



AND THE WINNER IS

Shiv Sena candidate Aaditya Thackeray with his family members at his residence, after winning from Worli, on Thursday. Prashant Nadkar

How Pawar scripted NCP fightback: 66 rallies in poll run-up

ZEESHAN SHAIKH MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

"IT MAY not be a clean sweep but Sharad Pawar, the warrior, has fought back. And how," NCP MP from Baramati, Supriya Sule, said on Thursday.

Addressing the media in Mumbai, the NCP chief showed just how his leadership helped the party improve its tally from 41 seats in 2014 to 54, just two behind the Shiv Sena: an unrelenting drive, even at just days shy of 79. While he was being hailed as the comeback king, Pawar said he would embark on a state-wide tour to develop a new batch of young, second-rung leaders in Maharashtra.

Not long ago, the state and his old associates seemed to have turned their back on Pawar, with many quitting the party to join either the BJP or the Sena. But rather than getting bogged down, Pawar decided to launch the comeback of his life, holding 66 rallies in the campaign phase.

In the run-up to the elections, the Enforcement Directorate had registered a case against Pawar in a money laundering case, but his strategy to run a campaign on how he was being "targeted" as part of vendetta politics by the ruling regime seems to have found a connect with the voters.

"In this election we have seen that people do not take to kindly to people who get intoxicated with power. Power comes and goes, and people have this expectation that you should be grounded. If you take a position contrary to that, the same people do not take to it kindly," he said, reacting to the election verdict.



"The mandate is that we sit in the Opposition. We will do that," said Pawar. Ganesh Shirsekar

Pawar's statement was a swipe at Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who, during campaigning, said that his party was ready for a wrestling match but there was no "pahalwan" (wrestler) left in the ring. Fadnavis had also taken swipes at Pawar at other times, comparing him to the comic jailer played by actor Asrani in the film 'Sholay'.

"This government's attitude of looking at people's problems has not been liked by the people," Pawar said. "This call of *abki baar 220 paar* (this time 220-plus) has not been accepted by the people."

Pawar also denied that the NCP is looking at being a part of the government. "The mandate is that we sit in the Opposition. We will do that," Pawar said.

WITH ANURADHA MASCARENHAS IN PUNE

BALLOTIN

MNS wins one seat, vote share drops

Mumbai: The Raj Thackeray-led MNS has been able to win only one seat — Kalyan Rural won by Pramod Ratan. The MNS's vote share in Maharashtra has been in a free fall from the heady days of 2009 when it won 13 seats polling 5.71 per cent of votes. This dropped to 3.1 per cent in 2014 when it won one seat. It has now further come down to 2.3 per cent. After its initial plan not to contest, the MNS fielded 101 candidates. Raj Thackeray's aggressive style of campaigning was hardly on show with many perceiving this change to the ED notice slapped on him in a money laundering case. ENS

AIMIM gets two, loses old seats

Mumbai: The AIMIM made inroads in North Maharashtra winning two seats in Malegaon Central and Dhule City, but failed to save its own turf of Aurangabad Central and Byculla, where the party had won in 2014. After breaking ranks with Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, the Hyderabad-based party under the leadership of state president Intiaz Jaleel had fielded 44 candidates in Maharashtra — the highest so far since Asaduddin Owaisi-led party started contesting elections in Maharashtra. Mufti Ismail won from Malegaon Central seat and Shah Faruk Anwar from Dhule City. ENS

VBA draws a blank, vote share dips

Mumbai: Six months after its impressive debut with over 7 per cent of votes in Maharashtra at the Lok Sabha elections, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) failed to impress in the Assembly elections, failing to win a single seat. While its candidates fared reasonably well in a few select seats, overall, its vote share fell significantly from its Lok Sabha performance. ENS

As BJP's tally dips, Uddhav reminds it of '50-50' formula

VISHWAS WAGHMODE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

AS THE BJP's seat tally in the Maharashtra Assembly polls tumbled to about 20 less than what it was in 2014, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray lost no time on Thursday to "remind" his saffron alliance partner about the "equal" or "50-50 power sharing" formula for all posts in the government.

This is Sena speak for rotating the chief minister's post between itself and the BJP for two-and-a-half years each. Thackeray appeared to be speaking with the newfound confidence that the BJP's lower than expected performance in the elections seemed to have given his party.

"We all know that when the alliance was forged before the Lok Sabha polls, 50:50 formula was decided. There is no need to hide it now. It was also decided that the seat-sharing ratio would be 144:144. BJP state president Chandrakant Patil then said that I should understand BJP's problems in seat sharing. I understood their problems and accepted a smaller share of the seats. But if their problems are going to increase, then I can't understand all their problems," Thackeray told mediapersons at the Sena headquarters in Mumbai.

Maintaining that he needs to expand his party, he added: "So, all senior leaders from both parties will sit together and we will take a decision on the formula. Then, we will stake a claim on government formation." It was not a "warning" to the BJP, he said, but "just a reminder" of what had been discussed earlier.

The Sena chief's remarks came after the Assembly polls results showed that the BJP is set to win 105 seats, and the Sena 56. Both parties have won less number seats as compared to the last time. In the 2014 elections, the BJP had won 122 seats, while Sena won 63 after contesting the polls separately. Thackeray indicated that he would not explore the possibility of forming a government without the BJP by seeking support from the Congress-NCP combine. "I am not in a hurry. I am not greedy for power and won't do anything out of turn for power," he

said on Congress-NCP offering support for a Sena CM.

Sena leaders are confident that the party's bargaining power has increased due to the fall in the BJP numbers, though its own tally of seats has fallen by seven seats from what it had won in 2014. "The drop in the number of Sena seats happened either due to the rebellion by party workers or non-cooperation of BJP workers at many places. The results clearly showed that there was no alliance at the ground level despite attempts made by the top leaders of both parties," said a senior Sena leader.

Another Sena leader said that the party faced anti-incumbency at a few places and also faced strong fight from the NCP in some seats.

"Some of our candidates faced the anti-incumbency. Also, change of candidates seems not to have worked in our favour," said the leader, pointing out that people did not vote for defectors from Congress and NCP who had joined Sena ahead of the polls and were given tickets by the party.

INTERVIEW | EX-MUMBAI CONGRESS CHIEF

SANJAY NIRUPAM TELLS MANOJ CG WHY HE THINKS THE PARTY COULD NOT PUT UP A PROPER FIGHT IN MAHARASHTRA. EXCERPTS:

How do you analyse the election results? What went wrong in Maharashtra? We did not fight the elections (properly). The BJP has a style. It creates a huge propaganda two-three months before the elections... They identified the weak links in our party and inducted such leaders from the Congress and NCP. It demoralises the rest of the leaders. On top of that, there was a lack of unity, lack of cohesiveness, and paucity of funds. So there was no campaign as such. We did not carry out a proper campaign to attack the ruling alliance. Results clearly say that voters were



looking for a good, viable alternative. But we could not become an alternative. That appeal was missing. It has to be created.

Why could you not provide that alternative? That should be asked of those who ran the campaign. What is the responsibility of the general secretary in charge? His job is to dispel confusion in the state unit — talk to the people, take everyone along. There was no such attempt. I demand that some accountability be fixed now...

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

BJP CANDIDATE EXPECTED TO CONTEST, BUT SENA GIVEN TICKET: POLL OFFICIAL

In Latur (Rural) seat, NOTA is first runner-up with 27,500 votes

SADAF MODAK MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

THE CONSTITUENCY of Latur (Rural) saw 27,500 voters choosing the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option, the highest in the Maharashtra Assembly election. NOTA polled the second highest number of votes — accounting for 13.78 per cent of the total votes counted in the seat.

In the constituency, Congress candidate Dhiraj Deshmukh, son of former chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, got 1,35,006 votes (67%). After Deshmukh and NOTA, Shiv Sena's Sachin Deshmukh and VBA's Baliram Done polled 13,524 and 12,966 votes, respectively.

When asked about the high NOTA votes, Sachin said he was still shocked by the verdict. An aide said they would decide whether they want to approach the EC.

District election authorities, however, said they were not surprised by the high number of NOTA votes. An official said that a BJP candidate was expected to be given a ticket for the Latur seat, but eventually a Sena candidate was chosen due to the seat-sharing arrangement between the two alliance partners. Following this, there were protests by BJP workers in the district. Pamphlets were also found urging voters to choose NOTA.

"The pamphlets also shared on social media claimed that if NOTA receives the maximum votes, there will be re-election. When a clarification was sought by the press before

the elections regarding NOTA, we had stated the rules regarding it," said Latur district election officer and collector G Srikanth.

As per rules, even if NOTA is chosen more than any other candidate, the candidate who gets the maximum votes after NOTA — even if it is a single vote — will be declared a winner, the district authorities had clarified.

Done, the candidate who stood fourth, alleged that the rumours about NOTA were politically motivated to discourage voters from electing him. So far, neither the Sena candidate nor the VBA or any other candidates have filed complaints on the alleged rumour.

Apart from Latur, Palus Kadegaon, which is part of Sangli Lok Sabha constituency, also saw a high number of NOTA votes — 20,631 or 9.9 per cent of the electorate. The winning

candidate, Patangrao Kadam of the Congress, secured 83.04 per cent of the votes, while NOTA was chosen more than any candidate apart from Kadam.

In Mumbai's Jogeshwari East constituency, 12,031 voters or over 8% chose the NOTA option, the highest in the city. The constituency comprises areas including Aarey Colony, where 2,185 trees were hacked for a Mumbai Metro car shed earlier this month. While many residents protested the tree-cutting, none of the groups, including the 7,000 adivasis living in the 27 tribal padas part of the constituency had, however, declared that they would be choosing NOTA as a protest vote. Shiv Sena's Ravindra Waikar, the incumbent MLA, won with a margin of 58,787 votes.

In 2014, when NOTA was used in the state for the first time in Assembly polls, the maximum NOTA votes recorded in the city were in Chandivali-4653, with Jogeshwari East recording 2,038 NOTA votes.

In 2013, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission to provide a button called None of the Above in EVMs, for those who come to the polling booth and decide not to vote for any of the candidates in the fray. The court had observed that the mechanism of 'negative voting' serves a fundamental and essential part of a 'vibrant democracy', and held that such an option gives the voter the right to express his disapproval with the kind of candidates being put up.

WITH ATIKH RASHID IN PUNE

PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN (CONG) wins Karad South seat by 9,130 votes

ASHOK CHAVAN (CONG) wins Bhokar seat by 97,445 votes

AMIT DESHMUKH (CONG) won Latur City seat by 40,415 votes

NITESH RANE (BJP) wins Kankavali seat by 28,116 votes

PARAG SHAH (BJP) wins Ghatkopar East seat by 53,319 votes

ROHIT PAWAR (NCP) wins Karjat Jankhed seat by 43,347 votes





The Congress office in Mumbai on Thursday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Cong-NCP gain, but lose out in urban areas

SANDEEP ASHAR
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

WHILE THE Congress-NCP alliance put up a tough fight in the rural belts, it failed to bridge the gap in the urban areas.

In the Mumbai Metropolitan Region alone, the Congress-NCP won just eight of the 60 seats, while the BJP-Sena won most of the remaining seats. The Congress ceded some ground in the commercial capital, winning just four of the 29 seats it had contested — it had won five seats in 2014. And the NCP, despite its impressive performance elsewhere, won only one seat in Mumbai — it had won none in 2014. Maharashtra Congress president Vijay (Balasaheb) Thorat admitted that the “verdict would have been different if the Congress-NCP had wrested some more seats in Mumbai and other urban belts.”

The Congress is grappling with infighting and factionalism in the Mumbai region. With the Shiv Sena claiming a bulk of the Maratha vote, and the BJP managing to win over the North Indian vote, the Congress’s support base in the city has shrunk considerably.

Of the four seats which the Congress won in Mumbai, three — Mumbadevi, Malad, and Bandra (East) — have a strong minority presence, and the fourth, Dhavarai, is a Dalit-dominated pocket.

Former Mumbai Congress president Sanjay Nirupam, who stayed away from the party’s poll campaign, blamed “poor ticket distribution” for the party’s poor show. “We would have won four or five more seats if that had been done effectively,” he said.

Saying that the party must introspect its downsides in Mumbai, he said “a frequent change of guard at the helm” had also impacted the party’s functioning. “The party needs to give the person it appoints as its face in Mumbai a good run. He should get more organisational freedom,” he said.

During the campaign, Nirupam had publicly spoken out against the party after his recommendation regarding the candidate for a seat in Mumbai North West parliamentary segment was shot down.

Saying that the Congress needs to refine its ideological position on certain issues, Nirupam said the party should stop giving weightage to those who believe in backroom politics and opt for those who are willing to “fight it out” instead. He also called for an organisational overhaul to establish a better connect with voters.

The NCP, on the other hand, has never been a force to reckon with in Mumbai. The party has never won more than 10% of the votes in Mumbai ever since its formation in 1999.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at the BJP headquarters in Delhi, on Thursday. Renuka Puri

Fadnavis, Khattar have won people’s trust, says Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

SAYING THAT the people of Maharashtra and Haryana had reposed their trust in his party’s chief ministers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday praised Devendra Fadnavis and Manohar Lal Khattar. He said Fadnavis was the first Maharashtra chief minister to complete a full term in 50 years, while the Khattar government took along all sections of society.

Modi and BJP president Amit Shah addressed party workers at the BJP headquarters here after the results were declared.

Modi said the party’s performance in Haryana was “unprecedented”, as its vote share had gone up from 33% in 2014 to 36%. The BJP’s seat tally, however, fell from 47 to 40 in the 90-member Assembly.

The rise in vote share came even though it is believed that some amount of “anti-establishment” is at work against the ruling parties during the elections, he said.

When governments often lose power after five years, it is remarkable that the BJP has been given a fresh mandate for five years in Maharashtra and Haryana, he said. This shows people’s trust in us, he added.

Both the chief ministers have won people’s trust despite having no prior administrative experience when they took over in 2014, Modi said, adding, “People have put their trust in us. I am aware of the responsibility, and I plan to get to work right away.” He led a large rally through Parli town, in pouring rain, as young boys ran to shake his



Amit Shah arrives at the BJP office in Delhi, on Thursday. Renuka Puri

Modi recalled his work as an organisational leader of the BJP in Haryana, and said the party would often fight elections as a junior partner of one party or another in the state, and would consider itself lucky if it crossed even 10 seats in Assembly polls before 2014.

He also sought to underscore the party’s rise in Maharashtra since 2014, noting that it used to be a junior partner to the Shiv Sena before. Political stability is a must for an economically important state like Maharashtra,

he said, lauding Fadnavis’ feat of completing his full term.

The BJP-run states work “seamlessly” to implement central schemes while the Opposition-ruled states are busier in renaming them, said Modi.

At the meeting, Shah hailed the mandate, saying the party had won the first round of elections in the Modi 2.0 government. He noted that both the states were never traditional BJP strongholds.

— WITH PTI

BJP’s poor show in Fadnavis’s backyard

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, OCTOBER 24

IN 2014, its victory in 44 of the 62 Assembly seats in Vidarbha region had paved the BJP’s path to power. Five years later, the BJP has won only 29 seats, and the Shiv Sena has lost one of its four seats.

On the other hand, the Congress, which won 10 seats in 2014, has gained five more seats; the NCP, which won only one seat in 2014, has won seven; and the Independents’ tally has risen from two to seven.

This is a clear setback for Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who hails from the region. Not only has Fadnavis failed to retain the lead in Vidarbha, but his own victory margin, in Nagpur South-West, dropped from 59,000 votes to less than 50,000, though the party was hoping to scale it up to over a lakh.

And in his home district of Nagpur, the BJP’s tally of 11 of the total 12 seats in 2014 fell to six. While Congress leader Sunil Kedar retained Savner for the fourth consecutive term, the party wrested Nagpur West, which was Fadnavis’s constituency pre-delimitation, Nagpur North (SC) and Umred from the BJP, and the NCP wrested Katol.

In Nagpur West, former Mayor and city Congress chief Vikas Thakre defeated BJP’s two-time MLA Sudhakar Kohale by 6,467 votes.

Former minister Nitin Raut of the Congress defeated BJP’s Milind Mane in

Nagpur North.

Congress’s Raju Parwe defeated his cousin and BJP MLA Sudhir Parwe in Umred.

In Katol, the NCP’s Anil Deshmukh defeated BJP’s Charansingh Thakur.

Elsewhere in the region, BJP’s Minister of State Ambarish Atram was defeated by NCP leader and former minister Dharmarao Baba Atram in Aheri constituency of Gadchiroli district.

The BJP also lost the prestigious Chandrapur (city) seat, where State Finance Minister Sunil Mungantiwar was leading the charge for party nominee, Nana Shamkule, who lost by over 70,000 votes. Mungantiwar, however, managed to retain his Ballarpur seat. The only other BJP candidate who won from Chandrapur district was Kirtikumar Bhangdiya, who retained the Chimur seat.

BJP’s Agriculture Minister Anil Bonde was defeated by Devendra Bhuyar of the Swabhimani Paksha, which fought in alliance with Congress-NCP, in Morshi.

Three-time MLA Gopal Agrawal, who left the Congress to join the BJP about a month ago, was defeated by BJP rebel Vinod Agrawal, who contested as an Independent, by a margin of over 25,000 votes.

The Congress’s Leader of Opposition, Vijay Wadetiwar, retained his Bramhapuri seat in Chandrapur district, defeating Shiv Sena’s Sandip Gaddamwar by about 19,000 votes.

The Congress’s Nana Patole defeated

BJP’s Parinay Phukey in Sakoli, in Bhandara district.

Buzz in Satara: How Pawar’s speech in the rain drowned this Shivaji descendant

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, OCTOBER 24

NCP CHIEF Sharad Pawar’s decision to decline the offer of an umbrella and continue with his speech amid a heavy downpour in Satara on October 19, the last day of the campaign, became the defining image of the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

On Thursday, that visual, and the Maratha strongman’s relentless, energetic campaign, was the talk of the town as his party’s candidate from Satara, Srinivas Patil, effected a huge upset win, defeating former NCP MP Udayanraje Bhosale, the 13th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji, in the Lok Sabha bypoll by a massive margin — 87,717 votes.

The Satara seat had fallen vacant after Bhosale resigned three months after the Lok Sabha polls — he was dissatisfied with his sliding victory margin, which had come down from 3.55 lakh in 2014 to 1.50 lakh.

He subsequently joined the BJP. All efforts by the NCP, especially Pawar, to stop Bhosale failed. He said he moved to the BJP because the Congress-NCP had dumped all his proposals and the BJP-Shiv Sena government led by Devendra Fadnavis approved Rs 15,000 crore for his constituency.

Pawar admitted his “mistake” in fielding Bhosale from Satara in the Lok Sabha polls despite opposition from all party MLAs in the district, and got set to defeat him in the bypolls.

On Thursday evening, a stunned Bhosale said, “I accept the verdict of the kings of democracy — the people are the kings, and



Udayanraje Bhosale at a press conference in Mumbai. Amit Chakravarty

they have ruled against me. I have worked selflessly for 20-25 years for the people of Satara.”

While NCP leaders quickly credited the victory to Pawar’s rally during the downpour — the image had gone viral, ruffling up 5 lakh hits within the first hour itself — the NCP chief played it down. He told the media, “It was raining and there were some 50,000 people waiting to hear me. They had turned their chairs into umbrellas. I couldn’t have let them down.”

NCP MP Vandana Chavan said even a rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi could not save Bhosale. “Our party chief sealed Udayanraje’s fate...” she added.

The NCP chief was instrumental in picking Patil, his long-time friend and a retired IAS officer, to take on Bhosale after senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan refused to take up the challenge. Although the seat belonged to NCP, the party had offered it to Congress, provided Chavan was fielded.

‘YOU CANNOT WIN EVERY ELECTION ON SYMPATHY, PEOPLE WANT DEVELOPMENT TOO’

In battle of cousins, Dhananjay defeats Pankaja

KAVITHA IYER
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

FOR PANKAJA Munde, even a campaign flag-off rally by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and then a mega rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the end of the campaign proved to fall short as cousin Dhananjay Munde (NCP) won the Parli Assembly seat by 30,701 votes.

For Gopinath Munde’s eldest daughter, who was seeking a third term from Parli, this election was the first test of her track record as an MLA — in 2014, there was a sympathy wave after her father’s sudden death.

Dhananjay said: “The people of Parli have placed their faith in me. I am aware of the responsibility, and I plan to get to work right away.” He led a large rally through Parli town, in pouring rain, as young boys ran to shake his



Dhananjay Munde celebrates in Parli, on Thursday. Express

hand or give him a hug. His face and clothes smeared with *gulaal*, Dhananjay looked overwhelmed. “It is a huge win for me if you consider that Amit Shah, PM Modi, Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale and other veterans came to campaign for the BJP here,” he said. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis called

Pankaja’s defeat “shocking”, but, over the past few weeks, the BJP camp in Parli was clearly unnerved by internal surveys and the enthusiastic support for Dhananjay, especially among young voters.

Pankaja held back-to-back rallies and street corner meetings in the last week of the campaign, also reaching out to villages where the BJP had failed to get a lead in the recent Lok Sabha elections. She also successfully wooed senior Congress leader Prof T P Munde, who contested against her in 2014, and roped in the support of Uttam Mane, the CPI(M) candidate in 2014.

But NCP workers from Parli said on Thursday that the regions where the CPI(M) holds some sway also voted for Dhananjay. The NCP’s campaign team said they were able to convey to voters the disconnect between Pankaja and the people, as she got increasingly busy in Mumbai as a minister.

“You cannot win every election on sympathy. People want development also. One of the reasons for her defeat is arrogance, taking voters for granted,” Dhananjay said.

At the end of a highly emotional campaign, with each cousin railing against the other’s family, a video of Dhananjay making an objectionable comment about Pankaja went viral on the final day. A teary-eyed Dhananjay addressed a press conference the following morning, claiming that the clip was doctored, and that he would never forget his ‘*maryada*’ (honourable limits) as a brother.

“That was a very low level of politics, it was a blot on the relationship of a brother and sister,” Dhananjay said, adding that he had asked the electorate to give him justice and they had done that. “It was up to the people of Parli, whether I would be a *khalnayak* (villain) or a *nayak* (hero), and they have made me a nayak today.”

HOW THE TURNCOATS FARED

NITESH RANE
JOINED BJP AFTER LEAVING CONG
■ Wins from Kankavli, defeats Sena’s Satish Jagannath Sawant

JAIDUTTA KSHIRSAGAR
JOINED SENNA AFTER LEAVING NCP
■ Defeated by NCP’s Sandeep Kshirsagar in Beed

VAIBHAV PICHAD
JOINED BJP AFTER LEAVING NCP
■ Defeated by NCP’s Dr Kiran Lahamte in Akole

HARSHAVARDHAN PATIL
JOINED BJP AFTER LEAVING CONG
■ Defeated by NCP’s Dattatray Bharana in Indapur

RANA JAGJITSINH PATIL
JOINED BJP AFTER LEAVING NCP
■ Wins from Tuljapur, defeats Cong’s Madhukarrao Chavan

RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE-PATIL
JOINED BJP AFTER LEAVING CONG
■ Wins from Shirdi, defeats Cong’s Thorat Suresh Jagannath

ABDUL SATTAR
JOINED SENNA AFTER LEAVING CONG
■ Wins from Sillod, defeats Prabhakar Manikrao Palodika (Ind)

DILIP SOPAL
JOINED SENNA AFTER LEAVING NCP
■ Defeated by Rajendra Raut (Ind) in Barshi

PANKAJA MUNDE (BJP)
lost from Parli seat by 30,701 votes

ANIL BONDE (BJP)
lost from Morshi seat by 9,791 votes

VIJAY AUTI (SENA)
lost from Parner seat by 59,838 votes

RAM SHINDE (BJP)
lost from Karjat-Jamkhed seat by 43,347 votes

ARJUN KHOTKAR (SENA)
lost from Jalna seat by 25,338 votes

SANJAY BHEGADE (BJP)
lost from Maval seat by 93,942 votes



LET THIS DIWALI BE SPECIAL, LET THIS DIWALI BE POLLUTION FREE!

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार



हर
मुमकिन
प्रयास,
ताकि दिल्ली को
मिले हवा साफ

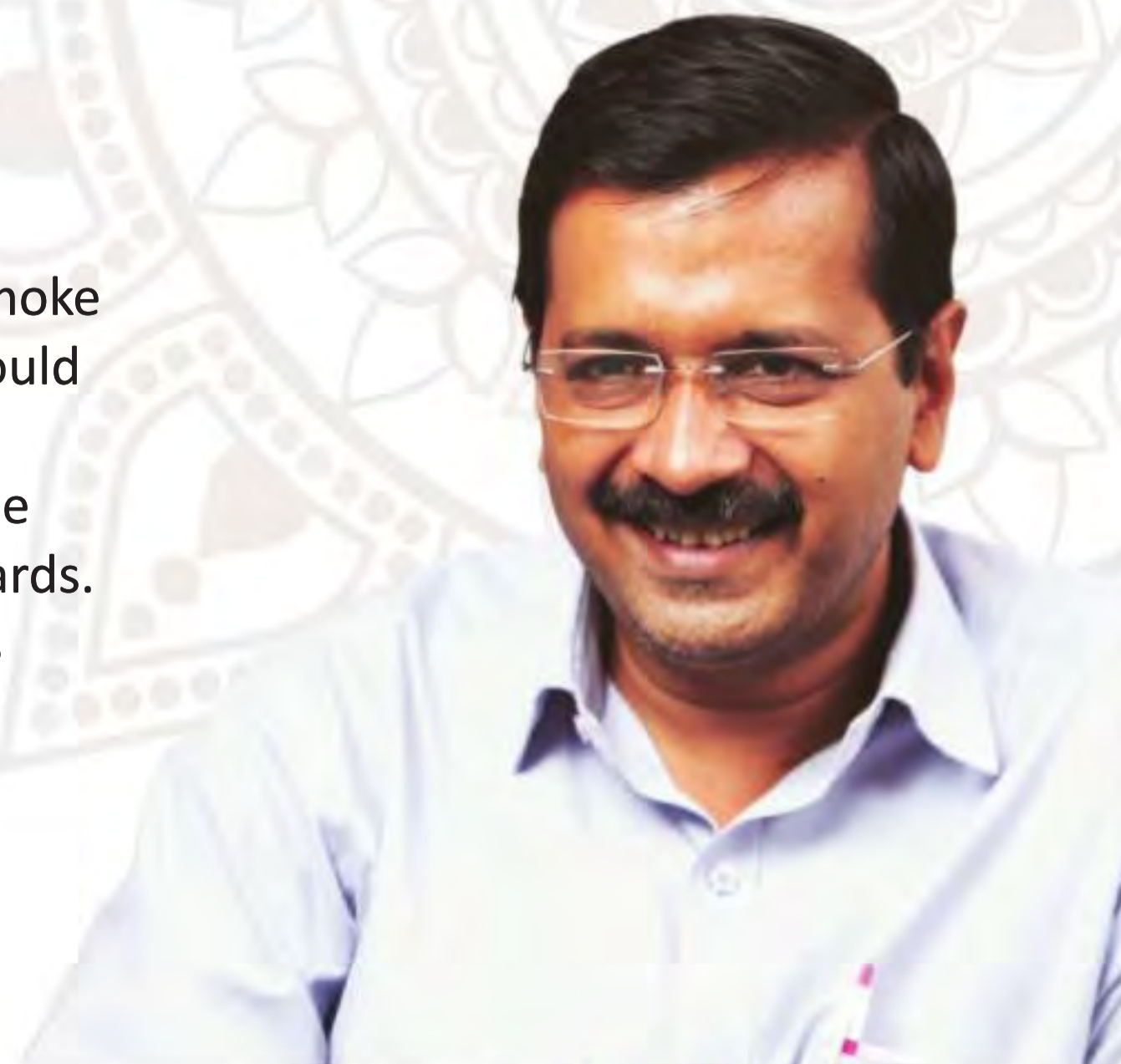
Dilli ki Diwali

26th to 29th October, 6 PM onwards,
Central Park, Connaught Place

ENTRY FREE

After bringing down pollution in Delhi by 25%, our next challenge is the crop burning smoke from neighbouring states that increases pollution manifold. And Diwali celebrations should not make pollution levels worse in Delhi. To celebrate Diwali responsibly, the Delhi Government is organizing a spectacular laser show. Come with your family and enjoy the laser show from 26th to 29th October at Central Park, Connaught Place from 6pm onwards. Entry to the event is absolutely free. Come, let's celebrate a smoke-free Diwali with this laser show and do our bit in making this festival pollution free!

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी



22 THE WORLD



SAUDI ARABIA PRINCE FAISAL NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER

Saudi Arabia appointed a prince with diplomatic experience in Western capitals as foreign minister in a partial Cabinet reshuffle as the kingdom tries to mend its image and prepares to take over the Group of 20 presidency. Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud had served for several months as envoy to Germany and earlier as political adviser at the Washington embassy.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Jane Buckingham outside a court in Boston. Reuters

USA Parenting book author gets jail in admissions scam

Boston: A marketing executive who authored a parenting advice book was sentenced on Wednesday to three weeks in prison for taking part in a vast US college admissions cheating and fraud scheme in order to help her son gain an unfair advantage. Jane Buckingham, 51, received less than the six-month prison term federal prosecutors in Boston sought after she admitted to paying \$50,000 to have a corrupt test proctor secretly take the ACT college entrance exam on her son's behalf. Buckingham is the author of *The Modern Girl's Guide to Motherhood*.

PAKISTAN Filmmaker says he was raped, stirs MeToo debate

Islamabad: Acclaimed Pakistani filmmaker Jamshed Mahmood Raza added new momentum to the country's #MeToo movement after airing allegations that he was raped by an unnamed media tycoon. The director tweeted about the alleged assault that happened 13 years ago. "Why am I so strongly supporting #metoo? cuz I know exactly how it happens now, inside a room then outside courts inside courts and how a survivor hides confides cuz I was brutally raped by a very powerful person in our media world, (sic)" he posted.

HONG KONG Businessman pays nearly \$1 mn for parking spot

Hong Kong: Hong Kong might be heading for recession after months of violent protests but that hasn't stopped one businessman from forking out almost \$1 million for a parking spot. The sum paid by Johnny Cheung Shun-yea highlights the inequality that has helped fuel nearly five months of protests in the financial hub, where one in five people live below the poverty line. The HK\$7.6 million (\$970,000) price tag is over 30 times the average annual wage in Hong Kong and about the same as a one-bed apartment in London's Chelsea area.



SPAIN EXHUMES FRANCO'S REMAINS

Franco's relatives carry his coffin out of the Basilica of the Valley of the Fallen in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain, Thursday. Reuters

- Spain has exhumed the remains of dictator General Francisco Franco from his grandiose mausoleum outside Madrid and flown them by helicopter for reburial in a small family crypt north of the capital.
- Many in Spain considered the mausoleum that Franco built an affront to the thousands who died in Spain's Civil War and his subsequent regime as well as to Spain's standing as a modern democracy.
- Spain PM Pedro Sánchez said the move "puts an end to a moral affront that is the exaltation of dictator in a public place". The body was taken by helicopter to Mingorrubio cemetery where his wife is buried.

UK PM calls for Dec 12 election in bid to break Brexit deadlock

KATE HOLTON & ELIZABETH PIPER
LONDON, OCTOBER 24

EXPLAINED
Boris's third bid for snap polls has a better chance than the last 2

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson called on Thursday for a general election on December 12 to break Britain's Brexit impasse, a goal the leader has sought but so far failed to push through Parliament. Johnson said in a letter to opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn he would hand Parliament more time to approve his Brexit deal but MPs must back a December election, the PM's third attempt to try to force a snap poll.

Just a week before Britain was due to leave the European Union, the bloc looked set to grant Johnson a Brexit delay, something he has repeatedly said he does not want but was forced to request by the country's divided Parliament.

An election is seen by his team as the only way of breaking the deadlock over Brexit after Parliament voted in favour of his deal, but then, just minutes later, rejected his preferred timetable which would have met his October 31 deadline. But he has twice failed to win the votes in Parliament on an election, where he needs the support of two-thirds of MPs. Labour has said it will only back an election when it is sure he cannot lead UK

out of the EU without a deal. "We will make available all possible time between now and 6 November for the (Withdrawal Agreement Bill) to be discussed and voted through... this means we could get Brexit done before the election on 12 December," Johnson wrote in a letter to Corbyn. **REUTERS**

Pak dismisses prosecution team in treason case against Musharraf

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 24

THE PAKISTAN government on Thursday abruptly dismissed the prosecution team in the treason case against former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, prompting the court to express its displeasure, according to a media report.

The prosecution team was hired in November 2013, during the tenure of PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif.

A special court, which was hearing the treason case against the ailing 76-year-old former president, adjourned the session without any proceedings on Thursday and was informed that the government has dismissed the prosecution team, the *Express Tribune* reported.



Sharif diagnosed with acute immune disorder

Lahore: Pakistan's jailed former PM Nawaz Sharif has been diagnosed with acute immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), an immune disorder which leads to an abrupt and sharp drop in blood platelets, according to a medical board treating him said on Thursday.

The 69-year-old was rushed to the Services Hospital here from the National Accountability Bureau's Lahore office late on Monday night after a massive drop in his platelet count. Sharif's condition is improving as his platelets count increased to 20,000 from 7,000, doctors treating him said. **PTI**

Syria alleges Turkey-led forces attacked its soldiers

BASSEM MROUE
BEIRUT, OCTOBER 24

TURKISH FORCES and their allies attacked Syrian government troops in northeastern Syria on Thursday, killing some of them, and they also clashed with Kurdish-led fighters, the state news agency in Damascus and a war monitoring group said.

While all sides in the conflict have said they are abiding by a ceasefire as they implement a Russian-Turkish agreement that divides up the border region, frictions could undermine the effort for a resolution on the border, which US forces were abruptly ordered to leave earlier this month.

Syria's state-run SANA news agency said Turkish troops and its allied fighters attacked Syrian army positions outside the town of Tal Tamr. Separately, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said three of its fighters were killed in fighting with Turkish-backed forces.

Syrian forces, Russian military advisers and military police are being deployed in a zone 30 km deep along much of the northeastern border, under an agreement reached Tuesday by Russia and Turkey. **AP**

China-Afghan-Pak diplomacy takes cricket route

SOWMIYA ASHOK
BEIJING, OCTOBER 24

A MONTH after the foreign ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan mooted the idea of a friendly game of cricket, a group of young cricketers from Pakistan and Afghanistan landed in Beijing last week to ride on a high-speed train to play cricket in a middle school in Jinan in China's eastern province of Shandong.

The "China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Youth Cricket Friendship Games" organised October 16-24

UK police: 39 found dead in truck are Chinese nationals

MEGAN SPECIA & ELIAN PELTIER
LONDON, OCTOBER 24

THE 39 people found dead in a refrigerated truck trailer in south-eastern England were believed to be Chinese citizens, the police said on Thursday, shedding new light on what appeared to be the latest case of human trafficking gone tragically wrong.

Eight of the dead are women and 31 are men, according to a statement from Essex Police. They said that each body would undergo a full coroner's examination to identify the victim and establish the cause of death, a process that would take time.

"Our work continues today, and for the foreseeable future, to be focused on providing the victims and their loved ones with an investigation that is filled with dignity, compassion and respect for those who have died," the statement said.

The tragedy bears striking similarities to a case in 2000 in which 58 Chinese migrants were found dead, also in a refrigerated truck, in Dover, Britain's busiest port. Then as now, the container had been shipped across the English Channel from Zeebrugge, Belgium.



Floral tributes at the Waterglade Industrial Park in Thurrock, Essex, on Thursday, a day after 39 bodies were found inside a truck on the industrial estate. AP

In the 2000 case, men and women suffocated in sweltering heat after the truck's refrigeration system was turned off and a vent closed. Amazingly, two men survived the ordeal. A Dutch driver was eventually sentenced to 14 years in prison for his involvement.

The driver of the truck found on Wednesday, a 25-year-old man from Northern Ireland, was arrested on suspicion of murder. Information about him began to emerge on Thursday, when he was identified by elected officials and the British news media as Morris Robinson, who also went by the name Mo.

Madrasa head among 16 sentenced to death for Bangla teen's killing

ANISUR RAHMAN
DHAKA, OCTOBER 24

SIXTEEN PEOPLE, including the head of a madrasa, were sentenced to death by a Bangladeshi court on Thursday for burning alive an 18-year-old woman student for refusing to withdraw a sexual harassment complaint.

The murder took place in April when a group of people poured kerosene over Nusrat Jahan Rafi and set her on fire on the roof of the madrasa in south-eastern Feni, some 162 kilometres from Dhaka.

"They (the convicts) will be hanged by the neck until their death," Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Mamunur Rashid pronounced the judgement.

The incident had sparked nationwide public outrage and mass demonstrations across Bangladesh with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordering expedited investigation in the quickest possible time. She also met Rafi's family and vowed to bring the killers to justice.



The accused inside a prison van after they were given death sentences in a murder case in Feni, Bangladesh. Reuters

Police earlier said their investigation revealed the madrasa's principal Siraj Ud Doula, who was already in jail on sexual harassment charges, ordered his cohorts to kill Rafi if she refused to withdraw the allegation she had made against him. **PTI**

struction of the 'Belt and Road' and enhance the friendship between the three countries". A report in Pakistan's Baaghi TV quoted the team's coach saying the Under-16 players were all-rounders and were in China to "introduce cricket to Chinese youth", given Pakistan and China's friendly relations. A team of 20 youngsters from various schools in Kabul made up the Afghanistan team.

The match was hosted by the Asian Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Administration of Sports, along with the Shandong Provincial Sports Bureau.

On Thursday, the closing ceremony of the games, co-organised by Tsinghua University, was held in Beijing.

From Chile to Lebanon, protests flare as wallet stress turns into massive unrest

DECLAN WALSH & MAX FISHER
LONDON, OCTOBER 24

IN CHILE, the spark was an increase in subway fares. In Lebanon, it was a tax on WhatsApp calls. The government of Saudi Arabia moved against hookah pipes.

Small pocketbook items became the focus of popular fury across the globe in recent weeks, as frustrated citizens filled the streets for unexpected protests that tapped into a wellspring of bubbling frustration at a class of political elites seen as irredeemably corrupt and hopelessly unjust or both. They followed mass demonstrations in

Bolivia, Spain, Iraq and Russia and before that the Czech Republic, Algeria, Sudan and Kazakhstan in what has been a steady drumbeat of unrest over the past few months.

At first glance, many of the demonstrations were linked by little more than tactics. Weeks of unremitting civil disobedience in Hong Kong set the template for a confrontational approach driven by vastly different economic or political demands.

Yet in many of the restive countries, experts discern a pattern: a louder-than-usual howl against elites in countries where democracy is a source of disappointment, corruption is seen as brazen, and a tiny political class lives large while the younger

generation struggles to get by. "It's young people who have had enough," said Ali Soufan, chief executive of The Soufan Group, a security intelligence consultancy. "This new generation are not buying into what they see as the corrupt order of the political and economic elite in their own countries. They want a change."

Few were as surprised as the leaders of those countries. On Thursday, President Sebastián Piñera of Chile boasted that his country was an oasis of stability in Latin America. "We are ready to do everything to not fall into populism, into demagoguery," he said in an interview published in *The Financial Times*.

The next day, protesters attacked factories, torched subway



Protesters in Santiago, Chile. NYT

stations and looted supermarkets in Chile's worst upheaval in decades, eventually forcing Piñera to deploy troops to the streets. By Wednesday, at least 15 people

were dead, and a rattled Piñera had spoken of "war against a powerful and implacable enemy."

In Lebanon, Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri survived recent em-

barassing revelations about a \$16 million gift to a bikini model whom he met at a luxury resort in Seychelles in 2013, a move that, for some critics, epitomized Lebanon's ruling class. Then last week he announced the tax on WhatsApp calls, setting off a revolt.

Decades of discontent over inequality, stagnation and corruption erupted into the open, drawing as much as a quarter of the country into euphoric anti-government demonstrations driven by chants of "Revolution!"

With one of the highest levels of public debt and intractably low employment, Lebanon seems incapable of providing basic public services like electricity, clean drinking water or reliable internet service. Austerity measures

have hollowed out the middle class, while the richest 0.1% of the population — which includes many politicians — earns a tenth of the country's national income, much of it, critics said, from plundering the country's resources.

On Monday, Hariri scrapped the planned tax, announcing a hasty reform package to rescue the country's sclerotic economy and pledging to recover public trust.

Although the recent scattering of mass protests appears dramatic, scholars said it is a continuation of a rising trend. For decades, societies across the world have become far likelier to pursue sweeping political change by taking to the streets.

But as protest movements grow, their success rates are

plunging. Only 20 years ago, 70% of protests demanding systemic political change achieved it — a figure that had been growing steadily since the 1950s, according to a study by Erica Chenoweth, a Harvard political scientist.

In the mid-2000s, that trend reversed. Success rates now stand at 30%, the study said, a decline Chenoweth called "staggering."

These two trends are closely linked. As protests become more frequent but likelier to flounder, they stretch on and on, becoming more contentious, more visible — and more apt to return to the streets when their demands go unmet. The result may be a world where popular uprisings lose their prominence, becoming simply part of the landscape. **NYT**

Business as usual for Federer

Reaches his 17th Basel quarterfinals with a thumping straight-sets win over Moldovan Albot

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BASEL, OCTOBER 24

ROGER FEDERER crushed Radu Albot 6-0, 6-3 on Wednesday to win his 22nd match in a row at the Swiss Indoors and earn a quarter-final place at his home event for the 17th time. The nine-time champion was ruthless in a 22-minute opening set, finishing the entire job in 63 minutes in front of 9,000 fans.

He will on Friday face the winner from Stan Wawrinka and Frances Tiafoe, who both earned straight-set wins earlier in the day. "It's a super feeling to know exactly where the ball is going, what the other guy is doing," said top seed Federer.

"I was hitting a lot of winners, those kind of moments are really rare." Federer's Swiss compatriot Wawrinka fired 10 aces and 30 winners to overwhelm fellow veteran Pablo Cuevas 6-3, 6-4 to make it into the second round, keeping alive his outside chances of making the ATP Finals.

Federer, who is playing in Basel for the 19th time, won his first set to love at the tournament since 2006. His loss of just three games on Wednesday was his most powerful showing on the ATP since beating Andreas Seppi at the Paris Masters 6-1, 6-1 four years ago.

"I'm very happy, it was important to start the second set with a break," said 38-year-old Federer. "Even though I was playing well, I was not over-confident, I was always worried that he might make a comeback."

If Wawrinka beats America's

Federer, who is playing in Basel for the 19th time, won his first set to love at the tournament since 2006. His loss of just three games on Wednesday was his most powerful showing on the ATP since beating Andreas Seppi at the Paris Masters 6-1, 6-1 four years ago.

Tiafoe in their second-round match, the Swiss pair will clash on Friday in the quarters.

"I hope Stan goes through, I always enjoy playing him," added Federer, who holds a 23-3 edge in the series against his close friend.

"I'm glad that he is back (from double 2017 knee surgeries)," Federer dominated 49th-ranked Albot, sweeping the first eight games before the Moldovan got on the scoreboard. The top seed finished on a first match point after five aces and five service breaks. Wawrinka, who was a runner-up to Andy Murray in Antwerp last weekend, currently

stands at 15th in the race for the season-ending showpiece in London with 1,500 rankings points available between Basel and next week's Paris Masters, the final event of the regular campaign. Six of the eight spots for the ATP Finals have already been secured. Wawrinka, 34, ended each set against Uruguay's 45th-ranked Cuevas with aces, breaking once per set to go through to the second round in 67 minutes. "It was great for a first match," said Wawrinka, who lost just nine points in 10 service games. "I moved and served well, I was really

focused. I'm really happy to get through in two sets." The seventh seed is playing Basel for the 14th time and improved his record at the event to 12-13. Three-time major winner Wawrinka said his three-set final loss to Murray in Antwerp on Sunday proved useful in Basel. "I've got confidence in my game, the game is there."

But he refused to speculate on any London chances: "I'm super far away, so it's not at all in my mind." Sixth seed David Goffin

also stayed in the race to London with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic.

Goffin entered this week at provisional 10th in the race and is duelling with Italy's Matteo Berrettini, who currently stands eighth, and ninth-placed Roberto Bautista Agut. Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania lined up a second-round match with third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas after defeating Pablo Andujar 6-1, 6-1.

Filip Krajinovic will next take on fifth seed Fabio Fognini after going past Serb compatriot Laslo Djere, 6-1, 6-4.

Australian Alex De Minaur defeated Taylor Fritz of the US 6-3, 6-3 and Switzerland's Henri Laaksonen was put out by Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3, 6-4.

China to host 2021 Club World Cup

FIFA SELECTED China as host of the inaugural edition of the expanded Club World Cup in 2021 but delayed a decision on how the 24 slots for the tournament will be distributed.

A proposal on how many teams would qualify from the six confederations was shared with FIFA Council members for approval at a meeting in Shanghai on Thursday, including Europe having eight participants. But a vote on the participation model was pulled because Oceania's only way of qualification would be its Champions League winner

first defeating the domestic champion of host nation China in a playoff. Oceania is pushing for a guaranteed place in the group stage in China in June 2021, as FIFA's task force on the revamped Club World Cup originally proposed in March. That is according to people with knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity with The Associated Press to discuss the contents of a private meeting.

FIFA only said the qualification process "will be finalized in a consultation process between FIFA and the six confederations."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said the governing body will make "zero" out of the new event because all the profits will be reinvested back into club football. "I hope China will help FIFA to organize it in financial terms," Infantino said after the meeting in Shanghai. "It will be the club football event which will generate the highest revenue per match." Infantino said FIFA along with the Chinese soccer federation and government will push ahead with planning on the tournament.

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STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

S. No.	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED		
		QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019	QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018	HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019	QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019	QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018	HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
		Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited
1.	Total Income	7,778.53	9,314.60	16,027.63	7,825.16	9,379.55	16,235.57
2.	Net Profit for the period before tax (before exceptional items*)	1,097.85	1,448.45	2,234.20	1,099.33	1,453.96	2,251.74
3.	Net Profit for the period before tax (after exceptional items*)	1,037.74	1,448.45	2,911.57	1,039.22	1,453.96	2,929.11
4.	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items*)	874.80	976.28	2,132.14	883.78	981.99	2,140.47
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	864.59	973.10	2,114.08	879.64	990.42	2,124.62
6.	Equity Share Capital (face value ₹2/- per share)	39.95	39.94	39.95	39.95	39.94	39.95
7.	Earnings per share on net profit after tax - face value ₹2/- each (in Rupees)						
	a) Basic	43.80	48.88	106.75	44.25	49.17	107.17
	b) Diluted	43.80	48.88	106.75	44.25	49.17	107.17

#Refer note 2 and note 3 for exceptional items
Notes:-
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Company's website www.heromotocorp.com and also on stock exchange websites, www.bseindia.com
2. During the current quarter ended September 30, 2019, the Company has introduced a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) and the Company has considered a provision of Rs. 60.11 crores for employees who have accepted to be part of VRS as exceptional item in the financial results.
3. The Company had deposited and created provision for "National Calamity Contingent Duty" ("NCCD") including applicable cess in its Haridwar plant during prior years, while contesting the same on the ground that NCCD is in nature of excise duty and should be covered by Area based exemption. Pursuant to favourable order from Hon'ble supreme court, the provision has been reversed as exceptional item in the quarter ended June 30, 2019.
4. The Company elected to exercise the option permitted under Section 115BAA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 as introduced by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019. Accordingly, the Company has recognised Provision for Income tax for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2019 and re-measured its Deferred tax assets/liabilities basis the rate prescribed in the said section. The impact of this change will be recognised over the period from July 01, 2019 to March 31, 2020.
5. Based on the guiding principles given in Ind AS-108 on 'Operating Segments', the Company's business activity fall within a single operating segment, namely automotive segment. Accordingly, the disclosure requirements of Ind AS 108 are not applicable.
6. The above results for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on October 23, 2019.

For and on behalf of the board
PAWAN MUNJAL
Chairman, Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 00004223

New Delhi, 23/10/19
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Chief Guest:
Shri V. Muraleedharan
Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs

Moderator:
Prof. Brahma Chellaney
Professor of Strategic Studies at
Centre for Policy Research

Distinguished Panelists:
Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra
Rector and Professor of American Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Prof. (Retd.) Aswini K Ray
Former Professor, International Relations
and Comparative Politics JNU
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Dy. Commr. (PCD)

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CHARLEMAGNE

Ursula's bumpy start

Why the incoming boss of the European Commission is struggling



Ursula von der Leyen hails from the EPP but is not considered "one of us" among its parliamentary ranks. Reuters

EMMANUEL MACRON was visibly angry. "I need to understand what was at play," he told journalists on October 10th, chopping the air with his hands. "I need to understand what was at play. Resentment. Pettiness perhaps. But I need to understand." The European Parliament had just rejected Sylvie Goulard, his nominee for the next European Commission. This had not been part of the plan. Mr Macron won a diplomatic triumph in the summer when he persuaded Angela Merkel and other leaders to help him manoeuvre Ursula von der Leyen, a German minister who shares his vision of a tougher and more thrusting EU, into the leadership of the union's executive. Mrs von der Leyen duly lined up Ms Goulard, a long-standing Macroniste, for a new mega-job overseeing industrial policy and defence.

Sadly, the members of the three parliamentary committees charged with assessing Ms Goulard's candidacy voted by 82 votes to 29, with one abstention, to reject it. Outside of her (and Mr Macron's) liberal group she received just 12 votes; in other words, very few from the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) and centre-

left Socialists and Democrats (S&D) groups that Mrs von der Leyen will constantly have to rely on for majorities in the parliament. Both camps claimed afterwards that she had not contacted them to discuss the vote in advance. Mr Macron was not amused.

MEPs cited Ms Goulard's role in a past scandal over European parliamentary jobs and payments for her role at an American think-tank (she denies wrongdoing in both cases, investigations into the first of which cost her job as French defence minister after just one month in office in 2017). Wary of a "two-tier" EU, central and eastern Europeans in particular insisted that the French candidate not be subjected to lower standards of propriety than their own nominees. But a bigger factor in the rejection was the widespread sense in the EPP and the S&D that Mrs von der Leyen herself had been imposed on them. They would have preferred the next Commission president to be one of their own "lead candidates" who campaigned for the job ahead of the European elections in May. The apparent expectation that they defer to her and Mr Macron's choice of internal market commissioner prompted the revolt. "Guys, we are go-

ing to kill [Goulard] in the vote later but do not say until then," read an internal EPP memo accidentally tweeted ahead of the ballot. Mr Macron's Europe minister declared the result "a major institutional crisis".

That was and is an overstatement—for now. MEPs also threw out the Romanian and Hungarian nominees over conflict-of-interest concerns. With insufficient time to find and approve three replacement candidates, on October 16th the parliament postponed its up-or-down vote on the final line-up and thus pushed the new commission's arrival in office from November 1st to at least December 1st. It could all take even longer. Neither Mr Macron nor Mrs von der Leyen has the parliamentary muscle needed to guarantee that the next French nominee will

meet with the support that eluded Ms Goulard. The French president's power base there is not yet commensurate with his dominance among national leaders; he long dragged his feet on his party's incorporation into the liberal group, considering himself above the contest between the eu's party groups. Mrs von der Leyen hails from the EPP but is not considered "one of us" among its parliamentary ranks.

Some sympathy is due to both of them. The parliament's petty squabbles—and the grinding slowness of European initiative to which they contribute—is an indulgence the eu can scarcely afford. As The Economist went to press leaders were gathering in Brussels to discuss not just the Brexit drama but conflict in the Middle East, the new eu

budget and unresolved eu carbon emissions targets. Mrs von der Leyen and Mr Macron, backed on some topics by the more cautious Mrs Merkel, want the continent to be a more decisive actor in such arenas and in Ms Goulard had a solid candidate for one of its crucial roles. Tit-for-tats and further delays are the last things they or Europe need.

The perils of politicisation

Yet both also have lessons to learn. In past decades France and Germany dominated. They could more easily settle decisions, sometimes with the commission president mediating, and impose them on the rest of the club. The parliament was relatively toothless. All of that has changed. The EU is more plural, its diplomatic and political landscape more diverse and its parliament more powerful. More by necessity than by design, and partly under the stress of crises, the European project has become more political and less narrowly technocratic—one reason why Mr Macron, fearful of adding any fuel to the fires of populism, rather shortsightedly decided this week to veto the start of eu accession talks with North Macedonia and Albania. The European elec-

tions in May saw turnout rise for the first time ever, betokening the genuine Europeanisation of some political debates. It produced a more fragmented parliament of shifting, hard-won majorities; one with, moreover, a stronger sense of its own legitimacy and a heightened willingness to assert itself.

Both Mrs von der Leyen and Mr Macron have, in so many words, welcomed the trend towards a more confident and political European project. But if they are sensible, they will not merely treat that as a licence for technocrats and national leaders to ram through bigger things, faster. Irritating power games in the European Parliament are the manifestation of something important. In a more confident and political European project there may well be more opportunity to do big things, but the need to argue and win support for doing them is likely to be commensurately greater too. In future, European leaders will have to work harder to make their case, forge political bases, do deals and marshal coalitions. Whisper it softly, but "more Europe" will not make the eu easier to lead. Quite the opposite.

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In past decades France and Germany dominated. All of that has changed. The EU is more plural, its diplomatic and political landscape more diverse and its parliament more powerful. The European project has become more political and less narrowly technocratic

CANNABIS AND PREGNANCY

Smoked out

In rats, cannabis during pregnancy rewires the brains of offspring

AS GOVERNMENTS around the world update their policies towards the legality of cannabis, that drug's medical and recreational use is spreading. Many women therefore want to know whether it is safe to take the stuff during pregnancy, and face a dearth of evidence to guide them. The use of cannabis by pregnant women is on the rise. A study in a Californian health-care system suggests uptake increased from 2.4% of pregnant mothers in 2002 to 3.9% in 2014. Other work in Western countries has found rates of between 3% and 16%. Such use is by no means simply recreational. Medical cannabis is employed in many places to control nausea and vomiting, so pregnant women have turned to it to treat morning sickness.

Some groups would like to promote the use of cannabis during pregnancy as safe and beneficial. CannaMommy, a website which supports a mother's right to choose "plants over pills" during pregnancy, thinks mothers-to-be should be able to decide how they

medicate themselves. A banner across one video on the site says, "Fact: Cannabis is safer than pharmaceuticals".

It isn't a fact, however. The absence of evidence there is, moreover, is not encouraging. Some studies indicate that using cannabis during pregnancy has long-term consequences for the development of a baby's brain. These investigations are observational, not double-blinded clinical trials, so they are not completely conclusive

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vational, not double-blinded clinical trials, so they are not completely conclusive. However they suggest prenatal cannabis exposure predisposes people to hyperactivity, impulsivity, loss of attention, psychosis and increased sensitivity to drugs of abuse.

A paper published this week in Nature Neuroscience examines these issues more systematically. Miriam Melis of the University of Cagliari, in Monserrato, Italy and her colleagues carried out experiments, albeit on rodents rather than people, that looked into the question of prenatal exposure to cannabis by administering the drug's main psychoactive ingredient, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to pregnant rats.

THC interacts with the endocannabinoid system, a network of brain cells which communicate with each other using THC-like molecules. Neuroscientists' concerns about using cannabis during pregnancy stem from the fact that, in developing brains, the endocannabinoid system directs cell growth, the



The use of cannabis by pregnant women is on the rise. Reuters

differentiation of neurons and the way in which neurons grow, form junctions with each other and are pruned.

Dr Melis administered low doses of the (equivalent to a single, mild joint) to pregnant rats. She then looked at the behaviour and neurobiology of the offspring. One test happened in the third and fourth week after birth. A second was when the animals were older—an age roughly equivalent to the period just before adolescence in humans. Before the second test, the youngsters were

given a dose of the.

Dr Melis found that exposing rat embryos to the rewired the part of the brain that handles reward and motivation—but only in males. Neurons in this area were more excitable than those in control animals when stimulated by dopamine, another chemical that carries messages between neurons. They also fired off their electrical impulses at a higher frequency. In people, says Dr Melis, hyperactive dopamine neurons of this sort are a feature of vulnerability to a range of

psychiatric disorders that include schizophrenia, mania and drug addiction. Another effect that Dr Melis detected was impaired "sensorimotor gating". This is the way that a brain filters out superfluous information and prevents an overload of data.

These underlying neurological changes did not, however, manifest themselves immediately as changes in behaviour. Instead, the rats concerned acted normally until given their preadolescence doses of the. At this point their behaviour changed, as they became hyperactive and increasingly likely to take risks.

Though it is sometimes hard to translate work done on rodents to human beings—particularly in this case, when only males seem affected—Dr Melis's findings lend support to the conclusions of observational studies which suggest that prenatal exposure to cannabis leads to increased susceptibility to a range of mental health problems. There was one intriguing positive finding. The authors were able to correct their rats' behavioural and neurological abnormalities by dosing them with pregnenolone, a drug currently undergoing tests for the treatment of cannabis addiction, schizophrenia, autism and bipolar disorder. But the long and short of the work done thus far is that consuming cannabis during pregnancy is far from safe.

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