

**OPINION 8**  
DON'T POLITICISE FORCES

**WORLD 12**  
UK MPS SEIZE CONTROL OF BREXIT PROCESS FROM MAY

**AVENUES 13**  
MBA IN AGRIBUSINESS LUCRATIVE

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## BJP pits Jaya Prada against Azam

Maneka, Varun swap seats in BJP's 9th list; Manoj Sinha picked for Ghazipur; Murl Manohar Joshi dropped

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Noted film actor of yesterday and former MP Jaya Prada joined the BJP on Tuesday and will take on Samajwadi Party's Muslim face Azam Khan in Rampur, while Maneka Gandhi and her son, Varun Gandhi, swapped their seats of Pilibhit and Sultanpur as per the ninth list of the BJP released on Tuesday.

Union Minister Manoj Sinha has been fielded from Ghazipur, Rita Bahuguna from Allahabad, State BJP president Mahendra Nath Pandey from Chandauli, and Jagdambika Pal from Doomariyaganj.

BJP's ninth list which has 29 candidates from Uttar Pradesh (and 10 from West Bengal) repeats many of the current MPs, including BJP's Kisan Morcha head Virendra Singh Mast (Ballia), Harish Dwivedi (Basti), Kirtwardhan Singh (Gonda), Pankaj Choudhary (Maharajganj), Vijay Dube (Kushinagar), Kamleshwar Paswan (Bansgaon SC), Ravindra Kushwaha (Salempur), Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti (Fatehpur), Lallu Singh (Faizabad), Daddan Mishra (Shawasti), and Brijbhushan Sharan Singh (Kaiserganj).

The Rampur contest has the potential to be bitter and intense since both Jaya Prada and Azam Khan are arch rivals. Jaya Prada had at one time accused Khan of circulating scurrilous video purportedly featuring her in Rampur.



Veteran actor and former MP Jaya Prada touches the floor before stepping on the dais as she arrives to join the BJP, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Rampur has the highest concentration of Muslims in entire UP. Muslims are over 50 per cent of the total voters in the constituency. Riding the Modi wave, BJP's Nepal Singh had won from there in 2014.

A two-term Lok Sabha member from the SP, Jaya Prada is a close associate of

Rajya Sabha member Amar Singh, who was expelled from the SP and has since come close to the BJP.

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaya Prada described him as a "brave" leader in whose hands the country is "safe".

Noting that she started her

political journey with the TDP and was its Rajya Sabha member before joining the SP and being elected to Lok Sabha from Rampur, Jaya Prada told reporters that joining the BJP is a "significant" moment in her life and she would now work dedicatedly for the saffron party.

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- BJP chooses Rita Bahuguna for Allahabad, State BJP president Mahendra Nath Pandey for Chandauli, Jagdambika Pal for Doomariyaganj Lok Sabha seats
- The ninth list, which has 29 candidates from Uttar Pradesh (and 10 from West Bengal) repeats many of the sitting MPs
- Maneka has been shifted to Sultanpur from her current constituency of Pilibhit, while her son, Varun Gandhi will fight from Pilibhit

## BJP asked me not to contest LS polls: Joshi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Veteran BJP leader Murl Manohar Joshi on Tuesday said he has been asked by the party not to contest the polls. Within hours, BJP nominated Khadi and Gramodyog Minister in Yogi Government Satyadeo Pachauri from Joshi's Kanpur seat.

In a statement, Joshi said the party general secretary (organisation) Ram Lal has asked him not to contest the LS poll. The statement was released for the voters of Kanpur, from where Joshi had won in 2014 by getting 57 per cent of the vote.

Joshi heads Parliament's Estimates Committee and some of its observations, including on jobs, the GDP and non-performing assets, recent-



ly embarrassed the Union Government.

Earlier, another senior party leader from UP Kalraj Mishra had announced not to contest the elections from his Deoria seat.

Later in the day, the BJP released the list declaring Pachauri as party's candidate from Kanpur

Defending the party's decision of denying ticket to Joshi, UP Minister Sidharthanath Singh said, "He is our founder member and the party respects him in the team of mardarshak mandal. It is an internal matter of the party."

## Nishad Party, 2 OBC outfits join SP-BSP alliance



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad and Janwadi Party (Socialist) president Sanjay Singh Chauhan during a joint Press conference at the SP office in Lucknow on Tuesday

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

### Akhilesh's effort appears to be aimed at stitching a caste arithmetic

With an attempt to counter the influence of the BJP, the Samajwadi Party on Tuesday inducted three more OBC-dominated political outfits in the SP-BSP-RID alliance.

The three OBC political parties are Janwadi Party (Socialist), Rashtriya Samanta Dal and the Nishad Party. These small parties have pockets of influence among their respective communities in eastern UP.

"I congratulate the three parties on joining the alliance," said Akhilesh Yadav at a Press conference here on Tuesday to announce the expansion of the alliance that had started with a tie-up between Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party and later included Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Lok Dal.

Akhilesh's effort appears to be aimed at stitching a caste arithmetic under the SP-BSP combination — Nishad, Dalit, Muslim, Yadav and non-Yadav

backward communities. Headed by Sanjay Singh Chauhan, the Janwadi Party Socialist Party has a strong hold among the Chauhan community, an extremely backward caste of the OBC category, which has a considerable presence across eastern UP.

The Nishad Party had played a key role in the Opposition's success in the Gorakhpur by-elections in March 2018 which became the template for Opposition unity and eventually persuaded two rivals, Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati, to team up. Praveen Kumar Nishad, the Opposition candidate who defeated the BJP in Gorakhpur, is the son of Nishad Party chief.

Continued on Page 4

## Sheila plans Aay Pe Charcha to take Nyay to Delhiites' doors



CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

In its bid to have a direct interaction with the voters in national Capital for Lok Sabha polls, Delhi Congress headed by Sheila Dikshit has planned to launch "Aay Pe Charcha" (discussion on income) from April 1 to generate awareness among people about benefits of the "historic" minimum income guarantee scheme announced by party president Rahul Gandhi on Monday.

Termining the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (Nyay) announcement as an "extraordinary step", Sheila said this is the biggest scheme announced ever for the poor after the highly successful MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act).

"This stupendous scheme will benefit the people below the poverty line in the country. It is the first time that such a step has been taken in the world," said Sheila, adding that it will empower the poorest in the country.

Hitting out at the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), Sheila said it is strange that the BJP



Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Sheila Dikshit during a Press conference at DPCC office in New Delhi on Tuesday

Government which has coined "hollow" slogans such as "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and "Aachhe Din" seems to be rattled by the announcement.

Sheila said the Congress will implement the scheme for five crore poor families in the country after it forms the next

Government in the country. "The formalities (of the scheme) will be worked out after Congress forms the Government and implements it," she said.

Brushing aside accusations of the BJP that the scheme will put a heavy burden on the

economy of the country and it would not be practical to implement the scheme, Sheila said, "The party has taken all possibilities into consideration for the successful implementation of the scheme, it would be implemented without delay."

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## Chowkidar pure hai, dobara PM banna sure hai: Rajnath

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chowkidar chor nahi, chowkidar pure hai. Chowkidar ka dobara PM banna sure hai. Desh ki samasyaon ka wo hi cure hai. (Watchman is not a thief, but he is pure. Watchman is all set to become PM again. He is cure to country's problems), said Union Home Minister Raj Nath Singh while addressing an election rally titled "Vijay Sankalp Sabha" in Delhi's Yamuna Vihar on Tuesday.

Singh's response was aimed at blunting the often repeated allegations of Congress president Rahul Gandhi "Chowkidar chor hai" to hit out at the Prime Minister over alleged corruption in the Rafale deal. Attacking the Congress for levelling false allegations of corruption on Modi regarding the Rafale deal, Singh asked, "For whom will our Prime Minister take money?"



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh being felicitated by Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari after the inauguration of BJP North-East District office in New Delhi on Tuesday

## Ravi Shankar shown black flags by RK Sinha loyalists

PTI ■ PATNA

On his first visit to the city after being declared the BJP candidate for Patna Sahib, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was on Tuesday shown black flags by supporters of RK Sinha, a Rajya Sabha MP, leading to a clash with party workers who had gathered at the airport to welcome Prasad.

RK Sinha was hopeful of BJP ticket for the seat. Prasad drove away while telling the media, "I thank my party for considering me for this great responsibility. I will be giving my best shot. Good governance will help Narendra Modi return to power."

Continued on Page 4

### CAPSULE

**2 CHILDREN DIE IN SHOP BLAZE IN JAMIA NAGAR**  
New Delhi: Two minors died in a fire which broke out in a furniture shop at Jamia Nagar's Abu Fazal Enclave in southeast Delhi, police said on Tuesday. A six-year-old boy and seven-year-old girl died in the blaze.

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## ₹133 cr narcotics on way to buy votes seized

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the countdown for 2019 Lok Sabha polls begin, a highly disturbing trend of the use of drugs and narcotics, besides liquor, to woo voters has come to light. The Election Commission (EC) has seized 2,420.15 kg of narcotics worth ₹133 crore across the country. The EC has seized cash, illegal liquor, drugs, gold and freebies worth about ₹562.39 crore across the country since the poll schedule was announced a fortnight ago.

The biggest haul of the EC's seizure of drugs and narcotics stood at 1,160 kg in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Jharkhand at 657.7 kg, and Madhya Pradesh 282.406 kg. According to EC, it has seized 172 kg of narcotics from Karnataka, 84.30 kg from Punjab, 36.06 kg from Maharashtra, and 21 kg from

Nagaland. As per reports, from heroin, opium, to brown sugar and anti-depressants drugs and narcotic substances are being supplied to influence voters. During the election to five State Assemblies last year, the EC had seized drugs and narcotics worth ₹17 crore which include brown sugar, smack, opium, ganja, cocaine, denatonium benzoate, methamphetamine, heroin, tablets of anti-depressants Alprazolam and Tramadol. As per data updated till March 25, a total of ₹157.37 crore cash, ₹93.64 crore worth of liquor, ₹133.86 crore drugs, gold and other precious metals worth ₹169.36 crore, and other freebies worth ₹12.70 crore have been seized. Karnataka saw the total seizure of inducements and cash worth ₹26.53 crore, Maharashtra ₹19.11 crore and Telangana ₹8.2 crore.



- The Election Commission (EC) has seized 2,420.15 kg of drug and narcotics worth Rs 133 crore across the country
- EC has seized 172 kg of drug and narcotics from Karnataka; 84.30 kg from Punjab; 36.06 kg from Maharashtra and 21 kg from Nagaland
- As per reports, from heroin, opium, to brown sugar and anti-depressants drugs and narcotic substances are being supplied to woo voters

Interestingly, in Gujarat, a dry State, EC has confiscated 1.74 lakh litre of liquor worth ₹4.77 crore till date. Compare this to Bihar, another State with alcohol prohibition, where liquor worth ₹20 lakh has been seized. Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim have

recorded lowest seizures (less than ₹1 crore) till date. In North-East region, the enforcement team has seized more than ₹1.50 crore in cash on Tuesday. The seven phase polls will begin from April 11 and the counting of votes will take place on May 23.



# Minister, others booked for attacking cop

**Irate crowd allegedly manhandles police officer**

PNS ■ KASHIPUR

The police lodged a case against State Education and Sports Minister Arvind Pandey and 18 other persons named in the case besides more than 100 unnamed persons after the Kundeshwari police post in-charge was allegedly manhandled. The incident occurred in presence of the Cabinet Minister when those involved in the mining and transport business protested against the police after four vehicles transporting quarried materials were seized.

According to sources, a large crowd of people aggravated after the police seized the vehicles congregated at the Kundeshwari police post. Some of them reportedly not only verbally abused the police post in-charge but also manhandled him. The police officer had to lock himself in a room for protection from the crowd. The situation improved after senior police officers reached the site. The high voltage drama of those involved in the mining business in the presence of the cabinet minister continued for

about half an hour.

It is pertinent to mention here that some time ago, on allegations of illegal collection, the senior superintendent of police, Barinderjit Singh had reverted the Kundeshwari police post in-charge to the police line. Arjun Giri Goswami was then posted as the in-charge of this police post. However, those involved in the mining business have been alleging that the police have been acting autocratically in the area. Vehicles are being seized without proper grounds and people are being manhandled, they further alleged. Irked at this, the members of the mining business fraternity congregated on Tuesday and held a meeting in which they expressed their objection to the functioning of the police.

From here, they along with the cabinet minister Arvind



Pande, walked to the Kundeshwari police post. They reportedly became angry on sighting Goswami and in the presence of the cabinet minister also resorted to manhandling the police officer. The sub-inspector managed to lock himself up in a small room to protect himself from the irate crowd. He did not come out of the room until senior police officers also reached the site.

While the education minister expressed dissatisfaction at the functioning of the police post in-charge, the senior officers assured that this would be probed into.

Talking to this correspondent on the phone, the additional superintendent of police, Jagdish Chandra said that based on CCTV footage, a case had been registered against 19 persons including

the cabinet minister and 100 other unnamed persons for obstructing government work, violating model code of conduct and section 144. Four persons have also been arrested under various sections by the police. Meanwhile, those involved in the mining and transport business are planning to protest against the police on Wednesday.

# HC gives State time in PIL on industrial pollution

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Hearing on a public interest litigation against factories in the State not meeting standards of the Central Pollution Control Board, the High Court of Uttarakhand set April 3 as the next date for hearing the case. The case came up for hearing before the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice NS Dhanik on Tuesday. During the hearing, it was stated on behalf of the government that the Pollution Control Board had so far identified 130 factories not following the standards and had also issued notices for closure of the said factories.

However, due to the state administration presently being busy with the Lok Sabha election, further action could not be taken in this case. On this ground, time was sought by the state. In the past, the court had asked the central pollution control board to provide a list of all factories in the state in which it was also stated that a number of factories in the state were not meeting the standards set by the pollution control board. Based on this report, the state government had been directed to take action.

It is pertinent to mention here that Udham Singh Nagar district resident Himanshu Chandola had filed a public interest litigation in the high court stating that there were about 27 such industrial units in Udham Singh Nagar that were causing air and water pollution which had also caused the death of some persons from serious ailment in the area. It had also been stated in the petition that due to the pollution being spread by the industrial units, agricultural land in the affected area had been rendered unfit for farming.

# HC issues notice to Doon Uni V-C

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Hearing on a petition challenging appointment of CS Nautiyal to the post of Doon University vice-chancellor, the High Court has issued a notice to him and also directed the State Government, University Grants Commission and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to respond in three weeks.

According to the case details, retired lecturer Yagyadatt Sharma had filed a petition in the high court challenging the appointment of Nautiyal to the post of the university vice chancellor. The petitioner has alleged that Nautiyal had secured the post on the basis of wrong facts in his bio-data.

It has been contended in the petition that Nautiyal does not have 10 years teaching experience, is not eligible for the post of vice chancellor and that the CSIR had not passed any order in his favour. The committee that had selected Nautiyal for the post itself does not fulfill the regulations, the petitioner has averred.

After hearing on the petition, the division bench headed by the chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan issued a notice to the Doon University vice chancellor while also directing the state government, UGC and CSIR to respond within three weeks. The petition will be taken up for hearing next after three weeks.

# Guv flags off Everest mission of Amisha



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya flagged off the mountaineer Amisha Chauhan on her Mount Everest mission on Tuesday from the Raj Bhawan here.

Amisha Chauhan is slated to start on her mission to scale the Mount Everest on March 28. Extending her best

wishes to Amisha Chauhan, the governor said that her efforts would inspire the youths of the state specially girls to participate in adventurous activities. It should be mentioned here that Amisha Chauhan has successfully scaled the highest peak of Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro and highest peak of Europe, Mount Elbrus.

# Absconding scholarship scam accused surrenders in court

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The long absconding accused in SC ST scholarship scam, Vivek Sharma, has finally surrendered before the court of chief judicial magistrate. The court has sent the accused to judicial custody for 14 days. Sharma was the manager of Institute of Professional Studies in Roorkee when the irregularities were allegedly orchestrated. His brother Ankur Sharma had been arrested by the police in the past.

In this scholarship scam, many managers of colleges are on the radar of the special investigation team (SIT).

Notably, the Institute of Professional Studies under lens of the SIT is the one which was constructed in the year 2005 on the banks of Gang Nehar. It could not run properly but the proprietors of the college allegedly siphoned off the funds received for scholarship from the social welfare department by purportedly submitting a fake list of students. It has been revealed that the Manglaur legislator Qazi Nizamuddin's brother Nooruddin and his partners had closed the institu-



tion in the year 2014 due to non accreditation by the education council but scholarship amount was taken despite the closure of the college and its website.

The four officials of social welfare department who had come on the radar of SIT include deputy director and nodal officer Sail Anurag Shankhdhar, the then social welfare officer of Haridwar, Munish Tyagi, social welfare officer, Khanpur, Vinod Kumar Naithani and social welfare officer, Bhagwanpur, Somprakash.

The said college had received the scholarship for the

students from the year 2012 to 2015 while students had stopped coming to the college in the year 2011 itself. It is being stated that at one point of time there were only 50 students studying in the college. The SIT probing the scam worth Rs 2.5 crore had arrested five people in the matter including Qazi Nooruddin, Pradip Agarwal, Sanjay Bansal, Ankur Sharma and Om Tyagi. While Nooruddin is the brother of Manglaur MLA, Pradip Agarwal is the son of a reputed businessman from Manglaur and Sanjay Bansal is a resident of Dehradun.

# Ensure your contribution to nation building: Mahant

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Mahant Devendra Dass of Udasin sect has said everyone must ensure his role in the nation building for being an ideal person. He was addressing devotees on the second of the world famous Jhanda fair at Darbar Sahab on Tuesday. He delivered the 'Guru Mantra' and told the significance of 'Guru Mahima' to the sangats on the occasion.

He urged the devotees to come forward for leading an ideal life, caring for the environment, de-addiction and getting rid of the social evils. One of the most awaited event of the Jhanda fair, the Nagar Parikrama would be carried out on Wednesday. Mahant Devendra Dass would lead the Sangats during Nagar Parikrama and the residents of the city would welcome the devotees.

The Nagar Parikrama



would begin at 9.30 AM and more than 25,000 devotees are expected to participate in it.

The senior Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Shri Darbar Sahib, Bhupender Raturi said that as per tradition, 'Nagar Parikrama' is carried out on the third day of the raising of the holy flag mast. He said that 'Nagar Parikrama' will get initiated from Shri Darbar Sahib Premises from where it will reach Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School, Bindal via Saharanpur Chowk and Kanwali Road. Here the 'Sangat' will be distributed the 'prasad' of 'Chana, murrura and Gur'. From there the 'Nagar Parikrama' will reach Saharanpur Chowk via Tilak Road, Tagore Villa, Clock-tower then Paltan Bazar and from there will reach Lakhli Bagh. After that the 'Nagar Parikrama' will pay its obeisance at 'Samadhi Sthal Shri Mahant Sahiban' and then will end at Shri Darbar Sahib at 1:30 p.m.

# Platinum Jubilee celebration held at Ordnance factory

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To celebrate 75 years of its existence, the Ordnance Factory Dehradun is holding platinum jubilee programmes. As part of the celebration, a cultural programme was organised on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, the member of ordnance factory board Chandra Shekhar Vishwakarma said that the ordnance factories are the power of the armed forces and it is matter of great pride that Ordnance factor of Jabalpur has handed over Dhanush howitzer to the Indian Army on today itself.

He said that the sighting system of this big gun have



been developed at Dehradun. Speaking on the occasion the senior general manager of the ordnance factory, D M Puri said that Dehradun factory has capability to develop every type of the equipment needed for the armed forces.

He said that optical instruments made in Dehradun act like eyes of the Indian army. He claimed that all the

employees of the factory are highly efficient as a result of which all projects are completed on time.

Earlier the chief guest lighted the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the programme. An Ordnance foot march to give a message of saving environment was also organised on the occasion. This march was flagged off by Puri.

# Villagers mark Chipko anniversary in jungle

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The women of Dang village in Uttarkashi district reiterated their commitment to protecting the forests and environment on the anniversary of Chipko movement on Tuesday.

Headed by the village Pradhan Rajni Nath, Van Panchayat Sarpanch Sulochana Kaluda and Mahila Mangal Dal head Kusum Gusain, the women of Dang went to the village jungle and tied rakhis on the trees there, reiterating their commitment to protect the forests, wildlife and environment.

It is pertinent to mention here that every year on March 26 to mark the anniversary of Chipko movement and on Rakshabandhan, Republic Day, Independence Day and other important festivals and occasions, the villagers of Dang congregated in the jungle and reiterate their commitment to protect the environment.

During 1977-78, noted environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna had joined the villagers of Dang in Chipko movement to protect their jun-



gle from being felled. The residents of Dang have been pro-

tecting the maintaining the forest as their heritage.

# Police issue prohibition order against habitual offender for LS polls

**SSP Dehradun, Nivedita Kukreti directed police force to take appropriate steps to ensure free and fair elections of Lok Sabha**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls the Dehradun police have issued prohibition orders to 3311 habitual offenders in the district. The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dehradun, Nivedita Kukreti has directed the police force to take appropriate steps to ensure free and fair elections of Lok Sabha.

After enforcement of model code of conduct, 6378 people having arms licenses have deposited their arms with the Dehradun police. A total of 9618 licensed arms are there in Dehradun. The district police have filed Challans

against 4939 people in 764 cases so far in the district. Similarly 1562 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), 1282 bottles of country liquor and 132 litres of home brewed and 141 cans of beers have been confiscated under excise act.

The police have also apprehended 113 people for sale of illegal liquor so far. Under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act the police have so far confiscated 2.30 kg hashish, 5 kg of Bhang, 84 injections, 1650 capsules and 525 tablets apart from arresting 37 culprits. Under the arms act 14 khukri, four knives, one country made pistol and 40 cartridges have been confiscated by the police.

The police has taken against 46 people under Goonda act and arrested 93 people against whom Non Bailable warrants were issued. Similarly in this period eight offenders have been barred from entry in the district. The police teams have also recovered cash amounting to Rs 3048000 so far.

# BJP confident of victory with issue-based campaign

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Contesting the Parliamentary polls in Uttarakhand on the issues of assistance provided by the Central Government to Uttarakhand for development, the performance of the State Government and nationalism, the Bharatiya Janata Party is confident of winning from all the five constituencies in the State. The party's national vice presi-

dent and State in-charge Shyam Jaju said this while addressing the media here on Tuesday. Jaju said that the BJP had won from all the five seats in Uttarakhand in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and this time it is aiming to increase its vote margin of victory. He said, "All of our five candidates are popular among the public and considering the enthusiastic response from the public during their fil-

## Bansal made acting BJP State Prez

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With the BJP State president Ajay Bhatt contesting the Parliamentary election from Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar constituency, the party's State general secretary Naresh

Bansal has been made the acting president of the party's State unit. Further, State Minister Dhan Singh Rawat has been made the coordinator of the party's state election management committee. Bansal was made the acting

BJP state president on the direction of the party's national president Amit Shah. The BJP state media in-charge Devendra Bhasin informed that Bansal and Rawat had been appointed to the posts on the directions of the party's

national president. The BJP national general secretary Arun Singh's letter to this effect has been received by the party's state unit. Bansal will officially assume this charge on Wednesday morning and address the media after that.

**BJP had won from all the five seats in Uttarakhand in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and this time it is aiming to increase its vote margin of victory**

ing of nomination, we are confident that the party candidates will win from all the five constituencies this time too. The assistance provided by the Centre to Uttarakhand in the past five years, the performance of the State government and nationalism are the main issues on which we are contesting this election here. There has been a rise in expression of nationalism following the decisive actions taken by the Centre after the Pulwama terrorist attack and Uttarakhand is a border state with a sizeable proportion of serving and retired servicemen. However, the Congress has been playing cheap politics on this issue and I would exhort the Congress to stop doing so," said Jaju. He further said that during its term so far, the BJP state government had proved its zero-tolerance for corruption. The people were appreciative of the works done by the state government, he added. Referring to the minimum

income guarantee proposed by the Congress national president Rahul Gandhi, Jaju questioned what had stopped the Congress from doing so during the 55 years when it was in office. "During 1971 Indira Gandhi had come up with the Garibi Hatao theme. However, in its 55 years in power, the Congress has failed to deliver on this claim. Having failed to act effectively against poverty during its decades in power, the Congress is now again resorting to lying to the people. The promises of farmers loan waiver made by the Congress during assembly elections and the action taken after it was elected in states like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is known to the people." BJP state vice president Jyoti Gairola, State minister Dhan Singh Rawat, party's state media in charge Devendra Bhasin and other office bearers were also present at the Press conference.



## PM to fulfill promise, will address public in Rudrapur

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Prime minister Narendra Modi will fulfill the promise he had made to the people by addressing a large public rally at Rudrapur on March 28. The BJP state in-charge Shyam Jaju said this while addressing the media here on Tuesday. Modi was slated to address a public rally at Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar earlier on February 14 but was unable to reach the venue due to inclement weather. The BJP state media in-



charge Devendra Bhasin informed that the prime minister will be addressing a public rally at 11 AM in Rudrapur on March 28. During his previous visit to the state he was slated to address the public at Rudrapur but was unable to reach the venue due to

inclement weather. He had addressed the public through the mobile phone and promised that he would visit Rudrapur again to address the public. Senior party leaders from the Centre and State would also be among those slated to be present in the public gathering to be addressed by the prime minister. After Modi's rally, the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat would go to Dwarahat-Chaukhutia where he would address a public gathering, informed Bhasin.

# Will implement income scheme immediately after coming to power: Cong

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In-charge of Uttarakhand Congress party, Anugrah Narayan Singh, has claimed that the party if voted to power would make a provision of ₹1.80 Lakh crore in its first Budget to finance the Minimum Income Guarantee scheme. The scheme being viewed as a game-changer for the Congress party was proposed by its President Rahul Gandhi on Monday. Addressing media persons at Rajiv Bhawan, the state party office of Congress



party here on Tuesday, Singh said that about 20 percent of the population and five Crore families living below the poverty line would get benefited by the scheme. "An amount up to ₹72000 per year would be transferred to the bank account of the female member of the family under the scheme designed to provide social security," he said. While making a claim that the announcement should not be viewed as mere electoral promise, he said that the congress party believes in empowering poor sections of

the society. Singh further claimed that the scheme would be implemented immediately after congress comes to power at centre. "We will make budgetary provision for the scheme and implement it like we waived off the farm loans immediately after coming to power in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan," he said. Refusing to label the scheme as a game changer, Singh said that congress has always been a well wisher of poor. Attacking the ruling BJP

for attempting to fool the people in the name of the nationalism, he claimed that people have understood the ploy of BJP and they are determined to teach the party a lesson in the upcoming polls. Singh charged the BJP leadership for insulting leaders like Major General B C Khanduri (Rtd) and Murl Manohar Joshi. "People of Uttarakhand are very angry with the BJP for insulting a very senior, honest and upright leader like General Khanduri. The ex servicemen in par-

ticular are peeved at his removal from the post of chairmanship of parliamentary committee on defence," he said. The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Pritam Singh said that the double engine government has proved to be a failure and the people are eager to change the government at centre in the upcoming elections. Former minister Dinesh Agarwal, Co in-charge Rajesh Dharmani and spokesperson Garima Dasauani were present on the occasion.

# No Army-background candidates in contention this election

**Rough estimate puts the number of ex-servicemen and Veer Naris voters at 1.70 Lakh in Uttarakhand**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Surprising as it may appear that Uttarakhand, the land where joining armed forces is more like a family tradition and which has substantial population of armed forces personnel, ex servicemen and Veer Naris, the major political parties have refrained from fielding any candidate with armed forces background in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections. According to a rough estimate there are more than 170000 ex servicemen and Veer Naris (widows of armed forces personnel) voters in Uttarakhand. Similarly the number of serving armed forces personnel is estimated at 2 lakh which means that there are at least 15 lakh voters in the state which belong to the families with armed forces background. Understanding this, both Congress and BJP along with other political forces

had in past fielded armed forces veterans in the electoral battle of Uttarakhand. This time however no political party has given ticket to ex servicemen. It was widely believed that BJP in an attempt to strike chord with families with army and paramilitary background after the Pulwama incident and the unprecedented punitive aerial strikes by Indian Air Forces fighter planes deep inside Pakistan territory to neutralise terrorists would field someone with army background from Garhwal Lok Sabha to cash on the wave of nationalism sweeping across the country. However, the saffron party reposed faith in an old timer like Teerath Singh Rawat from this constituency which has a sizeable population of ex servicemen and Veer Naris. Congress, however seized the initiative from BJP by roping in Manish Khanduri the son of the Major General B C Khanduri (retd) in order to cash the popularity of the senior Khanduri but even it did not fielded any ex servicemen from any constituency. The experiment of fielding a retired army officer from Garhwal was first of all done by BJP in the year 1991 when Maj Gen (retd) Khanduri contested as its nominee.

This constituency till then was considered as a citadel of Congress party. The experiment of BJP proved successful as Khanduri won from here and represented the constituency a record five times. The congress too played this card when it fielded Lieutenant General (retd) TPS Rawat from Dhumakot assembly constituency in the year 2002. The general was made a minister in Congress government and the elections of 2007 he was re-elected from Dhumakot. He however switched sides and vacated the seat for Khanduri, who then was MP from Garhwal, contested the bye election from Dhumakot and won. Khanduri who became the Chief Minister reciprocated the gesture by fielding TPS Rawat as BJP candidate from Garhwal Lok Sabha seat vacated by him. This time around the former Principal of Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) Colonel Ajay Kothiyal (retd) and Rear Admiral OPS Rana (retd) were in contention from Garhwal seat after Khanduri was denied ticket by the BJP. However the party decided to field Teerath Singh Rawat from here. The contest in Garhwal is now between son and the disciple of General Khanduri.




With the focus of the authorities on elections, traffic congestion has continued to worsen in many areas of Dehradun as seen here outside the government Doon medical college hospital on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

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6 people die of asphyxiation near Chennai



Chennai: Six people, including three of a family, died of asphyxiation at Sriperumbudur near here Tuesday while they were cleaning a septic tank, police said.

BJP ally MGP cites 'conspiracy', threatens to quit Goa Govt

Panaji: The Maharashtra Gomantak Party, support of whose three MLAs is crucial for the stability of BJP-led dispensation in Goa, on Tuesday said a "conspiracy" was being hatched by "our rivals" that might force it to move out and align with the Congress to form a new Government.



legislative affairs of the party," Dhavalikar said. He said his party was the state's oldest regional outfit but some sections were opposed to its growth.

BJP candidate asks cadres to shoot booth capturers in chest

Kolkata: Senior West Bengal BJP leader Sayantan Basu on Tuesday courted controversy by asking party cadres to shoot those who would try to capture booths during the coming Lok Sabha polls.

'Hope Cong's income scheme is not like BJP's ₹15 lakh promise'

Lucknow: Former Chief Minister of the UP and Samajwadi Party chief, Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said he hopes the Minimum Income Plan by Congress party won't be like the ₹15 lakh promise to the poor by the BJP.



"We always lead by example," Akhilesh said. The SP party president informed the media that their team will assess the details of the scheme and then decide the party's stand.

Pawar slams PM over stolen Rafale papers

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Rafale scam, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday wondered as to how could one expect Modi to protect the country when he could not keep classified documents in the Government "safe".

Court during the hearing on a review petition in Rafale aircraft purchase case. (It may be recalled that three days after making submission before the Supreme Court about the theft of Rafale papers, Venugopal had reneged on his earlier claim and said that the petitioners had used "photocopies of the original" papers, deemed secret by the Government).

absolutely no experience in the manufacture of aircraft?," the NCP chief asked. Coming down heavily on the Modi Government for "politicising" Pulwama terror attack and subsequent IAF air strikes on terror camps in Pakistan, Pawar said: "All political parties supported the Government over the stand taken by it in the wake of Pulwama terror attack.

after demonetisation, 15 lakh people lost their jobs. "After the demonetisation, only Modi knows where has the black money gone. We know that more than 15 lakh people lost their jobs. After the introduction of GST, lakhs of traders suffered. ... The Modi government promised adequate price for agriculture produce.

Candidate turns up drunk to file nomination in dry Bihar, held

Purnea (Bihar): A candidate who appeared to file nominations for Purnea Lok Sabha seat on Tuesday ended up behind bars as he was found to be drunk, in violation of the ban on sale and consumption of alcohol in Bihar.

alcohol and, subsequently, sent to jail after being booked for violating the prohibition law, Shailendran said. In April, 2016 the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar had imposed complete ban on sale and consumption of alcohol, a move which has met with both adulation as well as disapproval from different quarters.



BJP candidate and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand-nephew, Chandra Kumar Bose, holds a child as he interacts with locals on the 1st day of his election campaign for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in Kolkata on Tuesday

BJP made offers to me, my daughter: Sushil Kumar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Veteran Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde on Tuesday created a stir in the Maharashtra political circles, by claiming that the BJP had tried to "poach" him and his MLA-daughter Praniti Shinde recently.

Maharashtra — said that a senior BJP leader of his stature had "approached" his daughter Praniti first and later him with an "offer" to join the principal ruling party in the State and at the Centre.

ination to contest the Lok Sabha polls on a Congress ticket, Shinde said: "There is absolutely no question of our leaving the Congress. We will not be swayed by this kind of allurements of the BJP. We are both committed Congress workers and will continue to remain so till our last breath".

BJP MP Hema Malini a billionaire, discloses her affidavit

Mathura: Fighting for the Mathura Lok Sabha seat on a BJP ticket, the sitting MP and film actor Hema Malini is a billionaire with the value of her assets having increased by a whopping ₹34.46 crore in the last five years, discloses an affidavit filed by her with the poll panel.

filing her nomination as Lok Sabha candidate from the Mathura parliamentary constituency. The affidavit, accompanied by her income tax returns for the last five years, reveals that the couple earned ₹10 crore each during the last five years.

Farooq Abdullah files nomination papers for Srinagar Lok Sabha seat

Says no idea of his wife's assets MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU At 83 years of age, National Conference president and former Member of Parliament, Dr Farooq Abdullah, is 'apparently' taking Election Commission of India (ECI) for a ride by repeatedly doing 'cut, copy, paste job and getting away easily too while hiding factual details of movable/immovable assets of his wife.

from Srinagar Lok Sabha seat since 2009. Since it is mandatory for every contesting candidate to declare details of movable and immovable assets and cash in hand against the name of spouse and dependants at the time of filing nomination papers Dr Abdullah is also religiously following the practice.

Government of Maharashtra Department of Animal Husbandry Corrigendum e-TENDER FOR 'Creation of Bio-safety Level-II & Bio-safety Level-III Laboratory For Avian Influenza and Other Zoonotic pathogens at Disease investigation Section, Aundh, Pune-67 on Turnkey Basis'. UNDER RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA For Commissioner of Animal Husbandry, Maharashtra State, Pune-67 was invited on 01.03.2019.

SEARCH FOR MISSING General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Pooja, D/o: Nanak, R/o H. No. B-107, Gali No. 15, Jeewan Park, Sirasapur, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, wearing Yellow Colour Kurta and Green Colour Salwar & Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli since 19.11.2018.

SEARCH FOR MISSING General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely: July, D/o Gulab Chand, R/o: J-95/34, Gali No. 01, Bhagwanpura, Samaipur Badli, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Wearing: Black Colour Suit, Salwar & White Colour Sleeper in feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi since 28.11.2018.









Sensex zooms 425 pts amid global rebound

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded above 425 points to end well above the 38,000-mark Tuesday, breaking its two-day falling streak on gains in heavyweights RIL, SBI and ICICI Bank amid persistent foreign fund inflows and positive global leads.

A stronger rupee, which climbed 19 paise to 68.77 against the US dollar (intraday), also supported the rally, brokers said.

The 30-share Sensex stayed in the green for the better part of the session and hit the day's high of 38,297.70 as buying pace gathered momentum towards the day-end.

It finally ended at 38,233.41, up 424.50 points, or 1.12 per cent. The gauge had lost over 575 points in the previous two sessions, tracking a sell-off across global markets.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 129 points, or 1.14 per cent, to close at 11,483.25. Intraday, it shuttled between 11,495.90 and 11,352.45.

Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries emerged as a prominent gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring over 3 per cent.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net buyers, pumping in Rs 150.40 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) sold shares worth ₹12.52 crore Monday, provisional data showed.

Globally, Asian and European stocks bounced back, reversing part of their recent losses, as US Treasury yields edged higher, easing concerns about a recession in the world's largest economy.

After a subdued opening, market bounced back sharply and covered yesterday's losses due to positive global peers. Global growth outlook still remains a concern while rise in US 10-yr bond yield after two days of fall gave some respite to investor sentiment.

The rebound was broad based except IT index due to exit of strengthening rupee. Gradual fall in FII inflows added some caution among investors which may end up with some consolidation in the near term, after a sharp rally in the short term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

State-run NTPC topped the gainers' chart in the Sensex pack, rallying 3.28 per cent, followed by SBI at 3.23 per cent. Other winners were Vedanta 3.18 per cent, ICICI

Bank 2.75 per cent, Bajaj Finance 2.72 per cent, Yes Bank 2.71 per cent, Kotak Bank 2.60 per cent, Asian Paints 2.02 per cent, IndusInd Bank 1.84 per cent, Axis Bank 1.79 per cent, HCL Tech 1.73 per cent and HDFC Bank 1.21 per cent.

Sun Pharma, Tata Motors, Maruti Suzuki, M&M, Tata Steel, HUL, Hero MotoCorp, PowerGrid, ONGC and Bharti Airtel too ended with gains of up to 1.11 per cent.

However, Infosys lost 1.23 per cent, Bajaj Auto 0.85 per cent, ITC Ltd 0.68 per cent, L&T 0.37 per cent, TCS 0.26 per cent, Coal India 0.08 per cent and HDFC Ltd shed 0.01 per cent.

Shares of Jet Airways soared for the second day Tuesday, zooming nearly 7 per cent following the exit of founder and Chairman Naresh Goyal and his wife Anita from the board of the ailing airline.

Coming to sectoral indices, bankex gained 2.19 per cent, power 1.70 per cent, PSU 1.31 per cent, metal 1.11 per cent, consumer durables 1.08 per cent, infrastructure 0.99 per cent, oil and gas 0.97 per cent, realty 0.73 per cent, healthcare 0.61 per cent, FMCG 0.13 per cent and capital goods 0.15 per cent.

Oil PSUs profitability to take a hit: Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Profitability of state-owned refiners such as Indian Oil Corp (IOC) may come under pressure if the government asks them to temporarily freeze the prices of petrol, diesel and other fuels ahead of general elections, Moody's Investors Service said Tuesday.

Before the Gujarat and Karnataka state elections, the government had asked oil companies to temporarily suspend the practice of adjusting the prices of petrol and diesel on a daily basis.

"Given India's upcoming general election in April-May, we expect the refiners' profitability may come under pressure if they are asked by the government to temporarily freeze the prices of petroleum products," Moody's said in a report.

The BJP-led NDA, if voted back to power, could allow oil companies to recover their losses post elections as it has done in previous state-level elections, it said.

"A change in government may expose the oil companies to a new set of challenges that are harder to anti-

pate because the oil and gas sector policy of other parties contesting in the elections is not yet clear."

State-owned IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had temporarily stopped revising fuel prices first in December 2017, ahead of assembly elections in Gujarat and then in April/May 2018 before Karnataka elections. So far, they have continued to change prices on a daily basis.

India goes to polls in seven phases beginning April 11. Moody's expects India's state-owned oil companies will continue to pay high dividends in the next fiscal year, which will be negative for refiners but the oil producers will not be as significantly affected.

In a report on the country's state-owned oil and gas companies, Moody's said: "High shareholder returns will increase the oil companies' aggregate borrowings and constrain their credit profiles." It expected Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), IOC, Oil India Ltd (OIL) and BPCL to maintain high dividends payments as well as conduct share buybacks in fiscal 2020.

Online food ordering mkt may grow at over 16 pc

Guwahati: The online food ordering market in India is likely to grow at over 16 per cent annually to touch USD 17.02 billion by 2023, according to a study by business consultancy firm Market Research Future.

The study, titled 'Digital Markets Reign in the Food Ordering Platform', said

the growth in online food ordering market has been attributed to the rising number of women in working population in most of the metro cities. "The Indian online food ordering market is slated to grow at a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 16.2 per cent at USD 17.02 billion by 2023," it said.

BUSINESS CORNER

OBEROI HOTELS UNVEILS NEW BRAND IDENTITY

New Delhi: Oberoi Hotels & Resorts Tuesday unveiled a new brand identity, Oberoi Sun, and added a tag line 'Heart. Felt.'. In a statement, The Oberoi Group said the rebranding was based on extensive research that showed that "sincere care and personal attention" set it apart from others. "Oberoi Hotels & Resorts has revisited its identity to ensure that it reflects all its core values and proudly presents the 'Oberoi Sun'. The 'Oberoi Sun' translates the warmth, energy, and sense of well-being that our guests experience. This is the promise that each one of us at Oberoi makes to every single guest," it said. A newly-revamped website has also been launched. "The words 'Heart. Felt.' have been added to explain the way guests describe their Oberoi experience and form the central pillar of the brand strategy and communication programme," the statement said. The Oberoi Group Executive Chairman P R S Oberoi said: "With a belief and commitment to our guests, we thought you better to guide us into the future than our guests, initiating an exciting journey of brand re-discovery for Oberoi." Oberoi Hotels & Resorts operates 22 hotels and resorts in six countries. The Oberoi Marrakech in Morocco, the newest resort in the portfolio, is set to open this year.

ITC SELLS BRAND JOHN PLAYERS TO RELIANCE RETAIL

New Delhi: Conglomerate ITC Tuesday said it has sold its menswear brand John Players to Reliance Retail for an undisclosed amount. Besides, the Kolkata-based firm has also transferred the trademark as part of the deal. "In line with this ongoing restructuring, ITC has sold the brand John Players and related trademarks and intellectual property, and the goodwill related thereto, to Reliance Retail Ltd," a spokesperson of ITC said. He said a restructuring plan is underway as part of the strategic review of the lifestyle retailing business. According to media reports, the deal is estimated to be around Rs 150 crore. The deal would strengthen the presence of Reliance Retail and its online platform Ajoio.com in the growing lifestyle retail space. Established in 2002, John Players was a youth fashion apparel brand from ITC.

JET AIRWAYS SHARES RALLY FURTHER; CLOSE 6.5% HIGHER AS NARESH GOYAL STEPS DOWN

New Delhi: Shares of Jet Airways continued to rise for the second day Tuesday and closed 6.5 per cent higher on the bourses following the exit of Chairman Naresh Goyal and his wife Anita Goyal from its board. The stock closed at ₹271, up 6.48 per cent on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 9.62 per cent to ₹279. At the NSE, shares jumped 5.37 per cent to close at ₹267.75. On the traded volume front, 54.11 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over 6 crore shares on the NSE during the day. Shares of Jet Airways had zoomed 15.5 per cent on Monday. Naresh Goyal and his wife will resign from the board of the airline, according to a regulatory filing Monday. The decision was taken at the airline's board meeting held in Mumbai Monday. In the filing to the stock exchanges, Jet Airways Monday said Naresh Goyal, Anita Goyal and one nominee of Etihad Airways PJSC would step down from the board.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

BSE 500

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NIFTY NEXT 50

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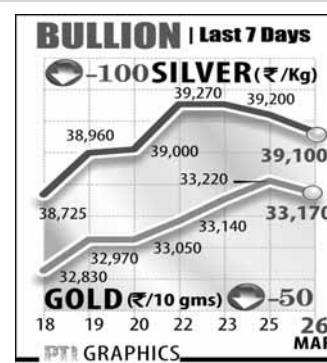
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PTI GRAPHICS







LEADERBOARD

RUNS	103	Rishabh Pant (SRH)
WICKETS	4	Imran Tahir (CSK)
6S	50	Ashwin's action speak for him and represent him when I looked up to the eyes of his teammates
4S	134	— PADDY UPTON

# BRAVO CAPS CHENNAI'S COMEBACK

DJ picks 3-33 as Delhi fail to capitalise good start into big total against Super Kings



Shikhar Dhawan (Delhi Capitals) plays a shot while Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) stand behind the wickets, (right) Dwayne Bravo celebrates after taking a wicket

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shikhar Dhawan scored a painstaking half-century in his 51 off 47 balls that had seven boundaries but unfortunately failed to accelerate during the final overs. This left the home team at least 30 runs short of a fighting score.

From a comfortable 120 for 2 with the dangerous Rishabh Pant at the crease, CSK seized the momentum, effecting a middle-order collapse. Capitals lost four wickets for seven runs in just 1.5 overs. From 118 for 2 after 15 overs, the last five overs yielded only 29 runs.

FROM A COMFORTABLE 120 FOR 2 WITH THE DANGEROUS RISHABH PANT AT THE CREESE, CSK SEIZED THE MOMENTUM, EFFECTING A MIDDLE-ORDER COLLAPSE CAPITALS LOST FOUR WICKETS FOR SEVEN RUNS IN JUST 1.5 OVERS



IPL

Dhawan, however, continued to hold one end up and hit the occasional boundary in between, even as stroke making became increasingly difficult. Pant (25 off 12 balls), during his 41-run stand with Dhawan, tried to negate the pitch factor but did not last till the death overs.

He did reach out to a short ball from Harbhajan, dispatching it over long off for a six. In the next over, his short arm pull off Dwayne Bravo was taken by Shardul Thakur at deep square leg boundary.

## Up Next KXIP face KKR in backdrop of Ashwin's Mankad moment



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Live on Star Sports 1 & 2	HEAD TO HEAD
KKR vs KXIP	M 23
KOLKATA	KKR 15
WEDNESDAY 8:00 PM	KXIP 8

### LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

- Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Kings XI Punjab by 31 runs at Indore
- Kings XI Punjab beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 9 wickets (D/L) at Kolkata

### FOR THE RECORD

- Sunil Narine will become the 38th player to complete a century of matches in IPL. He played all matches for Kolkata Knight Riders since 2012. Gautam Gambhir (108) and Yusuf Pathan also played over 100 matches for Kolkata Knight Riders between 2011 and 2017.
- Chris Gayle who hit 296 sixes in 112 innings of 113 matches, needs just four sixes to become the first batsman to smash 300 sixes in IPL. Faisel Features

Skipper R Ashwin is in the eye of a storm after 'Mankading' a rival player but a winning start will keep Kings XI Punjab upbeat when they face home favourites Kolkata Knight Riders in an IPL fixture here on Wednesday.

It was Ashwin's mankading of Jos Buttler that had triggered a dramatic collapse with Kings XI Punjab restricting Rajasthan Royals to 170 for nine to notch up a 14-run win.

Buttler was looking in imperious touch with 69 from 43 balls and Rajasthan well on course to overhaul the target of 185 but following the dismissal they went on to lose eight wickets for 62 runs to hand Kings XI Punjab their maiden win in Jaipur.

Though the dismissal was within the rules of the game, it sparked a huge furor with spin legend and Rajasthan Royals brand ambassador Shane Warne labelling it as "disgraceful" and against the spirit of the game.

With a debate raging over the runout, it remains to be seen how Ashwin and Co. Start afresh in what will be their first away match of the season.

Kings XI's biggest star Chris Gayle scored a 47-ball 79 and his Jamaican rivalry with fellow mate Andre Russell, who also looked in blistering touch for KKR, will be one of the sub plots of the clash here.

The Universe Boss, who will retire from ODIs after the 2019 World Cup, has been in sensational form, smashing 39 sixes in the five-match ODI series against England and set the record for most sixes by a batsman in international cricket.

A typical slow starter, Gayle was 14 off 18 balls but the opener hit top gear in the 12th over hammering Jaydev Unadkat for four successive boundaries.

A former KKR player, Gayle knows Eden Gardens like the back of his hand as he would look to continue his assault on the spin-oriented KKR attack.

Russell will be KKR's answer to Gayle as the KKR star also fashioned a sensational win, smashing an unbeaten 49 from 19 balls in their opening fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad here two days ago.

The win saw their star spinner and explosive opener, Sunil Narine, hurt his finger and KKR would hope he is fit in time.

KKR will embark on a crucial four-match away sojourn after this and they would look to keep their momentum intact before they return home to face Delhi Capitals on April 12.

Even Rohit Sharma is impressed with Rasikh. He was thinking of giving him an opportunity as early in the season as possible, so exciting times ahead," said Zaheer.

On another day, he would have had a wicket on his debut.

Mumbai Indians bowling coach Shane Bond also praised Salam, saying he was one of better bowlers for the team during its IPL opener against Delhi.

"It was a challenging start but as I said in the pre-camp, things are going to go wrong at times. You are going to bowl a no-ball but the easy thing for Rasikh to do would have been to go to pieces but he certainly didn't. I thought he showed great composure and was one of our better bowlers," said the coach.



Yuvraj Singh speaks during a press conference



Jos Buttler plays a shot during a match

## Buttler becomes first victim of Mankading in IPL

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler on Monday became the first victim of 'Mankading' in the history of the Indian Premier League when a desperate Kings XI Punjab skipper Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed the batsman in the controversial manner during their IPL match.

# It was instinctive and within the rules: Ashwin

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Unapologetic about 'Mankading' Jos Buttler in an IPL match here, senior Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said his decision was "instinctive" and cricket laws should be reconsidered if what he did was against the 'spirit of the game'.

Kings XI Punjab captain Ashwin, in a match against Rajasthan Royals on Monday, 'Mankaded' rival batsman Jos Buttler, triggering a debate on 'spirit of the game'.

In a first in 12 editions of the IPL, Ashwin ran out a rampaging Buttler, who was at the non-strikers' end, on his delivery stride

in the 13th over, an action popularly known as 'Mankading'. TV replays showed that Ashwin had waited for Buttler to move out of the crease before removing the bats.

"Look it was very instinctive. It wasn't planned or anything like that. It's there within the rules of the game. I don't know from where the understanding of the Spirit of the Game comes," Ashwin said at the post-match press conference.

The mode of dismissal is permissible as per ICC Rule 41.16 of playing conditions, according to which there is no need to warn the batsman as was the case in earlier times.

## Glad that I don't have to bowl to Russell: Ferguson

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Watching teammate Andre Russell bulldoze Sunrisers Hyderabad bowlers was a breathtaking experience for KKR pace spearhead Lockie Ferguson, who is happy that he does not have to bowl to the West Indian this IPL.

Royals.

"It's important to stick to your plan and back yourself because in T20, if you keep working on your strengths then definitely it will come off better."

KKR have the reputation of being a spin-oriented attack as Ferguson said it's exciting time to be part of the bowling unit.

"To have the spin attack we have, and with PK (Prasidh Krishna) swinging the ball and being very good at the death, so by no means I think I'm leading. We all do our part. Andre Russell also got the wickets."

Having added more pace to his bowling, Ferguson is hoping to make the most of the IPL experience, ahead of the World Cup.

"It's high pressure in IPL. It's one of the biggest competitions in the world, playing in front of big crowds, against the best players in the world. Of course all these experiences you're gaining, playing in the IPL is going to help you going forward."

"Obviously there's a big World Cup in a few months but at this stage, I'm focusing on KKR and trying to assist them, get some more wins."

## Rasikh Salam is going to be special in next 2-3 years: Yuvraj

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Impressed with his composure and control over his swing, former India batsman Yuvraj Singh said J&K young fast bowler Rasikh Salam is going to emerge as a special player in the next two to three years.

"Rasikh swung the ball in the nets, that is why the boys wanted to play him. He got hit for a six and four in the last two balls. Other than that, he bowled well," Yuvraj, who scored a half-century on his debut match for the Mumbai Indians against Delhi Capitals, said.

"I think he did fantastic for his first match in terms of handling the pressure. Pretty much like an international game. I feel he is going to be special in the next 2-3 years," he said in an interview with MITV.

Salam started off with a no-ball against Delhi Capitals but responded with a brave bouncer on the free-hit that was pulled towards deep midwicket straight into the palms of a fielder.



Yuvraj Singh speaks during a press conference

"Even Rohit Sharma is impressed with Rasikh. He was thinking of giving him an opportunity as early in the season as possible, so exciting times ahead," said Zaheer.

