

BSP to support Cong in Madhya Pradesh

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12

Seeking to "keep the BJP out of power", BSP chief Mayawati Wednesday said her party will extend support to the Congress to form government in Madhya Pradesh and, if required, in Rajasthan too. With the Congress managing a wafer-thin majority in Madhya Pradesh, she said the BJP is making efforts to return to power in the state. "We fought elections to keep the BJP out of power... We do not agree with the philosophy of the Congress. But to keep the BJP out of power, we will extend it our support," she said.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister also said that if the need arises, the BSP will support the Congress in Rajasthan to form the government. She said though her party fought well in the assembly polls, it could not get seats as per its expectations. Mayawati said that people voted for the Congress as they found it as an alternative to the BJP. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief said the Congress will use the mandate of the assembly polls to its benefit in the Lok Sabha elections, even as she urged her party cadre to gear up for the 2019 electoral battle.

The Congress, which was locked in a tantalising see-saw battle with the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, has emerged as the single-largest party with 114 seats after the vote count ended on Wednesday morning, according to the State Election Commission Office. The party is, however, two short of the simple majority mark, 116 seats, in the 230-member Assembly. The BJP was close behind with 109 seats. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief said the Congress will use the mandate of the assembly polls to its benefit in the Lok Sabha elections, even as she urged her party cadre to gear up for the 2019 electoral battle.

Cong single-largest party in Rajasthan with 99 seats; BJP gets 73

Agency
Jaipur, Dec 12

The Congress has emerged as the single-largest party in Rajasthan, winning 99 seats, while the BJP got 73, the State Election Commission Office said Wednesday. The Bahujan Samaj Party won 6 seats, CPI(M) 2, Independents 13 and other parties got 6, according to the state Election Commission's website. The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), an ally of the Congress, won one seat. Together, they have 100 seats — which is the required number to form government in the state. Voting was held in 199 of the 200 seats in the state on December 7. Election

to Alwar's Ramgarh constituency was countermanded due to the death of the BSP candidate. The votes were counted on Tuesday. In 2013, the BJP won 163 seats and the Congress 21. The focus in Rajasthan is now on who would be the Congress choice for chief minister between two-time CM Ashok Gehlot and the party's state unit president Sachin Pilot. The newly elected Congress legislators will meet Wednesday to discuss this. The All India Congress Committee has sent K C Venugopal as observer. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje submitted her resignation to Governor Kalyan Singh on Tuesday.

Former Army Chief J J Singh resigns from Akali Dal

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12

Former Army Chief Gen J J Singh Wednesday resigned from the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) citing personal reasons. Singh, who also served as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, had joined the Akali Dal ahead of the Punjab assembly elections in early 2017 and had unsuccessfully contested against chief minister Amarinder Singh from the Patiala assembly

constituency. In his resignation letter to SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal, he said he was resigning from the party for personal reasons. "I wish to inform you with a heavy heart that I have resigned from Shiromani Akali Dal and from the position of president of Shiromani Akali Dal, Ex-Servicemen wing with immediate effect due to personal reasons, he said in his letter. Sources said Singh was not happy with the functioning of the Akali

Dal and its leadership. Asked about his future course, he said he wished to serve people and kept his political options open. "I want to serve the people and the country, he told Agency. Gen (ret'd) Singh was the first Sikh officer to become the army chief. He fought the 1965 and 1971 wars, apart from being among the architects of defeating Pakistani intruders in Kargil. He served as the 22nd Chief of the Indian Army from January 31, 2005, to September 30, 2007.

After leading TRS to thumping victory, KCR likely to take oath as Telangana CM tomorrow

Agency
Hyderabad, Dec. 12

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president K Chandrashekar Rao is expected to take oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana on Thursday, news agency ANI mentioned sources as saying on Wednesday. K Chandrashekar Rao's TRS on Tuesday demolished opposition's challenge

and won the Assembly Elections by a landslide. The newly-elected TRS lawmakers will meet at 11.30 am today to formally elect Rao as the leader of the legislature party. The date for his swearing-in is expected to be formally announced after the meeting. The 64-year-old TRS chief himself won by a margin of more than 51,000 votes from Gajwel constituency,

defeating Congress candidate V Pratap Reddy. Rao's son KT Rama Rao and nephew T Harish Rao, both ministers in his caretaker government, also registered victories with huge margins. Out of 119 seats, the TRS won 88, Praja Kutami (a four-party opposition alliance comprising Congress, TDP, CPI and Telangana Jana Samithi) could grab just 21 seats.

Nagaland Curtains come down on Hornbill Festival 2018

Agency
Kohima, Dec 12,

Curtains came down for the 10-day long 19th edition of Nagaland Hornbill Festival at the Naga Heritage Village Kisama, as it concluded last evening with Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton and Italian Consul General from Kolkata, Damiano Francovi, who jointly lighting of bonfire. In his brief address, Damiano Francovi as the Guest of Honour thanked the organisers for

inviting him to be a part of the festival. He said that he came from a country where tourism industry played a major role and said the Naga cultural heritage could be of great interest for both domestic and foreign tourists. Francovigh was of the view that attracting large numbers of tourists from both India and abroad could become a major driver of economic growth for Nagaland.

Assam BBC stands by its 2017 Kaziranga extrajudicial killings expose

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 12,

BBC's Director General Tony Hall has said that the network stands by its 2017 expose of extrajudicial killings by rangers in Kaziranga National Park and that the organisation's previous letters to the Indian government do not constitute an apology. Several reports in the Indian media had alleged that the BBC admitted its expose was wrong, but in a letter to Survival International, Hall said: "The documentary, 'One World: Killing for Conservation' was an important piece of BBC original journalism, and we do not accept that any 'mistake' has been made, as has been reported." The network's South Asia correspondent Justin Rowlett's 2017 report on Kaziranga's rhino conservation methods

revealed that rangers in Kaziranga had shot dead 106 people in 20 years, and wounded many others, including a seven-year old boy who was maimed for life. It featured an interview with a park guard who said: "Whenever you see the poachers or any people during night time, we are ordered to shoot them." The report received a sharp criticism from the Union Environment Ministry for being "grossly erroneous", prompting the government to ban BBC and Rowlett from filming in all the country's national parks and tiger reserves. The head of the BBC's Natural History Unit recently wrote to India's National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) expressing his "regrets for the report's adverse impacts", in an attempt to be allowed

back into India to film. However, Hall said that the letter "in no way constitutes an apology for our journalism." In his letter to Survival International, Hall also acknowledged the vital contribution of local people who helped the network reveal the killings, and expressed his gratitude to them "for their role in helping to bring this important story to light." "The BBC expose revealed a really shocking level of killings by rangers in Kaziranga. Many people who support conservation were appalled that this was being done in conservation's name. It highlighted just how brutal conservation has become, and how tribal people are too often its victims, rather than its senior partners," Survival International Director Stephen Corry said in a statement.

Snowfall, rain add to chill in Uttarakhand

Agency
Dehradun, Dec 12

Snowfall in the higher reaches of the hills and light showers in lower areas coupled with cold winds added to chill across Uttarakhand Wednesday with the maximum temperature dropping at most places. Places located at a height

of 2500 metres and above including Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri received around one feet of snow while lower areas received light showers, MeT office Director Vikram Singh said. Chakrata in Dehradun district and Dhanaulti near Mussoorie also received snow, he said.

Cold winds swept the state after the early morning snow and rain making it chillier, he said. Similar weather is likely to continue in Uttarakhand till tomorrow, Singh said. In Dehradun where it drizzled in the morning the maximum temperature dropped by around three degrees as the sky remained overcast, he said.

Meghalaya Congress will return to power at Centre: Mukul Sangma

Agency
Shillong, Dec 12,

After his party's victory in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, former Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma on Tuesday exuded confidence that the Congress will return to power at the Centre as well. "People will throw out this BJP government and that has been indicated in this mandate of the people. It definitely indicates the trend and it reflects writing on the wall," the veteran Congress leader said.

People have found out and I must say that the results showed complete rejection of the anti-people policies." On Congress being decimated in Mizoram, Sangma said: "Let us not link Mizoram and Meghalaya. Meghalaya is always a state with fractured mandate and it was a different thing in 2013 where the people gave the mandate to the Congress but that too not absolute majority. "Here also, these people came to power by making tall promises and the same situation is already prevailing in the state. You ask anybody across the state who thought that these people would probably do what they have promised, but now the people will throw out this something else. With tall promises they thought that they can get votes and get away." On the BJP's Congress-mukt Bharat slogan and the Congress' failure to retain power in Mizoram, Sangma said: "In some places you have defeat and bad outcome, and this is expected in democracy. But if you look at Mizoram and try to compare with other states, it is a different ball game and you have to know what exactly was prevailing in Mizoram.."

Mere diagnosis doesn't mean Parrikar is not fit to hold CM office: Goa govt tells HC

Agency
New Delhi Dec 12

The Goa government Wednesday told the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court that mere diagnosis should not be interpreted as one's inability to hold office. It was responding to a plea questioning why the medical report of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, who is suffering from advanced pancreatic cancer. The chief minister has not made any public appearance since long and no bulletin on his health has been issued till date. Comparing Parrikar's health condition with Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, the state counsel told the court, "Steve Jobs was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. All his achievements are post-diagnosis. Mere diagnosis doesn't mean Manohar Parrikar is not fit to hold the chair of CM." On Tuesday, the high court had asked the state government if it can submit Parrikar's report in a sealed cover. Hearing a petition filed



by local politician Trojano D'Mello, a bench of Justices R M Borde and Prithviraj K Chavan asked the State Advocate General to respond on whether a chief secretary can make a claim on the right to privacy on behalf of a chief minister. It also asked Advocate General Dattaprasad Lawande to respond if the chief minister was consulted on the petition D'Mello, in his petition filed last month, had sought a bulletin on the health status of the ailing chief minister. Advocate Rohit Braz D'sa, the counsel for the petitioner, said they were "not (for) asking minute details of his health. We

are asking if he is in a position to perform his duties as a chief minister. He can claim immunity if he can prove his right to privacy is in public interest". Responding to the petition, Chief Secretary Dhamendra Sharma had said that the petition was not maintainable as it is against the fundamental right to privacy. The Goa CM is undergoing treatment and has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, United States and New Delhi for nearly nine months. He has not moved out of his residence for any official event since his return from AIIMS on October 14 this year.

Mizoram Will impose total prohibition of liquor in the state: Zoramthanga

Agency
Aizawl, Dec 12,

After leading the Mizo National Front (MNF) to power in Mizoram, chief minister-designate Zoramthanga on Tuesday said he would impose total prohibition in the state as promised by his party. Total prohibition was imposed in this highly-

literate and Christian-majority state since February 20, 1997 by the then Congress government. However, it was lifted in early 2015 by enforcing the Mizoram Liquor Prohibition and Control Act, 2014. Following this, wine shops were opened in the state from March 16, 2015.

Speaking to reporters after his party won a landslide victory in the election to the 40-member state legislature by bagging 26 seats, Zoramthanga said his government would also ensure better roads and implement the Socio-Economic Development Programme (SEDP) the flagship programme of the party, to lift the state's economy. In the run-up to the polls, liquor was a major political issue. While the Congress was against total prohibition, the MNF wanted a complete ban. The BJP had taken a middle path by proposing to ban the liquor coming from outside the state and encourage only locally produced ones.

Registration Certificate lost

I have lost my original Registration certificate of PHARMACIST bearing Regd. No. 0246 issued by the Manipur State Pharmacy Council on the way between Singjamei Waikhom Leikai to Kakwa on 8/12/2018. Finders are requested to handover the same to the undersigned.

Sd/-
Soibam Sachindro Singh
Singjamei Waikhom Leikai
Contact No. 8617785956