

## Factory output contracts again, falls to lowest in 6 years

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 11

CONTRACTING FOR the second consecutive month, factory output for September plunged to (-) 4.3 per cent, with all three sectoral constituents — manufacturing, mining and electricity — recording negative growth, data released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Monday showed.

The manufacturing sector, which carries a weight of 77.63 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), contracted for the second month in a row by 3.9 per cent in September compared to a 4.8 per cent growth last year, while mining sector output, with a weight of 14.37 per cent in the index, contracted 8.5 per cent

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EXPLAINED

### E. Confirms slowdown, a glimmer

THE CONTRACTION in September IIP reaffirms the structural growth slowdown and raises expectations of another RBI rate cut. On the positive side, the 7% growth in intermediate goods in September raises hopes for positive IIP growth after a gap. While IIP growth in October is expected to stay negative, a mild IIP expansion is projected from November.

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## Ex-Army officer's death in Tihar: Police say China link, Rs 65-cr FD

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 11

FOUR DAYS after Captain Mukesh Chopra, a discharged Army officer, allegedly fell to his death in Tihar Jail, prompting a magisterial inquiry, police sources claimed their investigation had found that the 64-year-old had been staying at a guest house of the Aviation Research Centre where his room had been booked by a retired officer who

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Jawaharlal Nehru University students protest in New Delhi on Monday. Praveen Khanna

## JNU students protest against fee hike, HRD says will find a way out

SUKRITA BARUAH & ARANYA SHANKAR  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 11

UNION HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal was trapped inside the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) campus for around three hours Monday, after the main gate was blocked by JNU students protesting against a hike in hostel fee.

Pokhriyal had been invited as

guest of honour to JNU's third convocation ceremony.

Alleging that the Vice-Chancellor had refused to meet them, the students, led by the JNU Students' Union, raised the slogan: 'No convocation without affordable education.'

The main point of protest is the introduction of service charges — for maintenance, mess workers, cook and sanitation — which were so far not included in the hostel fee. Under

the new hostel charges, students have to pay an approximate service charge of Rs 1,700 per month. Rent for a single room has been increased from Rs 20 per month to Rs 600 per month, and for a double-sharing room from Rs 10 per month to Rs 300 per month. Students will also

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FULL COVERAGE  
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## MAHARASHTRA: PRESIDENT'S RULE LOOMS Sena's bid falls through, Governor gives NCP a day

Key question for all: Will Sena play second fiddle in NCP-led govt?

SANDEEP ASHAR & ZEESHAN SHAIKH  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 11

AFTER A day-long political drama which ended with Shiv Sena failing to get Congress-NCP support for a possible coalition government in Maharashtra, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari invited Sharad Pawar's NCP to show its willingness to form the government by 8.30 pm Tuesday.

Earlier, the BJP, the single-largest party with 105 seats, and invited first by the Governor, expressed its unwillingness to stake claim for government formation. Shiv Sena, the second largest party with 56 seats, was invited next, but it could also not

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Outside Matoshree, in Mumbai on Monday. Prashant Nadkar

## Cong closes door on Sena but NCP window still open

MANOJ CG & ZEESHAN SHAIKH  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 11

THE CONGRESS Monday virtually dashed Shiv Sena's hopes of forming a government under its leadership in Maharashtra as the

party high command chose ideological compulsions over practical politics. It was classical Congress at play as the party's central leadership did not buckle

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## Now ED probes firm in which EC Lavasa's son is director

RITIKA CHOPRA & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 11

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has begun an investigation under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against Abir Lavasa, son of Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, and the company in which he is a director for alleged violation of

foreign exchange laws.

Sources said the ED is looking at the Rs 7.25 crore raised by Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd in March 2019 from Saama Capital, a Mauritius-based India-focused early-stage investor. Saama Capital has invested in a number of start-ups in India including Paytm, ChaiPoint, Vistaar (NBFC), Snapdeal and SKS Microfinance. Abir is the director of Nourish

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BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



T.N.Seshan (1932-2019)  
(in indelible ink)

## Which trust will build the temple? In Ayodhya, war of words breaks out

MAULSHREE SETH  
AYODHYA, NOVEMBER 11

TWO DAYS after the Supreme Court ruled that the entire Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site be transferred to a trust constituted by the Centre for the construction of a Ram temple, elation has given way to a war of words in Ayodhya on the nature

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

AYODHYA: BID TO DO COMPLETE JUSTICE  
BY UPENDRA BAXI  
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of the proposed trust and its composition.

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das,

a leading light of the Ayodhya temple movement in the 1990s and president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas, told *The Indian Express* Monday that there is no need to form a new trust because the Nyas is a trust constituted for construction of the Ram temple and others like the Nirmohi Akhara can join it to complete the task.

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