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SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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Confident of winning Poklok-Kamrang: Golay



ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 21 OCT:

"During the 25 year SDF Government, the then Chief Minister and area MLA, Pawan Chamling neglected the area. Given the length of time he and his party were in power, there has been little developmental work in this area," said Chief Minister and SKM candidate for Poklok Kamrang, PS Tamang [Golay].

"Will surely win the by-election with a huge margin and I am very much confident about winning from Poklok-Kamrang," he added.

Mr. Tamang has expressed his happiness over getting the opportunity to contest the by-election from Poklok-Kamrang Constituency.

During the election process today, Mr. Golay visited various polling booths in his constituency. He said that he got positive response from the people of the area.

Pawan Chamling was winning elections by pressuring people to vote for him as his party was in power, alleged Mr. Tamang.

Now people have become aware and vote wisely, he stated expressing his confidence that voters of the Poklok-Kamrang constituency have already decided to vote for change and development.

SKM has never considered Poklok-Kamrang constituency a challenge but it is SDF for whom it is a challenge, said Mr. Khaling.

He expressed his confidence that the SKM party and SKM-BJP alliance will sweep all three constituencies this by-election.

Now, Mr. Chamling has no constituency to contest election from, said Mr. Khaling. He also added that SDF invited various national media correspondents to further his propaganda but it has not worked.

Lukewarm response to high-stakes by-polls

BY-ELECTION REGISTERS 69.95% VOTER TURN-OUT

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 21 OCT:

Voters in the three constituencies which voted in a by-election on Monday are clearly not overtly excited by prospect and this is reflected in the lukewarm response to this high-stakes election. Poklok-Kamrang, Martam-Rumtek and Gangtok posted a modest average of 69.95% voter turnout today, down noticeably from the 74.35% average these constituencies had registered between them in April 2019. While all three constituencies registered a drop in voter-turnout, it was only marginally lower at Poklok-Kamrang in South Sikkim where 12,644 [80.56%] of the 15,599 of the voters kept their date with the EVM machines today. Three months ago, for the April 2019 assembly elections, 12,704 voters [80.54%] had cast their ballot.



This is an important constituency given that Chief Minister PS Tamang [Golay] is contesting from here. He had campaigned hard here, a luxury afforded to him given that this was the only seat his party was fielding a candidate from, having stepped away from the other two where it was supporting the BJP candidates.

One would have expected the voter turnout at Poklok-Kamrang to show a wider change

in either direction given how crucial it is. What this means for the political prospects of the candidates in the fray here will be known only on 24 Oct, but until then, this turn-out is bound to leave all parties perplexed and anxious.

SDF president, former Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had won from Poklok Kamrang in April by a margin of nearly 3,000 votes. This is also his traditional seat and considered an

SDF bastion. The challenge was always tough for SKM here and that is what perhaps explains why this was also the only constituency from where political violence was reported this time.

What the numbers for Poklok-Kamrang hint is that despite the high decibel campaigning there, the mood, when it comes to voting, has not changed much there. Given that only 60 voters who had lined up in April did not vote today, both

parties, SKM and SDF, will be wondering how much the voter preference has changed in the previous five months given that the numbers themselves have not changed by much.

The scenario at Martam-Rumtek and Gangtok is much different. What the depleted turnout points at is that the people are not too excited by the candidates. Since the government has already been formed and these by-elections cannot change that, voter interest was always expected to be lower than in April, but the substantial drop in turnout projects a consideration which parties here would do well to ponder over carefully.

As per data released by the election authorities, Martam-Rumtek recorded a voter turnout of 72.60%, down from the 78.99% who had voted in April.

Against the 13,357 who had voted in April, this time the number stands at 12,306. Gangtok, which has traditionally posted the lowest turnouts in elections, lived up to its reputation this time as well with an exceptionally low turnout at 51.97 %. In April, five months back, Gangtok had posted a respectable 62.39% voter turnout. Against the 7,253 people who had voted in April, this time only 6,108 did so.

Where in Poklok-Kamrang, the contest is essentially between SKM and SDF, the other two constituencies are crowded with six candidates in each constituency. In these two constituencies, SKM is backing BJP candidates as per their seat-sharing arrangement. Clearly, the chance to vote for BJP, which has emerged as a serious contender only this time, has not been lapped up by voters here.

Oldest voter of Sikkim votes again



NAMCHIL, 21 OCT (IPR): Oldest voter in the State, 107-year-old Sumitra Rai, from Lower Kamrang, exercised her franchise at Government Secondary School, Kamrang Polling Station under 10 Poklok Kamrang Assem-

bly Constituency, today. She had cast her vote in the April elections as well.

As a mark of respect and to celebrate the spirit of democracy of our country, she was also felicitated by the polling team.

Manipur CM convenes for all-party meeting on Naga issue

IMPHAL, OCT 21 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has called for an all-party meeting on Tuesday to discuss the Naga peace talk and its impact on Manipur, officials said on Monday.

The meeting was called three days after the Interlocutor for the Naga talks and Nagaland Governor R N Ravi said that the Central government is determined to conclude the decades-long peace process without delay.

In a statement, Ravi had said on October 18 that a mutually agreed draft comprehensive settlement, including all the substantive issues and competencies, is ready for inking the final agreement.

The Manipur CM's Secretariat on Monday announced that the chief minister has called for an all-party meeting on Tuesday at 4 pm.

A meeting of all the legislators of BJP led coalition government in Manipur was held on Sunday to discuss the possible outcome of Naga peace talk and its impact on Manipur.

The meeting chaired by the chief minister decided to call an all-party meeting on October 22.

The meeting resolved that any solution to Naga talk should not affect the integrity of Manipur in any manner.

Manipur, a neighbour of Nagaland has a sizeable number of Naga population.

Assam MP Gaurav Gogoi is new in-charge for Sikkim Pradesh Congress

SKM is BJP's Trojan horse in Sikkim: Gogoi

SAGAR CHHETRI
GANGTOK, 21 OCT:

Congress Lok Sabha MP from Assam, Gaurav Gogoi is the new in-charge for Sikkim Pradesh Congress. He is the son of former Chief Minister of Assam, Tarun Gogoi and second time MP from Assam. After taking charge of Sikkim Pradesh Congress, he held a meeting with office bearers and workers of Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] here at the party head-office on Monday.

Addressing a press conference here this afternoon, Mr Gogoi expressed that Sikkim is currently going through a very sensitive period. He alleged that after forming government at the Centre, Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has totally destabilized the North-East and created chaos in the region.

BJP has formed government in different



North-Eastern States without winning elections and has been trying to abolish the special identity and culture of the north-eastern region, he stated.

The Election Commission of India has given extraordinary and out of turn relief to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, said Mr Gogoi further adding that it was sad that Sikkim Krantikari Morcha has bowed down to BJP just to save its leader.

"SKM was the ray of hope for the people but a dark force has now come to Sikkim with BJP. SKM is BJP's Trojan horse in Sikkim," he said.

Mr Gogoi went on to state that the region has lost confidence in BJP and SKM, and are now realising that only the Congress party can protect and promote the Indian Constitution.

With this hope the AICC has given him the responsibility for Sik-

kim, said the Congress in-charge for Sikkim. He assured to work for Sikkim and its people from the grassroots level.

"I will reach out to every Sikkimese in every corner of the State with the message that their constitutional rights are in danger," he said.

He also assured to raise Sikkim's issues in the Parliament and said that Congress MPs in both houses in the Parliament will speak for the people of Sikkim.

Govt decides to open Siachen to tourists

KUNAL DUTT

LEH-LADAKH, OCT 21 (PTI): Government on Monday announced its decision to open Siachen area, the world's highest battlefield, to tourists.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the government has decided to open the entire area from Siachen base camp to Kumar Post for tourism purposes.

The step has been taken to give people a

window to appreciate the tough work done by Army jawans and engineers in extreme weather and inhospitable terrains, he said.

Singh was addressing a function in eastern Ladakh to inaugurate Col Chewang Rinchen Bridge on Shyok River, located about 45 km from the county's border with China.

"The Ladakh MP in his address, mentioned

about opening this area to tourism. And, I am happy to share that the government has decided to open a route from Siachen Base Camp to Kumar Post for tourists," the minister said.

"This step will make them appreciate the efforts put in by jawans, engineers and other workers," he said.

Singh later tweeted, "The Siachen area is now open for tourists

and Tourism. From Siachen Base to Kumar Post, the entire area has been opened for Tourism purposes".

At the bridge inauguration, he said, only steel and concrete have not gone into its making, but "sweat and valour" of the engineers and workers of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) too.

They have toiled hard and people should know their stories, Singh said.

Banking services to be affected on Oct 22

KOLKATA, OCT 21 (PTI):

Banking services across the country are likely to be partially disrupted on October 22 as two bank unions will go on a 24-hour strike on the day.

The strike has been called by All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) and the Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) to protest against recent bank mergers, falling deposit rates and issues of job security.

The Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India will, however, not participate in the strike, sources in them said.

Regional Rural Banks and co-operatives banks will also not participate in the strike as mergers do not affect them, sources said.

Striking unions said they will shut the ATMs as these will be under the strike ambit.

Bank of Maharashtra, Syndicate Bank, Bank of Baroda have expressed concern over their providing normal customer ser-

vices.

"We expect good response from all PSU and private banks," Bank Employees Federation of India (State Federation) General Secretary Joydeb Dasgupta said.

SBI has claimed the impact of the strike on its operations will be minimum as most of its employees are not members of the participating unions.

A SBI union leader said they are not participating in the strike and services will be normal.

Dasgupta said SBI employees have offered moral support to the strike he said adding "It would have been good if SBI joined the strike".

AIBEA and BEFI also oppose outsourcing of regular and perennial banking jobs and privatisation of banking industry, sources in them said.

They have demanded adequate recruitment of clerical and sub-staff and urged for stringent steps for recovery of mounting bad loans, the sources added.

Final preparatory meeting for NPCR Bench

GYALSHING, 21 OCT (IPR):

The final preparatory meeting for the upcoming NPCR Bench scheduled to be held on 22 Oct was conducted at the Conference Hall, Zilla Bhawan in Gyalshing, West Sikkim today.

The preparatory meeting was chaired by DC West, Karma R. Bonpo; ASP West V. G. Satish Pasumarthi; ADC West, Karma L. Lepcha; Shaista K. Shah, STE, NPCR Co-coordinator of the team along with Bhavna Bajaj, Senior Consultant (NPCR); Urvashi Jain, Consultant (NPCR) and Bharti, DEO (NPCR).

DC West, in his address, mentioned that

the NPCR Bench is an important event for the State hence the HoDs of Line Departments and District Officials need to be present during the program. He also stressed on them being prepared to answer all queries put forward by the public and the Bench.

He further urged them to provide inputs during the program which can be targeted towards the benefit of the children. He then mentioned that since the complaints generated can be interrelated to other departments apart from Health and Education hence they need to be present in order to address the issues and complaints raised by the complainant.



Shaista K. Shah provided information and

explained the procedures of filing of complaints during the sitting of Bench. She also enlightened the gathering on their roles and responsibilities during the program. She mentioned that each department under the government has an important role to play hence their attendance is

a must.

The Commission is visiting the West District to take the public's complaints against any child rights violation. Any person including children, parent, guardian, caretaker or any other individual working for child right can submit their complaint before NPCR.

The NPCR Bench is scheduled to be held on 22 Oct at the Conference Hall, Zilla Bhawan, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Registration starts at 09:00 AM and the Bench will begin at 10:00 AM.

Children can make their complaints/representation before the NPCR.

Legal Services Camp held in South Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT

Namchi, 21 Oct: District Legal Services Authority (South) and Taluk Legal Services Committee (South) in co-ordination with the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized a Legal Services Camp at the Maniram Phalidara Gram Panchayat Unit on 20 Oct, 2019 which has been declared as a "Child-Friendly GPU" by the Social Justice Empowerment and Welfare Department, South Sikkim and the District Child protection Unit, Namchi, South Sikkim under its Integrated Child protection Scheme.

The Camp was organized at the Maniram Phalidara "Child Friendly" Gram Panchayat Unit with a target to spread awareness about the NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Chil-



dren and their Protection) Scheme, 2015 to both the children as well as the parents of the GPU.

The program was launched by the Chairman, DLSA (South), Jiwani Kumar Kharka in the presence of the Jwala D Thapa, Secretary DLSA, South, Roshnila Gurung, DCPO (South), Ld Panel Advocates, Bhim Shankar Pradhan, Sushila Thapa and Yashoda Rai, Kushal

Chettri, Drishti (NGO) and Para-Legal Volunteers, Jai Ram Gupta, Chandra Bdr Rai, Laxmi Tamang, Passang Tsh Bhutia (Child-Line) and Panchayat President with members of Maniram Phalidara GPU.

The Department of Police was represented by ASI, BK Pradhan (I/C) Bhanjyang, Head Constable, Suman Gurung, Head Constable, Jyoti Rai. There were around 83 people who attended

the Camp. The main focus being on awareness about Child-Friendly services by the Departments and NGOs participating in the Camp, the various resource persons made the children as well as the parents aware of the same.

The Police Department personnel made the children aware about the emergency helpline number '100' as well as how to approach the police in case of emergencies.

EVMs and VVPATs sealed and stored



NAMCHI, 21 OCT (IPR): The polled Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voters Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) used for By-Elections of 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency in South District were sealed and stored at the strong room situated in District Administrative Centre Namchi, today.

The sealing process was done in the presence of General Observer for By-Elections to 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency, Alak Ku-

mar Saharia, Returning Officer (South), Ragul K., Assistant Returning Officer, Satyen Pradhan, Sector Magistrates, representatives from political parties and election agents.

The polled EVMs and VVPATs have been kept in the strong room with adequate security arrangements along with 24x7 CCTV coverage.

Additionally, the RO informed that the EVMS and VVPATs will be taken out from the strong room on the day of counting i.e. on 24 October 2019.

Kamrang polling team arrives first in South



NAMCHI, 21 OCT (IPR): The first polling team to arrive in the Material Receiving Centre was the polling team stationed at Kamrang Secondary School after conducting the By-Elections of 10 Poklok Kamrang Assembly Constituency under South District.

Similarly, the second polling team to report to the Material Receiving Centre after successful completion of polls was the polling team stationed at Assangthang Secondary school Room No.2.

As per the report received, the total voter

turnout for Poklok Kamrang by-elections was as recorded at 80.56% comprising of 6124 female and 6520 male voters respectively. In addition, the highest voter turnout was reported from Nandugaon Senior Secondary School Room No.2. The team handed the polled Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) along with the polling materials to the concerned officials in the material receiving centre situated at District Administrative Centre (DAC) Namchi.

Shutdown continues in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, OCT 21 (PTI): The stalemate in Kashmir, following abrogation of Article 370, continued as normal life remained affected in the valley for the 78th consecutive day on Monday with main markets shut and public transport off the roads, officials said.

Some shops opened for few hours early in the morning in some areas including in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk in the city here, but downed their shutters around 11 am, the officials said.

However, main markets and other business establishments were shut, they said.

Private transport was plying and the number of vehicles was higher than Sunday, leading to traffic jams at various spots in the city, they said.

Auto-rickshaws and few inter-district cabs were also seen plying in few areas of the valley, they added.

However, the other modes of public transport were off the roads.

Internet services -- across all platforms continued to be snapped in the valley, the officials said.

Schools and colleges were open, but the students stayed away as parents continued to keep their wards at home due to apprehensions about their safety, the officials said.

Most of the top level and second rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders, including two former chief ministers -- Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, have been either detained or placed under house arrest.

Another former chief minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah has been arrested under the controversial Public Safety act, a law enacted by his father and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 when he was the chief minister.

High level State Govt delegation visits Sherathang Trade Mart



NATHULA, 21 OCT (IPR): A high level delegation of officials of the State Government headed by the Chief Secretary, S.C. Gupta visited Sherathang Trade Mart on 18 Oct. The Trade Mart is the hub of Indo-China border trade that has been going on since 2007 between India and Tibetan Autonomous Region in China.

The delegation visited the different blocks of the Trade Mart where offices and quarters of the various State and Central Government agencies are located and took stock of the progress of works to complete the three new buildings which are to be allotted to the various agencies.

The utilities such as electricity and water supply to the trade mart was reviewed and work to augment these facilities were inspected in the field. All infrastructure have been developed under the Ministry of Commerce & Indus-

tries Scheme for export promotion called ASIDE Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports.

While addressing the traders the Chief Secretary emphasized that all the points that were put forward by the traders would be attended to by the Government. He said that the shortcomings in the infrastructure would be addressed expeditiously by the concerned departments and stressed on the traders to maintain ethical trade practices while conducting their trade in line with government rules and regulations. Local issues like garbage management, infrastructure maintenance, regular payment of utility bills, etc, should be sorted out locally and a mechanism for these is to be put in place by the concerned Committee and association.

Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce & Industries, Dr. Thomas Chandy stated that unlike

the trend in Indo-China trade at the national level which favours China, in Nathula, the balance of trade is in favour of India.

Hence he said that there is scope for stepping up of the traded items and increase the volume of trade through the border. He stated that new infrastructure requirements and revision of trade items is being conveyed to the Department of Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

A team of officers from Power Department headed by the Secretary, K.B Kunwar and from PHED headed by the Secretary, Ranjan Parihar and Tourism Department headed by Secretary, TT Bhutia were also present to take stock of the services being provided and also to discuss additional projects in the area.

Principal Secretary DOP & Excise, Tenzing Gelek, and Secretary IPR, Namrata Thapa were also present on the occasion.

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Workshop in violin at Sikkim University

GANGTOK, 21 OCT (PIB): The Department of Music, Sikkim University organized a three-day workshop with Violin Artist, Amlan Halder from 19-22 Oct, 2019. The workshop is being organized in the Department of Music located at 5th Mile, Gangtok.

Mr Halder is an eminent violinist who has drawn the attention of senior musicians and connoisseurs alike for his innate artistry, rich repertoire and total brilliance. Traditionally trained musician from the Department of Instrumental Music of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, Mr Halder is now one of the



foremost Violin players of the current generation. Mr Halder is working

as a Violin teacher of BBA, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrepur,

Kolkata and is an empanelled teacher on Gyan Vani FM under IGNOU.

Stray cattle in Goa eating non-veg food, says minister

PANAJI, OCT 21 (PTI): Stray cattle brought to a cow shelter in Goa are found to have turned non-vegetarian, state minister Michael Lobo has claimed.

The animals developed this habit by feasting on leftover chicken and fried fish dumped in garbage, he said.

"We brought 76 cattle from Calangute area to the gaushala where they are being looked after. We realised that they have turned non-vegetarian," Lobo said during a function at Arpora village in North Goa district on Sunday. These stray cattle do not eat grass. "They neither eat gram nor the special feed given to them," he said.

The cattle from Calangute and Candolim are used to eating non-vegetarian food, like leftover chicken scraps and stale fried fish dumped by restaurants, the minister said. "We always say cattle are vegetarian. But, the cattle from Calangute are non-vegetarian. They (gaushala operators) are facing this issue now," he said.

Those running the cow shelter have sought help from veterinary doctors to treat these animals, he added.

Governor casts vote at White Hall



GANGTOK, 21 OCT (IPR): Governor, Ganga Prasad cast his vote in the By-Election for the Gangtok Assembly seat at

White Hall polling station here today. After casting his vote, the Governor appealed to the voters of the 3 assembly constitu-

encies to come forward and cast their valuable votes. The Governor was accompanied by Raj Bhanu officials.

Andrew McDonald named Rajasthan Royals head coach

MUMBAI, OCT 21 (PTI): Rajasthan Royals on Monday appointed former Australian cricketer Andrew McDonald as their new head coach for a three-year term.

McDonald has been a part of the Indian Premier League, having played for Delhi Daredevils in the 2009 season before being signed up by Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2012 2013.

He was also the bowling coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The 38-year-old former Australian all-rounder has coached Leicestershire, Victoria and the Melbourne Renegades.

McDonald, who played four Tests for Australia, had guided Victoria to the title win in Sheffield Shield in his first



year as senior coach. The Victorian then moved the Renegades from 7th position to winning the Big Bash this year.

"We are delighted to appoint Andrew as our head coach. He shares our belief of discovering potential and championing dreams and is aligned with our vision to continue to drive innovation in the IPL," said Ranjit Barhakar, Executive Chairman, Rajasthan Royals in

a team statement.

The interview panel for the head coach selection process included Zubin Bharucha, head of cricket for Rajasthan Royals.

"Andrew's innovative, forward thinking nature, along with his experience in the IPL and success in other leagues is why we have selected him as head coach to help us drive long term success, said Bharucha.

Gujarat bypolls: 53.68% turnout in six assembly seats

AHMEDABAD, OCT 21 (PTI): A 53.68 per cent turnout was recorded in the byelections to six Assembly constituencies in Gujarat on Monday.

Polling for the six seats spread across various districts was held between 8 am and 6 pm.

Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24.

The bypolls were held for Tharad in Banaskantha district, Radhanpur in Patan, Kheralu in Mehsana, Bayad in Arvali, Amraiwadi in Ahmedabad and Lunawada in Mahisagar district.

By 6 pm, Tharad recorded the highest turnout of 68.95 per cent,

while Amraiwadi, an urban seat of Ahmedabad city, recorded the lowest 34.75 per cent polling.

While Radhanpur seat recorded 62.95 per cent turnout, it was 61.01 per cent in Bayad. It was followed by Lunawada (51.23 per cent) and Kheralu (46.15 per cent), officials said.

No untoward incident took place during polling.

At Nani Hirvani village in Kheralu, police found a man hanging from the fence of the compound wall of a primary school, which was used as a polling booth.

The deceased was identified as 20-year-

old labourer Vasant Chauhan.

A case of suicide has been registered by Kheralu police, officials said, adding that the incident didn't impact voting process.

Byelections were necessitated in Radhanpur and Bayad due to the resignations of sitting Congress MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalsinh Zala, who quit the Congress and joined the BJP.

The ruling party has fielded both of them from their respective seats in the by-elections.

Besides, bypolls became necessary in Tharad, Lunawada, Kheralu and Amraiwadi after the

BJP MLAs of these seats got elected to the Lok Sabha.

Four of the six seats were won by BJP in 2017, while two were held by Congress.

The BJP has fielded Jivrajibhai Patel in Tharad, Jignesh Sevak in Lunawada, Ajmalbhai Thakor in Kheralu and Jagdish Patel in Amraiwadi.

The Congress has nominated Gulabsinh Rajput from Tharad, Raghubhai Desai from Radhanpur, Babuji Thakor from Kheralu, Jasubhai Patel from Bayad, Dharmendra Patel from Amraiwadi and Gulabsinh Chauhan from Lunawada.

Mamata assures Farooq Abdullah of standing by him in 'difficult times'

KOLKATA, OCT 21 (PTI): Assuring former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah of standing by him during "difficult times", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday extended birthday wishes to the National Conference patron.

She urged Abdullah to stay positive and prayed for his good health.

"Birthday wishes to Farooq Abdullah Ji. These are difficult times for you. We stand by you. Please stay positive. We pray for your good health @Omar-



Abdullah," Banerjee tweeted.

The 82-year-old former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) after the abrogation of Article 370.

He shares a good rapport with Banerjee and had attended the "United India Rally" held in Kolkata on January 19.

Centre should declassify all Netaji files: researcher

KOLKATA, OCT 21 (PTI): Noted Netaji researcher Purabi Roy on Monday demanded that the Centre declassify all the files related to Subhas Chandra Bose in order to lift the veil over the mystery of his disappearance 74 years ago.

The truth about Netaji's disappearance has been shrouded in mystery for several decades and it is high time that the union government take steps to bring it out, Roy told a press conference here.

"We think that the central government should declassify all the files pertaining to Netaji in order

to clear the mystery after 74 years. The people of this country have the right to know what happened to one of the greatest son of Mother India. I think the time has come to bring out the truth," she said.

Several reports have claimed that Netaji had on August 18, 1945, boarded a plane from Taihoku Airport in Taiwan, which crashed soon after leading to his death.

However, many continue to believe that Netaji survived the plane crash and lived in hiding.

Since Independence in 1947, the central govern-

ment had formed three inquiry commissions to unravel the mystery of Netaji's death.

Two of them - the Shah Nawaz Commission (1956) and the Khosla Commission (1970) formed by the Congress governments - said Bose died in the air crash.

The third one, the Mukherjee Commission (1999) set up by the BJP-led NDA government, had said he did not die in it.

In 2015, the West Bengal government had released 64 files pertaining to Netaji held by the state home department.

Exit polls forecast big win for BJP in Maha, Haryana

NEW DELHI, OCT 21 (PTI): The BJP appeared set to retain power with a bigger mandate in Maharashtra, where it is in alliance with the Shiv Sena, and Haryana, as exit polls forecast a facile victory for the party in the two states and rout for its rivals led by the Congress.

Exit polls, broadcast soon after the polling ended, varied widely in their projection of seats for the rival alliances but an emphatic victory with more than two-third seats for the BJP-led NDA in Maharashtra and Haryana was their common theme.

The India Today-Axis exit poll projected 166-194 seats for the BJP-Shiv Sena in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly and 72-90 for the Congress-NCP alliance.

The exit poll by News18-IPSOS gave the BJP a near-majority on its own by predicting a whopping 142 seats for the party and 102 for its ally Shiv Sena. The Congress and NCP will bag 17 and 22 seats only, it has predicted.

The ABP-C Voter predicted 204 seats for the BJP-Shiv Sena and 69 for the Congress-NCP while the corresponding figures by Times Now were 230 and 48.

In Haryana, the extent of a BJP win was projected to be even more dominant.

The ABP-C Voter forecast 72 and eight seats for the BJP and the Congress respectively. The CNN-IPSOS projected 75 and 10 seats for the two parties respectively.

The Times Now survey gave the BJP and the Congress 71 and 11 seats respectively.

The poll of polls brought out by the NDA gave the BJP and the Congress 66 and 14 seats respectively in Haryana, and 211 and 64 for the saffron alliance and the Congress-NCP in Maharashtra.

The BJP had brought the issue of Article 370 nullification and national security at the centre of its campaign with development works its state governments playing the second fiddle.

|| Shradhanjali ||

Beloved Smt. Sandhya Biswakarma

"With profound grief and sorrow we inform that the "Anthyesthi Triya" of beloved Smt. Sandhya Biswakarma who left for her heavenly abode on 12/10/2019 falls on 24/10/2019 at Diesel Power House compound, D.P.H Road, Gangtok, East Sikkim. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us for offering prayers for the departed soul.. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Kailash Biswakarma - husband
Aryash and Awesh Biswakarma - sons

Contact- 9474841550
7908896626
9547619089

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Ref. No. 161 /DCS

Tel No: 03595-263734
Fax: 03595-264734
Date: 18/10/2019

NOTICE

With reference to section 126 of the Representation of the People Act 1951 the campaigning period shall end 48 hours before the time fixed before the close of poll i.e. at 05:00 P.M on 19th October 2019. Therefore all contesting candidates are hereby directed to comply with the following instructions of the Election Commission of India (as per Chapter 8 of the Manual on Model Code of Conduct):

- No person shall –
 - Convene hold or attend to join or address any public meeting or procession in connection with an election; or
 - Display to the public any election matter by means of cinematograph television or radio or other similar apparatus; these restrictions do not extend to the publication of advertisements by political parties and candidates in print media.
 - Propagate any election matter to the public by holding or arranging the holding of any musical concert or any theatrical performance or any other entertainment or amusement with a view to attracting the members of the public thereto in any polling area.
- After 05: 00 pm of 19th October 2019 no campaign can take place within the constituency, presence of political functionaries and party worker who have been brought from outside the constituency and who are not voters of the constituency should not remain present in the constituency.
- On the date of poll in that constituency each contesting candidate is entitled to use three vehicle only, one for his own use one for the use of his election agent and one vehicle for use of his workers or party workers. In a four wheeler vehicle not more than 05 persons including driver, will be allowed to move on the day of poll. It is further clarified that on the day of poll the vehicle allotted for use of candidate or his election agent will not be used by any other person.
- All permission of vehicles for campaigning purposes are valid till 05:00 pm. of 19th October, 2019 except three vehicles as mentioned above.

By Order.

Ragul K. IAS
DEO-cum-District Magistrate
South District,
District Collector
South, District Namchi

Copy to:

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- All contesting Candidates.
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Reservations – Promoting Lethargy or Improving Access

Before the bouquet is increased, revisit why quotas were need

This section has discussed the issue of quotas and reservations often, but given the near obsessive pursuit with which such “protection” is chased after, talking on this theme is perhaps never too much. So here goes one more. But a qualifier first – this publication believes that protection by way of reservations is still required in our country where gross inequality forced by accidents of birth and offensive prejudices directed against communities and regions still prevail. If anything, such extreme and irrationally hostile mindsets have seen a resurgence in recent years, reinforcing stereotypes and foisting easy partisanship. That is the reality we live with, but occasionally, as citizens of a free and secular nation, we can occasionally also aspire for more ideal scenarios to eventually arrive into.

This then, is as good a time as ever to delve into the near passionate ambition of all communities to get included in some category or the other. We have in our country, quite a wide range of categories to choose from – there is the Scheduled Tribes list, the Schedule Caste recognition, the OBC, now even MBC and some years ago, Bihar introduced us to the EBC grouping – and one can rest assured that more such segregations will be dreamed up in the coming years as privileged communities which still dominate have someone made political currency out of their imagined persecution. It is that situation where the traditionally privileged, get frightened and feel threatened as more of the underdogs rise above the conditions of their birth through hard work and some hand-holding. To them, growing equality feels like oppression. Unfortunately, no one tells them otherwise because “reservation” has now become an aspiration that every citizen feels a right to aspire towards and has become an easy springboard to launch political careers from.

So, why the categorizations?

Given the history that India had emerged from in 1947, where caste alienation was extreme and tribals genuinely under-privileged and oppressed, a policy was required to overcome a legacy of injustice and to provide everyone in this country with a broad measure of equal opportunities. Since equal opportunities would not have been willingly granted and communities with centuries of oppression behind them could not be expected to benefit from an equal footing, reservations were eked out. Over the years, the reservations were extended to include more communities and even women. The idea was to provide these communities with the first stepping stone to equality – access. Access to education, to jobs, to positions of power and access to exposure. This target has been met relatively well and as far as access is concerned, a wide sweep has been achieved.

The obvious next step would have been to pull communities which have benefited enough out of the reserved categories and make more room for those communities which still lag behind. This is easier said than done. For one, there is no easily quantifiable way to decide when a community has “developed” enough to make it on its own steam sans reservation, and for the other, there is the vote-bank politics in which saner decisions in genuine public good would be political hara-kiri. So, the nation is left with an ever overflowing baggage of reserved sections and shrinking opportunities.

This is where the whole policy has failed. Instead of making people competitive with improved access, it has made them lazy with increased quotas. Little wonder then that more and more communities want to fit into some category or the other. In fact, in the present times, when jobs are rare and competition even for education tough, it would be foolish for community leaders not to work for a quota for their people. And so the demands keep pouring in.

This is not to belittle the aspirations of any community to find a new grouping for itself, but just a suggestion that maybe it is time the country and Sikkim paused to re-read the principles why reservations and special categories were first drafted, whether its expressed aims are being met or not, and also whether the people who genuinely deserve reservations are actually getting it or not in the first place.

Pope affirms Catholic Church’s duty to indigenous Amazonians hurt by climate change

VINCENT J. MILLER
theconversation.com

The Catholic Church “hears the cry” of the Amazon and its peoples. That’s the message Pope Francis hopes to send at the Synod of the Amazon, a three-week meeting at the Vatican that ends Oct. 27.

Images from Rome show tribal leaders in traditional feather headdresses alongside Vatican officials in their regalia. They are gathered with hundreds of bishops, priests, religious sisters and missionaries to discuss the pastoral, cultural and ecological struggles of the Amazon.

The densely forested region spans nine South American countries, including Brazil, Colombia and Peru. Its more than 23 million inhabitants include 3 million indigenous people.

The Amazon meeting is part of Pope Francis’s efforts to build a “Church which listens.” Since taking office in 2013, Francis has revitalized the Catholic Church’s practice of “synods” – a Greek word meaning “council” – expanding decision-making in the church beyond the Vatican bureaucracy to gather input from the entire church, including from laypeople.

Voting on synod decisions, however, remains restricted to bishops and some male clergy.

The Amazon synod is the first such meeting to be organized for a specific ecological region. Media coverage of this event has emphasized its more controversial debates – such as the possibility of easing celibacy requirements in the rural Amazon, where priests are in extremely short supply.

But its focus is much broader: listening to the suffering of the Amazon – particularly the environmental challenges facing the region – and discerning how to respond as a global church.

AMAZON IN CRISIS

After more than a decade of environmental policies that successfully slowed deforestation in the Amazon, logging and agricultural clearing have begun to increase rapidly again. The fires in the Brazilian rainforest that captured headlines in early September are symptoms of much broader destruction.

Up to 17% of the Amazon rainforest has already

been eliminated – dangerously close to the 20% to 40% tipping point that experts say would lead the entire ecosystem to collapse.

Stories of deforestation can seem insignificant against the vastness of the Amazon, a region two-thirds the size of the lower 48 United States.

But for the 390 indigenous ethnic groups who inhabit the region, each burned forest grove, polluted stream or flooded dam site may mark the end of a way of life that’s survived for thousands of years.

Deprived of their land, many indigenous Amazonians are forced into an exposed life on the edge of frontier towns, where they are prey to sex trafficking, slave labor and violence. In Brazil alone, at least 1,119 indigenous people have been killed defending their land since 2003.

The Catholic Church recognizes that it still has to address the “open wound” of its own role in the colonial-era violence that first terrorized the indigenous peoples of the Americas, according to the synod’s working document. The church legitimated the colonial confiscation of lands occupied by indigenous peoples and its missionaries often suppressed indigenous cultures and religions.

For this reason, according to the Vatican, organizers of the synod have sought input through 260 listening events held in the region that reached nearly 87,000 people over the past two years. Indigenous leaders have been invited as observer participants in the meeting itself.

LEARNING FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

As a theologian who studies religious responses to the environmental crisis, I find the pope’s effort to learn from the indigenous people of the Amazon noteworthy.

The Vatican sees that the Amazon’s traditional residents know something much of humanity has long forgotten: how to live in ecological harmony with the environment.

“To the aboriginal communities we owe their thousands of years of care and cultivation of the Amazon,” the 58-page synod working document reads. “In their ancestral wisdom they have nurtured the conviction that all of creation is connect-

ed, and this deserves our respect and responsibility.”

Pope Francis has expressed his respect for indigenous peoples before.

At a meeting of indigenous leaders in Peru in January 2018 he said, “Your lives cry out against a style of life that is oblivious to its own real cost. You are a living memory of the mission that God has entrusted to us all: the protection of our common home.”

GLOBAL PROBLEMS, LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Environmental destruction isn’t the synod’s only concern.

Catholicism – long the dominant religion in Latin America – is rapidly losing members to evangelical Protestantism. Evangelicals are projected to eclipse Catholics in Brazil by 2032.

One advantage evangelical churches have in Amazonian countries is that they can appoint local indigenous pastors to minister to their communities. Meanwhile, with less than one priest per 8,000 Catholics in the Amazon, some isolated communities might see a priest only once a year.

The scarcity of priests in rural Latin America is behind a proposal to the synod to ordain older married men as priests in isolated Amazonian communities.

In the U.S., the celibacy question is easily mapped onto a familiar divide. Progressive Catholics argue that clerical celibacy should be optional, while conservative Catholics insist this discipline is fundamental to the faith.

The issue is far less politicized in the Amazon, where, in the words of one bishop, the Catholic Church remains a “visiting church” with limited day-to-day presence in indigenous communities.

Some might dismiss this synod as just a meeting. But, in my judgment, it is an attempt to apply Francis’ vision of a “listening Church” to the environmental crisis. The Synod of the Amazon marks a significant shift from high-minded papal exhortations about taking climate action to a global religious community that gives voice to those living on the front lines of ecological destruction.

[the writer is Professor of Religious Studies, University of Dayton]



Stimulants: Using them to cram for exams ruins sleep and doesn’t help test scores

SARA C. MEDNICK
theconversation.com

Along with a steeper financial burden and an increasingly competitive academic environment, this year’s incoming freshman university class will likely be confronted with the pressure to take a little pill that some popular culture references say will make you “awesome at everything.” Or they may eschew the temptation and rely on the standard practice of study, sleep, repeat.

Welcome to #GenerationAdderall, the kids who grew up in the years of the diagnosis boom of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. As such, their formative years during this period normalized the habit and granted easy access to stimulants traditionally used to treat children with the diagnosis.

Nonprescription use of stimulants is a growing problem for young people, bringing not only a risk of overdose and addiction but also damage to sleep.

Between 2008 and 2012, non-medical use of stimulants in 18- to 25-year-olds increased from 5.7% to 9.3%. The last two decades saw a 10-fold increase. While college-age adults show the greatest prevalence, up to 20% of those 12 and up report experience with nonmedical use of prescription drugs, indicating that the diversion of these medications for nonmedical use begins in middle and high school.

I study the important role of sleep for brain functioning and health. My work has introduced napping as a fa-

tigue countermeasure and a powerful vehicle to boost long-term memory, creativity, executive function and restorative processes. Given the escalating campus crisis of stimulant use and damage to sleep, recent work in my lab has studied non-medical use of stimulants in healthy young adults, and demonstrated that they’re not getting the academic edge they want, and they could be harming themselves.

A COCKTAIL OF SUBSTANCES LEADS TO COMPLICATIONS

Misusing prescription stimulants does not occur in a bubble. Compared with medical users and nonusers, adolescents who report nonmedical use of prescription drugs also engage in binge drinking more often. They also have lower academic attainment and a higher likelihood to screen positive for other substance abuse.

This is deeply troubling to those of us who study drugs’ various effects on the brain and body. Co-ingestion of prescription drugs and alcohol is linked to higher blood alcohol concentrations that cause fatal overdoses, increased risk for liver and heart damage, impaired driving and traffic accidents. Indeed, emergency room visits due to nonmedical use of stimulants tripled from 5,212 visits in 2005 to 15,585 visits in 2017, due to negative side effects including nervousness, insomnia, dizziness, and cardiovascular or psychiatric problems.

Unlike opioids, the motivation to misuse stimulants is not to check out, but rather to check in at superhero scale. Nonmedical stim-

ulant use is primarily to increase wakefulness, having been used for decades by individuals whose job description includes sleep disruption. For emergency workers, military and shift workers, long periods without sleep can cause life-threatening lapses in attention. But these extreme scenarios bear little resemblance to the desired benefits by college students, who report popping pills “to improve intellectual performance” or to “party longer and drink more.”

Given these differences, a critical question is whether stimulants actually produce cognitive enhancement in healthy, well-rested people. Surprisingly, the answer is: sometimes, and only a little.

MORE HYPE THAN HELP

During the two to four hours that the drug is active, some studies in healthy, well-rested adults have shown short-term increases in attention and working memory. Some, however, have shown no benefit.

In fact, some studies suggest that stimulants may simply serve to make boring tasks more interesting by acting on the dopamine system. This extraordinary excitement allows students to stick with a particularly arduous assignment for longer periods of time than they normally would, which may promote the feeling of being smarter, as well as increasing the potential for addiction.

The question then becomes: Does the cognitive enhancement of stimulants exceed the significant long-term toll on sleep and the cognitive and health processes that rely on sleep?

Research in my lab has shown that there are significant trade-offs of long-term sleeplessness for this small uptick in attention. We show that even a morning dose – or at 9 a.m. – harms nighttime sleep. This is particularly true for deep sleep, which is important for complex thinking, long-term memory, immune function and physical restoration.

Additionally, stimulants reduce performance improvements on cognitive tasks that overnight sleep confers, such as improvement in working memory and long-term memory. This reduction is directly related to the decrease in deep sleep. Therefore, even when stimulants are taken earlier in the day, they disrupt nighttime sleep and subsequent cognitive performance.

So, is the fleeting benefit from stimulants worth the damage to sleep and long-term cognitive and health processes? Is the risk of increased substance abuse that comes with misuse of stimulants tolerable? Is it easier to be a superhero by taking a pill to stay awake and a pill to go to sleep than to simply get enough sleep?

Many students will likely be faced with these questions at college this year. As university leaders, counselors, parents, teachers, coaches and peers, it’s our job to help them make an informed decision.

As a sleep expert and cognitive neuroscientist, I think the answer to all these questions is: No.

[the writer is Associate Professor, Cognitive Science, University of California, Irvine]

72.62 pe cent votes cast in Assam by-poll

GUWAHATI, OCT 21 (PTI): An estimated 72.62 per cent of the electorate exercised their franchise in the bye-election to four assembly seats in Assam on Monday, election office sources said.

The by-polls were held at Ratabari, Rangapara, Sonari and Jania.

The final poll percentage is, however, expected to be higher as queues of voters are seen waiting at the polling booths.

As per norm those who enter the polling booths before the scheduled end of voting are allowed to exercise their franchise.

The highest polling percentage of 78.21 per cent was recorded at Jania, followed by 77.50 per cent at Rangapara, 74.37 per cent at Karimganj and 66.40 per cent at Sonari, the sources said.

The four constituencies have a total electorate of 6,78,898 electors, including 3,27,803 female and one third gender voter who voted in 830 polling stations.

The bypolls to these constituencies were necessitated as sitting BJP MLAs and ministers Pallab Lochan Das(Rangapara) and Tapan Gogoi (Sonari) along with Dep-

uty Speaker Kripanath Mallah (Ratabari) and Congress MLA Abdul Khaleque (Jania) have been elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year.

Altogether 20 candidates are in the fray with Jania having having the highest number of nine contestants, followed by five at Rangapara, four at Ratabari and two at Sonari.

There has been mainly a direct fight between the ruling BJP and opposition Congress at Ratabari, Sonari and Rangapara, while at Jania the contest was triangular with the addition of AI-UDF.

Bangladeshi MP allegedly hired eight lookalikes to take her place in exams

DHAKA, 21 OCT [AP]: A Bangladeshi politician has been expelled from university after allegedly hiring as many as eight lookalikes to take her place in exams.

Tamanna Nusrat, from the ruling Awami League party, is accused of paying the lookalikes to pretend to be her in at least 13 tests. The scandal emerged after the private broadcaster Nagorik TV entered a test hall and confronted one of the women pos-

ing as Nusrat, in a video that went viral.

Nusrat, who was elected to parliament last year, was studying for a bachelor of arts degree with the Bangladesh Open University (BOU).

“We expelled her because she has committed a crime. A crime is a crime,” said the BOU head, MA Mannan. “We have cancelled her enrolment. She will never be able to get admitted here again.”

A college official

said: “The proxy students were protected by the MP’s musclemen when they sat for the tests. Everybody knew it but nobody uttered a word because she is from a very influential family.”

Nusrat could not be reached for comment.

Test fraud, cheating and leaking of question papers ahead of exams are common in Bangladesh, prompting authorities frequently to cancel results.

Centre approves renovation of heritage building of IIAS



SHIMLA, OCT 21 (PTI): The heritage building of Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), which used to be the residence of viceroy from 1888 till Independence, will soon be renovated.

Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) has recently given its in-principle approval for the renovation of the heritage building which was re-named as Rashtrapati Niwas after Independence, IIAS director Makarand R Paranjape said on Monday.

The building spread over about 330 acres will be renovated with a cost of Rs 66.33 crores, Pranjape accompanied by IIAS secretary Colonel Vijay K Tiwari said.

Then President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan conceived in 1965 the idea of housing the IIAS in the building and directed the government to take necessary action. He later inaugurated the institute on October 20, 1965.

The viceroy lodge will be refurbished and renovated under the su-

pervision of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in such a way so that its heritage value should remain intact, Pranajape said.

Central Public Works Department (CPWD) will soon invite tenders to start its renovation work which may continue for two-three years, he added.

When Simla became the summer capital of British India in 1864, a search was mounted

for a suitable location to house the Viceregal establishment. The plan to build the residence of viceroy at observatory hill was conceived by lord Lytton and brought to fruition during the viceroyalty of lord Dufferin. The Dufferins moved into the viceregal lodge on July 23, 1988.

Carved of grey Himalayan sandstone, the lodge, a judicious blend of Elizabethan and Scottish architectural forms,

with wood-panelled walls and a magnificent stairway, witnessed some memorable historic round tables as well as pivotal ‘Simla Conference’ of 1945.

The building has hosted most of our national leaders Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and others from time to time who were here in connection with political dialogues and conference with the British that fi-

nally culminated in the Independence in 1947. Meanwhile, a three-day celebration from October 20 has been organised by IIAS to mark its 54th foundation day. During inauguration of the three-day event on Sunday, Neela Bhagwat of Gwalior gharana spell-bound the audience with her musical performance. Himachal Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr Rajeev Bindal formally inaugurated the three-day celebrations.

89 per cent polling in Arunachal by-poll

ITANAGAR, OCT 21 (PTI): An estimated 89 per cent of over 10,000 voters exercised their franchise in the bye-election to Khonsa West assembly constituency in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday amidst tight security, election officials here said.

Though voting was moderate in the morning hours, it gained momentum as the day progressed, joint Chief

Electoral Officer D J Bhat-tacharjee said.

The polling was absolutely peaceful amid tight security measures without any report of untoward incidents from the constituency which witnessed a straight contest between two independent candidates - Chakat Aboh and Azet Hamtok.

Aboh has been fielded by five major political parties in the state, in-

cluding the ruling BJP.

Aboh is the widow of NPP leader Tirong Aboh who was gunned down along with his son and nine others by suspected NSCN militants at 12 Mile area in Tirap district on May 21, two days before he was declared elected from Khonsa West seat as a NPP candidate.

Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24 from 0800 hours, Bhattacharjee added.

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Just over 47 per cent turnout in UP bypolls

LUCKNOW, OCT 21 (PTI): Just over 47 per cent of eligible voters exercised their franchise in the bypolls to 11 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh on Monday.

Polling began at 7 am amid tight security, officials said, adding that 47.05 per cent of electors exercised their franchise.

Gangoh in Saharanpur district saw the highest turnout with about 60.30 per cent voters exercising their franchise.

In Lucknow Cantonment, only 28.53 per cent of eligible electors cast their vote.

Polling was by and large peaceful in the state and there were no report of any untoward incident, they said.

According to the office of the UP Chief Electoral Officer, among the other constituencies, Jalalpur witnessed 58.80 per cent polling followed by Zaidpur (58), Manikpur (52.10), Balha (52), Ghosi (51), Rampur (44), Pratapgarh (44), Igla (36.20) and Govindnagar (32.60).

A significant dip was witnessed in polling in a majority of consti-tu-

cies in comparison with the 2017 assembly elections.

The polling percentage in 2017 stood at 71.92 per cent in Gangoh followed by Zaidpur (69.71), Igla (64.88), Jalalpur (62.55), Manikpur (59.44), Ghosi (58.67), Balha (57.83), Rampur (56.16), Pratapgarh (55.56), Govindnagar (52.48) and Lucknow Cantonment (50.77).

Polling was held up for a couple of hours after an electronic voting machine (EVM) developed a snag at booth number 350 in Salhipur, a report from Pratapgarh said.

District Information Officer Vijay Kumar said the EVM was replaced and the voting had started. Of the 11 seats, eight were earlier held by the BJP and one by its ally Apna Dal (Sonelal).

The seats of Rampur and Jalalpur (Ambedkarnagar) were held by the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, respectively.

The BJP, the BSP, the SP and the Congress have fielded their candidates on all seats.

According to the of-

fice of the UP Chief Electoral Officer, 109 candidates were in the fray for the bypolls.

The byelections were necessitated after some of the sitting MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha and resigned as members of the state assembly.

The Ghosi assembly seat fell vacant following the resignation of sitting MLA Phagu Chauhan after he was appointed as the Governor of Bihar.

The maximum candidates-13 each- contested from Lucknow Cantonment and Jalalpur assembly constituencies followed by 11 each in Ghosi, Gangoh, Pratapgarh and Balha.

Nine candidates each are in the fray from Govindnagar and Manikpur.

Seven each contested from the Rampur, Igla and Zaidpur assembly segments. The saffron party is hoping to increase its tally in the legislative assembly by registering a win in Rampur and Jalalpur, previously held by the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, respectively.

On the other hand, the opposition parties

are expecting to taste victory after the Lok Sabha debacle this year.

The Congress, in particular, hopes to show signs of revival in UP after the Lok Sabha polls, in which it could win only from Rae Bareilly.

In contrast, the BJP had won 62 of the 80 parliamentary seats in the state.

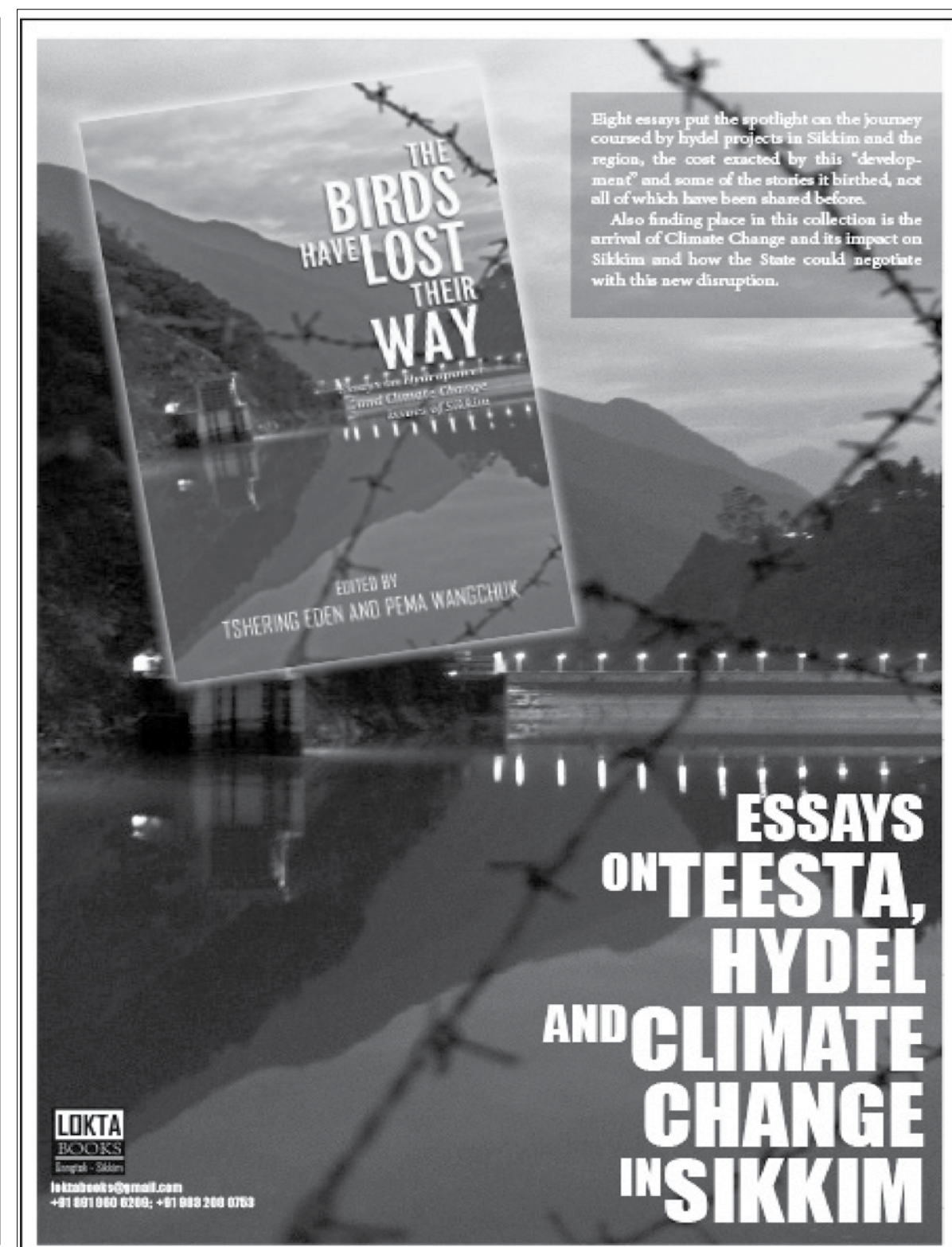
The BSP-SP alliance could bag only 15 seats, resulting in the snapping of ties.

In the 2017 assembly polls, the SP had a tie-up with the Congress.

State BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh and UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu exuded confidence that their parties would emerge victorious in the bypolls.

While Singh claimed that the bypolls would be a “one-sided” affair for the BJP, Lallu said there were “indications of good results for their party”.

In the UP legislative assembly, the BJP currently has 302 members followed by the SP (47) and the BSP (18). The BJP ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) has eight legislators, while the Congress has seven MLAs in the House.



Lakers, Clippers set to star in wide-open NBA season

LOS ANGELES, OCT 21 (AFP): It's a whole new ballgame in the NBA, where a seismic shift in star talent has flung the door wide open to an array of 2020 title contenders.

The NBA, whose sudden row with China promises to linger, will be hoping on-court excitement in the wake of unexpected off-season moves will pull attention from simmering tensions when the 2019-20 campaign tips off on Tuesday.

With Kevin Durant gone and Klay Thompson ruled out for the first half of the season after knee surgery, the Golden State Warriors' march to the finals that has defined the past five seasons looks to be a thing of the past.

Stephen Curry says a championship is "still the goal" for him, Draymond Green and the rest of the Warriors' new-look team after Golden State fell to the Toronto Raptors in last year's title series.

But just as the Warriors open their glitzy new 1.4 billion Chase Arena in San Francisco, the center of gravity in the still powerful Western Conference has shifted south.

The Los Angeles Clippers are the top pick to contend in a survey of NBA general managers, thanks to the arrival of Kawhi Leonard from the reigning champion Toronto Raptors and Paul George from Oklahoma City.

The revamped Clippers are out to usurp the Lakers as Los Angeles' top team, although the LeBron James-led Lakers won't go quietly.

A "very motivated" James, whose first campaign in LA ended with him missing the playoffs for the first time since 2005, says the team is ready to contend with former New Orleans Pelicans star Anthony Davis lining up alongside Dwight Howard, Kyle Kuzma and newly arrived Danny Green.

"I'm not in talk-about-it mode," James said.

The Clippers and Lakers kick off the season on Tuesday, when the Raptors will launch their title defense -- and raise their championship banner -- in a game against the Pelicans.

The Clippers-Lakers matchup is the first of four games in the season between the Tinseltown rivals, who also feature in the star-studded Christmas slate.

In December, the league ventures south of the border with two games in Mexico, and league icon Michael Jordan's Charlotte Hornets take on reigning Most Valuable

Player Giannis Antetokounmpo of Greece and the Milwaukee Bucks at Paris in January.

However, the league that has painstakingly cultivated

overseas markets and welcomed a steadily increasing number of international players received a jolting reminder of the pitfalls of global growth on the eve of the season.

Commissioner Adam Silver admits he doesn't know "where we go from here" after lucrative Chinese sponsorship and telecast deals were left limbo after Houston Rockets executive Daryl Morey tweeted support for pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

- DURANT'S NETS DEBUT ON HOLD -

And not all of the marquee off-season moves will yield immediate dividends.

Durant won't suit up for the Brooklyn Nets this season as he continues his recovery from a ruptured Achilles tendon.

But with Kyrie Irving, who fled the Boston Celtics, and DeAndre Jordan, the Nets expect to contend.

"The league is wide open on both sides, East and West, so we want to take advantage of our opportunity," Brooklyn's Jordan said as training camp opened.

The Clippers will also be without one of their heralded new arrivals as the season starts, with George still recovering from off-season shoulder surgery.

George wasn't the only superstar to depart Oklahoma City, who traded 2017 MVP

Russell Westbrook to the Houston Rockets for point guard Paul George.

In Houston, Westbrook will be teaming up with 2018 MVP James Harden -- his former Thunder teammate who was traded to Houston in 2012.

"When you're that great of a basketball player, you just go out there and hoop," Harden said when asked about how the two star talents will mesh. "It's going to happen. It's going to be easy." Antetokounmpo figures to again play solo lead in Milwaukee, where he'll be fueled by the Bucks' inability to get the job done against the Raptors in the Eastern Conference finals last season.

The "Greek Freak," still just 24, heads into his seventh NBA season a bona fide superstar -- leading a team that many consider the top pick in the East.

That's a status 19-year-old Zion Williamson is expected to attain almost immediately.

Williamson, the high school standout who became a collegiate star before he was drafted number one overall by the Pelicans, burned through the pre-season, averaging 23.3 points in 27.3 minutes per game.

Only Antetokounmpo, Harden and Curry -- MVPs all -- scored at a higher clip during the exhibition season.

Andreas Pereira embodies Sol skjær's brave tactics for muscular United

JAMIE JACKSON
THEGUARDIAN

Manchester, 21 Oct: This is a result that may prove pivotal for Manchester United, Liverpool and Manchester City. For Ole Gunnar Sol skjær's team confidence is boosted after ending Jürgen Klopp's leaders perfect league record, while Pep Guardiola's champions look at the table and see the gap to Liverpool is six points.

Yet United's fourth draw of the season came close to going down as a memorable victory before Adam Lallana's late equaliser, the substitute sending the travelling support delirious. Their counterparts had enjoyed the same emotion for much of the match, half-time here being greeted by United players sprinting for the dressing room while Liverpool's slouched off. The differing body language was indicative of what had just unfolded.

Towards the end of the first half two VAR decisions went the way of United, to the chagrin of Klopp. If it was correct to rule that Sadio Mané had handled the ball before beating David de Gea, the decision that Victor Lindelöf's challenge on Divock Origi should not be enough to rule out Marcus Rashford's goal was closer.

Sol skjær and his men had earned the break, though. As United entered this 203rd show-



down between English football's great foes the prevailing question was: could the Norwegian conjure some magic to halt the Liverpool juggernaut. Liverpool's perfect eight wins had gathered them 24 points, with the fewest goals conceded in the division -- six. Against this, United's record was alarming: two wins, nine points, and a paltry nine goals to sit just above the drop zone.

The answer to the poser was clear. Sol skjær was not going to die wondering as his innovative 3-4-1-2 indicated. If De Gea's inclusion was a surprise -- his manager had said the goalkeeper was unavailable -- the fielding of a back three, maintained despite Axel Tuanzebe's injury in the warm-up,

was bold as this was its first use this season for United.

Andreas Pereira was deployed as the "1" in the formation, Sol skjær ordering him to operate behind Daniel James and Rashford and hassle Fabinho, Joël Matip and Virgil van Dijk whenever Liverpool had possession.

It worked. Pereira's role was United in microcosm: quick across the pitch, and muscular in the challenge. A moment midway through the opening half summed the ploy up.

Rashford engaged Van Dijk in a race down United's right. As the two reached the ball, the slighter Rashford bounced the Uefa player of the year to the turf, turned, and zipped the

ball infield. Liverpool scrambled and recovered but the narrative was set.

The script was possible because of many United players performing to their potential for the first time in a long time. Fred's inclusion in the XI is these days seen as a near shock because of his poor displays in his two years at the club. There is a view at Old Trafford that Alexis Sánchez's failure here derived from him lacking the nerve required to wear United colours.

Fred, too, could be accused of the same and this third consecutive start was only because of Paul Pogba's injury. This display, though, countered the notion. Whether in the tackle, passing, or taking up po-

sition, the Brazilian impressed.

As did Rashford. The finish from James's pinpoint cross was the No 10 at his best, for a first United goal since 14 September.

Klopp was an unhappy figure throughout, though. The second half had him continuing to berate Jonathan Moss, the fourth official, for perceived injustices. Yet the truth was that beyond the VAR controversy his side were being outplayed. Matip received a rollicking from the manager for poor awareness, followed up moments later by hooking a ball, Sunday League-style, into the heavens.

The sight of Klopp turning away from the game in disappointment had become a leitmotif of the afternoon. Andy Robertson invoked his ire by booting a pass straight out for a United throw. As Liverpool stared at a first league loss in more than 10 months, Klopp brought on Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain for Origi and shifted his side to a quasi 4-2-4 that had Jordan Henderson on the right.

To have Liverpool's one-paced captain as an auxiliary winger summed up the job United were doing on them. By the close Sol skjær's men could be disappointed but proud. What fascinates now are the implications of this result in the coming weeks.

Klopp hits out at VAR after United draw: 'This is an issue we have to discuss'



MANCHESTER, 21 OCT [THEGUARDIAN]: Jürgen Klopp railed at the VAR outcome over a "clear foul" in the buildup to Marcus Rashford's goal as Liverpool surrendered their 100% record in a 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Sunday.

The result cut Liverpool's lead over Manchester City at the top of the Premier League to six points. The draw prevented Klopp's side from matching City's record of 18 successive league wins and providing a welcome confidence boost for Ole Gunnar Sol skjær's side after a testing start to the season.

Klopp was left complaining about Martin Atkinson's decision not to award a foul on Divock Origi by the defender Victor Lindelöf just before Rashford gave United the lead in the 36th minute.

The VAR official David Coote, who saw his decision to award a goal for Aston Villa's Conor Hourihane against Brighton overturned by VAR the previous day, decided no foul had been committed.

"This is an issue we have to discuss," said the Liverpool manager. "The process [allows] the ref to make the decision or not because they have VAR. The ref thinks: 'Let it run -- we have VAR.' But then VAR says it can't be overruled be-

cause it was not clear. How can he say it's not a foul? I was 100% sure. I said, 'Wow.' I was not angry, I was surprised. I think everyone can agree it was a foul but with VAR it is not a clear foul. That is the situation.

"We didn't lose but it was an obvious foul. There was clear contact and Divock Origi goes down. They carried on and counterattacked. Yes, there is contact, I'm sure they said that but it is not a 'clear foul'. That doesn't work. That's just not how it should be."

Sol skjær took the opposing view when asked if it was an infringement. "No chance -- we're not playing basketball.

It's never a foul. I don't think Keano [Roy Keane] would say that's a foul. I thought the referee needs praising. It's not often we do that. He let it be a derby game, it wasn't like you couldn't touch anyone."

Sadio Mané looked to have equalised just before half-time but this time VAR disallowed the finish, with replays showing the forward clearly handled before scoring past David de Gea. Klopp had no problem with this decision and admitted he had been relieved to maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

"I didn't see it back but it was probably handball," he said of Mané's disallowed

goal. "We changed our formation and had these moments. Then we scored the goal [Adam Lallana's late equaliser] and was in charge of the game. The stadium was silent and people probably thought Liverpool would score but we take the point and move on."

Sol skjær fielded a 3-4-1-2 formation that wrested the initiative from Liverpool though Klopp claimed United were set up to defend first.

"We were good enough for a point," he said. "We gave Man United an opportunity to play the way they wanted to play with five at the back. They were hard-working. Our orientation wasn't good enough.

We felt under pressure when we weren't and could have turned inside at some opportunities.

"We always play against the wall. We need to do better but it is how it is. I don't think Man Utd can play like this if the other team doesn't have the ball as much. We play very often against a team like this. Maybe we can do better. One point is completely fine."

Sol skjær disagreed again. "We set the team up to attack and be aggressive and create chances and we did that," he said. "It depends on what you call a counterattack. We're better when we attack quickly, no dilly-dallying, [it] doesn't have to be a counterattack."

"I spoke about it before the game -- take more risks, be braver -- it's the right type of football, and being more direct helped us."

This was, though, a 21st time in the last 24 outings United had scored only once. "Getting the second goal [is what we have to do]," said Sol skjær. "We had two or three great opportunities to score, we soaked up the pressure well but didn't create enough ourselves and that's the next level. We're not excited about getting a point against a good team."

Sindhu looks to snap run of early exits at French Open

PARIS, OCT 21 (PTI): World champion PV Sindhu would look to snap her recent run of early exits when she begins her women's singles campaign at the USD 750,000 French Open badminton tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

Since claiming her maiden World Championships title in August, Sindhu has looked awfully out-of-form as she had failed to cross the second round in three tournaments.

She faltered in the second and first rounds at the China Open and Korea Open respectively last month. Sindhu again exited in the second round in straight games against Korea's An Se Young in Denmark Open last week.

The Olympic silver medalist looked a tad slow in her movement in the last three tournaments, showing signs of dip in her form.

Seeded fifth in the tournament, Sindhu, a 2017 semifinalist, will be up against Canada's world number 9 Michelle Li, who has beaten the Indian in the past twice.

If Sindhu gets past the early rounds, the world number 6 Indian is likely to face top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals.

World number 8 Saina Nehwal, who is also taking part in this BWF World Tour Super 750 event, has also been struggling with her fitness and has made three first-round exits in her last three tournaments.

The 29-year-old, who had finished runner-up at the 2012 edition, will meet Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi in the opening round.

In the men's singles, 2017 champion Kidambi Srikanth too will be desperate to turn around his poor run in form when he steps out at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin here.

However, it will not be an easy outing for the world number 9 Indian as he opens his campaign against second seed Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap, who reached the semifinals at India Open and Korea Open, would look to prove that the first-round exit last week at Denmark Open was an aberration when he lock horns with Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus.

Sameer Verma, who had reached the semifinals of the World Tour Finals last December, will meet Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in the opening round.

World number 12 B Sai Pranee, who had claimed a bronze at the World Championships, will once again face the legendary Lin Dan of China in the opening round.

A 2017 Singapore Open winner, Pranee had beaten the two-time Olympic champion Chinese at Denmark Open last week.

In the doubles, the women's pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will square off against fifth seeded Korean duo of Lee So Hee and Shin Seung Chan.

Pound shrugs off Johnson's latest Brexit setback

TOKYO, Oct 21 (AFP): Sterling fell modestly as trading resumed Monday following British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's latest failure to break the Brexit deadlock, with forex markets shrugging off a weekend of drama in the British parliament.

The currency was down 0.55 percent to US 1.2913 at around 0000GMT, holding relatively steady for a currency that has been on a rollercoaster over the past month.

"The fact Sterling has proven surprisingly resilient... buttresses well for risk sentiment," wrote Stephen Innes, Asia Pacific market strategist at AxiTrader, in a commentary.

All eyes were on the pound after the House of Commons sat on Saturday to consider Johnson's EU divorce deal in a vote that was seen as a potential turning point in the long-running Brexit saga.

Instead of delivering a verdict on the deal itself, lawmakers voted to force Johnson to ask the European Union for another Brexit delay, hoping to prevent the country crashing out of the bloc on October 31 with no agreement in place.

Johnson reluctantly agreed, although the EU is yet to respond to the request and Britain's conservative government insists it is still committed to exiting by month's end.

It meant that instead of decisive developments over the weekend, the market was still waiting to see how the situation would play out, Shinichiro Kadota, exchange strategist at Barclays Securities in Japan told AFP.

"There had been hopes late last week that this issue would finally see a settlement. But now it's been shelved," he said.

"The pound rallied to close to 1.30 from 1.22... We can say it is holding firm, which shows hopes (for avoiding no-deal Brexit) have not been dashed."

Rodrigo Catril, a senior forex strategist at National Australia Bank said the market was not in "wait-and-see mode." "We saw the pound lose a little bit of ground, but from the perspective of what it's gained over the past week, that's really minimal," he told AFP.

Catril said it appeared a deal would be done before October 31 but a great deal of uncertainty remained, including the possibility of a "confirmatory vote", or second Brexit referendum.

"Based on commentary overnight, there seems to be a fair bit of support rising for Boris Johnson to get the deal done, but details are what matter," he said.

"There's still the potential for a confirmatory vote and the potential for further amendments." He said sterling had the potential to rise if Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab's claim that the UK government had the numbers to push through Johnson's deal proved correct.

Canada elects Parliament in vote seen as threat to Trudeau

TORONTO, Oct 21 (AP): Canadians are electing a new Parliament on Monday after a tight election campaign that has raised the threat of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau being knocked from power after one term.

The 47-year-old Trudeau channeled the star power of his father, the liberal icon and late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, when he won in 2015 but a combination of scandal and high expectations have damaged his prospects.

Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberal Party could lose to the rival Conservatives, or perhaps win but still fail to get a majority of seats in Parliament and have to rely on an opposition party to remain in power.

Not in 84 years has a first-term Canadian prime minister with a parliamentary majority lost a bid for re-election.

Trudeau reasserted liberalism in 2015 after almost 10 years of Conservative Party government in Canada, but he is one of the few remaining progressive leaders in



the world.

He has been viewed as a beacon for liberals in the Trump era, even appearing on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine under the headline "Why Can't He Be Our President?" Perhaps sensing Trudeau is in trouble, Barack Obama made an unprecedented endorsement by a former American president in urging Canadians to re-elect Trudeau and saying the world needs his progressive leadership now.

But old photos of Trudeau in blackface and brownface surfaced last

month, casting doubt on his judgment.

Trudeau also was hurt by a scandal that erupted this year when his former attorney general said he pressured her to halt the prosecution of a Quebec company. Trudeau has said he was standing up for jobs, but the damage gave a boost to the Conservative Party led by Andrew Scheer.

No party is expected to get a majority of Parliament's 338 seats, so a shaky alliance may be needed to

pass legislation.

If Conservatives should win the most seats but not a majority they would probably try to form a government with the backing of Quebec's separatist Bloc Quebecois party. Trudeau's Liberals would likely rely on the New Democrats to stay in power.

Scheer is a career politician described by those in his own party as bland, a possible antidote for those tired of Trudeau's flash. Scheer, 40, calls Trudeau a phony who can't even recall

how many times he has worn blackface.

Jason Kenney, Alberta's premier and a close friend of Scheer, calls the Conservative leader "an extremely normal Canadian" who is so nice he "can't fake being mean." Scheer, however, has so relentlessly attacked Trudeau that Nik Nanos, a Canadian pollster, said he hasn't been himself.

"Scheer has been hostage to the message," Nanos said. "His campaign has made him into an attack machine."

Conservative supporters chanted "Lock him up! Lock him up!" at a rally Saturday after Scheer said he would investigate Trudeau's attorney general scandal mirroring the Hillary Clinton "Lock her up!" chant popular at Donald Trump rallies.

Scheer moved to calm the crowd and changed the chant to "Vote him out." Trudeau embraced

immigration at a time when the US and other countries are closing their doors, and he legalized cannabis nationwide.

Morales narrowly wins first round in Bolivia election, faces run-off

Evo Morales, seeking a controversial fourth term, led Bolivia's presidential election race Sunday but faces a historic second round run-off against opposition rival Carlos Mesa, partial results showed.

Morales had 45 percent of the vote to Mesa's 38 percent, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal announced, with most of the votes counted.

Elected Bolivia's first indigenous president in 2005, Morales has won his previous elections in the first round, never having to contest a run-off.

The former coca farmer and leftist union leader has led the poor but resource-rich Latin American country for the past 13 years, though his popularity has waned amid allegations of corruption and authoritarianism. He will face a stiff challenge from Mesa, a 66-year-old former president who led Bolivia from 2001-2005.

Mesa celebrated "an unquestionable triumph" in getting to the second round, amid cheers from his supporters at his La Paz headquarters.

Morales welcomed his first-round win, telling cheering crowds "we have won again, really, it is something historical, unforgettable".

South Korean-born evangelical pastor, Chi Hyun Chung, was the surprise package of the election, polling strongly to finish in third place with 8.7 percent.

His support is likely to be influential during campaigning for the second round on December 15.

- Controversial fourth term -

Morales obtained Constitutional Court permission in 2017 to run again for president even though the constitution allows only two consecutive terms.

A new mandate would keep him in power until 2025.

"Any party, no matter how good it is, if it stays in place for too long, it is corrupt, that's what we're going through," said 22-year-old student Tania Villaroel Lopez as she joined a line of voters near the presidential palace in La Paz.

Roberto Fernandez, 32, came with his wife Denise and their two-year-old daughter to

vote at the same place. They said they feared the result of the elections would be manipulated.

"We hope the end result will be respected," Fernandez said.

Milton Quispe, a student, said he would vote for "Evo, because he has taken care of the poor. He has known how to give us dignity."

Bolivia's seven million eligible voters also cast ballots to choose members of the 166-seat congress -- 36 senators and 130 deputies.

After voting in his coca-growing district of Chapare, Morales, a member of the Aymara indigenous community, said he was optimistic about his chances and confident in Bolivia's democracy.

- Opposition distrust -

Mesa said he feared a rigged election after he voted in La Paz. "I don't trust in the transparency of the process, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has demonstrated that it's an operative arm of the government. We have a very high level of distrust," he told reporters.

Mesa lambasted what he said was Morales' powerful grip on key organs of state in a meeting with observers from the Organization of American States last week.

As leader of his Movement for Socialism Party (MAS), Morales points to a decade of economic stability and considerable industrialization as his achievements, while insisting he has brought "dignity" to Bolivia's indigenous population, the largest in Latin America.

But he stands accused of corruption, and many voters are enraged at his refusal to step aside even though the South American country's constitution bars him from running again.

"Power has replaced policies aimed at the whole population by others that only serve the interests of certain sectors," political commentator Maria Teresa Zegada told AFP.

"Opposition leaders have been persecuted, all of which has caused citizens unease and given the impression that democracy was in danger."

Bolivia's 2009 constitution, promulgated by Morales himself, limits a president to two consecutive terms of office.

Chile extends state of emergency as protest death toll hits seven

Chile is "at war", President Sebastian Pinera said Sunday, as the country reels from three days of violent demonstrations and looting that have left seven dead and almost 1,500 detained in the worst outbreak of social unrest in decades.

"We are at war against a powerful, implacable enemy, who does not respect anything or anyone and is willing to use violence and crime without any limits," Pinera told reporters after an emergency meeting with army general Javier Iturriaga, who has been placed in charge of order and security in the capital.

Santiago and nine other of Chile's 16 regions were under a state of emergency, Pinera confirmed late Sunday, with troops deployed onto the streets for the first time since Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship between 1973-1990.

The clashes, which have seen some 9,500 police and military fire tear gas and water cannon against protesters who have set fire to buses, smashed up metro stations and ransacked shops, were sparked by anger over price hikes and social inequality.

Despite a growth rate that should reach 2.5 percent of GDP this year, several social indicators -- such as health, education and pensions -- show very high inequalities.

"Many latent requests have not been answered,



tension has built up, frustration has increased daily in daily life," said Octavio Avendano, a sociologist and political scientist at the University of Chile.

This anger boiled over earlier in the week as a protest against a rise in metro fares escalated dramatically on Friday.

On Sunday, five people died when a garment factory was torched by rioters in a Santiago suburb, despite right-wing Pinera's Saturday announcement that he was suspending the fare increase.

Earlier, Interior and Security Minister Andres Chadwick said two women burned to death after a store owned by US retail chain Walmart was set alight in the early hours of Sunday.

Another victim, who authorities initially said had died in hospital, suffered burns on 75 percent of her body.

Almost all public transport was paralyzed

in Santiago on Sunday, with shops shuttered and many flights cancelled at the international airport, leaving thousands of people stranded due to a curfew imposed from 7:00 pm until dawn.

- 'Listen to the people' -

Authorities reported 103 serious incidents throughout the country with 1,462 people detained -- 614 in Santiago and 848 in the rest of the country.

"It's really sad what's happening, but the people are outraged because they're not being listened to," 26-year-old Antonia told AFP in central Santiago.

Several international Chilean football players have also asked leaders in their country to "listen to the people" and to find solutions.

"I pray that my beloved Chile will be better," Chilean star Arturo Vidal, the Barcelona midfielder, wrote on Sunday

night.

On Friday, the headquarters of the ENEL Chile power company and a Banco Chile branch -- both in the center of Santiago -- were set on fire and heavily damaged.

Dozens of protesters torched a building belonging to Chile's oldest newspaper, El Mercurio, in Valparaiso on Saturday evening, while elsewhere a metro station, supermarkets and other stores were set on fire.

- Social tensions erupt -

Santiago's metro system -- South America's largest and most modern and used by around three million people a day -- was shut down on Friday as protesters burned and vandalized stations.

Louis de Grange, president of the state Metro S.A. company, told Canal 13 the "brutal destruction" of the service had caused more than \$300 million in damage.

fensive as necessary to secure its borders.

A US-brokered ceasefire was announced late Thursday, giving Kurdish forces until Tuesday evening to withdraw from a buffer area Ankara wants to create inside Syrian territory along its southern frontier.

Turkish offensive violates international law: German FM

BERLIN, Oct 21 (AFP): Turkey's offensive in northeastern Syria falls foul of international law, Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Sunday.

"We don't believe that an attack on Kurdish units or Kurdish militia is legitimate under interna-

tional law," Heiko Maas told Germany broadcaster ZDF.

"If there is no basis in international law for such an invasion, then it can't be in accordance with international law," he said, in his strongest comments yet on the assault.

Ankara launched a cross-border attack against Syria's Kurds on October 9 after the United States announced a military pullout from the north of the war-torn country, to widespread international criticism.

NATO member Turkey has justified the of-

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Halsey's Amazing Longevity On The Hot 100 Helps Her Make History

On this chart week's Hot 100 singles ranking, Halsey claims a pair of spots with her own single "Graveyard" (No. 44) and a Post Malone cut she's featured on, "Die For Me" (No. 94), and while that's a sure sign of her popularity, there is one beloved track that is noticeably missing.

The pop singer's smash "Without Me" is no longer present on the Hot 100, even though it was comfortable at No. 33 last time around. The tune has been removed from the list after a full year of charting in accordance with Billboard's rules that a track must be taken off the tally after 52 weeks, unless it ranks above a certain position.

Having a single removed by Billboard ("Without Me" goes to a recurrent list, which was specifically installed when that rule was unveiled) must be bittersweet, as it begins to fade from popularity once it's off the closely-watched chart, though having any piece of music live on the Hot 100 for a year is a true honor. For Halsey, this latest removal is oddly special, as it's something she's experienced more than once.

"Without Me" is Halsey's third single to be taken off the Hot 100 by Billboard, and she appears to be the only woman to see this happen to three of her songs. She first experienced this odd form of recognition with her collaboration with The Chainsmokers, "Closer." The massive dance-pop tune ruled the list for a dozen frames, and it continued to live on until it



suddenly disappeared in 2017.

Halsey's second single to be pushed off the Hot 100 after a year of chart success was the cut she worked on with super producer Benny Blanco and singer-songwriter Khalid, "East-side." Interestingly, that track peaked at No. 9, and it only managed a very short stay inside the top 10...but it ended up finding space on the chart for a full year.

Now, "Without Me" ends a highly productive run on the tally that included just one turn at the top, and it leaves the Hot 100 having made its mark and proven that Halsey is fast becoming one of the most successful names in pop.

Duchess of Sussex calls 1st year of marriage difficult



LONDON (AP) — The Duchess of Sussex says her first year of marriage to Britain's Prince Harry has been hard because of Britain's tabloids.

The former Meghan Markle tells ITV news that her British friends warned her not to marry the prince "because the British tabloids will destroy your life."

The former U.S. television star says she "naively" dismissed the warnings, because as an American she didn't understand how the British press worked.

She says "I didn't get it so, yeah, it's been complicated."

The duchess earlier this month sued the Mail on Sunday tabloid, claiming it illegally published a letter she wrote to her father.

Prince Harry tells ITV says most of what's printed in the British tabloids is not true, adding "I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed my mum."

Farooq Abdullah has a quiet birthday

SRINAGAR, OCT 21 (PTI): It was a quiet birthday for Lok Sabha parliamentarian and three-time chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Farooq Abdullah, who is detained under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), as he turned 82 on Monday.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was among the first ones to greet Abdullah, who continues to remain confined to his house.

"Birthday wishes to Farooq Abdullah Ji. These are difficult times for you. We stand by you. Please stay positive. We pray for your good health @OmarAbdullah," she posted on twitter.

Abdullah was wished by his wife Molly and daughter Safia who were permitted to see him on Monday.

The former chief minister has been detained along with other political leaders of the state since the Union government abrogated Article 370 on August 5.

Kanye West says Jesus Is King is coming this week



Kanye West has revealed a new release date for his Jesus Is King album. The rapper tweeted on Sunday that he will release the record on Friday, October 25. This date coincides with the release of a documentary film charting the recording of the album in IMAX cinemas.

Jesus Is King was first scheduled for release on September 27. That date was pushed back by two days but the album re-

mained unreleased. West held listening sessions for the album and has continued to host his Sunday Services in the interim period. The most recent Sunday Service took place in Kingston, Jamaica this past weekend.

In the gap between Kanye's original release date and now another unreleased album of his, Yandhi, emerged on iTunes as a series of ringtones. The album was subsequently removed from the service.

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GAME ON! The Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton plays a game of cricket while visiting SOS Children's Village in Lahore, Pakistan.

Terminator: Dark Fate first reactions from surprise fan screenings



Terminator fans from around the country were surprised when screenings of Terminator 2: Judgment Day turned out to secretly be a screening of the upcoming film in the franchise, Terminator: Dark Fate. Most of the comments were positive, with several comparing the film to the 2015 Star Wars franchise revival The Force Awakens.

Alamo Drafthouse orchestrated the surprise at 15 theaters, complete with an introduction by Linda Hamilton (who reprises her iconic role as survivalist Sarah Connor) and Arnold Schwarzenegger (as the nearly unstoppable cyborg T-800). The film also returns franchise creator James Cameron to the team as an executive producer and adds Mackenzie Davis (Halt and Catch Fire) as a new style of terminator.

Aries: The Universe gives us not what we want, but what we need. Food for thought, Aries. You may feel like your heart is falling apart. Truth is, she's coming together, becoming stronger and more resilient with each breath you take. Let this breakdown be a breakthrough in your journey, one that teaches you the importance of self-love and takes you closer to the light. Remember, the present is where the magic is at. Release the bonds of a life long gone by.

Taurus: This is a period of transition for you, Taurus. Your cheat code to survival: accept that you are being guided by a higher power. A seed germinates only when it is pushed deep under the ground. The phoenix rises from its own ashes. In the same way, this destruction is paving the way for your rebirth. Embrace the change.

Gemini: Often, we tend to be our own worst enemies. If you're feeling stuck and at the mercy of your circumstances, you are the reason for it. But this conversation isn't about beating yourself on what happened. It's about learning from

your past mistakes and reclaiming the reins. Make an empowered decision to change the course of your life.

Cancer: Patience is the virtue of the wise, Cancer, one that's being bestowed upon you today. The Universe is asking you to hit pause so that you can reflect on how far you have come and where you have to go from here. Keeping account of your progress will motivate you further. Trust your instincts when it comes to business matters. If you are unsure of yourself, take your time to figure things out.

Tip: Reflect before taking any action.

Leo: Having the right people walking by your side promises to be your biggest asset, both personally and professionally. Curate a circle that inspires you and supports your growth. Leo, this is the week to make magick with your good vibes tribe. Dissatisfied with your current work environment? Be a harbinger of change. When you vibrate at the frequency of love, so will those who interact with you. Some of you may be thinking about starting a venture with a sibling or an old friend. If you feel like there is

mutual understanding between the two of you, the answer is yes.

Virgo: There are endless forces working in your favour, Virgo. All you have to do is keep faith. The wheel is on the verge of completing its current cycle and starting a brand new one. In other words, all the work that was stuck will now move towards the finish line in fast forward. This is also a period of rewards, as the hard work you have put in is bearing fruit. Review your progress and set intentions for the next cycle today.

Libra: If you constantly think about a yellow car, you are bound to notice only yellow cars. Similarly, if you only think about what you don't have, you will only see things that support this belief. It's time to change your perception drastically. An Abraham Hicks' favourite to help you make space for the good things to pour in:

Scorpio: It's a good thing to be this invested in what you are creating. However, if you want to get ahead in the game, you're going to have to adopt a

level-headed approach. Know when to keep your emotions out of the workspace, Scorpio. For some of you, this may be a time of syncing forces with a loved one. Be cognisant of the wisdom they have to share. You don't have to apply all of it to your business, just the bits that resonate.

Sagittarius: An array of opportunities are being offered to you, ones that resonate with you on a deep level. The key to moving forward with grace: finding a balance between the head and the heart. The best decisions are made when you are in a neutral space. Some of you may also have the opportunity to sync forces with somebody who shares your vision, and is just as invested in the project. Be receptive to what they have to say and apply the bits that will help grow your business.

Capricorn: If you wake up to tidings that have you grinning from ear to ear, you have your stars to blame. That and the work you have consistently been putting in to move the energy and clear the blocks. This week also brings with

itself the opportunity to work with your good vibe tribe. People who support your vision and want to see the project flourish. Your task in the days to come:

Aquarius: Our perception colours our reality. If your world is rife with disappointment, there's a good chance you're choosing to look at the cup as half empty. What you want to do instead: weigh the blessings. This will help you realise that you are living a charmed life. As for your personal relationships, remember that there's little you can do to change people or influence their thought patterns.

Pisces: The situation you have found yourself in is not an easy one. Only you can answer the question 'which way to go from here?' To simplify the process, make a list of pros and cons and then throw the sheet away so you can listen to your heart. This is the key to moving forward with dignity and grace. Remember, you are not harming anybody in the bargain. You are simply choosing yourself. Release the guilt.