



Helicopter with top Army brass crash-lands in Poonch, all safe

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Police say 39 found dead in truck near London were Chinese

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India's ranking in World Bank's ease of doing business improves

page 15

Kohli rested for T20Is against Bangladesh, Rohit Sharma to lead

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NEARBY



Now, open heart surgery at Rajiv Gandhi Hospital

NEW DELHI  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday inaugurated a facility for open heart surgery in addition to other services at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in east Delhi. According to a Delhi government statement, the other facilities now on offer at the hospital include a 16-bed ICU, an OT complex, hepatobiliary, bariatric and metabolic surgery centres.

CITY ► PAGE 3

Ex-DU professor Geelani dies of cardiac arrest

NEW DELHI  
Former Delhi University professor S.A.R. Geelani, who was arrested and later acquitted by the Supreme Court in connection with the Parliament attack case, died here on Thursday following a cardiac arrest, his family said.

CITY ► PAGE 5

Talks with NSCN-IM remain inconclusive

NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI  
As the deadline to sign the final Naga peace accord nears, Naga interlocutor R.N. Ravi's talks with the NSCN-IM (National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muinah) on Thursday remained inconclusive.

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FRIDAY REVIEW ► 8 PAGES (TABLOID)

## BJP-Sena win in Maharashtra, hung House in Haryana

Congress puts up a robust show in northern State even as the debutant Jannayak Janta Party emerges as a regional force to reckon with

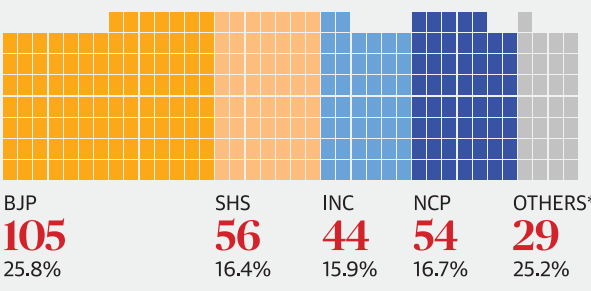
### Govt. formation, the next challenge

While the NDA managed to maintain a comfortable lead in Maharashtra, the Jannayak Janta Party is expected to become the kingmaker in Haryana as the State witnessed a tight contest

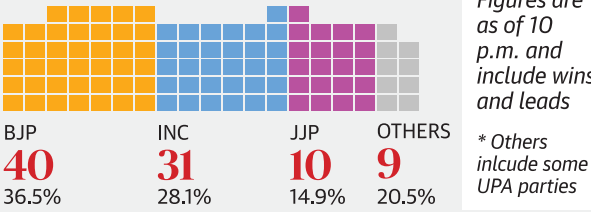


Festive mood: PM Modi and Amit Shah show the victory sign at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday evening. ■ ANI

#### MAHARASHTRA



#### HARYANA



## Sena's Uddhav insists on 50:50 formula

SHARAD VYAS  
ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance on Thursday managed to retain control of the Maharashtra Assembly, but with a reduced mandate. The alliance suffered losses in Vidarbha and western Maharashtra, with nine Ministers losing in the election.

With reduced numbers, the BJP will now be dependent on the Sena to form the government. Upping the ante, Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, speaking at a

press conference after the results, said it was time to implement the 50-50 formula for power-sharing, as decided earlier.

Mr. Thackeray said, "It is time to remind the BJP about the formula arrived at when BJP chief Amit Shah visited my home..." Prior to elections, the Sena had pitched Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray as the next deputy Chief Ministe, a demand which the BJP neither accepted nor denied publicly.

The BJP's parliamentary board, which met in Delhi in

the evening, authorised party president Amit Shah to hold discussions with Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on government formation.

The BJP also lost the Lok Sabha bypoll in Satara, where it had fielded the incumbent Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Udayanraje Bhosale after he switched sides.

#### Exit polls belied

Proving all exit polls wrong, the Congress-NCP combine crossed the 100-seat mark, riding an anti-incumbency

wave in the rural belt.

In absolute numbers, the BJP-Sena tally fell by 29 seats, while the Congress-NCP alliance notched up an additional 21 seats, compared to the 2014 numbers. The BJP won 103 seats out of the 150 it contested, while the Sena secured a clear mandate on 56 seats out of 124. The saffron alliance's final tally stood at 159. The BJP's 14 allies also contested on the lotus symbol.

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TAMED VICTORS ► EDITORIAL

## NCP bags Satara LS seat, LJP retains Samastipur

NDA allies stay ahead in Assembly bypolls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) retained the Samastipur Lok Sabha seat, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) retained the Satara Lok Sabha seat in the byelection results declared on Thursday.

The LJP's Prince Raj, son of party MP Ram Chandra Paswan, whose death in July necessitated the bypoll, defeated Ashok Kumar of the Congress by a margin of 1,02,090 votes.

In Satara, the NCP's Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil had a lead of over 85,000 votes over the BJP's Udayanraje Bhosale. Mr. Bhosale's resignation and defection to the BJP in September had necessitated the bypoll.

Of the 51 Assembly byelections held across the country, the Opposition Congress and the ruling BJP won three seats each in the six bypolls in Gujarat. OBC



RJD workers celebrating on the streets of Patna on Thursday. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

leader Alpesh Thakor, who defected to the BJP from the Congress during the Lok Sabha polls, was defeated in Radhanpur by Raghu Desai of the Congress.

In a setback for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the NDA won just one of the five Assembly seats, while the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal took two — Simri Bakhtiarpur and Belhar.

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JOLT FOR JD(U) ► PAGE 13

## HC seeks response from ED on Chidambaram's bail plea

ED told to reply within a week

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the response of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a bail plea of senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the INX Media money-laundering case.

Justice Suresh Kait asked the agency to file its reply within a week.

The 74-year-old was arrested by the CBI on August 21 from his residence in Delhi.

In the bail plea, Mr. Chidambaram has contended that the ED registered the Enforcement Case Information Report under Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, solely based on the CBI's FIR.

"The captioned ECIR is a reproduction of the subject FIR and the petitioner [Mr. Chidambaram] is neither



Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, centre, at the ED office, in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ ANI

named as an accused nor as a suspect therein. There is no allegation against the petitioner in the body of the captioned ECIR," the plea said.

It further contended that all the evidence is documentary and in the custody of investigating agencies, hence it cannot be tampered with by Mr. Chidambaram.

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CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## India, Pakistan sign Kartarpur pact

It will facilitate Indian pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India and Pakistan on Thursday signed an agreement to operationalise the Kartarpur corridor that will facilitate pilgrims from India to visit the Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

The agreement is valid initially for five years. India will hand over the list of pilgrims to Pakistan 10 days in advance and those granted permission to go may be informed only four days before the proposed date of travel.

S.C.L. Das, Joint Secretary in the Union Home Ministry, signed the pact with Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Mohammad Faisal at the Kartarpur zero point along the border.

The corridor is being built to connect Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak, to commemo-



Officials of India and Pakistan after signing an agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor in Gurdaspur on Thursday. ■ PTI

rate his 550th birth anniversary celebrations on November 12.

#### Same day return

The agreement said pilgrims would be allowed to carry a maximum of Rs. 11,000 and a 7-kg bag that could contain drinking water, and they would not be allowed to venture beyond the shrine. They would travel in the morning and return the same day.

According to the "do's and don'ts" issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), children below 13 years and persons of about 75 years and above will have to travel in groups.

"Eco-friendly material, preferably cloth bags, should be used during the pilgrimage and the surroundings should be kept clean," the agreement said.

"All pilgrims who propose to visit Sri Kartarpur

Sahib in Narowal district of Pakistan, will have to necessarily register online at prakashpurb550.mha.gov.in. in advance and the applicant is required to register himself/ herself in advance of proposed date of travel. Registration does not confer a right to travel."

#### Electronic authorisation

"An Electronic Travel Authorization will also be generated that pilgrims need to carry along with their passport, when they arrive at the passenger terminal building [PTB]," the Ministry said.

Pilgrims would be allowed to carry kirpans (daggers), one of the five articles of faith worn by Sikhs. Pilgrims have been advised not to touch any unattended article and inform about anything suspicious to the authorities. Playing loud music and taking photographs without permission would also be not allowed.

## SC tells telcos to pay govt. ₹92,000 crore

Sector benefited from AGR scheme but did not fulfil obligations to govt.: Bench

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

In a blow to telecom service providers, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the Department of Telecom's move to recover adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of about ₹92,000 crore from them.

A Bench, led by Justice Arun Mishra, said the sector had long reaped the fruits of the Centre's liberalised mode of payment by the revenue sharing regime. "It has benefited immensely under the scheme as apparent from the gross revenue trend from 2004 to 2015," he said.

However, the service providers failed to fulfil their obligations to the government and raised frivolous objections.



The court dismissed the service providers' objection to the formulation of AGR.

"The telecom service providers, in spite of the financial benefits of the package, started to ensure that they do not pay the licence fee to the public exchequer based on an agreed AGR," the Supreme Court observed in a 153-page judgment.

The Supreme Court dismissed the telecom service providers' objection to the government's formulation of AGR.

#### For underserved areas

The judgment said the gross revenue shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment, etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value-added services, access or interconnection charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

The court explained that the government intended to

pump revenue from its share of telecom gross revenue into developing remote and uncovered areas.

But all it ended up doing was incur a colossal amount of ₹49,120 crore under the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and a committed liability of ₹59,774 crore for ongoing projects including laying of optical fibre cables up to gram panchayat areas under 'Digital India Mission'.

As a sign of the liberalisation allowed in the sector, the court highlighted how the 15% AGR, fixed as license fee under revenue sharing, was reduced to 13% and lastly to 8% in 2013.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

## Construction activities banned from Oct. 26-30 in Delhi-NCR

Task force also issues directions to shut coal-based industries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Hot mix plants, stone-crushers and construction activities that generate dust are prohibited from October 26 to 30 in Delhi and its satellite towns, a committee overseeing the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) said on Thursday.

Coal-based industries, except power plants, will also have to cease operations during those five days in the city as well as the satellite towns of Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Sonapat and Bahadurgarh, the task force on GRAP

decided in its meeting.

The committee, which now meets almost weekly since the beginning of October, didn't suggest any specific caution on crackers.

#### Green crackers

This year, less polluting 'green crackers' are available in city stores unlike last year, when there was a complete ban on all kinds of fireworks. "Supreme Court directions regarding firecrackers to be strictly enforced by concerned agencies," was the only reference made by the committee on crackers.

The SC, in its October 2018 judgment, had allowed only

green crackers on Diwali and that too between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Forecasts by agencies such as SAFAR say that no dramatic dip in the city's air quality is expected until November 1. However, the city's air quality on Thursday was in the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 being the dominant pollutant.

Prashant Gargava, member secretary of the Task Force, said the Central Pollution Control Board was conducting checks throughout the NCR and investigating instances of burning of waste and violations of dust management practices.

## A judge cannot be suspected of bias: Mishra

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

A judge need not recuse himself from a larger Bench scrutinising the correctness of his own past judgment, a Constitution Bench held in a verdict published on Thursday.

"No litigant can choose who should be on the Bench. He cannot say that a judge who might have decided a case on a particular issue, which may go against his interest, should not hear his case as part of a larger Bench," Justice Arun Mishra wrote in the leading judgment for the Bench.

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