal meaning of 'Xiaogang' is 'moderately well-off').

Tsona County alone has invested 519 million yuan (\$74 million) in the construction projects of nine border villages, benefiting 1,961 people from 617 households. More than 40 per cent of the project has been completed and an investment of 2.2 billion yuan (\$314 million) has already been spent.

In May, *China Tibet News* said that Lepo, the first village in Tibet, north of the border in Khenzimane (Tawang district) boasted a rich vegetation and clear waters: "With impressive natural scenery and unique ethnic customs, Magmang ecological civilisation village is also situated in Lepo Valley, Tsona County. ... The construction of Magmang ecological civilisation demonstration village began on March of 2014 and was completed on December." On January of 2015, the village was inaugurated and a year later, Magmang was awarded "China's beautiful leisure village" by the Ministry of Agriculture. China has 26 national key tourist attractions; the Lepo Valley, close to the Thagla ridge, which saw the first clashes between India and China in October 1962, is one of them.

The new tourist scheme, 'Slowing down the speed of tour, enjoying the sea of azaleas in Lepo Valley', prolonged the peak season, explained the Chinese authorities.

Dekyi Tsomo, a 27-year-old villager of Magmang, told the website: "Previously,

Doklam redux?

Is China's building of a large number of 'model' villages on the Tibetan side of the Indian border preparation for another stand-off? It's time to discuss this issue with Thimphu



houses in the village looked fairly run-down, and all roads leading to the village are muddy. Nowadays, the houses we live in are comfortable and big, with underfloor heating and hot water supply. This kind of house costs more than 400,000 yuan. We only pay 120,000 yuan, the rest is paid by the Government. ... we all feel grateful." Incidentally, on March 30, 1959, the Dalai Lama spent his last night in Tibet in Magmang; he was on his way to India. The next day, he crossed the border at Khenzimane. He would certainly not recognise the hamlet.

To understand the mushrooming of Xiaogang villages, one should remember the words of the Emperor Xi Jinping, who said: "Govern the nation by governing the borders, govern the borders by first stabilising Tibet. Ensure social harmony and stability in Tibet and strengthen the development of border regions."

The villages are officially linked to two themes: 'Poverty alleviation' and 'defence of the borders'. The local populations are said to be the 'Guardians of the Sacred Land and Builders of Happy Homes'.

Senior Communist leaders regularly visit the new villages; whether in the Lohit sector, north of the McMahon Line, where a memorial for the Chinese soldiers, who died in the Walong sector during the 1962 War, has been erected for 'nationalist' tourism; in Metok, near Arunachal's Upper Siang dis-

trict or in Yume, north of Takshing in Upper Subansari; all these areas have their model villages, like in Lepo.

During the last few years, Beijing has concentrated on the development of the south-eastern prefectures of Nyingchi and Lhoka, bordering Arunachal Pradesh. But now, while the work on the railway line between Lhasa and Nyingchi continues at a quick pace, the development has started shifting westwards, in areas bordering Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

Beijing wants to duplicate in Ngari what has been done in Nyingchi and Lhoka areas; first and foremost, improving infrastructure of the border and creating Xiaogang villages. Among the three new airports to be soon constructed in Tibet, Purang is located in Ngari prefecture of Western Tibet (one is near Lhunste in Lhoka and the last one, near the Nepal border). The construction should begin in 2019 and it will be functional in 2021.

The objective of these airports is to strengthen the border's communications with surrounding areas. Let us not forget that airports and highways on the plateau legally have a dual use (civilian and military).

There is another aspect to the communist party's policy on the Indian borders: Recalcitrant Tibetans are relocated to places further away from the 'sensitive' Indian borders.

An article recently appeared in the French edition of *China Tibet Online*, titled: 'Relocation of the villagers of Lhodrak: mission over.'

It affirmed: "After a first wave of successful relocation on October 15, a second wave is now over." Lhodrak is the legendary birthplace of Marpa, the great saint who visited India several times and translated the Buddhist scriptures in the 11th century. It is located north of the Bhutanese border.

"The villagers' relocation project represents the completion of a scheme which is part of the strategy of the CPP's Central Committee for strengthening the border. It is also a good example to illustrate that the party carries the people in its heart, it provides a housing solution to families in need, and a strengthening of the masses on the borders for defence," said the article.

Tibetans in traditional costumes, probably provided for the photo op, are seen on the accompanying pictures. Some of the Xiaogang villages are located north of Bhutan, near the eastern trijunction between India, China and Bhutan, an area which is disputed.

Could it be in preparation of another Doklam? There is, however, a difference with the western trijunction (Doklam). India has no military presence in the area. The time has perhaps come to discuss this issue seriously with Thimphu.

(The writer is an expert on India-China relations and an author)

“ THE VILLAGES ARE OFFICIALLY LINKED TO TWO THEMES: 'POVERTY ALLEVIATION' AND 'DEFENCE OF THE BORDERS'. THE LOCAL POPULATIONS ARE SAID TO BE THE 'GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LAND AND BUILDERS OF HAPPY HOMES' ”

SOUNDBITE

They (RSS) are behaving like the Taliban and Khalistani terrorists. Why are they trying to create trouble in Sabarimala?

CPM Politburo member —S Ramachandran Pillai



We cannot afford to delay the reform of the body charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN —Syed Akbaruddin



I watch a lot of VFX-rich, adventure films with my sons and have always wanted to lend my voice to such mysterious characters.

Actor —Madhuri Dixit



Under the strategic guidance of the two leaders, China-India relations have maintained sound momentum of growth.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman —Geng Shuang



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End quotas

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Quota question" (November 20). Instead of indulging in quota politics, the Government must work for the overall development of the people and the country's economy, and for the weaker sections, it must aim to provide better opportunities so that they can rise and prosper.

Reservations are but a reminder to the people that they are weak and cannot rise in life without any support. The Supreme Court, too, had made it clear that reservation is not in the public's interest. In fact, reservations lead to more chaos than delivering on the so-called benefits to the intended people. It is in the country's interest to abolish reservations of all kinds.

Mahesh Kapsi
Via email

National icons

Sir — This refers to the article, "Don't undermine national heroes" (November 19) and "Maker of modern India" (November 20) by Prashant

RBI must tread cautiously

This refers to the editorial, "An armistice" (November 21). Looking at the present feud between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Government, I am reminded of the Asian Currency crisis of 1997. While the Thai Baht broke its peg with the US dollar, signalling the Asian financial crisis, this led to a full-blown crisis in Thailand, Indonesia and eventually the much larger Korean economy. Domestic financial institutions failed and foreign exchange sources dried up. While almost all the Asian currencies went for a toss, the Indian rupee withstood the onslaught and stayed strong, thanks to the disciplined and stricter policies followed by the then RBI stalwarts, ably supported by the highly knowledgeable financial wizards who were heading the Government. It is laudable that the present regulators of the RBI

have also withstood the pressure mounted on them by the present Government to dilute regulations and support the Government in their attempt to please certain sections of the people, keeping the ensuing Lok Sabha election in mind. The RBI should not yield to relax norms to release loans to MSMEs under the so-called 'loan in 59 minutes' announcement or restructure huge NPAs to bail out defaulters whose aim is only to cheat the banks. Bankers should also come forward to deny such '59 minute loans'. Surely if loans are given in such a hurry, without following norms, it would result in a new chunk of NPAs and later, bankers will be held responsible.

Tharcus S Fernando
Chennai

Tewari, India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was undoubtedly one of the greatest national heroes whose indefatigable struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi won the country its Independence. The gratitude we owe to our national heroes can never be adequately acknowledged in words.

Azhar Ali
Via web

Security lapse

Sir — This refers to the report, "Man throws chilli powder at Kejriwal, arrested" (November 21). Throwing chilli powder in Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's eyes in a highly secured building of Delhi Secretariat is a matter of serious security lapse. Security persons,

who provide security to people who fall under Z-security cover, have a duty to take perfect care of the person.

It is unfortunate that a spokesperson of the ruling party at the Centre, without knowing about the security norms, gave an irresponsible political statement, terming the unfortunate incident as a pre-scripted drama. The Delhi Police and Union Home

Ministry must investigate the matter in a politically unbiased manner and ensure perfect security to the Delhi Chief Minister, even though he may be asked to follow certain norms set for persons under Z-security cover.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Autonomy for CBI

Sir — It is disturbing that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) stands accused of being used by the Centre to implicate opponents to scuttle dissenting voices. Over-politicisation of institutions is bound to deal a blow to the federal structure.

Such developments can be prevented when a policy, envisaging absolute autonomy to the CBI, is put in place. Its impartiality would be manifested only when it carries out raids also against leaders associated with the ruling party since it can't be presumed that they are all incorruptible.

Humyra Tarafdar
Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

From poverty to prosperity

While the Government has launched various welfare programmes for the poor, there is something it can do for the middle-income population too



RAJEEV AHUJA

A poor marginal farmer, Kishan, living in a remote Indian village was barely able to subsist. He cultivated cereals and seasonal vegetables on a small piece of land that he owned, and at times worked as a wage-labourer for the so-called 'affluent' farmers in the neighbouring village. His wife would often lend a helping hand in tending the field. His two school-going daughters, too, would regularly partake in the household chorus when not studying. To an urban dweller, Kishan may appear to be living a life of content, but that wasn't the case for him and his family. For them, life had become a daily grind. The same was true of many other families in his village. A slender margin separated calmness from turbulence in their lives, for Mother Nature could easily wreck havoc in their apparently calm lives.

But life started to change for Kishan — as it did for other households of his village — after the Modi Government came to power. Not only does his village now have electricity, but almost every household has a bank account and an LPG facility for cooking. Propagation of scientific agricultural practices has helped these farmers to not only switch over to higher value crops, but also to produce marketable surplus. They are now less dependent on rain. Their crops enjoy protection from other hazards too under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Encouraged by a local NGO, Kishan's wife has started a small enterprise to supplement her family income. She joined hands with a few other women folks to start their own handicraft manufacturing unit, availing loan under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

Nobody had expected their life to take such a sudden turn for the better. Talk to any villager and s/he will acknowledge that there has been a perceptible change in public services too. Quality of rations in the fair price shop improved; school teachers are more dedicated now; students enjoy playing newly-introduced sports — badminton and volley ball; a doctor now regularly sits in the nearest primary health centre. Every resident of the village now has a unique identification (Aadhaar) card needed to avail benefits under various Government programmes.

Kishan's family is hopeful that one day they will be living in a pucca house, as promised by the Village Pradhan under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana. Also, Kishan is thrilled to have received a letter signed by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, assuring him and his family of free hospital treatment of upto five lakh rupees every year in any Government or private hospital under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. This, he finds quite reassuring.

All of this is, of course, an imaginary story that may turn into reality if India continues to witness politics of development. The Modi dispensation has introduced a number of programmes for the benefit of the poor and the vulnerable. These initiatives are making visible difference on the ground. It may be too early to find a poor household that has benefited from all schemes and programmes meant for the poor, but finding a poor household that has remained untouched by any of these may be difficult as well. Indeed, the poor should be the focus of the Government welfare programmes. But there is something that the Modi Government could do for the middle-income people, too, without assuming any additional fiscal burden. One such intervention could be to include the Above Poverty Line (APL) population in the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana upon payment of premium. This will be a huge benefit to the informal sector workers and their families that belong to the APL category.

Currently, this section of society has two options: To pay hospital bills out of their own pocket, which can be prohibitively expensive or buy an insurance policy from one of the insurance companies. If they pay hospital bills out of their own pockets, the deadly cocktail of one's needs and emotions gets exploited by the private hospitals. And if one buys an insurance policy, it can be several times more expensive than what could be if they were to join the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and take advantage of the negotiated discounted prices. Kishan's expected meteoric rise from the BPL to APL category should prove to be a boon, and not bane. However, this will only be so when there is something for the APL population too.

(The writer is a development economist, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank)

IF REPORTS OF TREATMENT OF THE PILGRIMS ARE TRUE, VIJAYAN MUST REALISE THAT HE CAN'T TREAT AYYAPPA DEVOTEES LIKE INMATES OF A GULAG.

—BJP PRESIDENT AMIT SHAH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



BJP PRESIDENT'S TWEETS ON SABARIMALA ARE MISLEADING. ARRANGEMENTS MUST HAVE CAUSED INCONVENIENCE TO SANGH PARIVAR ELEMENTS.

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER PINARAYI VIJAYAN

How to kill a dream

The gunning down of Avni is symptomatic of a crisis of governance and brings to the fore one of the most pressing problems of the human-animal conflict which demands professional solutions



VK BAHUGUNA

Social activism is a sign of a vibrant, responsive and progressive society. Indian social activism has assumed gigantic proportions, but often, emotive activism, devoid of objectivity, derails the smooth functioning of institutions of governance and creates confusion. The latest in a series of such instances is the shooting of a man-eating Tigress in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. For the past few weeks, animal rights activists and organisations have been castigating the Maharashtra Government for the killing of Tigress Avni in Pandharkawada forests of Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. They have charged the forest department for her cold-blooded killing, so much so that Union Minister Maneka Gandhi dubbed her killing as a straight case of crime and raised the hackle by demanding the sacking of Maharashtra Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar.

The State Government on November 10 set up an inquiry committee to prove the death of the tigress. Let us examine the facts from the point of view of rule of law as also from the point of view of overall animal welfare, moral and professional ethos.

Tigress Avni was eliminated on the night of November 2, 2018, with help from a sharp shooter, Asgar Ali. During the last two years, the tigress killed 13 people. Due to public pressure, the Chief Wildlife Warden seemed to have ordered that the big cat be either captured or killed as she was found to be dangerous for human life. Even the Mumbai High Court, after initial refusal, allowed the shooting. The Supreme Court, however, refrained from interfering.

Strictly speaking, the forest department was within the legal boundaries to neutralise the man-eating tigress. Chapter III of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, deals with the subject of Hunting of Wild Animals and provisions of Chapter IV under Section 11(a) empower the Chief Wildlife Warden to order elimination of such animals.

Going by the rule book, foresters were within their right to have taken the decision to eliminate the man-eating tigress. However, going by the post-mortem and other reports, several questions arise that need to be answered. Further, the issue is not just about the killing of the tigress but involves larger issues of systemic malfunctioning of our social fibre and governance under which we are surely and certainly destroying the living space of the wildlife by fragmenting their corridors and encroaching on their habitats.

When results of our irrational behaviours are visible, like the killing of 13 people by Avni, and subsequently her elimination, the hue and cry being raised on her death is only emotionally targeting the forest department. There's no discussion about the real causes that led to the situation, which is bound to rise in the near future.

Tiger conservation in India is an internationally acclaimed success story. Since tigers are a prolific breeder, conservation efforts are not going to be derailed by the unfortunate killing of Avni. However, the way this issue was han-

“ AVNI'S KILLING HAS THROWN A TIMELY CHALLENGE FOR FORESTERS, STATE GOVERNMENTS AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TO SERIOUSLY TREAT THE DISEASE OF SHRINKING HABITAT AND FRAGMENTATION OF FOREST LANDS INSTEAD OF TREATING THE SYMPTOMS



dled and the manner in which she was killed does not absolve the foresters and other officials from criticism. They did handle the case in an unprofessional manner. The moot question here is: Why did the State Government, the district administration and the forest department not take proactive action when the first human killing was reported? The order of the Chief Wildlife Warden, too, needs to be examined. It needs to be ascertained whether the order was to tranquilise or to kill the tigress. If the order was to tranquilise, then why did the forest department lack the basic capacity to fire the dart gun? Why were they not able to train one of their staff? If it was a professional decision to kill her, due to management compulsions, were all protocols in the rule book followed?

According to the shooter, Ali, "We have been roaming in the forests for many days and after two forest guards identified the animal as T1, a forester fired the dart. But in a fraction of a second, she charged towards us with a roar. If I had not opened fire, she would have killed two to three people". But the post mortem report, as reported in the media, said that the tigress was shot when she was facing away from the shooter and the dart found lodges in its left thigh and did not show any impact of being fired from a tranquilising gun. If this statement in the post mortem report is true (subject to verification), it contradicts the self-defence theory of the shooter and is a matter of suppression of facts. The

Chief Wildlife Warden has to come clean on criticism.

It was a long pending correct decision to remove the tigress from this forest area. Only an efficient forest manager will be able to suggest if the elimination could have been well-planned and if the tigress could have been captured and sent to a zoo.

If it was a right decision to kill her, the Chief Wildlife Warden should make it clear as to what happened on the night of November 2 and what were the orders of the State Government. Honest professionals must face the public and clear the smoke.

The meat of the story, however, is: Tiger population in India has been steadily rising. In 2006, there were 1,411 tigers in the country, which increased to 2,226 in 2014. The 2018 census data is not yet out. Forest area in Yavatmal district is 19.9 per cent (2,606 sq km) of the geographic area (13,582 sq km), as per the Forest Survey of India's 'State of Forest Report 2017'. Though tigers are increasing, there has been a decrease of six sq km forest areas in Yavatmal district, compared to the assessment in 2015.

The State Government had been diverting forest lands in Yavatmal for the setting up of a cement factory and other projects without assessing its impact on wildlife. Though the tiger population is going up at an average of 30 per cent and conservation measures are bearing fruits, the forest area and the wildlife habitat are shrinking

with the net result that young tigers are seeking territories in new fragmented forests, honeycombed by villages with little prey base. Tigress Avni and its two cubs were a victim of circumstances. There was shortage of food and no secure territory.

The killing of Avni has thrown a timely challenge for the foresters, State Governments and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to seriously treat the disease of shrinking habitat and fragmentation of forest lands instead of treating the symptoms. They must pull up their socks and find professional solutions for such situations, especially on how to consolidate forest catchments for food and water security, fragmentation of forestlands in tiger and elephant corridors *et al.*

At the same time, foresters must upgrade their infrastructure and professional capability to meet such challenges, and show their spine in the same way the unsung foresters had shown. For their grit, determination and professional capability had led to tigers, other wild life and forest biodiversity to survive in India in difficult situations. In the end, we must remember that notwithstanding perceived lapses on the part of authorities, which will be clear after a fair inquiry, the intention of governance was correct as we must also feel for 13 poor Indians who lost their lives. Now, the forest department must rehabilitate Avni's two cubs.

(The writer is a Retired Civil Servant)

Fighting pollution, the Beijing way

There's a lot India can learn from the Chinese capital which has registered tremendous improvement in its air quality. First, we need a political will to fight the bad-air days



KOTA SRIRAJ

In the first week of November 2018, this writer paid a visit to Beijing and came back quite impressed as to how China was managing its air pollution woes. During the peak hours, when the air was anything but healthy, citizens used masks to protect themselves. In contrast, in India, we are yet to understand the threat that air pollution poses to our health. This is evident by the limited use of protective gear, such as face masks, particularly among our children and the elderly. An interesting aspect about pollution management in Beijing was that though the ambient air quality approached unhealthy levels during the day, it did not stay there for long. There was both a natural and man-

made reason for this. The natural reason pertained to the geographical position of the city which afforded it a constant minimum wind speed. This aided in blowing away noxious gases. The man-made reason was that Beijing's city administration was acutely aware about the worsening air quality and, thus, ensured that a plethora of measures is taken to clamp down pollution-causing conditions.

For instance, unlike in India, the municipal authorities keep spraying water on busy roads throughout the day at regular intervals. This does not allow the dust to rise. On the other hand, dust vacuum trucks keep tidying up the roadways across the city on a regular basis. The result is a spic and span city infrastructure that does not contribute to pollution.

One amazing aspect of Beijing that would strike everyone is that in spite of the population density, the city bears an unhurried and paced look about it. The main reason for this is the efficacy of the public transport, especially the Beijing subway or

the metro. China's underground transport system has evolved tremendously and is now the mainstay of mass transit. The efficacy of the metro could be gauged by the fact that during rush hours, the frequency of the metro improved to four-minute interval between each arrival.

Add to this, the surface transport. The buses running on electric pantographs complement the metro in a pollution-free manner. In order to make vehicular pollution even less, transport authorities in Beijing have limited the number of private cars on the roads by auctioning registration numbers. This has ensured that not everybody and anybody has been able to add to the vehicular sprawl and pollution.

Comparatively, not long ago, Delhi and Beijing were neck-to-neck in handling pollution but this is now a thing of the past. Beijing today stands way ahead — not as much in clean air as it is in its awareness and efforts to clean up its air. Thanks to the 'air purity first' attitude, ambient air quality in Beijing has started to

improve steadily; whereas pollution levels in Delhi are rising.

In 2017, the yearly average concentration of PM 2.5, that is the particulate matter with a size of 2.5 microns or less, in Beijing was less than half as that of Delhi. In addition to this, Delhi is also surging ahead of Beijing in yet another unflattering area. The number of "very unhealthy" days, or the period when the pollution levels are very high, is also exceeding four times that of Beijing.

Beijing has now embarked on a fight against pollution and is setting an example for other nations to follow. This, the city has been able to do because of a firm resolve and its air pollution policy. For instance, when the great smog hit central, northern and eastern China in January 2013, it prompted the Chinese Government to launch a comprehensive action plan to tackle air pollution. It was based on a regional approach that identified key polluted regions, such as Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei for a time-bound action plan. It set specific pollution reduction targets and defined

'10 measures' to guide the development of regional action plans. Based on these 10 measures, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection issued implementation rules for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding areas. Accordingly, Beijing's Government formulated action plans that included setting specific targets, such as restricting the total number of vehicles in the city to six million by the end of 2017, reducing coal consumption by 80 per cent till 2020 and meeting annual average PM 2.5 concentration of micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) by 2017.

Beijing is implementing these measures quite seriously. For instance, in 2017, the quota for new vehicles was fixed at 150,000 cars, with 60,000 allotted only to fuel-efficient cars. In 2018, this quota was reduced to 100,000, annually. Similarly, in 2017, coal consumption was reduced to 11 million tonnes as Beijing closed all its big coal-fired power stations. Besides, Beijing has also enforced stringent norms to con-

trol industrial pollution. In 2016, its environmental watchdog imposed fines totaling \$21.8 million. It has also undertaken a massive greening programme. During the past five years, about 4,022 hectares of urban green spaces have been created.

To effectively reduce Beijing's air pollution, surrounding provinces, such as Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Shanxi and Inner Mongolia coordinated and implemented a joint action plan. A combination of Beijing's own action plan and those of its surrounding regions has paid off. In 2017, Beijing recorded 226 blue-sky days having good air quality, compared to just 176 in 2013. In the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, PM 2.5 levels decreased by about 30 per cent between 2013 and 2017. This has helped Beijing meet the PM 2.5 target it had set for itself in 2013.

The ongoing bad air days in Delhi are a reminder that we need to learn our lessons from the fight Beijing is giving to air pollution.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGNEYE



FIND AN ELIGIBLE REPLACEMENT

Trump must expeditiously identify a new nominee for attorney-general who can be questioned by the Senate early in the new year about his/her integrity. That nominee also should be required, as a condition of confirmation, to promise not to allow political considerations to influence the administration of justice.

(Los Angeles Times editorial)

Congress preparing for RaGa's mega show in UP

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

Confident of a good show by party candidates in the ongoing Assembly poll in five states, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has now planned to extensively tour Uttar Pradesh by the year-end and galvanise the party cadres and leaders for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Sources said Rahul would address at least one rally in all five zones, including a grand rally in Lucknow. The Congress mandarins were reportedly busy chalking out a programme for the Congress president with the focus on regional parties — the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) — to not underestimate them.

"Even as we were seriously looking for a grand alliance for next Parliament elections, both Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati were regularly targeting us or our leaders to drive home the point that the Congress had lost ground in UP," quipped a senior Congress leader referring to some recent speeches of Akhilesh and Mayawati.

Referring to anonymity, the Congress leader said both the SP and the BSP were trying to harm the Congress in the ongoing Assembly polls in Central States but the results will show that the Congress is the only party which could dislodge the

Focus will be on failure of Centre in fulfilling promises made by Narendra Modi during 2017 campaign



BJP from the country.

"Once we prove our mettle in these ongoing polls, Rahul Gandhi will start extensive tour of UP to further impress that the Congress was as strong in this large State as it was in other States and the party could be not taken lightly," the Congress leader stressed.

The leader said besides chalking out other programmes for Rahul like roadshows, panchayats, chaupal, the party brass is planning some big rallies. The leader also revealed that while announcing rallies of Rahul Gandhi in mid-December, Congress leaders will not take names either of the SP, the BSP or other outfits

but will highlight the motive of rallies to expose Prime Minister's role in Rafale fighter jet deal, rising prices and corruption issues.

"The focus will also be on failure of the Central Government in fulfilling promises made by Narendra Modi during the campaigning for 2014 Parliament elections. Besides, the Congress rallies will aim to clearly send out the signal to the SP and the BSP that our party is the leading force to defeat the BJP in the 2019 poll. Hence, if they want to support the Congress in its 'remove BJP' mission, they should align with it to form a grand alliance," he said.

BJP, Congress make space for defectors in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh's son Manvendra Singh is not the only leader to have switched loyalties in Rajasthan ahead of the December 7 Assembly polls.

Between them, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have fielded 11 candidates who have changed sides.

Voices of dissent are now being heard within both parties over "sidelined" leaders crossing over to get a chance to contest. Manvendra Singh quit the BJP, citing the treatment handed out to his father who was denied a party ticket in the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

He is now contesting for the Congress against Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje from her stronghold Jhalrapatan.

The ruling BJP alone has fielded seven defectors, including six from the Congress and one from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). BJP nominees Mahesh Pratap Singh from Nathdwara, Ram Kishor Saini from Bandikui, Mamta Sharma from Pipalda, Kalpa Singh from Ladpura, Rajendra Bhamu from Jhunjhunu and Ashok Sharma from Rajkhera crossed over from the Congress



to the saffron side.

Abhinesh Mehrishi defected from the BSP and will contest for the Ratangarh seat, now held by BJP minister Rajkumar Rinwa. Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who said in August he will make sure that party workers have their say and no "parachute candidate" gets nominated, also seems to have changed his mind.

His party has given tickets to at least four defectors. Rajasthan State Congress president Sachin Pilot said the decisions were taken by the party high command on a case-by-case basis.

Those who managed to get a Congress ticket just days, or even hours, after leaving the BJP include Harish Meena, Habib-ur-Rehman, Manvendra Singh and Sona Devi Bawri.

Dausa MP Harish Meena quit the BJP a day before the Congress released its first list and has been fielded by the party from Deoli-Uniara.

BJP MLA from Nagaur, Habib-ur-Rehman, also quit the BJP a day before the list was



BJP president Amit Shah greets his supporters during a roadshow, in Bikaner, on Wednesday

BJP committed to building Ram temple in Ayodhya: Shah

PTI ■ JAIPUR

BJP president Amit Shah on Wednesday reiterated that his party was committed to building a Ram temple in Ayodhya and it would not change its stand.

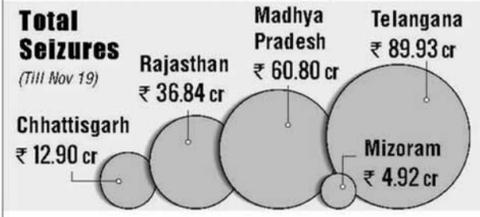
He also excluded confidence of forming next government at the Centre in 2019 with a majority higher than that of the present one despite the Congress' bid to forge a grand alliance. Shah made the remarks while interacting with youths at

a function here. He targeted the Congress and asked youths and party workers to ensure BJP's victory in the State for its unhindered progress.

"The BJP is committed to building the Ram temple in Ayodhya," Shah said, adding there was no question of diluting or changing the party's stand. The BJP president, however, said the matter was in the Supreme Court and the party wanted a 'nyayik samadhan' (judicial resolution) of the dispute.

Assembly Polls 2018 5 States

Value of seizures made during the ongoing Assembly polls



Chhattisgarh	Cash	Liquor	Narcotics	Precious Metals	Other Items
	₹ 4.48 cr	₹ 1.77 cr	₹ 0.02 cr	₹ 0.29 cr	₹ 6.34 cr

Rajasthan	Cash	Liquor	Narcotics	Precious Metals	Other Items
	₹ 12.39 cr	₹ 4.35 cr	₹ 5.95 cr	₹ 6.35 cr	₹ 7.79 cr

Madhya Pradesh	Cash	Liquor	Narcotics	Precious Metals	Other Items
	₹ 27.28 cr	₹ 11.57 cr	₹ 5.49 cr	₹ 8.68 cr	₹ 7.78 cr

Mizoram	Cash	Liquor	Narcotics	Precious Metals	Other Items
	₹ 0.43 cr	₹ 0.77 cr	₹ 2.72 cr	₹ 1 cr	Nil

Telangana	Cash	Liquor	Narcotics	Precious Metals	Other Items
	₹ 76.73 cr	₹ 7.40 cr	₹ 0.47 cr	₹ 4.28 cr	₹ 1.04 cr

Source: ECI KBK Infographics

Bru refugees to vote in Mizoram's Mamit: Official



Aizawl: The Election Commission (EC) has decided to hold polling for Bru refugees in Mizoram's Mamit district, even as the leaders of the tribal community maintained that they fear for their safety in their home State.

The place of voting for 11,232 Bru voters, who are residing in neighbouring Tripura, has been a bone of contention, leading to the replace-

ment of the then chief electoral officer, SB Shashank, less than two weeks ahead of the election to the 40-member House.

Shashank had been accused of facilitating voting by Bru voters in the relief camps of Tripura.

"We have been informed by the Election Commission that the polling for the Brus must be arranged at Kanhmun village inside Mizoram territo-

ry. We have started our preparations for that," an official in the CEO office said.

Kanhmun is an interstate border village between Mizoram and Tripura. A written order to this effect is likely to be received by Mizoram CEO Ashish Kundra in a day or two, the official said.

"In the last three years, there was no revision of electoral rolls. This time we did it.

The Bru refugees are registered in nine Assembly seats and we'll place different voting machines accordingly at the special booth in the village," he said.

Kundra had on Tuesday visited Naisingpara — the largest Bru camp in Tripura — to meet the refugees and inform them about the EC's decision.

An election official, who accompanied the CEO to Tripura, said the Bru leaders claimed that the voter turnout from the community might be zero if the EC did not change its decision to hold polling in Kanhmun.

"Kundra tried explaining to them that the decision was taken by the Election Commission, but the Bru refugees said they fear for their lives in Mizoram. They also cited various reasons, including bad-road condition, to justify their demand for polling-booth arrangement in the relief camps," he added.

The six camps of the Bru refugees are located between 2-

10 km from the interstate border between Tripura and Mizoram. The highest number of Brus has been registered in Mamit district, which has Hachhek, Dampa and Mamit seats, with 14 per cent of the total voters being refugees.

It is followed by Kolasib district, with 3.5 per cent of its total voters being Brus. The district has Tuirial, Kolasib and Serlui Assembly seats. In Lunglei district, less than one

per cent of the total voters are Bru refugees.

Earlier this month, the EC had removed Shashank as the state chief electoral officer, accepting the demands of civil society groups, NGOs, student organisations and political parties. The agitators organised dharnas in front of the CEO's office against Shashank's reported move to facilitate voting by Bru voters in the relief camps of Tripura.

PTI



National People's Party (NPP) president and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma during an election rally in support of party candidates ahead of Mizoram Assembly elections, at Vairengte in Kolasib, on Wednesday

Me Too: Alok Nath booked for rape

Law catches up with on-screen 'sanskari babu' 19 years after he violated a lady television writer-producer

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

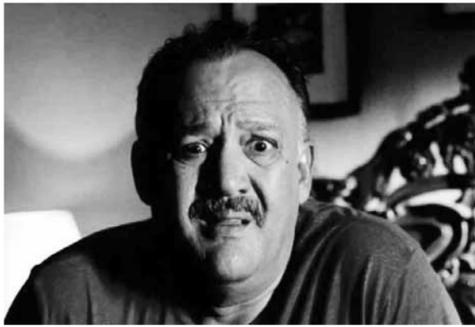
Nearly six weeks after television writer-producer Vinta Nanda went to town accusing him of sexually violating her 19 years ago, veteran actor Alok Nath — known his on-screen "Sanskari Babuji" image — was on Wednesday booked for alleged rape and unnatural sex on the basis of a complaint lodged against him by Nanda.

Acting on a formal complaint lodged by Nanda against the veteran actor on October 17, the Oshiwara police station registered an FIR against 62-year-old Alok Nath under sections 376 (rape) and 377 (unnatural sex) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Confirming the development, a senior police officer investigating the case said: "Alok Nath has been booked for rape under sections 376 and 377 of IPC."

After writing a long, heart-wrenching Facebook post on October 8 alleging that Alok Nath had sexually violated her 19 years ago, Nanda had lodged a complaint with the Oshiwara police station on October 17. In her complaint, Nanda had alleged that she had raped by the actor after spiking her drink. "The victim's statement was recorded formally by police on Tuesday evening," Nanda's lawyer Dhruvi Kapadia said.

Expressing her satisfaction over the development, Nanda said in a statement: "The moment I penned the truth on



Facebook on 8th October 2018, it felt like I had released myself from the prison of fear. Today, I am glad the FIR has been finally lodged. I trust the Mumbai Police."

"I know that when things have finally come this far, justice will prevail. I have full faith and confidence in the country's judiciary," Nanda added.

It may be recalled that in her lengthy Facebook post that she wrote on October 8 amid a series of allegations of sexual harassment made by prominent women as part of a "Me Too" movement unleashed in the social media, Nanda did not actually name Alok Nath but said that "the predator in question here is the actor par excellence who is known as the most #Sanskari (Cultured) person in the film and television industry."

Nanda, who subsequently confirmed that it was Alok Nath whom she had referred to

in her post, had stated: "I have waited for this moment to come for 19 years...He was an alcoholic, shameless and obnoxious but he was also the television star of that decade, so not only was he forgiven for all his bad behaviour, many of the guys would also egg him on to be his worst". She had also alleged that the actor even harassed the show's lead actress who was not interested in him.

Recalling the events that followed after she had left a party at Alok Nath's house at 2 am 19 years ago, Nanda wrote: "I started to walk home on the empty streets... Midway I was accosted by this man who was driving his own car and he asked me to sit in it and said he would drop me home. I trusted him and sat in his car.

"I have faint memory after that. I can remember more liquor being poured into my mouth and I remember being violated endlessly. When I

woke up the next afternoon, I was in pain. I hadn't just been raped, I was taken to my own house and had been brutalised.

"I couldn't get up for my bed. I told some of my friends but everybody advised me to forget about it and move on," she wrote and went onto narrate some more unpleasant experiences with Alok Nath subsequently.

On his part, actor Alok Nath initially dismissed Nanda's charge against him as "absurd" as he "made her what she is". "Kuch to log kahenge (People will say something). Neither I am denying this nor do I agree with it. It (rape) must have happened, but someone else would have done it. Well, I do not want to talk much about it. As for the matter, if it has come out, it will be stretched," Alok Nath had told ABP News.

However, a week after Nanda wrote a Facebook post accused him of raping her under sedation, Alok Nath filed a civil suit against writer-director Vinta Nanda in a city suburban court here in connection with her rape accusations against him and demanded an apology and compensation of Re 1 as damages from him.

In another application filed separately before the Andheri Metropolitan Magistrate Alok Nath and his wife Ashu sought a direction to the suburban Amboli police station to take cognisance of the letter sent by them seeking defamation proceedings against Nanda.

Amit Shah among main conspirators of Sohrabuddin encounter: CIO

Mumbai: BJP chief Amit Shah and three IPS officers were the main conspirators behind the alleged fake encounters of Sohrabuddin Shaikh and Tulsiram Prajapati, the chief investigation officer (CIO) of the case claimed in a CBI court here on Wednesday.

CIO Sandeep Tamgade, who deposed during the ongoing trial, however, conceded that his claim was not supported by any documentary evidence in the charge sheet filed by him.

"From the investigation done by us, we found the principal conspirators were Amit Shah, DG Vanzara (former

Deputy Inspector-General Gujarat Police), Rajkumar Pandian (SP, Intelligence Bureau) and MN Dinesh (IPS officer, Rajasthan Police)," Tamgade said.

All four have been discharged by the trial court in the case. Tamgade claimed he was not naming Shah and others without evidence, but admitted that the claim was not supported by any documentary evidence in the supplementary chargesheet filed in the case, he said.

Tamgade, then Superintendent of Police (CBI), had prepared a supplementary chargesheet in the

Sohrabuddin case and the main chargesheet in the Tulsiram case. Both cases are being tried together before special CBI judge SJ Sharma here.

To a question by the defence lawyer, Tamgade said he also had evidence to conclude that Sohrabuddin Shaikh and his partner Prajapati were "used" by Amit Shah, then Minister of State for Home in Gujarat, for firing at the office of an Ahmedabad-based builder.

He had interrogated Shah, marble trader from Rajasthan Vimal Patni, and Rajasthan minister Gulabchandra Kataria in the case, he said.

BJP: Will continue our battle till Kumaraswamy Govt is brought down

Bengaluru: Declaring the beginning of its battle against the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government in Karnataka, the BJP on Wednesday said it would continue the fight till the HD Kumaraswamy-led administration is brought down and people get justice.

Attacking Kumaraswamy on farmers' issues, the state BJP chief and former Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa claimed that the Congress too was regretting its decision to support him, just to keep BJP out of power.

"You speak about BJP that has 104 MLAs, lightly. Kumaraswamy, from December 10 Assembly session will begin in Belagavi. As a responsible opposition, it's our duty to keep before people your political drama and the developmental work you have done so far," Yeddyurappa said.

Addressing a protest meeting here, he said the BJP would organise a "huge" agitation by gathering over one lakh farmers, at Belagavi.

"For the last five months we kept quiet, with an intention to give time to the new Chief Minister, but now after six months- people are not ready to tolerate any more. We have given you enough time," Yeddyurappa said.

Alleging that the Kumaraswamy Government has failed on several fronts, he said "our fight has begun from today...Until we bring you down from power and send you home. Unless over 6.5 crore people of this State get justice, our fight will continue." PTI



Muslims take out a rally on Milad-un-Nabi to commemorate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday

It's Centre Vs State in Sabarimala

Union Minister insulted by Kerala Police

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Sabarimala Temple issue has become a Centre vs Kerala Government tussle by Wednesday as Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Finance, Surface Transport and Shipping disclosing at the shrine that a superintendent of police humiliated him while he was on his way to the shrine.

"I was told by the SP at Nilackel on Wednesday morning that I cannot go to Pamba by car and he asked me to go by the KSRTC bus. When I asked him politely, the SP raised his voice and shouted at me. Can this officer question the Kerala ministers like the way he shouted at me?" Pon Radhakrishnan told reporters after worshipping at the holy shrine.

The high-handed behaviour of Yatheesh Chandra, SP, was telecast live by news channels much to the embarrassment of the Kerala Police. By afternoon, the Kerala Government was in for more trouble as the High Court slammed it over the propriety of deputing officers with shady past at a holy place.

Radhakrishnan who reached Nilackel on Wednesday morning to offer prayers at the Ayyappa Temple was stopped by Yatheesha Chandra, superintendent of police from proceeding to the shrine in his personal car. "You cannot go to Pamba by car. You are allowed to travel only by the KSRTC bus, Minister," the SP told the Minister who listened to him with amusement.

When the Minister asked Chandra, why private vehicles were not allowed beyond Nilackel, 22-km away from Pamba, the latter said there were chances of landslides and



Union Minister of State for Shipping Pon Radhakrishnan at the last entry point to the Lord Ayyappa shrine on Wednesday PTI

hence no private vehicles were allowed. Undeterred by the restrictions, the Minister opted to travel by a KSRTC bus while the BJP leader AN Radhakrishnan who accompanied him said that the police officer could have showed some basic courtesy to the Union Minister.

"The SP told me that private vehicles are not allowed beyond Nilackel as part of a Master Plan the Kerala Government has prepared for Sabarimala. But it is clear that the Master Plan by the Kerala Government is to keep the devotees away from the temple," said Pon Radhakrishnan while speaking to reporters at Sannidhanam.

The Minister said he has

been a regular pilgrim to Sabarimala since the age of five and has never experienced in the past this kind of hostility by the authorities. "The intention of the authorities is to make life difficult for the devotees. The principal them of Lord Ayyappa himself is unity and integration. But the police force in Sabarimala is working to destroy and demolish these unifying factors," said the Minister who added that he was like any other devotees and does not require any privileges which other devotees are not entitled to.

The Minister also decried the slapping of Section 144 at a place of worship like Sabarimala.

"See the empty places all

over this shrine. This is the proof of public resentment over the Master Plan devised by the Kerala Government to keep Sabarimala inaccessible for devotees," said Pon Radhakrishnan.

Meanwhile, the Kerala High Court on Wednesday expressed its disgust and disapproval over the behaviour of police towards the devotees. "How come officers with criminal records have been deputed at a place like Sabarimala? The Inspector General Vijay Sachare and the SY Yatheesh Chandra have tainted career behind them. While Sachare is an accused in a custodial death case, Chandra figures in a case of assaulting women and children. Why

have you deputed such officers at Sabarimala where people require services of benevolent officers and men?" asked Justices Ramachandra Menon and Anil Kumar who continued hearing petitions filed by devotees against alleged police cruelty.

TP Senkumar, former State Police Chief, who was eased out of office by the CPM Government lambasted the police and the Kerala Government over the unfortunate developments at Sabarimala.

"There are good officers and men in the police force who are well trained in crowd management. But the personnel posted at Sabarimala are of dubious nature. This is what we get when officers who are familiar with looking after the children and grandchildren of ministers are posted as police chides," Senkumar said.

BJP leader, 71 others granted bail

Pathnamthitta: A court here on Wednesday granted conditional bail to 72 people, including BJP general secretary K Surendran, who were arrested in connection with the Sabarimala temple row.

Surendran along with two others had been arrested on November 18 from Nilackel as he tried to proceed to the Lord Ayyappa Temple despite being advised by police personnel against visiting Sabarimala due to law and order issues.

The 69 others were arrested after they held a *nama japam* (chanting Lord Ayyappa mantras) inside the shrine complex late on Sunday, defying prohibitory orders. **IANS**

Mamata to induct new Mayor for Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major development, the Trinamool Congress is known to have taken procedural initiatives to amend the civic laws in order to induct a "seasoned, senior, able and experienced" person as the new Mayor of Kolkata, sources said.

The new development comes after sitting Mayor Sovan Chatterjee was asked to quit his Mayoral chair by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Mayor — a key aide of Banerjee for past 30 years — who was also doubling up as Fire and Housing Minister suddenly resigned on Tuesday after being reprimanded by Banerjee for lack of performance.

According to inside sources, the Chief Minister is planning to induct either

Firhad Hakim or Arup Biswas two of her trusted ministerial colleagues in Chatterjee's place.

As the present law does not for an outsider — who is not a councillor — to be appointed as Mayor the State Government is likely to table a new law in State Assembly that will make provisions for non-councillor to be inducted on the post. "Much like the parliamentary law the amended law will provide for the new person to be elected within six months of one's appointment on the post," a Trinamool Congress MLA said.

Chatterjee who conceded that he had been asked to tender his resignation by the Chief Minister however did not resign on Wednesday.

"I have been asked to resign by the Chief Minister. Though I have not resigned

today I will do so at an appropriate moment," he said, adding he "still respect Didi as my mother."

Growing differences between the Mayor and the Chief Minister earlier saw him losing a key organisational post of South 24 Parganas district party president.

The Chief Minister had told him several times about paying more attention to his work and cut down on the time he was spending with a woman who was not his wife. The Mayor, who does not live in his house for close to a year now, has also filed for divorce.

According to sources the Chief Minister had been angry with the Mayor as reports of his extra-marital affairs was bringing the party to disrepute, sources said.

Kerala's Congress MP passes away

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/Kochi:

Senior Congress leader MI Shanavas died on early Wednesday at a private hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu after a prolonged illness. He was 67.

The Member of Parliament, who represented the Wayanad constituency twice — 2009, 2014, in the Lok Sabha, breathed his last around 1 am. He had undergone a liver transplant on November 2.

His mortal remains were brought to Kochi in the afternoon and kept for public homage. The funeral will be held on Thursday at Kochi.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi described Shanavas as a "much loved and respected member" of the Congress family. In a tweet, he said "With the

passing of Shri M.I. Shanavas, two term Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad, Kerala, the Congress family has lost a much loved and respected member. My thoughts & prayers are with his family & friends in this time of grief."

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan along with senior congress leader and former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala condoled the death.

Former Defence Minister, AK Antony, KPCC President, Mullapally Ramachandran, Chennithala and former KPCC president VM Sudheeran, were among the hundreds of party workers and leaders who paid homage as the body was brought to the State. **PTI**

BJP slams demand for Parrikar's resignation, says Nehru too was ill in his last years in office

Panaji: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday slammed the Congress for demanding Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's resignation, saying that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru too was ill in his last years in office.

"Our late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in the last three years of his tenure, was ill. He was suffering from paralysis and could not function as a Prime Minister ought to. At that time, our leaders, including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, or the Jan Sangh did not take out a morcha to his house and demand his resignation, as we saw in Goa," State BJP president Vinay Tendulkar said at a Press conference in Panaji.

The Congress on Tuesday organised a march to Parrikar's private residence, demanding that he resign as Chief Minister within 48 hours.

Parrikar is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer, and has not been seen in public for several months now.

When Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar was serving as Agriculture Minister in the erstwhile Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government, neither the Congress nor the BJP demanded his resignation, despite the fact that the Maharashtra politician was abroad for cancer treatment.

"Sharad Pawar was suffering from cancer and was being treated abroad, but the BJP did not make it an issue and the Congress did not drop him from the Union Cabinet either," Tendulkar said.

Parrikar is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer and has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and Delhi for nearly nine months. He returned from New Delhi's AIIMS on October 14 and has not moved out of his private residence for any official event since.

Maharashtra Gomatantak Party chief Deepak Dhavalikar also joined the opposition chorus demanding that the Chief Minister give up the chair immediately. **IANS**

MUZAFFARPUR SEX SCANDAL

Court remands two Brajesh Thakur aides in 5-day CBI custody

PTI ■ MUZAFFARPUR

Two close aides of Brajesh Thakur, the prime accused in the Muzaffarpur shelter home case in which the girl inmates of the home were sexually abused, were remanded in a five-day CBI custody by a court here on Wednesday.

The special court hearing cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act passed the order, declining the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) request for a seven-day custody of Madhu and Ashwani Kumar — who allegedly posed as a doctor — and posted the matter to November 26 for further hearing.

Madhu, who was grilled by the police on Tuesday afternoon, was arrested on Wednesday morning and made to undergo medical tests at the Sadar hospital, before being produced before the court, along with Ashwani, who was

arrested the previous night. Madhu, who handled many businesses of Thakur, had told reporters on Tuesday that she was not hiding but did not appear before the probe agency as she was never named as an accused nor was a warrant issued against her.

She had also claimed that she knew nothing about the goings on at the Balika Grih (shelter home for girls), was "privy to no secrets" and refuted the media reports that she used to liaison with influential people to promote Thakur's NGOs, newspapers and other businesses.

Kumar, who was arrested from his in-laws place in Fatehpur village under the Kurhani police station in the district, did not have any medical background.

He learnt how to administer injections while sitting in the clinic of his father, a doctor, at Kurhani, about 30 km from Muzaffarpur town.



A girl braves strong winds as she crosses a road at the Marina Beach during inclement weather due to depression in Bay of Bengal, in Chennai, on Wednesday PTI

Ro-Ro ferry vessel stuck mid-sea, towed to safety by tugboats

Ahmedabad: The Ro-Ro ferry vessel, which started transporting people and vehicles between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat last month, came to a standstill mid-sea due to engine trouble on Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

The vessel, which was carrying over 400 passengers and over 100 vehicles at the time of the incident, was safely towed to Ghogha port by tugboats, a Government official said.

"The Korean-made ship called 'Voyage Symphony' remained stationed in the Gulf

of Cambay for around one hour before it was towed to Ghogha port by tugboats," said chairman-managing director of Indigo Seaways Pvt Ltd (ISPL), Chetan Contractor.

ISPL, a Surat-based ferry operator, and the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had entered into an agreement to run the Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro) ferry service on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. This ferry service is also called as Ro-Pax (Roll On-Roll Off Passenger), as the ship carries both vehicles as well as passengers.

According to a senior official of the GMB, the ship was carrying 461 passengers and 114 vehicles. "We have been told by the operator that the engine of the ship got overheated. Along with the company, the GMB will also carry out an inspection of the ship before giving a green signal to resume the operations," a senior GMB official said. **PTI**

"While coming to Ghogha from Dahej, the captain of the ship noticed that the engine got overheated. For the safety of the passengers, the captain had decided to stop the engine when the ship was around 3 nautical miles (5.5 km) away from Ghogha port," contractor said.

"The ship remained stationed in the sea for around one hour. Then it was towed to the Ghogha port by tugboats, which were sent from the port. Our technicians are now carrying out an inspection of the engine to find out the cause of the problem," he added.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 73695

TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE HISAR JIND COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, VITA MILK PLANT JIND-126102	ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT (CAPACITY 300M3/DAY)	23.11.2018 11.12.2018	12 LACS	vitaiaida.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Or vitaiaida.org.in Tender No. 105798	9671001011 vitaiaid@gmail.com
2	HARYANA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (HAREDA)	PROVIDING MANPOWER SERVICES AT AKSHAY URJA BHAWAN, SECTOR-17, PANCHKULA AND ITS OFFICES IN THE STATE OF HARYANA	19.11.2018 10.12.2018	2 LACS	www.hareda.gov.in Tender No. 105600	9988446009 ply.hareda@gmail.com
3	UHBVN PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF LABOUR FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AC PLANT, DG SET, ELECTRICAL PANEL AT VIDYUT SADAN, PLOT NO. C-16, SECTOR-6, UHBVN, PANCHKULA FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS	21.11.2018 03.12.2018	8.66 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in Tender No.- 21/2018-19	zenciviluhbvnpanchkula@gmail.com 9356063248
4	KURUKSHETRA DEVELOPMENT BOARD, KURUKSHETRA	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF 871 NOS. NUMBERING PLATE SIZE 8"X6" STAINLESS STEEL 304 GRADE, 18 GAUGE WITH RUST COLOUR WRITING + 2 OTHER WORKS	21.11.2018	1.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744-270187, 294505
5	HARYANA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD, BHIWANI	PROVIDING CEMENT CONCRETE 1:1.1/2:3.6" THICK OVER STREET NO. K-43-K44/ ADJOINING STREET IN MODEL VILLAGE JHOJU KALAN IN BADDRA CONSTY., DISTT, CH. DADRRI	03.12.2018 04.12.2018	3.85 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No. 4851 Dt 20.11.2018/20/2018	9992023030 xenhbiwan2.hsamb@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KALANAJUR	PREPARATION OF DETAILS AND SHDRA PLAN SHOWING ENCRACEMENT ON MUNICIPAL LAND KALANAJUR, DISTRICT-ROHTAK	20.11.2018 26.11.2018	EMD-25000	https://etender.hry.nic.in Tender No. MCK/BI/2018/01	01258223180 municipalcommittee.kalanajur@gmail.com
7	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KAITHAL	PVC PANELING & BATHROOM REPAIR IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OFFICE KAITHAL	19.11.2018 28.11.2018	2.65 LACS	https://mckaithal.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No.105617 2018/mcofficeretender	9416188848 mckaithal@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	RENOVATION OF PARK OPPOSITE HOUSE NO-985, SECTOR-10A, WARD NO-23, ZONE-I, GURUGRAM + 3 OTHER WORK	19.11.2018 05.12.2018	44.23 LACS	https://mcgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No. 105685, 105687, 105688, 105689	eeh@mcg.gov.in
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SONIPAT	PROVIDING & FIXING OF STREET LIGHT WITH POLE FROM MURTHAL ROAD TO DEWRI VILLAGE AND KULDEEP NURSARY DEWRI ROAD TO VIA SHAMSHAN GHAT BABA DHAM M.C. SONEPAT + 1 OTHER WORK MAINTENANCE OF NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 33 KV 5/STN., GANGOLI (JIND)	CLOSING DATE 01.12.2018	477.51 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender NO 1393, 1394	semsonenpat@gmail.com
10	DHBNV HISAR	NIT NO.87/XEN/CIVIL/HSR/2018-19 DT 15.11.2018 MAINTENANCE OF NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 33 KV 5/STN., SAFIDON FOR THE YEAR 2018-19 UNDER SDO/Op CITY SAFIDON(JIND)	15.11.2018 10.12.2018	1.32 LACS	www.dhbnv.org.in	9813022833 zencivilhisar@gmail.com
11	DHBNV HISAR	NIT NO.96/XEN/CIVIL/HSR/2018-19 DT 15.11.2018 WORK OF DEVELOPMENT I.E PROVIDING AND LAYING WATER SUPPLY SEWERAGE, STORM DRAINAGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, PARKING WITH PAVEN IN GH-3, SECTOR-31 PANCHKULA.(FOR 261 TYPE-B FLATS) CORRIGENDUM IF ANY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT HTTPS://HARYANAEPROCUREMENT.GOV.IN	24.11.2018 12.12.2018	78.21 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in Tender No. 5021, dt 21.11.2018	0172-2583551 xenhbpanchkula@gmail.com

Sensex drops 275 pts, Nifty slips below 10,600

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex extended losses for the second session on Wednesday by declining over 250 points on heavy selling in IT, tech, metal and auto stocks amid weak global cues.

Besides, fresh foreign fund outflows further hurt trading sentiments. However, crude oil's fall to one-year low in the global market on excess supply concerns, capped the fall in the indices.

The 30-share, after rising briefly to 35,494.25 at the outset, quickly slipped into the negative terrain in line with a weak trend at other Asian markets and touched a low of 35,112.49.

However, it pared early losses on emergence of buying after a higher opening of European shares. The index closed 274.71 points, or 0.77 per cent, down at 35,199.80. The gauge had lost 300.37 points Tuesday.

Also, the broader NSE Nifty, after shuffling between 10,562.35 and 10,671.30 points, finally settled 56.15 points, or 0.53 per cent down at 10,600.05.

Sentiments took a hit after broader Asian markets weakened, following a renewed sell-off on Wall Street Tuesday as energy shares dropped after crude oil prices plunged to a 13-month low amid weak earn-

ings and US-China trade disputes, fuelling worries about economic growth, brokers said. "Wednesday's action accentuates the recent divergence we have witnessed between India and advanced economies. While the Nasdaq Composite is down 7.2 per cent in the past month and the S&P 500 is down 4.6 per cent, the Nifty50 is up 2.8 per cent in the same time," said Sunil Sharma, Chief Investment Officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

During the day, midcaps rallied strongly while the Nifty ended lower. Separately, the action in PSU banks and financials also suggests that market fears around liquidity and credit rollovers are abating, he added. Persistent fall in technology stocks globally, and rupee appreciating against the dollar in the past few days, are the key factors fuelling the negative sentiment in IT stocks, brokers said.

Stocks of software services exporter such as TCS, Infosys, Wipro and Tech Mahindra were the worst hit on the bourses with shares falling up to 3.55 per cent. Other laggards were PowerGrid, RIL, Bajaj Auto, Tata Steel, M&M, Hero MotoCorp, Vedanta, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, L&T, ONGC, HDFC Ltd, ITC Ltd, ICICI Bank, HUL, Bharti Airtel and Coal India, falling up to 2.77 per cent.

Among the gainers, shares of private lender Yes Bank was the top performer, climbing 2.83 per cent after it reassured that the recent resignations bear no impact on the CEO selection process and that efforts are underway for mutual resolution with co-promoter Madhu Kapur and family.

Axis Bank, Adani Ports, SBI, Asian Paints, Maruti Suzuki, Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, HDFC Bank and Kotak Bank also ended higher with gains up to 2.20 per cent. Shares of aviation and oil marketing companies surged due to sharp drop of nearly 7 per cent in global crude oil prices. Spicejet, Jet Airways and InterGlobe rose up to 5.63 per cent.

Shares of state-run oil marketing companies such as IOC, HPCL and BPCL, gained up to 1.76 per cent. Brent crude, the oil prices international benchmark, fell 6.92 per cent to \$62.17 a barrel on Tuesday on excess supply concerns. Sector-wise, the BSE IT index emerged biggest loser by plunging 2.92 per cent, followed by teck 2.47 per cent, power 1.04 per cent, metal 0.78 per cent, capital goods 0.58 per cent and FMCG 0.26 per cent, oil&gas 0.12 per cent and auto 0.08 per cent.

In contrast, realty, health-care, consumer durables, bankex, PSU and infrastructure ended higher, rising up to 1.53 per cent.

WhatsApp appoints Abhijit Bose as India Head

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Popular messaging app WhatsApp on Wednesday named Abhijit Bose as its India Head, meeting one of the key demands made by the Indian Government.



Bose, who will join the messaging platform early next year, will build WhatsApp's first full country team outside of California and will be based in Gurugram, WhatsApp said in a statement.

Bose and his team will focus on helping businesses, both large and small, connect with their customers, it added. "WhatsApp is deeply committed to India and we are excited to keep building products that help people connect and support India's fast-growing digital economy," Matt Idema, Chief Operating Officer of WhatsApp, said.

As a successful entrepreneur himself, Bose knows what it takes to build meaningful partnerships that can serve businesses across India, he added.

He joins WhatsApp from Ezetap where he has served as co-founder and CEO. Founded in 2011, Ezetap is an electronic payments company backed by top-tier Venture Capitalists.

The appointment comes at a time when the Facebook-owned company has been under tremendous pressure to put in place a mechanism to curb fake messages on its platform, that incited mob fury.

The Government has been pressing WhatsApp to develop tools to combat fake or false messages, and also identify message originators.

Apart from the traceability request, the government had asked WhatsApp to set up a local corporate presence and appoint a grievance officer to address complaints. WhatsApp has recently appointed a grievance officer for India.

Following multiple incidents of mob-lynching across the country, the government had slapped WhatsApp with two notices, with the second one warning that it will treat the messaging platform as an abettor of rumour propagation and legal consequences will follow if adequate checks are not put in place.

Birla flags concerns on liquidity, high spectrum payment to Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Vodafone Idea Ltd, has flagged concerns about severe liquidity crunch in the telecom sector and high spectrum payments at a recent meeting with Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha, an official said.



Telecom sector has been battered by falling tariffs, eroding profitability, and mounting debt, in the face of stiff competition triggered by disruptive offerings of Reliance Jio, owned by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani.

Birla, who heads Vodafone Idea — the country's largest mobile operator, raised the issues during a meeting with Sinha, which was also attended by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan.

A senior telecom Ministry official who did not wish to be named said that the meeting took place recently where Birla talked about the severe liquidity crunch in the market, and underscored the need for relief.

The talks were informal and the Department of Telecom will take a view on the issue once a formal representation is made, the official told PTI.

Vodafone Idea Ltd declined to comment on an e-mail query sent to the company on the issue.

The Vodafone Idea Chief is said to have expressed concern over ₹30,000 crore that is locked up on account of GST payment under 'reverse charge mechanism'.

Under the GST 'reverse charge mechanism' provision, registered dealers are required to make tax payments in case he procures goods from unregistered businesses.

The provision was applicable from July 1, 2017 till October 12, 2017. With companies facing trouble in implementing the provision, the GST Council has decided to keep RCM in abeyance till September 30, 2019.

Amongst other concerns highlighted by Birla was the high upfront payment for radiowaves, the official said adding he has sought that period of payment for spectrum purchases be increased to 18 years from the current 16 years, and favoured a moratorium.

High levies in the telecom sector and the recent hike in import duty also figured in the talks, said the official but did not elaborate.

A bruising tariff war sparked by the entry of Reliance Jio into the telecom sector with free voice calls and SMS, bundled with cheap data has led to pressure on margins of incumbents which have scrambled to match competi-

Aviation, oil marketing cos rise on lower global crude oil prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of aviation and oil marketing companies surged up to 6 per cent Wednesday due to sharp drop in global crude oil prices.

The scrip of SpiceJet soared 5.63 per cent, Jet Airways 2.74 per cent and InterGlobe Aviation 1.41 per cent on the BSE.

Among OMCs, shares of IOC rose by 1.76 per cent, HPCL 1.17 per cent and BPCL 1.08 per cent.

Crude oil fell to one-year low in the global market.

Indian shrimp exports to see mixed results this year: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian shrimp exports is likely to have mixed results this year as demand declines in the European Union and exports to the US continue to grow, according to a report.

"Looking at the future, the story of Indian shrimp exports show mixed signs. On one hand, increased competition and decreased EU demand seem to be depressing sales. On the other, analysts expect Indian shrimp exports to the US to grow by 15-20 per cent this year," according to a report by US-based fintech company Drip Capital.

Since many exporters are not currently hedged against currency fluctuation, rupee depreciation has allowed exporters to keep losses to a minimum, it added.

"Depreciation of the Indian rupee against the dollar will likely support Indian exporters against those from other markets. As per industry analysts and trade sources, this could boost shrimp exports to the US this year. However, the entry of competing export countries in the global shrimp trade is also a factor to take into account.

Renault keeps Ghosn as CEO despite arrest in Japan

AP ■ TOKYO

France's Renault says it has decided to keep its CEO Carlos Ghosn on despite his arrest in Japan on allegations that he misused assets of partner Nissan Motor Co. And misreported his income.

Renault's board of directors announced late Tuesday that the No. 2 at the company, Chief Operating Officer Thierry Bollore, would temporarily fill in for Ghosn.

"Mr. Ghosn, temporarily incapacitated, remains chairman and chief executive officer," a statement from Renault's

board said. But while Ghosn deals with his legal issues in Japan, Bollore will have the same authority to run the company as the CEO, it added.

Renault's board said its decision was made with an eye toward keeping the company on a steady course "to preserve the interests of the group and the continuity of its operations."

Ghosn runs Renault, Nissan and the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance that he helped turn into the world's biggest car-seller last year, and both France and Japan want to keep it intact. Renault's move to appoint a

temporary leader was in line with a demand by the French government, which owns a 15 per cent stake in the automaker.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire had said earlier Tuesday that Ghosn was not in position to lead the Renault Group while fighting the accusations in Japan.

The French automaker said after an emergency meeting of its board of directors in Paris that it would further consolidate its alliance with Nissan.

The two automakers have a partnership, also, with smaller automaker Mitsubishi Motor Corp.

Iran denounces latest US sanctions as 'fruitless'

AFF ■ TEHRAN

Iran's foreign ministry denounced the latest US Treasury sanctions as "fruitless and senseless" in a statement issued on Wednesday.

"These fruitless, senseless and ineffective sanctions... Will undoubtedly never achieve the desired outcome of their designers and enforcers," it said.

"Sooner or later they will become aware of the futility of their schemes"

Washington slapped fresh sanctions on Tehran Tuesday, accusing it of creating a complex web of Russian cut-out

companies and Syrian intermediaries to ship oil to Damascus, which in turn bankrolled Hezbollah and Hamas.

The US Treasury said in a statement that Tehran, "working with Russian companies, provides millions of barrels of oil to the Syrian Government" of President Bashar al-Assad.

"The Assad regime, in turn, facilitates the movement of hundreds of millions of US dollars to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - Qods Force for onward transfer to Hamas and Hezbollah," it said, referring to Iran's main foreign military operations unit.

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
 National Office: DHFL House, 4th Floor, Sahar Road, Off Western Express Highway, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai- 400099
 Branch Office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, first Floor, L.B.S Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00007365 of Maysuru Branch) Harish S (Borrower) Shinappa Nayaka B (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 815522/- (Eight lakh Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (01-09-2018)	Site No.5 1st Block Bychanahalli Village Kushalnagar, Somwarpet, Kodagu- 571235
(LC No. 00003645 of Lucknow Branch) Shailesh Shukla (Borrower) Vimla Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1045458/- (Ten lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-09-2018)	Plot Of Land Gata No 526, Village-Sarvanpur, Pargana Tehsil & District, Amethi, Sultanpur- 227405
(LC No. 00001109 of Delhi Branch) Vikas Prashar (Borrower) Raj Bal Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Poonam Prasher (Co Borrower 2)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 5238467/- (Fifty Two lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA (01-09-2018)	Flat No- 5061, 6th Floor, Tower- 5, Parker Residency, G T Road Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana, Sonipat- 131101
(LC No. 00002940 of Varanasi Branch) Shailesh Shukla (Borrower) Vimla Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 745449/- (Seven lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine) NPA (01-09-2018)	Gata No 527, Gram Sarvanpur, Pergana & Tehsil Amethi, Near S D M Awash, Amethi, Sultanpur- 227405
(LC No. 00001854 of Karnal Branch) Manju Bala (Borrower) Gautam Panjwa (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3815034/- (Thirty Eight lakh Fifteen Thousand Thirty Four) NPA (01-06-2018)	Property No. 168 Block-B, Pocket- 6 Sector- 11 Rohini, Delhi, New Delhi- 110085
(LC No. 00002743 of Karnal Branch) Rahul R (Borrower) Anju A (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 763251/- (Seven lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-05-2018)	Killa No. 126/5/1, 126/4, 119/24/1/2 Rakba Panchi Gujran, Ganaur Sonapat, Sonapat - 131101
(LC No. 00005076 of Karnal Branch) Ashok Gupta (Borrower) Pushpa Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3207092/- (Thirty Two lakh Seven Thousand Ninety Two) NPA (01-07-2018)	Flat No.- 602, Tower No. V-3, Tdi Kingsbury Towers, Tdi City, Kundli Near Vill. Nangal Kalan, Sonapat, Sonipat- 131001
(LC No. NOD36031 of Delhi Branch) Tanvi Infosolution Pvt Ltd (Borrower)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 3737810/- (Thirty Seven lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ten) NPA (01-08-2018)	H/ Flat No. K02/1508, Paras Seasons, Sector. 16B, Noida- 201301
(LC No. 00000540 of Delhi Branch) Namita Sharma (Borrower) Shravan Devi (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 2084724/- (Twenty lakh Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four) NPA (01-09-2018)	Property No. C-103, 3rd Floor, Back Portion, With Roof Right, Block- C Khasra No. 102/22, Vishwas, Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi- 110059
(LC No. 00001660 of Haridwar Branch) Sumit Negi (Borrower) Mamta (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 1647186/- (Sixteen lakh Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six) NPA (01-09-2018)	Plot No.-100 & 101 Khasra No.- 2022, Krishna Nagar Colony Salempur Mehdood-2, Jawalapur, Haridwar, Haridwar- 249407
(LC No. 00001935 of Haridwar Branch) Madhu Patnayak (Borrower) Soumendra Patnayak (Co Borrower 1)	24/10/2018/ ₹ 956528/- (Nine lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-07-2018)	Plot No.- 37 & 38, Khasra No- 2181, Hari Nagar, Gram- Salempur Mehdood-2, Pargana- Roorkee, Haridwar, Haridwar- 249402

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-
 (Authorised Officer)
 Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Date: 21-Nov-2018
 Place: DELHI

Maruti launches second-generation Ertiga

MD says policies need to be studied around fuels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki has launched the second generation of their people carrier the Ertiga. The new Ertiga is based on Suzuki's new 'Heartec' platform that also underpins the Baleno and new Swift and according to company officials meet all safety and regulatory norms in India. The Ertiga also features the new K15 petrol engine that was introduced alongside the new Ciaz a few months ago.

The people carrier segment has seen a lot of activity with the new Mahindra Marazzo also recently being launched. The new Ertiga is larger in all respects to the outgoing model and like the Ciaz features Suzuki's new 'Smart Hybrid' system with a new battery pack that gives the vehicle better economy. Prices range from ₹7.44 lakh to ₹9.5 lakhs for the petrol manual. The Diesel version that features the tried and tested DDiS engine ranges from ₹8.84 to ₹10.9 lakh with the petrol automatic that has a four-speed torque converter transmission costs between ₹9.18 to ₹9.95 lakh.

Kenichi Ayukawa, Maruti-Suzuki India Limited Managing Director told The Pioneer at the sidelines of the launch that the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) was exploring the possibility of banning diesel vehicles from operating on severe pollution days needed more thought. "The automotive industry is not running away from the problem but the fact is that people need to travel, they need transport", he said and added that he hoped the authorities realised the benefits of hybrid vehicles in the short-term and promoted their use. "We are also committed to electri-



fication with battery-electric vehicles and have begun full tests of such vehicles but everyone needs to understand that building the infrastructure will take time and hybrids have many benefits that can realised immediately."

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CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE

Following e-tenders invited by this office are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons as under:-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of Item	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and submission of tender in online & off line mode	Date of opening of Prt-I of tender in online & off line mode
1	CCP-II/ 18/2018-19	63KVA, 11/0.433KV, AI. wound, Distribution Transformer	29.11.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.	30.11.2018 at 15.30 hrs.
2	CCP-II/ 22/2018-19	Engagement of consultant for Audit of receivables for Sale of Power	29.11.2018 upto 17.00 hrs.	30.11.2018 at 15.45 hrs.

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for Notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "Bhartiya Vikash Dal United" (Name of the party). The office of the party is located at From- Bhartiya Vikash Dal United, Bhartiya Vikash Dal Main Office- House No. SM.011-0425, Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar- 845401

This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India New Delhi for its registration as political Party under section 29A of the Representation of people Act, 1951- Names/address of the office- bearers of the Party are as follows:

President/Chairman: Subodh Kumar Thakur, Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar- 845401. General Secretary/Secretary:- Neelam Kumari Husband Name- Subodh Kumar Thakur Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar. Treasurer: Subodh Kumar Thakur Vill- Chhota Bariyarpur, Ward No. 38, House No. SM-011- 0425, Post- Motihari Court, P.S.- Chhatauni, Distric- East Champaran, Bihar. If any one has any objection to the registration of "Bhartiya Vikash Dal United" (Name of the proposed party) they may send their objection with reasons there of to the secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvanchan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110001, within 30 days of the publication of this Notice.

MARY, LOVLINA TARGET FINAL SPOT

Five-time champion eyes getting closer to record sixth Gold; Borgohain looks to enter maiden final

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Already assured of a record seventh medal at the Women's World Boxing Championships, celebrated MC Mary Kom would look to go one step closer towards her sixth Gold when she takes the ring in the 48kg semifinals here Thursday.

Out of the four Indian semifinalists, five-time champion Mary Kom (48kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) will take the ring on Thursday while Sonia Chahal (57kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg) will have their semifinal bouts on Friday.

The four Indians cannot get a better chance to emerge champions on home conditions, but a lot will depend on the celebrated Mary Kom, who have already become the most successful woman boxer in history of the championships by assuring herself of a seventh medal.

Undoubtedly, all eyes will be on the 35-year-old mother of three when she enters the ring at the KD Jhadav Hall for her semifinal bout against Kim Hyang Mi of North Korea.

The 'Magnificent Mary' had beaten Kim in their last meeting at the summit clash of the Asian Championships last year and the Manipuri veteran sounded confident of a win again.

"I am confident. I also know when to drop guard and when to attack. I have worked with the coaches and have a plan in place to counter



(L-R) Lovlina Borgohain, Mary Kom, Simranjit Kaur and Sonia Chahal pose for photos during a training session on the eve of their semi-final bout in the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships. (right) Mary Kom during a training session on the eve of her semi-final bout PTI

her," said Mary Kom, after a strenuous practice session on Wednesday.

Mary Kom, who is chasing her sixth Gold, will draw her strength from the vast reservoir of nearly two decades of boxing while the North Korean's USP is her aggression and quick movement which was witnessed on Tuesday when she pummeled her South Korean opponent Chorong Bak.

Equally important will be Lovlina Borgohain's performance as the country would be looking at young pugilist to beat her Chinese Taipei opponent Chen Nien-Chin and

Women's Boxing WC
Live from 1:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

progress to the final round.

The welter-weight category (69kg) boxer had done extremely well throughout the championships and was particularly good against Australia's Kaye Frances Scott, a Commonwealth Games Bronze medal winner, in the quarterfinals.

The Assamese boxer will also get a chance to avenge her only loss to the Chinese Taipei opponent.

Borgohain feels she has matured as a boxer and can think on her feet now.

"I was inexperienced last time



MARY HAD BEATEN KIM IN THEIR LAST MEETING AT THE SUMMIT CLASH OF THE ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST YEAR AND THE MANIPURI VETERAN SOUNDED CONFIDENT OF A WIN AGAIN

when I took on her. But I now know how to tackle her. I did watch some of the video clips to know her style of boxing," said 21-year-old.

Two other Indians in fray, Sonia (57kg) and Simranjit Kaur (64kg) will turn out in their semifinals on Friday, and both were prepared for their respective bouts.

"I have beaten my North Korean opponent (Jo Son Hwa) once before.

But both of us know each other's style. I am confident of winning because I have worked with the coaches on my strategies," said Sonia.

Simranjeet added: "I have worked hard and am prepared well for my bout." In Thursday's semifinals, bouts in five weight categories — 48kg, 54kg, 60kg, 69kg and 81kg — will take place while the remaining five are slated for Friday.

Dipa eyes Olympic berth with good show at WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar would be aiming to put behind the injury-marred disaster that was the Asian Games when she aims for a positive start to her Olympic qualification bid with the World Cup of artistic gymnastics in Cottbus, Germany from Thursday.

The four-day showpiece is part of an eight-event qualifying system under which the gymnasts will make the cut based on the aggregate of their top three scores.

The four-member Indian team, which also comprises B Aruna Reddy, Ashish Kumar and Rakesh Patra, will look to make it count with good performances.

Dipa, who finished fourth at the Rio Olympics, will be India's best bet in a positive start to her Olympic qualification bid with the World Cup of artistic gymnastics in Cottbus, Germany in July this year.

The 25-year-old from Tripura endured a poor comeback from injury in the Jakarta Asian Games where she had to pull out midway after her knee problem flared up again.

Aruna, on the other hand, won a Bronze medal in one of the earlier world cups this year in the women's vault event in Melbourne and she too will fancy her chances.

Among the men, Ashish has been India's brightest with a Bronze in floor exercise at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

He also won a Bronze and Silver medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in floor exercise and vault respectively.

Rakesh also had some decent performances this year, a fourth-place finish in the ring apparatus finals at the Commonwealth Games being the highlight. He also narrowly missed a medal at the Melbourne World Cup in February, finishing fourth.

The run-up to the event, however, has been chaotic with the showdown between the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the de-recognised Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) affecting the athletes. The bitter war between the two bodies led to the Indian gymnasts missing the world Championship in Doha last month.

In fact, ahead of the Cottbus event, the Sports Authority of India refused to bear the cost of Yogeshwar Singh and Pranati Das, while clearing the other four gymnasts to participate in the tournament.

This prompted Pranati and Yogeshwar to express their grievances to SAI in a letter early this month.



Dipa Karmakar performs during Asian Games PTI/File Photo

SINGLES

MOUDGIL SWEEPS AIR RIFLE EVENTS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Anjum Moudgil of Punjab completed an unprecedented golden sweep at 62nd National Shooting Championship by winning five events here. She won the Women's 50m Rifle Prone individual and team Gold on Wednesday, her fourth and fifth of the competition. The star rifle shooter had earlier won Gold in the 10m Air Rifle and 50m Rifle 3 Positions. The other star of the day was Haryana's Shirin Godara, who won five Gold medals including the Junior Women's 50m Rifle individual.

ARJUN PICKS FIFER IN COOCH BEHAR GAME

NEW DELHI: Arjun Tendulkar, son of batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, shone bright with the ball, picking up a five-wicket haul against Delhi in an U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy match here on Wednesday. Representing Mumbai, the junior Tendulkar returned with figures of 5/98 as Delhi U-19 slumped to 394 for 9 in their first essay at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium at stumps on day three. Asked to bat, Mumbai had scored 453 in their first innings with opener Divyaansh (211) scoring a double century. Delhi still trail Mumbai by 59 runs. Arjun's scalps included rival skipper Ayush Badoni, Vaibhav Kandpal, wicket-keeper Gulzar Singh Sandhu, Hirithik Shokeen and Prashant Kumar Bhati. Arjun, a promising left-arm pacer, is a regular member of the Mumbai U-19 team.

PRAJNESH, SASI ENTER PUNE QUARTERS

PUNE: Prajnesh Gunneswaran demolished his opponent with ease while young Sasi Kumar Mukund yet again impressed with his perseverance as the two Indians moved to the quarterfinals with contrasting victories at the KPIT-MSLTA Challenger. In the second round contest between the two left-handers, Prajnesh overwhelmed Germany's Lucas Gerch 6-1, 6-3 in just 53 minutes at the Centre Court. Wild card entrant Mukund did extremely well against sixth seed Briton Jay Clarke before the Briton opted out of contest in the third set due to a back problem. Mukund was leading 5-7, 6-4, 4-1 at that time. Mukund has a tough task at hand as he is up against top seed Radu Albot, who outplayed Maverick Banes 6-3, 6-1.

MANPREET JOINS LIST OF ADIDAS ATHLETES

NEW DELHI: To add to the already strong portfolio of athletes, Adidas on Wednesday announced their association with Manpreet Singh Pawar, Indian field Hockey player and the current captain of India men's National field Hockey team. Manpreet joins an elite list of athletes that includes Hima Das, Swapna Burman, Rohit Sharma, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Dipika Pallikal, Zeel Desai, Nikhat Zareen, Siddhanth Banthia, and Manjot Kalra to name a few. On announcement of his relationship with adidas, Manpreet said, "Association with adidas is an opportunity that every sportsperson looks forward to and I am really excited to have been given this chance of joining their family. It carves the strengths of a sportsperson by offering the world class products and I am looking forward to great years of association with the brand."

TOP RANK SIGNS VIJENDER SINGH

NEW DELHI: Vijender Singh, a three-time Indian Olympian, 2008 Olympic Bronze medalist, and current unbeaten super middleweight contender has signed a multi-year agreement with Top Rank. Singh (10-0, 7 KOs), who has fought all but one of his professional bouts in India and England, will make his debut under the Top Rank banner in early 2019. "Top Rank is very excited to enter into a contract with Vijender," Bob Arum said. "We intend to make him a big star in the United States and look forward to him participating in major events in India, where he is already a major superstar." "I am really excited to be on board with Bob Arum and Top Rank," Vijender Singh said. "I have always wanted to work with someone who is the best in the business, and I know Top Rank has been the driving force behind boxing's biggest superstars, including Oscar De La Hoya, Floyd Mayweather, and Miguel Cotto. Agencies

Saina, Kashyap start with win

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Defending champions Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy crashed out in the mixed doubles opening round but Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap notched up easy wins to make a positive start at the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300 here on Wednesday.

Top seeds Pranaav and Sikki lost 14-21, 11-21 to China's Ren Xiangyu and Zhou Chaomin in just 31 minutes.

Second seeded Saina, who had won the Lucknow tournament thrice in the past, thrashed Mauritius' Kate Foo Kune 21-10, 21-10 in the women's singles, while former Commonwealth Games champion Kashyap disposed of Thailand's Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk 21-14, 21-12 in a one-sided men's singles match.

London Olympics Bronze medallist Saina will face compatriot Amolika Singh Sisodiya next, while Kashyap will meet Indonesia's Firman Abdul Kholik.

Former Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth also crossed the men's singles opening hurdle, beating Russia's Sergey Sirant 21-12, 21-10. He will square off against Shesar Hiren Rhustavito of Indonesia.

Subhankar Dey, who had claimed his maiden title at SaarLorLux Open, beat Sweden's Felix Burestedt 21-15, 21-13 to set up a clash with Lu Guangzu of China.



Saina Nehwal in action against Kate Foo Kune during Syed Modi Championship. Parupalli Kashyap in action against Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk during opening match PTI

Former national champion Rituparna Das, seeded eighth, saw off Russia's Natalia Perminova 21-19, 18-21, 21-10 and will face compatriot Shruti Mundada in the women's singles.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, seeded sixth, also notched up a 21-10, 21-10 win over compatriots Krishna Prasad Garaga and Rutaparna Panda in the mixed doubles opening round.

Among others, Prashi Joshi, Saili Rane, Riya Mookerjee, Pardeshi Shreyanshi, Reshma Karthik and Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka also made it to the women's singles second round.

Penalty corners remain our strength, says Peillat

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Olympic Champions' tag wouldn't matter and Argentina will have to produce their best at the upcoming men's hockey World Cup, believes dragflick sensation Gonzalo Peillat, who said converting penalty corners will remain the team's strength.

"I don't think being World No 2 or the Olympic Champions would matter here in this tournament as every other team would have come with the intention to win. We have to focus on every game and play our best hockey," Peillat said after arriving on Wednesday.

"Everybody knows penalty corners will be our strong point and it's important to give our 100 per cent in all aspects," he added.

World No 2 Argentina on Wednesday arrived for the World Cup beginning on November 28.

"It will be a great tournament, playing in Bhubaneswar again in front of a crazy crowd, the entire team is looking forward to it and are very excited to be back," said Peillat, who was part of the Argentina team that won the



Argentina players pose for photograph after they arrived for 2018 Men's Hockey WCup PTI

Argentina have been grouped in Pool A along side Spain, New Zealand and France. They will begin their campaign against Spain on November 29

Silver medal at the men's Hockey World Cup Final last year.

Argentina have been grouped in Pool A along side Spain, New Zealand and France. They will begin their campaign against Spain on November 29 at the newly-renovated Kalinga Stadium here.

The Olympic Champions have a new chief coach in German

Mariano Orozco, who replaced Carlos Retegui in early 2018 and is a former defender for Argentina having played the Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004.

"I think experience in the team is very good. We have played quite a few tournaments in the lead up to the World Cup under a new coach German Mariano Orozco and we have been performing well under him," said a confident Peillat.

Argentina in the previous World Cup in 2014 at The Hague, Netherlands had finished third behind winners Australia and runners-up the Netherlands and went on to win the Olympic Gold in Rio.

Politano's winner lifts Italy past USA

AFF ■ GENK

Late substitute Matteo Politano scored an injury-time winner to lift a new-look Italy to a 1-0 win over the United States in an international friendly in Genk on Tuesday.

Roberto Mancini's side had looked set for another goalless draw after crashing out of the Nations League with a 0-0 stalemate against Portugal in Milan on Saturday.

But Politano came on three minutes from time and slotted home in the 94th minute.

It got Italy belatedly off the mark in a match they had dominated but which demonstrated Mancini's side's difficulty converting opportunities into goals.

"We had so many chances, the important thing is that it was a good performance," said Mancini.

"It was the first time we were playing together, so we couldn't think of playing like the first half for 90 minutes. "We got a little stretched as we pushed harder to find the breakthrough. I would have



been very disappointed for it to end 0-0, especially for the players and for the Italians who came to see us." Mancini wanted to test new players as Italy head towards Euro 2020 qualifying after failing to make the World Cup finals in Russia.

Sassuolo midfielder Stefano Sensi, Hoffenheim's Vincenzo Grifo and Juventus forward Moise Kean all made their Italy debuts.

minutes for Domenico Berardi.

"Sensi did really well, so did Kean and Grifo. Acerbi and De Sciglio impressed me too," said Mancini.

"The Euro qualifiers are coming up next year, so we've had a few too many draws and defeats lately, here's hoping we get all victories."

Federico Chiesa and Leonardo Bonucci missed early chances as Italy dominated the first half and let the United States have few opportunities.

Ethan Horvath got his fingers to a curling Berardi shot from the edge of the box, and then got down low to keep out a Marco Verratti free-kick.

Walker Zimmerman had a rare chance for the United States on 65 minutes from a free-kick, but home goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu saved his header.

With the clock ticking down, Mancini brought on Politano for Kevin Lasagna and he found a way through by finishing off an excellent move after Roberto Gagliardini and Verratti combined in the area.

Neymar injured as Brazil beat Cameroon

AFF ■ MILTON KEYNES

Neymar could be an injury doubt for Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League clash with Liverpool next week after limping off during Brazil's 1-0 friendly win over Cameroon on Tuesday.

The forward suffered an apparent groin problem and was replaced in the eighth minute, to boos from the crowd in the central English town of Milton Keynes.

Everton's Richarlison, Neymar's replacement, headed in on the stroke of half-time for his third Brazil goal on his sixth appearance to secure victory for the Selecao.

A mixture of cheers and jeers welcomed Neymar, his World Cup theatrics in Russia providing ammunition for his detractors.

And there was little sympathy when the star attraction went off after making little impact.

Richarlison appeared dangerous from the moment he was introduced and Roberto



Firmino went close three times.

The Liverpool striker almost turned in Willian's cross but Andre Onana made a fine instinctive save. Firmino next sent a free header wide from Richarlison's cross and was then denied by the goalkeeper from point-blank range.

Richarlison scored from the resulting corner, powerfully heading in Willian's set-piece. Cameroon might have levelled after 52 minutes, but Stephane Bahoken could not get a touch on Karl Toko Ekambi's cross.



France see off Uruguay

PARIS: A shoulder injury to Kylian Mbappe overshadowed France's 1-0 friendly win over Uruguay at the Stade de France on Tuesday as Didier Deschamps' world champions ended the year on a high note.

Mbappe had to be replaced in the first half after a nasty fall, continuing a miserable night for his Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel. PSG face Liverpool in a crucial Champions League clash at the Parc des Princes on November 28.

When asked if he could give "reassuring news" about Mbappe in his press conference, France coach Deschamps said: "Not necessarily reassuring, but not worrying either."

"He had some shoulder pain after his fall and he has to have tests Wednesday morning, but there is no serious concern."

After the disappointment of seeing the Netherlands pip them to a place at the Nations League finals with a late Virgil van Dijk goal in Germany on Monday, Olivier Giroud's 52nd-minute penalty gave France victory in a repeat of the two teams' WC quarter-final meeting.

"It was important to finish on a positive note, even in the last defeat (by the Netherlands) saw us miss out on the (Nations League) semi-finals," Deschamps told M6. AFP

India fall short by hit

Australia hold nerve in rain-hit game to beat India by 4 runs in first T20

PTI ■ BRISBANE

A sloppy India failed to get an ideal start to the Australia tour, losing the rain-hit opening T20 International by four runs at the Gabba on Wednesday.

India first faltered in the field, letting Australia score 158 for four after rain shortened the contest to 17 overs a side. Glenn Maxwell was the star batsman for Australia, hammering 46 runs off 24 balls.

The 45 minute rain stoppage meant India were set a revised target of 174 runs in 17 overs.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls in the run chase before Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end but India still finished agonisingly short on 169 for seven.

It was a morale boosting win for Australia, who have endured a dismal run in limited overs cricket.

Dhawan got India off to a quick start, putting on 35 off 25 balls for the opening stand with Rohit Sharma (7).

The latter was caught at long on off Jason Behrendorff (1-43) in a bid to accelerate his strike-rate. In keeping with the strategy used during the T20I series in England, KL Rahul (13) came out to bat at number three.

Dhawan and Rahul put on 46 runs for the second wicket, but it was mostly down to the left-hander's belligerence. He hit ten fours and two sixes overall, and reached his ninth T20I half-century off only 28 balls.

Rahul though was patchy at best and struggled for timing. He was stumped off Adam Zampa (2-22) in the ninth over, with the leg spinner also accounting for skipper Virat Kohli (4) who never really got going coming down at number four.



Glenn Maxwell plays a shot during his quick fire 46 run innings against India in first T20 at Brisbane. PTI

Zampa should have had a third wicket but he dropped a return chance from Dhawan (on 65). The batsman enjoyed another life at 74, when substitute Nathan Coulter-Nile put him

Rishabh Pant (20 off 15 balls) and Karthik with a mountain to climb.

They nearly achieved the impossible, putting on 51 off a mere 24 balls, toying around with the Australian bowling. But what is becoming increasingly frustrating with Pant, he played yet another loose and unnecessary stroke, throwing his wicket away.

It left Karthik to finish off things, but he found the going tough without enough support from the other end. With 13 needed off 6 balls, Krunal Pandya (2) and Karthik holed out off consecutive deliveries off Marcus Stoinis (2-27).

This was after Maxwell hit four sixes in a whirlwind knock before rain came, after Chris Lynn scored 37 runs off 20 balls to help Australia recover from a slow start.

India had won the toss and opted to bowl on a surprisingly green wicket. Kuldeep Yadav was picked ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal as expected, while the hosts also included a spinner in Adam Zampa and left out medium pacer Coulter-Nile.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0-15) and Jasprit Bumrah (1-21) got India off to a good start but Aaron Finch (27) pulled things back a bit. Khaleel Ahmed (1-42) got the initial breakthrough as D'Arcy Short (7) was caught at long on. The left-arm pacer proved expensive thereafter.

Kuldeep took a sensational catch

running back to dismiss Short, and from there onwards, he had a marked influence on the game.

Later he also picked up 2-24 in his four-over spell. He dismissed Finch and then sent back Lynn as well, thus reducing Australia to 75-3 in the 11th over.

Apart from Yadav's stunning effort, India were rather poor in the field. Skipper Kohli had dropped Finch in the fourth over, a straight chance spilled at cover, and then miss fielded later on as well.

Ahmed too dropped Stoinis (33 not out off 19 balls) late in the Australian innings, while Maxwell should have been run-out.

Finch took advantage of the reprieve and put on 40 runs off 26 balls with Lynn for the second wicket.

But it was Maxwell who stole the show with his belligerent hitting as Australia crossed 150 in the 16th over. He put on 78 runs off 37 balls with Stoinis as Indian bowlers proved expensive even before the death overs began.

Krunal Pandya had a forgettable day with both bat and ball. He went for 0-55 in his four overs before rain intervened, sucking out momentum from the Australian innings and leaving them only five deliveries on resumption of play.

Bumrah bowled cleverly, conceding only five runs after the disruption, while Australia still finished with a challenging total on the board.

Shikhar Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls while Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end but India still finished agonisingly short on 169 for seven

'Pant's dismissal was turning point'

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Young Rishabh Pant's dismissal in the penultimate over "changed things", according to India skipper Virat Kohli after Australia won an exciting first T20 International by four runs on Wednesday.

Australia made 158/4 in 17 overs but India were given a target of 174 in the same number of overs owing to the Duckworth-Lewis method in the rain-hit game.

India looked on course with Pant and Dinesh Karthik adding 51 runs in 3.5 overs before the burly keeper-batsman was dismissed trying to play a cheeky shot off Andrew Tye.

"It was a close game, exciting one for the crowd to watch and for the players as well, was a see-saw battle. We started well with the bat, fumbled in the middle overs, in the end we thought we'll win with Pant and Karthik but it changed again with Pant's dismissal," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

Kohli lauded opener Shikhar Dhawan's power-packed 76 off 42 balls after a prolonged lean patch that started in England and continued till the second last match of the home series against West Indies.

"He's (Dhawan) a very strong player at the top of the order. He hasn't got a T20 hundred yet, but the way he plays it really benefits the team. That's how it goes in the game. What we can do is learn from them and get



Rishabh Pant plays a shot during his innings against Australia in first T20. PTI

back better," the skipper said.

Kohli feels closely-placed remaining two games on November 23 and 25 could be a good thing for the team as it won't be fretting over the loss for a long time.

"On the day, if we can have three-four guys to stand up for the team, that's what we want. Don't have much time to think of things, which can be a good thing as well as a bad thing."

Australian T20 captain Aaron

Finch said: "Thought the boys played really well, especially in the middle overs with the bat."

On a lighter note, Finch admitted that he never understands the equations of Duckworth-Lewis method.

Man of the match Adam Zampa was delighted at having picked up the prized wicket of Virat Kohli.

"Really good feeling. Virat being the player he is, just thought he was a big wicket at the time. Getting him out, I was really excited."

MISSED CHANCES IN FIELD COST US: DHAWAN

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Opener Shikhar Dhawan on Wednesday said poor fielding cost India the game after the visitors lost by four runs via D/L method at the Gabba.

Dhawan smashed a sublime 76 off 42 balls in the run chase before Dinesh Karthik came up with a pulsating 30 off 13 balls towards the end.

"It was a good game of cricket. It was a very close match and both the teams played really well. We got a lot of confidence from this game and will take it forward to the next game."

"Of course missed chances in the field had their own impacts. The dropped catch and missed run out opportunity but that is part and parcel of the game and we took it in our stride. We conceded a few extra runs (in the middle overs) but otherwise we played well," said Dhawan after the loss.

Indians were poor in the field on Wednesday. Skipper Virat Kohli and Khaleel Ahmed dropped catches while couple of run out opportunities was even wasted.

Chasing the stiff target, Dhawan held the Indian innings together but got out at a crucial juncture. Adam Zampa (2/22) had earlier left the middle-order struggling, dismissing both KL Rahul and Kohli.

"I knew we had to score some big runs in those overs and I was looking for that when I got out. He (Zampa) was influential in this game and his statistics were very good. We needed momentum and he took wickets that moment. From there the game got a bit more



Kuldeep Yadav celebrates after dismissing Chris Lynn. ICC

away from us when Rahul and Kohli were dismissed. He bowled well and with a lot of control," said Dhawan.

"It was a game where we had to target all the bowlers. We didn't have much time (in the match). We tried to target him (Zampa) but he got us out. Next game, we will have better plans against him and implement them in the middle," he added.

Rishabh Pant and Karthik put on a rollicking stand of 51 runs from 24 balls thereafter and almost dragged India to victory.

But the final turning point in the see-saw battle came when Pant was holed out off Andrew Tye.

Dhawan praised Pant, who was playing at this big ground for the first time.

"Playing at such big grounds is about thinking and experience. Rishabh is a youngster and batted here for the first time. So, for him it was vital experience and he came here first time, and played such a knock," he said.

BAILEY BATS FOR WADE'S INCLUSION

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Former Australia captain George Bailey feels in-form Matthew Wade must be in the mix when Australia select their playing XI for the opening Test of the four-match series against India beginning at Adelaide on December 6.

The 30-year-old Wade, who played his last Test against Bangladesh at Chittagong last September, has scored 412 runs at an average of 82.4 to lie at the third place in the list of Sheffield Shield run-scorers.

Wade had kept wickets for Tasmania in Shield games against Western Australia and Queensland but since then has played as a batsman.

The wicket-keeper batsman has hit five fifties with his top-score being a 137 in Tasmania's loss to Victoria that earned him a man-of-the-match honour.

Given his run of form, Bailey believes he should be in the mix when selection chairman Trevor Hohns zeros in on Australia's team for the four-Test series opener that starts on December 6.

"I can't speak highly enough of the way he's going about his cricket, Bailey was quoted as saying in the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

"If you're looking at those numbers he'd very much have to be in the mix for a Test. He's a good fielder, just pick your six best batters, simple."



Matthew Wade plays a shot during his innings against India in first Test. PTI

"He's in complete control of his game."

Bailey also pointed out how Wade has scored some valuable runs with the tailenders and adapted to a different kind of pitches across the country.

"That's been the most pleasing thing this year. I don't think we've given him great situations on a number of occasions," Bailey said.

"His ability to go through the gears, to start his innings, accelerate when he needs to."

Meanwhile former great Shane Warne feels Australia has a lot of great cricketers and it is time to replace under-fire batting coach Graeme Hick with one of them.

Anderson to miss third Test against Sri Lanka

AFP ■ COLOMBO

England fast bowler James Anderson on Wednesday said that he has been left out of the final Test against Sri Lanka to give match practice to fellow pacer Stuart Broad.

"Yes I'm not playing this game, Broady's going," Anderson said ahead of the dead-rubber final Test of the three-match series when the visitors will be gunning for a 3-0 white-wash.

"The thinking is that with the series sewn up it's an opportunity to rotate."

"Going to the West Indies as well (in January) and with a view to that I think the feeling is they want Broady to get some Test cricket under his belt," said Anderson, 36.

"So it's going to be a week off. It's been a frustrating trip for me really because you want to contribute to the wins. But I feel like I've tried my best but it's not really been a series for the seamers," he added.

Anderson has taken just one wicket over two Tests that have seen the spinners dominate.

England sewed up the series — a first away series win since beating South Africa in 2015-16 — on Sunday in Kandy, in a closer contest than their first Test trouncing of the hosts in Galle.

The final Test begins in Colombo on Friday.



NZ expect tougher contest in 2nd Test

AFP ■ DUBAI

Two days after one of the most sensational wins in Test cricket, New Zealand are preparing in Dubai for the second Test against Pakistan with coach Gary Stead expecting an even tougher contest.

New Zealand pulled off an extraordinary four-run win in Abu Dhabi on Monday as they defended a modest target of 176. Debutant left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel took 5-59 as Pakistan's last seven wickets fell for just 41 runs.

The win was Stead's first as head coach since he replaced Mike Hesson in August and he believes it will change Pakistan's mindset ahead of the second Test which starts on Saturday.

"Pakistan are a good team, hard to beat over here," said Stead. "That's what makes this really, really pleasing. But they'll be better for it, and if they were taking us lightly, they won't be now."

"I expect them to be better and I expect us to be better as well."

New Zealand have not beaten Pakistan in an away series since 1969 and Stead thinks they need further improvement in order to change that.

"I don't think we've won too many Tests when we've scored 153 in the first innings," said Stead of New Zealand's first innings total.

"It was always going to be that we need to keep fighting and fighting, and



New Zealand players celebrates after defeating Pakistan by 4 runs in first Test. Blackcaps

my message to the boys was that if you can lose wickets in clumps, then why can't we do that back to them through sustained pressure," said Stead.

Fast bowler Neil Wagner, who became the eighth New Zealand bowler to complete 150 Test wickets in Abu Dhabi, praised the team's spirit.

"It was an amazing fightback," said Wagner. "We knew we'd be in with a chance if we kept fighting. That last hour (on day four) was quite freakish."

Wagner broke the dangerous stand of 82 between Azhar Ali (65)

and Asad Shafiq (45) and then claimed Yasir Shah's wicket to play his role.

"We know that even if we are a little bit behind we can keep fighting, we know what we can achieve. It was bloody tough, hard work, a big fight and it will just get harder. (Pakistan) will come back hard."

"Hopefully we can do something similar and pretty special."

The second Test starts in Dubai from Saturday while the third and final, again in Abu Dhabi from December 3.

RANJI TROPHY

DELHI FACE CHALLENGE AFTER HYD POST 460

Hyderabad: Ravi Teja struck his maiden first-class hundred, helping Hyderabad post a daunting 460 against Delhi on day two of the Group B match. Hyderabad, resuming the day at 232 for three, continued to frustrate Delhi who are here without their key bowlers including Navdeep Saini and Ishant Sharma. Opener Tanmay Agarwal could only add eight runs to his overnight 112 before being bowled by Delhi pacer Kulwant Khejroliya. Teja then took the innings forward with an unbeaten 115 off 206 and got help from Chama Milind, who was run out for 58. Pacers Khejroliya and Gaurav Kumar took three wickets each for Delhi and did not concede too many runs. Hyderabad were all out for 460 in 170.3 overs. In response, Delhi were 21 for no loss in seven overs at stumps, facing a stiff challenge of taking the first innings lead. Sarthak Ranjan and Hiten Dalal were batting on six and 14 respectively.

KERALA ON TOP AGAINST BENGAL

Kolkata: Opener Jalaj Saxena hit a second successive century of the season to put Kerala in the driver's seat against Bengal in their Elite Group B match. Starting at overnight 14 with the team's Delhi at 35 for one, Saxena stood tall in a glittering 143 from 190 balls (21x4s, 2x6s) as Kerala surpassed Bengal's first innings score of 147 in the opening session before notching up a sizeable 291 in 83 overs. In their second essay, Bengal lost opener Koushik Ghosh (1) cheaply to be five for one in 2.2 overs — still needing 139 runs to avoid a first innings defeat with two complete day's play remaining. Saxena not only held the Kerala innings together en route to his 14th first class century, but counter-attacked Mohammed Shami with both his sixes coming against the Australia-bound India pacer. BCCI had cleared Shami to play the match subject to him bowling not more than 15-17 overs in an innings. But the star pacer ended up bowling 26 overs returning with 3/100 that aptly summed up Bengal's misery after they opted for a green top in their effort to register the season's first win.

KARNATAKA, MUMBAI IN CLOSE FIGHT

Belagavi: Arch-rivals Karnataka and Mumbai were in a close fight for the first innings honours in their Group A game. Mumbai did well to restrict the hosts to 400 all out, built mainly around rookie Krishnamurthy Siddharth's anchoring 161 after Karnataka resumed at their overnight 263 for 4. Shivam Dubey ended up with a highly credible seven-wicket haul for 63 runs. In reply, Mumbai made 99 for 2 by stumps on day two, still 301 runs in arrears, with Jay Bista cracking an unbeaten 69. In Nagpur, veteran Wasim Jaffer (153), skipper Faiz Fazal (151) and wicket-keeper batsman Akshay Wadkar (102 not out) steered reigning champions Vidarbha to a massive 529 for 6 declared against Baroda who replied with 41 for no loss. In Raipur, Chhattisgarh managed to restrict Railways to 132 for 4 after putting on 300 in their first innings.

TN REACHES 122 FOR 3 AGAINST ANDHRA

Ongole: Tamil Nadu made 122 for 3 in 50 overs at stumps on the second day after bowling out Andhra for 216 in the first innings of the Elite Group 'B' match. Resuming at 198 for 8, Andhra's innings ended for the addition of 18 runs. Tamil Nadu was provided a solid start by the experienced Abhinav Mukund and M Kaushik Gandhi as the duo added 70 runs for the first wicket. Mukund stroked some fluent boundaries, before being the first man to go for 31. Kaushik Gandhi (38, 7x4) went 10 runs later while skipper Baba Indrajith fell for a 28-ball 7. Baba Aparajith (27 batting, 80 balls, 4x4) and N Jagadeesan (8 batting) ensured that the visiting team didn't suffer any further losses before bad light brought an early halt to the day's proceedings.

RAJASTHAN FIGHT BACK AGAINST JHARKHAND

Ranchi: Rajasthan conceded the first innings lead to Jharkhand but remained in the hunt for victory in their Elite Group C game. Rajasthan, who were bundled out for a paltry 100 in the first essay, performed better in the second to make 127 for 4 at stumps on day 2, after skittling out Jharkhand for 152. Robin Bist made 45 after the other top-three Rajasthan batsmen failed. Earlier, Jharkhand resumed the second day at 92 for 5 and overhauled Rajasthan's score with Ishan Jaggi making a fighting 79 in 131 balls with 10 fours. At Guwahati, Odisha were on top with Assam tottering at 60 for 4 in their second outing and still trailing by 59 runs. At Rohtak, Haryana held the upper hand when they managed to bundle out Goa for 177 after putting on 276 in their first innings. At Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir held the advantage after putting up 442 on the board in the first innings against Tripura, who trailed by 307 runs.

MEGHALAYA, UTTARAKHAND IN COMMAND

Shillong: Meghalaya put up a spirited bowling show to tighten their grip over Nagaland in their Plate group match. Resuming on 338/5, Meghalaya managed to add just 51 runs this morning as Nagaland left-arm pacer Pawan Suyal returned with 5/96. In reply, Meghalaya trio of Gurinder Singh (4/37), Aditya Singhania (3/12) and Lakhyan Singh (3/23) shot out Nagaland for a paltry 106 runs in 46.3 overs before enforcing follow-on. At close, Nagaland were 31 for no loss in their second innings, trailing Meghalaya by 252 runs. Playing at their adopted home venue in Bhubaneswar, Sikkim found themselves on the backfoot to be on 49/3 in reply to Uttarakhand's huge 582/9 declared. It was a tale of two youngsters as Saurabh Rawat (220) and Vaibhav Bhatt (152 not out) smashed their career-best scores to put Uttarakhand in command in the top of the table clash. PTI