

BJD to make corrections

Bhubaneswar (K-CN): Chief Minister and Governing BJD President Naveen Patnaik has taken the Rural Poll Verdict in a "Positive" manner and today said people want some course correction in the functioning of the Party and the Government.

"We accept the verdict of people with all humility and very positively. They (people) are generally happy with our performance but want us to do some course correction," he said a day after the results of the Zilla Parishad polls held across the state in five phases were announced.

Though BJD won less number of ZP Seats this time compared to the 2012 Rural Polls, Mr. Patnaik, reacting to the poll result for the first time, said, "I am grateful to the people for having faith in BJD and giving it absolute majority with 56 per cent of seats."

BJD Got less 180 ZP Seats in 2017 Rural Polls in comparison to 2012. The Governing Party se-

cured 473 Zilla Parishad seats followed by the BJP which had a pull of 297 seats. Congress was pushed to the poor third position with 60 seats.



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Among other parties, CPI bagged two seats, while the CPI(M), JMM and Ama Odisha Party got one seat each. Independent candidates won in 11 seats. Out of the total 853 zilla parishad zones in the state, the elections

this time were held in 846 ZP Seats..

BJD candidates have done well in most districts, but in some they performed less than what was expected, Mr. Patnaik said.

"People have given us a golden opportunity for serious introspection - they want us to perform and deliver. I am thankful to the people of Odisha for such a clarity in their verdict," he said, adding

BJD would review its performance "very seriously".

BJD Boss said he would make suitable correctives both in terms of Government and on organisational issues.

"We shall work harder, reconnect with the people to fulfill their expectations. I am confident that Biju Janata Dal will return to office again in 2019 with a thumping majority with the blessings of the people by virtue of our good work," he said.

BJD Supremo congratulated the elected members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and asked them to work hard by improving Governance and strengthening the PRIs.

Mr. Patnaik also congratulated the people of Odisha for coming out in large numbers and exercising their franchise freely and fearlessly during the polls.

With each phase, voting percentage marked a sharp rise, which in fact helped BJP, feel Poll Pundits.

Akhilesh Yadav isn't pushing Congress candidate Ajai Rai in Varanasi

Sitting Congress MLA from Pindra in Varanasi, Ajai Rai, who had contested the Lok Sabha election against Narendra Modi is considered his party's strongest hope in Varanasi this Assembly election. But while the Congress has been eager to hold a grand show of its alliance with the Samajwadi Party in favour of Rai, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav is reportedly not very keen. Yadav, who had strongly opposed the merger of jailed don Mukhtar Ansari's party Quami

jail. Having planned a joint road-show with Akhilesh twice in the past in Varanasi, Congress and Samajwadi Party ostensibly failed to reach a consensus on the route. For the record, the reasons were logistics — from not getting permission for the route to security considerations. But sources confirm that key to the cancellation was, most probably, the CM's reluctance to campaign in favour of Rai in Pindra.

Result: Congress Vice-President Rahul

Congress candidate. He is referred as "SP candidate on Congress ticket" in the region.

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Assembly Elections 2017: How Has UP Voted In The Past Explained

The first Akhilesh-Rahul joint road show was planned for February 11 but failure to get permission for the route was cited as the reason for cancellation. Then next joint

said. Confirming the joint roadshow on March 4, he said, "We have just got confirmation. The show is likely to start from the police lines from where the rath would be ready and end at BHU near the statue of Malviya ji."

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UP Elections: PM Modi Addresses Rally In Mau, Promises Representation To Smaller Parties, Development In State



EPFO allows withdrawals from pension account without Aadhaar

Retirement fund body EPFO has allowed full and final withdrawal of funds by the subscribers from their pension account without providing Aadhaar number. "All those members filing claims for withdrawal of funds from their pension account would not be required to submit Aadhaar as mandated in an earlier order of the EPFO," a senior official said.

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Magistrate-Level Investigation Underway In PWD Building Collapse: Raman Singh

The members with less than 10 years of service can submit a full and final settlement claim through Form 10C to withdraw the amount accumulated in their pension account. However, the official said that the members submitting claims for fixing their pensions using Form 10D would be required to submit Aadhaar number or enrolment slips.

Ekta Dal in the Samajwadi Party, is said to have had reservations against Rai who has cases against him. Two roadshows tentatively planned for Varanasi have been cancelled during the last 10 days.

WATCH VIDEO | Deoria (UP) : Akhilesh Yadav Hints At BSP-BJP Alliance, Says Mayawati Can Celebrate 'Raksha Bandhan' With BJP Soon

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Rai was arrested in October 2015 in connection with a case of violence and arson during a protest rally by seers in Varanasi who were demanding permission for immersion of idols in Ganga. Varanasi Police had then booked Rai under National Security Act. The NSA was set aside by Allahabad High Court later and he was granted bail in April 2016 — after almost six months in

Gandhi has decided to go it alone and address a public meeting in favour of Ajai Rai at National Inter College ground in Pindra on March 2. After this public meeting, both leaders are expected to hold a joint show on March 4 and sources said that, as per the present plan, Pindra is not likely to be part of this show. Of the eight Assembly seats in Varanasi, Congress and SP are contesting four seats each and with Prime Minister Narendra Modi being top of the target of both Rahul and Akhilesh, this joint show in Varanasi is significant for both. Apart from Pindra, Congress is also contesting Varanasi South from where former MP Rajesh Mishra is the candidate; Varanasi Cantonment where Anil Srivastava is contesting the election and in Varanasi north, former SP MLA Abdul Samad Ansari is contesting as the

show was planned this Monday i.e. February 27 but both leaders preferred to be in Gorakhpur where the election is in sixth phase today rather than Varanasi. "We do not know why it was cancelled. Both the leaders are travelling across the state so there might be some clash of schedule but these things are best known to them," said Prajanath Sharma, District President of Congress in Varanasi. He said that he was busy with preparations for Rahul's public meeting on March 2 but was not sure about the March 4 joint meeting.

Samajwadi Party District President Piyush Yadav also expressed ignorance over the exact reason for the cancellation. "There are various factors involved considering the security of the leaders including their availability as well as routes but we are not directly involved in them," he

Asked whether the route would cover Pindra, Yadav said, "It would largely cover Varanasi south, Varanasi North and Varanasi cantonment area but Pindra falls in the outskirts and thus it will be difficult to cover it." With the polling for the last phase due on March 8, this joint road show is expected to be the last joint road show of Congress and SP for this election. Sources said that while Congress wants to highlight the plight of projects related to the Ganga clean-up project and dispute the claim of Prime Minister to turn Kashi into Kyoto, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav plans to highlight how he had given 24 hours electricity to the city on the request of seven-time BJP MLA from Varanasi south Shyam Deo Chaudhary, who has been denied candidature by BJP this time despite his claim that he is still fit to contest.



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Priyanka Chopra's Oscars 2017 dress is great. It's her interview with Jennifer Aniston that's meme-worthy. Watch video

AIB might call Priyanka Chopra's \$3 million white Ralph and Russo dress at the Oscars 2017 kaju katli but let us put it like this, Priyanka is OUR kaju katli. We think Priyanka was perfect at the 89th Academy Awards as well as Oscars after-party, which she attended with Deepika Padukone. However, this is about what happened backstage with Priyanka, Chrissy Teigen, Kelly Ripa and a certain FRIENDS star. So, Priyanka did not present an award this time but she was still our shining beacon at the 89th Academy Awards (she and Sunny Pawar and Dev Patel, we love you too guys!). Priyanka was seen walking the red carpet, talking Baywatch — her upcoming Hollywood break, schmoozing with co-star Dwayne Johnson and giving quotable quotes.

Watch: Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone at Oscars after-

party But what we are really interested in is

model and actress Chrissy Teigen. And it seems PeeCee and

looked absolutely non-plussed and the next question is about

big or go home," to which Priyanka's answer is, "I'm going

Murad strapless gown, completed her look with straight



what happened backstage. Once the Oscar moment is done, actors headed backstage to talk to Kelly Ripa, the host of Live With Kelly. From Justin Timberlake to Viola Davis, all got to meet Kelly for some candies and champagne after the hurly-burly of awards was done. And so did Priyanka in the company of

Chrissy want Kelly's job. They are on the lookout for a celeb to interview and zeroed in on Jennifer Aniston. A bemused Jen was asked to come onto the hot seat where Priyanka asked her about hall pass, where a husband or a wife allow their partner to go single for a day or week. Jennifer

their birthdays. Kelly was seen complaining how Priyanka wants her job. While the interview failed to get off the ground (Kelly have no fear, your job is safe), they sure had fun together and moments before Priyanka bid bye to Kelly, they downed a shot together. Kelly asked Priyanka, "Go

home after this." And we can tell you what Priyanka did once she reached home, wolfed down a big, fat burger. We envy you, girl. Now, back to her dress that doubled up as a Twitter joke. The 34-year-old star, who made heads turn during her first red carpet appearance at the Academy Awards last year in a white Zuhair

open hair and minimal make-up. The Lorraine Schwartz diamond earrings and bracelets added a gorgeous touch to the whole ensemble. Matching silver sandals rounded out the look. But that hardly cut any ice with Twitterati which compared it with Italian tiles, cigarette wraps, solar panels and, of course, kaju katli.

Ruth Negga in red, plenty of gold on Oscars red carpet

Ruth Negga dripped in responsibly sourced rubies with a custom Valentino gown to match, Nicole Kidman appeared fashion-effortless in Champagne-colored Armani Prive and Janelle Monae made a large statement in a black tulle Elie Saab gown with soup-to-nuts embellishment — bird brooches, feathers, sequins, beads and crystals — on Hollywood's biggest night at the Oscars.

Hailee Steinfeld, a presenter, walked in a positively ethereal, pleated back ruffle couture gown in a floral design with a long, sheer train, from Ralph & Russo. She's been a recent person-of-interest on red carpets. This time, her hair was up and she let her bare shoulders speak volumes.

Meryl Streep, who exchanged words over Oscar gowns with Karl Lagerfeld recently, wore midnight blue satin. It was Elie Saab Haute Couture and fell off her shoulders with delicate beading, slim ankle trousers underneath.

There was plenty of ornate gold, including a fringed dress on Emma Stone that appeared part goddess,

part flapper. It fit her perfectly. Charlize Theron, always a red carpet favourite, re-

evening at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Negga acc-

long-sleeved with a high lace collar in a bright red that can be tricky on red carpets.

nominee Isabelle Huppert, shimmered in a blush-tone Armani Prive, her hair

who wore a princess look that fell above the ankle. Kidman's look had just the right amount of sparkle in a jewelled halter style, bright red lips and her hair in a romantic bun.

Little Sunny Pawar, the kid star of "Lion" who has been a source of great fun on the carpet this season, flashed a peace symbol and adjusted his bow tie on the carpet in a bite-size, black tuxedo, a huge smile on his face and green detailed ankle boots on his feet.

Who slew in trendy velvet? Presenter Taraji Henson, in off-shoulder deep blue by Alberta Ferretti and a diamond necklace perfect to show off her décolletage. She looked every bit the movie star with a high side slit. Her "Hidden Figures" co-star, Octavia Spencer, also went off the shoulder in a feathery dove-grey silk organza gown by Marchesa.

Ava Duvernay, the creator of the film "13th," wore high-neck, long-sleeved grey, pleats providing a bit of a bustle effect. Halle Berry wore a huge head of tousled curls (she usually rocks a pixie) to go with her slinky, one-shoulder dress.



ceived the metallic dress memo, hers in a gold pleated lame veiled in black by Dior Haute Couture, paired with huge 25-carat, pear-shaped diamond earrings from Chopard.

Dakota Johnson, in Gucci, carried off a strong, strong gold look that might not have worked on all, while Jessica Biel went for edgy textured gold with long sleeves, the latter a popular trend for the

essorised with something extra on her first Oscar red carpet as a nominee — a blue ribbon in support of the ACLU. She gave kudos to the civil rights group for helping the real "Loving" couple as they fought their way to legal marriage as a mixed-race couple. And she shouted out her home country, Ireland, poised in her red tiara and statement earrings.

Her gown was

As for the ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, Negga planned to enjoy her moment: "My win is my nomination." Negga's little ribbon popped up elsewhere on the red carpet, including the lapel of Lin-Manuel Miranda, who noted his tuxedo came from Yonkers, New York, the same shop where he got his high school prom tux in 1998.

A standout this awards season, "Elle"

loose with diamond ear cuffs ideal punctuation marks. Does the French legend care about fashion? The dark lacquer on her nails popped against her belted gown with loose, romantic sleeves.

"Well it looks like I do pay a little bit of attention," she said. "I think all these things are rituals and you have to honour the rituals."

Also in Champagne: Felicity Jones,

Jio effect: Airtel removes roaming charges on calls, data

New Delhi (KCN): Bharti Airtel, Airtel roaming, Airtel vs Reliance Jio, Airtel removes roaming cost, Airtel roaming India, Airtel roaming data, Airtel roaming charges, Airtel data roaming, Airtel charges vs Reliance Jio, Reliance Jio Prime Membership, technology, technology news Photo for representational purpose

In what can be seen as the first signs of a rate war after Reliance Jio announced its tariff plan, Bharti Airtel on Monday said that from April 1, it will abolish national roaming charges and reduce international roaming charges by up to 90 per cent. National roaming charges account for only 3-4.5 per cent of the

company's revenue while international is even smaller, but while the former is more of an inconvenience to subscribers, the latter may give huge bill shocks to unaware customers who have not subscribed to some package. On the national front, incoming roaming charges is 45 paise per minute, which will be totally abolished. For outgoing calls roaming charges will be removed so one will have to pay only the local outgoing charges, which is around Rs 0.50 per minute. Earlier, a local roaming charge of 0.80 per minute was levied and Rs 1.15 per minute for STD calls. These charges will be removed, virtually ending what is known as roaming

rates.

Here's What Rivals Like Vodafone & Airtel Offer After Re-

customers, who will not have to think twice before making or receiving calls or

no concept of roaming there. It is evident that Vodafone and Idea are also going to

SMSes at Rs 15. Bharti had last year in September made incoming calls free in

coming calls free, while outgoing to India as well as local calls will be charged at Rs 3 per minute after 100/400 free minutes while data charges will be at Rs 3 per MB.

What Bharti has now done is to protect even customers travelling international without a pack. In their case, through an automatic adjustment, charges will be made equal to the daily pack for that particular country. This means that the moment a customer's billing reaches the price of a one-day pack for the country, he/she will be automatically moved to that pack. "Even post the exhaustion of pack benefits, customers will continue to enjoy extremely attractive rates. Call

charges have been cut by up to 90 per cent to Rs 3 per minute and data charges by up to 99 per cent to Rs 3 per MB across popular roaming destinations," Airtel said.

Cutting international roaming charges won't hurt since international pacts are done on the basis barter deals. This means that the subscribers of overseas operators will also be charged on similar lines if they roam on Bharti's network in India. Incumbents like Bharti would have an edge over Jio in the international roaming part because overseas operators do barter deals based on subscriber base and a new entrant takes time in cutting such deals.



liance Jio Prime Membership At Rs 99 Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO (India & South Asia), Bharti Airtel, said: "This marks the death of national roaming and the whole country will now be like a local network for our

using data while travelling outside their home base. Airtel has again set the benchmark in delivering best in class value backed by a great network experience."

Since Reliance Jio does not charge for voice calls, there's

follow Bharti's initiative on roaming charges.

International roaming rates are prohibitively costly. On average, incoming calls are billed at around Rs 50 per minute, outgoing at Rs 150 a minute and

popular destinations like the US, Canada, the UK and Singapore.

It did this by offering international travellers a daily pack and a monthly pack for around Rs 649. Anyone subscribing to it would get all in-

Demonetisation effect: India's GDP growth slows to 7 per cent in Oct-Dec

The Central Statistics Office on Tuesday

third quarter. It is not going to have any im-

with a lag, we will see an impact on GDP num-

media, "There is no time for complacency. The



pegged India's growth rate at 7 per cent for the current fiscal, 7.3 per cent for fiscal year 2018 and 7.7 per cent for fiscal year 2019. In a statement today, the CSO said, "Agriculture and allied sector growth estimated at 4.4 per cent in 2016-17, up from 0.8 per cent last fiscal. Advance GDP growth estimate for current fiscal pegged at 7.1 per cent, the same as projected earlier.

Economist at Phillip Capital India, Anjali Verma told Reuters: "It's a slight positive surprise the fact that they have not revised FY17 numbers downwards. That is clearly showing that it is the financials which have saved the GDP. I think Q4 should be slightly better than the

impact in rate cuts because (RBI is) focused on inflation. This will rather boost their argument of shifting from accommodative to neutral."

WATCH | India's Q3 GDP Growth Rate At 7% In 2016-17, Demonetisation Impact Factored In India's Q3 GDP Growth Rate At 7% In 2016-17, Demonetisation Impact Factored In

Aneesh Srivastava, chief investment officer at IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company, said the growth rate is much higher than expectations. "Perhaps this data is not capturing the impact of demonetisation. I am totally surprised and stunned to see this number. This is totally ahead of our expectations and I believe that,

bers," Srivastava told Reuters.

Earlier in the day, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Economic Survey had projected India to grow at 6.9 per cent and 6.5 per cent in current fiscal, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had estimated it to be 6.6 per cent. Paris-based think tank OECD had today said, "India has been a star performer in gloomy times. We do not have many cases of 7 per cent growth... It is a top reformer among all the G-20 countries."

Complimenting India for its initiatives towards modernising bankruptcy laws and giving states power to undertake reforms, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría told

reform momentum must be maintained," he said, while suggesting that India should take steps to revise the labour laws, handle banks' stressed assets and ease stringent product regulations.

Gurría supported India's move to demonetise high value currency notes. "Demonetisation is a very short term mechanism with a visible effect. India will never be the same again post demonetisation... You are moving towards a much less cash society. This will not affect investment or jobs," he said. "Demonetisation may have inflicted short term impact on growth, but in long term its effect would include important gains going forward," he added.

Students, teachers from DU, JNU, Jamia hit streets, ABVP says DU environment being spoiled

The protest march in Delhi University against alleged ABVP violence at Ramjas College concluded Tuesday after a day of speeches and sloganeering. The protest march began from SGTB Khalsa College and went on in the direction of the Arts Faculty. Members of the Congress-backed NSUI were sitting on a hunger strike outside the Arts faculty. Students from various Delhi University colleges joined the protest. While earlier protests were backed by Left student unions, the protest today was full of students unaffiliated to any political ideology.

"We are not here to support AISA or ABVP but have come to show our solidarity for the freedom of speech and expres-

Security Tightened Outside Arts Faculty, Ahead Of DU, JNU Protest March

The protest today was later joined by various politicians. Sitaram Yechury and D Raja joined from CPI while Yogendra Yadav from Swaraj India also pledged support. Students and teachers from JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia and Amedkar University also attended the march. Former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar was also present at the march and raised slogans against ABVP at the event. Kanhaiya was one of the three JNU students arrested last year in the sedition case.

The march saw a turnout of 800 people.

Former vice president of JNU Students' Union, Shehla

IndianExpress.com, she said, "The huge turnout at this protest march gives us hope for unity. We stand united against the violence perpetrated by ABVP." Shehla also took a dig at ABVP and said their "patience has been exemplary."

Ramjas Protest: Security Tightened Outside Delhi University Ahead Of Protest March At Khalsa College

Meanwhile, ABVP addressed a press conference, claiming that it was the Left that had started the violence on the day of Ramjas incident. "ABVP tried to calm down the situation. The Left wants to do one anti-national event in a year. Now they want to spoil the environment of Delhi

protest against police in JNU campus are enforcing police in DU," ABVP Delhi state secretary said.

Towards the end of the march, ABVP also tried to disrupt the protest. However, its efforts were thwarted by the police stationed at Art Faculty. The march ended before 5 pm and protesters were asked to leave the Arts Faculty premises through the back exit as the front exit had been blocked by ABVP.

Gurmehar Kaur, daughter of the slain soldier in Kashmir who had raised her voice against ABVP and started the campaign 'Not Afraid of ABVP' was also slated to join the march. However, following rape threats



sion," said a student from Khalsa College who wished not to be named.

Ramjas Clash:

Rashid Shora, attended the protest march and said the turnout has been encouraging. Speaking

University. Common students are wondering why there is so much police in the campus. Those who

and verbal attacks since her campaign, she chose to withdraw from the march and did not attend it.

India vs Australia 2017: ICC match referee Chris Broad gives 'poor' rating to Pune pitch

India lost the first Test of the four-match series by 333 runs and was a big hiccup in what has been a flawless domestic season for the top-ranked Test side in the world. But the pitch once again, for the first time since the South Africa series, drew ire and criticism for turning square from day one. The effects of it were felt from the start as 40 wickets fell in three days with India on the wrong side of the result.

Chris Broad, the match referee for the Test wrote in his report, "The report has been forwarded to the Board of Control for



Cricket in India, which now has 14

days to provide its response," said the ICC

release after calling the pitch as "poor".

Broad, in accordance with Clause 3

of the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring

Process, submitted his report in which he expressed concern over the quality of the pitch. The BCCI's response will be reviewed by ICC's General Manager – Cricket, Geoff Allardice, and Ranjan Madugalle from the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees.

Last time an Indian pitch was criticised was when the Nagpur surface played a role in South Africa collapsing and the Test ending in three days back in 2015. Then, the Jamtha pitch, had resulted in South Africa being bowled out for 79 and 185 with a 124

run win for India.

In a report by Indian Express, the curators have claimed that the Indian team management and some sections of the Board of Control for Cricket in India "hijacked the Pune pitch" and forced them to change its nature. This tied the hands of chief BCCI curators Daljit Singh and Dhiraj Parsana who were present at the MCA Stadium and were made to follow orders despite reluctance. The pitch was left dry and bald and it wasn't watered to make it difficult for the batsman – as it turned out to be the case at large.

India vs Australia 2017: Slow turner, and not a sandpit, likely in Bangalore for 2nd Test

BANGALORE (KCN): "Arre dekha nahi bhai,

you head to the stadium to see a surprising sight: water sprin-

expected to come Tuesday evening into the city and would be

22-yard strip. No one is obviously giving any of-

hasn't severed his ties, but when asked about the pitch, he



Vishwas karo!" Amit Mishra, his thigh heavily strapped, says as he walks inside the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bangalore. Beside him is Mohammad Shami who smiles before walking away. The seamer and the leggie are at the National Cricket Academy for rehab from injuries, and both realise the frenzy that's about to set in the city.

Leaving the two cricketers in the outdoors café with their South Indian snacks,

ling here and there. Where Pune looked a parched desert, the groundstaff at stadium in Bangalore aren't being miserly with water. Not yet. The word is that the pitch would be a slow turner — something that would help spin from second or third day but it won't be a sand pit. A usual Bangalore track, in other words.

India vs Australia 2017: India Suffer Harrowing 333 Run Defeat

The teams are

coming to the stadium on Wednesday. It's ironical that just when the memories of South Africa Test in Nagpur seemed a distant memory, especially after a fabulous home season, the shenanigans in Pune have brought the pitch back in focus. Indians worked hard through the season to dispel any talk about pitch as conspiratorial nonsense from media, but here we are, a week from the Test, and all the talk has come down to the

official quotes about the pitch, but where is the fun in that? As if anyone in Pune was musing about sand pit before the game! It's the rumours that one is interested anyway. You walk out to the entrance area, where police and association heads are sauntering about, to do some small talk when Brijesh Patel, former KSCA president who resigned post Supreme Court developments, walks in. He might have resigned but obviously

smiles, puts his hands upwards and walks off.

And so you hit the clubhouse area. It's early evening and only thing flowing is filter coffee and the savoury khara bhath that closely resembles upma but tastes way better. Familiar faces — from umpires, scorers, officials, admin staff — are lounging about. Sip some coffee, and gulp in some gossip. Talk revolves how the pitch backfired in Pune (for India that

is), and how the non-spinner Stephen O'Keefe was the best because he was the "worst" spinner out there. Someone says, India should have tried M Vijay or even Cheteshwar Pujara — India's worst might have turned it less and produced better results. If only the game was as simple as that but you move on and bring the discussion to the pitch in Bangalore.

MUST READ | Late recognition for Australia spin con-

sultant Sridharan Sriram Would there be a word from the Indian management here? After the laughter subsides, an official points out the strained relations between India's head coach Anil Kumble and Brijesh Patel's men. "You know the history and how the election was fought last time around. Even if Brijesh has resigned, it's his men who are running the show. It would be really surprising if

Kumble or anyone else has any demands here."

Not everyone agrees with that argument. Someone would come with a request or two, they say. But if the track plays out like a normal Bangalore track — spin but nothing alarming like Pune, Indians might be happy with that. The consensus about the pitch is that there will be spin but not from the first ball. It seems a fairly sensible thing to do after what went down in Pune, but time will tell.

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