



Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu calls all-party meeting  
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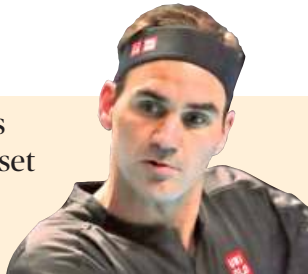


SC to rule today on bringing CJI under the ambit of RTI Act  
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IS leader Baghdadi's successor is in U.S. cross-hairs, says Trump  
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Federer keeps hopes alive with a straight-set win over Berrettini  
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NEARBY



Air quality likely to be 'severe plus' today

NEW DELHI  
The city's air quality nosedived to 'severe' category on Tuesday and may further deteriorate to 'severe plus' on Wednesday. A respite from the extreme air pollution is not likely for the next two days and a "slight improvement" is expected only by Friday, according to SAFAR.

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# Maharashtra placed under President's Rule

In his report to President Ram Nath Kovind, Governor Koshyari says it is impossible to constitute a stable government

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday approved a proclamation imposing President's Rule in Maharashtra, following a recommendation from Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

The Assembly will be kept under suspended animation. Mr. Koshyari's decision comes a day after he invited the third largest party in the Assembly, the NCP, to explore the possibility of forming a government in the State.

Cabinet meets

Soon after the Governor's report was sent, the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, met and approved a recommendation to the President to issue a proclamation under Article 356 (1) of the Constitution, a se-



In a huddle: NCP leaders, led by party chief Sharad Pawar, centre, holding a meeting with Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Ahmed Patel in Mumbai on Tuesday. • PTI

nior Home Ministry official said.

The Cabinet assembled at the Prime Minister's residence minutes before he was to fly to Brazil to attend the BRICS summit.

In his report to the Presi-

dent, Mr. Koshyari said a situation had arisen in which it was impossible to constitute or form a stable government in the State, and the government could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

There was no mention of horse-trading or unfair practices in the report.

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BJP HOPEFUL ► PAGE 13

BETRAYAL OF THE MANDATE  
► EDITORIAL

## After being denied more time, Sena moves court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Shiv Sena on Tuesday moved a petition in the Supreme Court challenging Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's decision on November 11 to deny its request for three days to prove its majority.

Sena lawyers said the court Registry informed them that it was not possible to constitute a Bench on Tuesday itself. They were asked to mention the petition on Wednesday for urgent listing. A second petition against the proclamation of President's Rule is being readied, and a decision on its filing would be taken soon.

The petition said the Governor acted in "hot haste" and gave the Sena, which won 56 seats, just 24 hours to prove its majority. On the other hand, he gave the BJP, which secured 105 seats, a whole two days.

Government formation in a democracy is not a "race". The Governor had recommended President's Rule, and the Union Cabinet met on Tuesday. This was when the NCP, with 54 seats, and the Congress, with 44, were "principally" willing to support the Sena, and advanced talks were on with them, the petition said.

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## Rajoana gets reprieve from death penalty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sent a letter to the Punjab government to commute the death sentence of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted for the assassination of former Chief Minister Beant Singh.

The MHA took an "in principle" decision on September 30 to commute the sentence as a "humanitarian gesture" ahead of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

R. Venkat Ratnam, Principal Secretary (Jails), Punjab, told *The Hindu* that they had received the communication from the MHA and forwarded it to the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

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## Holy dip



Celebrating divine light: Devotees gathering on the banks of the Ganga in Patna on Tuesday to take a bath on the occasion of 'Kartik Purnima', which is celebrated on the full moon day of Kartik (November-December). • RANJEET KUMAR

## India's cancer care facilities 'highly inadequate'

Systematic failure to address needs results in 20% higher mortality, says panel

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

India's cancer care infrastructure is "highly inadequate" and forces a majority of patients to travel "thousands of kilometres" for treatment.

The "systematic failure" to address the needs of patients contributes to a 20% higher mortality among Indian cancer patients than in countries with a "high" Human Development Index, said a report by a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science, Technology and Environment.

The committee was constituted to examine an expanded role for the Department of Atomic Energy, through the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), to address In-



Increasing burden: India's cancer burden is likely to increase from 13 lakh cases in 2018 to 17 lakh in 2035.

dia's rising cancer burden. The committee, led by former Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, submitted its report to Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Monday.

The incidence, or the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer annually, is

about 16 lakh. The disease kills 8 lakh people annually. Among these are 1,40,000 fresh cases of breast cancer, 1,00,000 cervical cancer cases, and 45,000 cases of oral cancer among women. Among men, the top three cancers with the highest incidence are those in the oral

cavity (1,38,000 cases), cancer of the pharynx (90,000) and those of the gastrointestinal tract (2,00,000).

"The Committee would like to lay emphasis on the fact that mortality to incidence ratio of 0.68 in India is higher than that in the very high human development index (HDI) countries (0.38) and the high HDI countries (0.57)," it noted in the report viewed by *The Hindu*.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer expects India's cancer burden to increase from an estimated 13 lakh cases in 2018 to about 17 lakh in 2035, and cancer deaths are expected to rise from 8.8 lakh in 2018 to 13 lakh in 2035.

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## Delhi's odd-even scheme makes inroads in Haryana

Rohtak implements scheme, Gurugram evinces interest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

The Delhi government's odd-even scheme to curb air pollution has found new takers in the National Capital Region. The Rohtak administration replicated the scheme for autorickshaws last week after pollution levels in the city increased manifold to reach the 'severe' category. And now, even the Gurugram administration is willing to consider the idea.

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri told *The Hindu* that the scheme

could be implemented in the Millennium City as well in future with an improved public transport system in place.

The Air Quality Index in neighbouring Rohtak breached the 400 mark in the first week of November, forcing the district administration to shut schools for two days. "It was then decided at a high-level meeting to implement the odd-even formula at least for autorickshaws," said DSP, Rohtak Traffic, Mahesh Kumar. Subsequently, the scheme was

implemented on November 7 and 8.

Divided opinions

The district administration and the autorickshaws' union, however, differed on the usefulness of the scheme. While Mr. Kumar claimed that it brought down the pollution levels considerably, Haryana Pradesh Autorickshaw Kalyan Sangh's Rohtak president Vicky Pehalwan said there was hardly any impact and the plan needed to be extended to all vehicles for any plausible result.

## Evo Morales flees Bolivia following deadly clashes

He has been granted asylum by Mexico

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LA PAZ

Bolivia faced its worst unrest in decades amid a political vacuum on Tuesday, while Evo Morales, who transformed the Andean nation as its first indigenous President, fled the country following weeks of violent protests.

Mr. Morales flew out on a Mexican government plane late on Monday, hours after being granted asylum, as his supporters and foes fought in the capital, while an Opposition leader laid out a path toward new elections.

Mr. Morales stepped



Evo Morales

down on Sunday, following weeks of widespread protests fed by allegations of fraud in the October 20 presidential election that he claimed to have won.

CRISIS DEEPENS ► PAGE 14

ANARCHY IN BOLIVIA ► EDITORIAL

A BOLIVIAN CRISIS ► PAGE 11

## Alphonsons from Malawi, for Mumbai

A small venture to graft the special variety on a 26-hectare farm in Africa now exports 700 boxes a day

RAINA ASSAINAR  
MUMBAI

It is not summer, but there are almost-fresh alphonso mangoes in Mumbai's retail shops. They smell and taste almost like the Devgad alphonso, but come from distant Africa. Mangoes from Malawi have hit the market in Maharashtra's capital.

The alphonso trees in Malawi took root in a farm some nine years back, when mango sticks from Ratnagiri were grafted and a new venture was launched. The farm is now spread across

600 hectares, and began exporting the produce to India last year. "In 2018, the import of mangoes was small, since it was the first time. This time, around 700 boxes a day are expected to arrive, starting Tuesday. All big retailers are purchasing them, as they liked the quality last year," Sanjay Pansare, a trader in the APMC fruit market, said.

Different seasons

The mangoes from the African nation have a ready reception here as both India and Malawi have different



Tasting success: African alphonsons in Navi Mumbai on Tuesday. • YOGESH MHATRE

harvest windows. "Indian mangoes are not available during October-December, but mangoes are harvested

in Malawi during that period. Indian alphonsons arrive from January through August from various parts of the southern and Konkani areas of Maharashtra," Mr. Pansare said.

"The African venture, Malawi Mangoes Operations, was started by British, German and African promoters. They planted the mango sticks by grafting them on 26 hectares first, and it has grown into a 600-hectare farm," Niranjan Sharma, who handles the firm's operation from Pune, said.

The organisation has around 800 employees. Each imported box has 3 kg of mangoes, priced between ₹1,400 and ₹2,000.

Absence of direct flights from Malawi has an impact: a kilo incurs around ₹200 in freight. The import duty is about 38%, adding to the cost. "Qualitywise, they meet European norms as they go through hot water treatment. The sand and weather in Malawi are similar to what we have in Maharashtra, making the fruit taste almost like Indian ones," Mr. Pansare said.



Prakash Parv



An illuminated Gurdwara Bangla Sahib in New Delhi; thousands of devotees pay their respects at the shrine on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev on Tuesday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



## AAP govt. to bear cost of Kartarpur pilgrimage: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

On the occasion of the 550th Guru Parv, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reiterated the Delhi government’s promise of including Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib under the ongoing Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana, which will enable the city’s senior citizens to visit the sacred site free of cost.

He had said last Friday that the decision had received an in-principle nod from the Delhi Cabinet.

After offering prayers at Rakabganj Gurdwara, Mr. Kejriwal said: “Guru Nanak Dev showed the path forward for humanity as a

whole. Whether they were Hindu or Muslim, he never differentiated between anyone from any religion or caste... he always taught his followers to follow the path of truth and help the poor... We have to try out best to move forward on the path shown by him.”

### ‘We can all go to pray’

“The good news is that the Kartarpur corridor is now open. We can all go there to pray... we [the Delhi government] are offering the service of visiting the sacred site free of cost to all senior citizens who wish to undertake this pilgrimage,” he added.

## PM’s willpower opened Kartarpur corridor: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and senior Delhi BJP leaders attended Kirtan Durbar and Vishal Langar at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj on the occasion of the 550th Guru Parv on Tuesday.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, who accompanied Mr. Birla, said: “The work of opening Kartarpur Sahib Corridor become possible due to the strong willpower of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. Now the Sikh community can easily visit the place associated with the last years of the life of their first Guru.”

Mr. Tiwari also spoke about the significance of the Sikh community for the BJP. “The Sikh community has benefited from the important decisions taken by the Centre. From Guru Nanak Dev to Guru Govind, many Gurus have sacrificed themselves for the unity and security of India,” he said.

## JNU Executive Committee to discuss hostel fee hike today

Students plan to protest outside convention centre; demand rollback of hike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A day after thousands of students agitated outside the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) convocation ceremony against a hike in hostel fee, all eyes are now on the Executive Committee (EC) meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

The protesting students had been assured by Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal that he would look into their demands.

The EC is the highest decision-making body of the university and sources said that the draft hostel manual, which was passed in the Inter Hall Administration meeting on October 28, would be on the agenda.

The JNU Students’ Union (JNUSU) has called for a strike outside the Convention Centre, where the meeting will be held.

The union said it would not allow the meeting to take place without the rollback of the fee hike. The students are also running a social media campaign to raise awareness about why the hike is an important issue. “An estimated 40% of students studying at JNU come from families that



Members of the All India Democratic Students’ Organisation protesting against “police brutality” on JNU students, at Jantar Mantar on Tuesday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

have an annual income of less than ₹1.44 lakh, as per annual reports of JNU. With the fee hike, these students will not be able to continue their studies at the university,” the JNUSU said.

The students have also called for November 14 to be observed as National Protest Day, to protest against rising costs of higher education and the New Education Policy. The ABVP has also called for a protest on Wednesday at the UGC to ask for a rollback of the fee hike and to re-

ject the draft hostel manual.

On Tuesday, the protesters received support from students of other universities as well as JNU alumni.

Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav, tweeted his support for JNU students: “I could study at JNU (1981-83) because my NTS scholarship of ₹250 per month covered all expenses (university fee, hostel fee, mess charges). If the hostel fee was not subsidised, my parents may have found it difficult to afford my education. Affordable hos-

tels must be part of Right To Education.”

AAP MP Sanjay Singh also lent his support: “The unexpected increase in JNU hostel fee is a gross injustice. Mr. Pokhriyal and the JNU V-C must meet the demands of the students and withdraw the hike.”

The All India Democratic Students’ Organisation protested at Jantar Mantar against the Delhi Police for using water cannons against JNU students during their protest on Monday.

## Left condemns police action against students

‘Hike will destroy JNU’s character’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has condemned the use of water cannon by police against JNU students who were protesting against recently announced hike in hostel fee.

Thousands of JNU students had protested against the hike outside the AICTE auditorium on Monday.

“This hike will ensure that JNU will become an elitist university as against its current character that promotes students from diverse backgrounds to afford higher education,” the CPI(M) said in a statement here.

“JNU has produced generations of socially conscious citizens and nation builders due to this character of pro-

viding affordable education, drawing in students from backward regions and marginalised sections. This blossoming of talent at affordable cost is what is being attacked,” the Polit Bureau said. The CPI (M) blamed JNU Vice-Chancellor Jagdeesh Kumar for his “obduracy” for this situation.

JNU students are not agitating for the sake of agitation, Communist Party of India (CPI) General Secretary D. Raja said.

“It is a very genuine issue. The way the JNU authorities have dealt with the students is atrocious. They should have first called them for a conversation. JNU is being targeted and attacked by forces known to every one,” Mr. Raja added.



Protesting JNU students clashed with police outside the AICTE auditorium on Monday. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Street vendors demand stay on evictions

Vendors ask for halt on action against them till survey is over; to go on strike today

SIDHARTH RAVI  
NEW DELHI

Representatives of street vendors who faced eviction this year have appealed for a stay on such action until a survey of survey of hawkers is done by the Delhi government, bids for which will open on Wednesday.

On October 31, the Delhi government invited bids for carrying out a demand survey of vendors in the city.

Under the Street Vendors Act, 2014, a photo census of vendors along with GIS mapping and other aspects are to be surveyed before issuing identification cards. In September, the Delhi government had announced that it would be the first State to implement the Act.

### Conducting survey

Arbind Singh, coordinator of the National Street Vendors’ Association of India (NSVAI), argued that letting private parties conduct the survey could lead to corruption, political manipulation, and the process being stalled.

Mr. Singh said that the survey should be carried out by an independent authority or by the existing 28 Town Vending Committees (TVCs) and vendors’ organisations, so that the survey is “authentic and credible”.

The TVCs, comprising elected vendors, area representatives, and others, is chaired by the municipal de-



On October 31, the Delhi government invited bids for carrying out a demand survey of vendors. ■FILE PHOTO

puty commissioner of the respective zone.

Abdul Ajeez, representative of the Jama Masjid Patri Association and a member of the area TVC, complained that vendors in the area had been evicted despite having received a stay from the High Court in 2015.

“This year, without any directions, authorities lifted our goods,” claimed Ajeez. “They say it is the Supreme Court’s directions, but no where in that order does it talk about street vendors. What about properties of rich people that are built without authorisation? We are treated as pest because we are easy to deal with. They will not do anything to the rich people,” he said.

Mr. Singh further argued that vendors should not be removed till the survey is

completed. “Who will you survey if the vendors are removed?” he asked. Adding to the argument, Mr. Ajeez said that the survey was of the people and their biometrics have to be carried out, “not of the land after all”.

### ‘We bear the brunt’

Sunil Mishra of the Karol Bagh Raidi Patri Association and a vendor from the area complained that they had been chucked out in the name of pedestrianisation and beautification of the area. “But most of the encroachments in the area were by shopkeepers who extended their stores onto the footpaths, Mr. Mishra said.

“We bear the brunt of this. Any direction for removal of encroachments from any court, falls directly upon vendors,” he said, adding

that UTTIPEC guidelines for creating alternative “hawkers zone” were not being followed in the area.

Kanchan Devi from Sarojini Market accused the New Delhi Municipal Council of behaving “irresponsibly”, arguing that goods seized by authorities were released at high costs and often got lost.

Vendors also alleged that they were being pushed around from one authority to another when they raised their concerns. “When we go to the Chief Minister, we are told to take our concerns to the TVC, but the TVC meetings are not taking place,” said a vendors’ representative from Shastri Nagar.

Vendors also attacked the Delhi government for not implementing provisions of the Street Vendors Act, 2014. “Only with the elections around the corner, did the government bring in the notification,” said Mr. Singh.

They also attacked the BJP, which is in power in all three municipal corporations of Delhi. The deputy commissioners of the civic bodies are chairpersons of the TVCs.

The NVASI has said that vendors would go on an indefinite strike at the Civic Centre on Wednesday. Their demands include a stop to evictions until the survey is completed, restoring of recently evicted vendors and an adherence to the TVCs for vendor-related issues.

## Bill for ownership rights to be tabled in upcoming Parliament session

Residents of over 1,700 unauthorised colonies set to benefit

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

The Centre’s plan to grant ownership rights for properties in 1,731 unauthorised colonies of Delhi is moving a step closer to reality with the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry prepared to introduce a Bill to facilitate it in the upcoming Parliament session, said officials.

The Bill would provide for an exemption from a 2011 Supreme Court judgment that held sales on general power of attorney illegal and said immovable property could only be sold or transferred through registered deeds, Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said. Since these colonies had been developed without government sanction, the residents did not have registered deeds and would require an exemption.

### Last transaction

Mr. Mishra said the Bill would also recognise the last transaction alone and not all past transactions for calculating stamp duty.

He added that the Income Tax Department would be also be issuing a notification to give the applicants relief from income tax liability. The Bill, he said, was likely to be introduced in the Parlia-



The Delhi Development Authority will identify the colonies eligible by October 29, 2021. ■FILE PHOTO

ment session scheduled to start on November 18.

A long-pending demand of residents of unauthorised colonies, the grant of ownership and mortgage rights was approved by the Union Cabinet on October 23. Housing and Urban Affairs Minister of State (independent charge) Hardeep Singh Puri had said while announcing the Cabinet’s decision that day that the Delhi Development Authority would be out with an online application portal within three months.

On October 29, the Ministry published the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations, 2019, which set guidelines for the process,

including the charges to be paid by the applicants.

The notification also stated that the DDA would identify more unauthorised colonies that are eligible for the grant of ownership.

In 2008, the government had identified 1,797 such colonies, including 66 “affluent” ones that have been left out for the grant of ownership rights at this time.

The Narendra Modi government had in 2015 increased the cut-off dates for colonies from 2008 to those in existence as on June 1, 2014 and with 50% occupancy on January 1, 2015.

The DDA would identify the colonies eligible under the extended cut-off in two years from the notification, that is by October 29, 2021.

## High-rise near DU: students’ strike enters fourth day

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The ‘indefinite strike’ by Delhi University students against the proposed construction of a 39-storey building near North campus entered its fourth day on Tuesday.

One student has been sitting on a hunger strike for the past three days.

The proposed construction of a private residential apartment complex has been opposed by multiple university stakeholders, including the administration. The protesters say the building is coming up near women’s hostels and will impinge on their privacy.

After a ‘solidarity through food’ campaign, a poetry exposition, and rallies, the students on Tuesday organised a ‘solidarity through music’ campaign to drum up support for their cause.

Protesters demanded that Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal put a stay on the construction, and that the land, which they claimed was meant for public purpose, be given to Delhi University. The Delhi University Teachers’ Association and the Delhi University Students’ Union have also opposed the construction.



IN BRIEF

5,000 litres of smuggled liquor seized; driver held

GREATER NOIDA  
Over 5,000 litres of liquor worth around ₹25 lakh has been seized from a truck in Greater Noida, the police said on Tuesday. The driver, Vishnu Ram from Punjab has been arrested, the police said, adding his truck has been impounded. “The truck was intercepted for checking and 610 cartons of liquor were found hidden under boxes of kinnow fruit,” an officer said. A case has been registered under relevant sections, the police added.

DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** India-Japan Dialogue, organised by India-Japan Friendship Forum will feature lectures and presentation by various speakers at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annex, India International Centre (IIC), 3 p.m. onwards.

**Exhibition:** “Memories of Change - A Historical Exhibition on the Pamphleteer Campus and Indian Politics”, a group exhibition of archival, oral, video and print works by various artists. Presented by the Centre de Sciences Humaines (CSH), Fonds d’Alembert at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** “Soliloquy”, an exhibition of drawings and paintings by Bijoy Kumar Basak at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** A group show of paintings, drawings, graphics, sculptures, digital art and photography by artists members of AIFACS at All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** ‘Shrinathji Swaroopam’, a solo exhibition of contemporary pichwais on silk and paper by Delhi based artist Jai Khanna at Art Centrix Space, Jain Farm, Behind Sector D2, Vasant Kunj, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

# Hi-tech features to boost security at new PHQ

## Plan to strengthen access control system in the building

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police is planning hi-tech security measures at its new headquarters on Jai Singh Marg in Lutyens’ area. Key features include RFID (radio-frequency identification) tags for staff, visitors and vehicles, intelligent display system and anti-terror bollards.

“We are strengthening access control system in the new building. A committee on security surveyed the building and recommended the security features to be embedded in the system. We have issued a tender and invited bidders to apply for it at the earliest,” said a senior police officer.

### Enhanced security

As part of the enhanced security measures, RFID tags will be distributed to staff members, visitors and vehicles in order to restrict entry of unauthorised persons and vehicles. Visitors and staff members will not be allowed entry to certain high-security areas in the building. Such areas will be accessed only by authorised personnel. Around 5,000 RFID tags will be ordered for staff and visitors and 2,000 for vehicles.

“We are also installing anti-terror bollards at the main

# Women happy with free bus rides; fear it will be scrapped

Many apprehensive that govt. will discontinue scheme after the Delhi elections

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two weeks after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government made rides on Delhi Transport Corporation buses free for women, most of the beneficiaries *The Hindu* spoke to said the scheme was extremely useful but would not last long.

The scheme for women came into effect from October 29 when the city was celebrating *Bhai Dooj*.

The government had said the initiative would ensure women’s safety and increase their role in the Capital’s economy.

Holding her pink ticket for route number 405, 45-year-old Shammo, a resident of Pul Prahaladpur, said she lost her husband 11 years ago after which she put her two children in an orphanage near Daryaganj. Whenever she would go to work at houses, the children would not go to school and it had become difficult for her to manage funds which led her to make a difficult decision. “Earlier, it cost me around ₹100 to reach Daryaganj on buses or the metro. There were times when I would skip coming to meet my children on Sundays worrying about travel expenses. But



A woman bus passenger receives a pink ticket on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

that is not a problem anymore,” she said.

For Nandi Devi, who changes buses from Faridabad to reach Pragati Maidan every day for work, the scheme has helped her save ₹1,000 a month. “It is a very good move for working women like us but I do not know how long we can avail this privilege,” she said.

Freelance handicraft designer Poonam Singh, who works at Kashmere Gate and travels from Kalkaji every day, echoed similar

thoughts. “This is just an eye-wash. This scheme will be discontinued right after the elections in Delhi, irrespective of who comes to power. And if it continues, they will take money from us in some form or the other. They might increase a certain tax. Also, it would have been nice if they actually spent money on the maintenance of the buses,” she said.

Jaya Chathli (70), who was on the way to her residence in Ambedkar Nagar, said that she is extremely happy that

the scheme has been introduced. “It helps women who do not get money from home, but people think it will be discontinued after the elections and that will just prove that the government cheated us,” she said.

Delhi University student Pooja (20), who stays in Faridabad, does not care about what happens in the future and she is “at peace” about “feeling safe in police presence”, referring to the marshals (Civil Defence officials) deployed on the buses.

# Taekwondo player shot dead by friend in Haryana

She had turned down marriage proposal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A 25-year-old taekwondo player was shot dead inside her house in Bilaspur on Tuesday morning allegedly by her wrestler friend after she turned down his marriage proposal, the police said.

The accused, Sombeer, was out on bail in a case to harass her. The two were engaged five years ago but the engagement was called off for personal reasons. The victim’s mother Savitri said Sombeer, who belongs to Jhajjar, had come to their house in Bhora Khurd village at 4 a.m. and asked her daughter Sarita to marry him at gunpoint.

When the woman refused, he allegedly shot her in the chest and fled the spot. The woman’s family took her to Rockland Hospital in Manesar where the doctors de-

clared her brought dead.

Ms. Savitri said her daughter was a taekwondo player and would often visit different places to participate in competitions. It was during her visits that she had met the accused and befriended her. He had been pushing her to marry him for long. When she refused, he began to threaten her with dire consequences.

The family had lodged a complaint to the police in this connection earlier this year and Sombeer was arrested. The police said the two came in contact in 2013 and were engaged a year later. The two had together taken coaching at Rohtak as well.

Sarita was presently pursuing diploma in physical education from Jaipur. Several teams have been formed to arrest the accused, the police added.

# Navy officer’s wife found dead

Family does not suspect any foul play; no note recovered

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old woman, the wife of a serving Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, was found dead at their residence in south-west Delhi’s Vasant Kunj.

The police said no note has been recovered. A senior officer said a PCR call was made at 6.30 a.m. on November 8 regarding a woman found dead in Tarapore Enclave, a residential area for defence department officers.

When the police entered the fourth-floor residence of the couple, the door to the woman’s room was found locked from the inside. When they broke open the door, the body was found in-

side. She had no clothes on. “No note was found. There were several cigarette butts in an ashtray nearby,” the officer said.

Sources said the woman’s husband was not at home during the night and when he returned, he knocked on her door. When she did not open, he peeped through the kitchen window which opened into the room and spotted her body.

He then called a doctor from a private hospital and also informed the police.

The doctor reached the residence and declared her dead.

The woman’s family does not suspect any foul play. The police said that the couple had been married for

less than seven years and a magisterial enquiry has been initiated, sources said.

Initial probe has revealed that the couple got married three years ago.

The husband allegedly told the police that his wife used to remain upset with him over personal issues, which led to frequent arguments. “The husband returned to Delhi around 10 days ago and they used to often stay in separate rooms. They have been living in the residential complex for the last one year,” the officer said.

*Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.*

# Partner kills woman in hotel room; held

They were celebrating his birthday

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old woman was killed allegedly by her boyfriend in a hotel room in Outer North Delhi’s Alipur, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said the 21-year-old accused, Vikki Mann, from Alipur has been arrested.

The police said they received a PCR call at 10.30 a.m. regarding a woman found in an unconscious state in an OYO flagship hotel. On reaching the spot, the officers took her to a hospital where she was declared brought dead.

During investigation, it was found that the victim from Khera Kalan had checked into the hotel on Monday with Mann. The room was booked in her name. “The duo had gone to the hotel to celebrate Mann’s birthday. During the celebration, the couple was drinking and a quarrel broke out between them after which Mann hit her and she lost consciousness,” the officer said. The accused then fled the spot. With the help of technical surveillance, the police traced Mann. He told them the sequence of events. The couple was in a

**During the birthday celebration, the couple was drinking and a quarrel broke out between them after which Mann hit her and she lost consciousness**

GAURAV SHARMA  
DCP (Outer North)

relationship for one year, the accused said. A case on charges of murder has been registered and further investigation is under way.

### OYO responds

Responding to the incident, an OYO spokesperson said: “We are extremely saddened by the incident and offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The safety and security of our guests are of paramount importance to us.” OYO follows all protocols during check-in of guests, including identity proofs and entries in arrival and departure in a register.

The representative said relevant documents as required by the enforcement authorities have already been handed over to the authorities concerned.

# Ex-Army man’s death: kin allege negligence in jail

Tihar authorities deny any such charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Days after a former Army Captain, arrested on charges of stealing books, died after allegedly jumping off a building in Tihar jail, his family claimed that there was negligence on the part of prison authorities.

### Books on China

The victim who was discharged from service in 1983, was arrested on November 2 after being accused of stealing some books on China from the Delhi Cantonment library. The jail officials said he died after falling off from the first floor of a building on November 7 but the family claimed that he had fallen off the stairs and was not

provided immediate medical aid. They also alleged that he had been wrongfully accused of having links with China and was being interrogated for it. According to the FIR registered against him on November 1, he had entered the Centre for Land Welfare Studies, situated at Parade Ground in Delhi Cantonment area, and left the premises after 30 to 40 minutes. Later, the librarian found some books missing and while checking the CCTV footage, it was found that he had stolen them by carrying them inside a newspaper, the police added.

*Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.*



More FIRs lodged against polluters

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Up to 10 FIRs were filed by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) against violators of anti-pollution guidelines on Tuesday, the civic body said.

The SDMC has been issuing fines for ongoing construction activities, which have been ordered to be halted keeping in mind rising air pollution. The SDMC also recently started filing first information reports against violators who have failed to deposit the penalty amount.

In all its four zones, the civic body said it has issued 197 challans worth ₹15.6 lakh on Tuesday.

BJP demands White Paper on effectiveness of odd-even

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Vijay Goel on Tuesday demanded that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government release a White Paper on the effectiveness of the ongoing odd-even scheme in reducing pollution in the Capital.

Mr. Goel alleged that the city continued to remain “a gas chamber” despite the implementation of the road-rationing scheme.

“On whom will [Chief Minister] Arvind Kejriwal shift the blame now? Even he knows that odd-even does not have any impact on pollution levels. The Delhi government is not worried about pollution levels despite the air quality being hazardous,” Mr. Goel said.

Air quality likely to be ‘severe plus’ today

No respite from the extreme air pollution is likely for the next two days, says monitoring agency

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi nosedived to ‘severe’ category on Tuesday and may further deteriorate to ‘severe+’ on Wednesday.

A respite from the extreme air pollution is not likely for the next two days and a “slight improvement” is expected only by Friday, said government-run monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

‘Severe’ air quality can cause respiratory problems in healthy people and has serious health impact on people with lung or heart diseases. People are advised to avoid outdoor physical activities, skip morning walks and close room windows. “Stop any activity if you experience any unusual coughing, chest discomfort, wheezing, breathing difficulty or fatigue and consult a doctor,” read an advisory by SAFAR.

The average level of PM2.5 on Tuesday was six times (366.8 ug/m3) the safe limit (60 ug/m3) in Delhi-NCR at 7 p.m., as per the Central Pollution Control Board.

**Causes for spike**  
The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi’s pollution was 25% on Tuesday, up from 18% on Monday. The contribution was as high as 44% earlier this season.

The air quality has deteriorated due to low wind speed, cloudy conditions, low mixing height and an increase stubble burning, said authorities.

Mixing height is the height of the atmosphere in which pollutants are spread out. Lesser mixing height leads to higher pollution.

“The sky is likely to be partly cloudy for the next two days under the influence of an approaching western disturbance, but no precipitation is expected,” said SAFAR. Cloudy conditions lead to lesser hours of sunlight, which increases pollution.

“Sunlight heats up the surface and the air near it. Due to this, the air rises, along with water vapour and pollutants, thus decreasing pollution. So, less sunlight can lead to higher pollution,” said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the regional weather forecasting centre of the India Meteorological Department. The wind speed, and Signature Bridge is under way,” he said, adding that the project will be completed within a month of being started.

Centre to rejuvenate 11 waterbodies connected to Yamuna: Tiwari

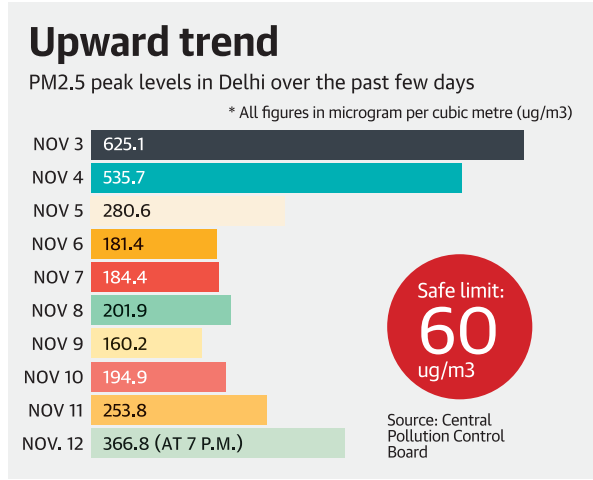


Manoj Tiwari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre will rejuvenate around a dozen small waterbodies connected to the Yamuna at a cost of ₹9 crore, said Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari on Tuesday.

“The BJP Centre views as a serious concern the issue



of rejuvenating the Yamuna as well as its banks. The Delhi Development Authority has begun work in this regard already,” Mr. Tiwari said.

head of the regional weather forecasting centre of the India Meteorological Department. The wind speed,

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	425	Gurugram	402
Ghaziabad	453	Faridabad	406
Noida	440	Greater Noida	436
Legend: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very poor (301-400), Severe (>401)			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

which is currently around 2 km/hr, is expected to be over 20 km/hr on Friday and may help in dispersing pollutants.

Air pollution has been linked to multiple diseases. In 2017, 1.24 million people died in India due to air pollution, as per a study funded by the Indian government and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Court acquits man of sexually assaulting son

Minor’s mother turned hostile during trial

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted a man of the charge of sexually assaulting his minor son.

Additional Sessions Judge A.K. Sarpal acquitted the accused as the complainant, victim’s mother, turned hostile in the trial and said she had lodged an FIR against her husband “in anger because he was not living with her”.

She alleged that her husband had assaulted his son. In her statement before a Magistrate under Section 164 of Cr.P.C., the complainant reiterated the charges.

**Victim had injuries**  
Though she admitted that the victim had sustained injuries and the doctors who examined him said he was sexually assaulted but she gave a clean chit to her husband saying that she had implicated him in the case as he had abandoned her.

“Admittedly, the complainant is not the eyewitness of the incident and she also stated that she has no suspicion on anyone but due to anger, she made the accused confined in the jail. She also said in the statement given to the Magistrate that she had mentioned the name of the accused due to anger,” the Judge said.

“Thus, the complainant has totally exonerated the accused and accepted that whatever she told to anyone about the incident was told at the instance of the police as well as due to her own anger,” the judge further said.

Mr. Sarpal said that the complainant had committed perjury by implicating her husband but he let her off saying that the couple is now living together happily.

“However, the complainant is only cautioned to be careful in the future and this time she is spared simply by giving warning. The accused is hereby acquitted of all the charges which are not proved,” the judge added.

Two men arrested for smuggling weapons

Four countrymade pistols seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Two men were arrested for allegedly smuggling arms in the national capital and its peripherals, the police said on Tuesday.

Four countrymade pistols, 10 live cartridges and a scooter used in delivering the weapons were recovered from the possession of the duo, they said. The accused were identified as Sunil (35) from Mehrauli and Ankit Saini (28) from Uttar Pradesh’s Aligarh.

They used to buy weapons from Aligarh at cheap prices and sell them in Delhi-National Capital Region at higher prices, the police said. On Monday, the police received a tip-off that an arms smuggler would come near Chirag Delhi flyover, Masjid Mod to deliver arms and ammunition. A trap was laid and they were nabbed, a senior officer said.

Saini used to buy the pistols from Aligarh and Sunil used to find prospective buyers, the police added.



Amarinder for open access to more gurdwaras across border

Punjab Chief Minister thanks Prime Ministers for the Kartarpur corridor

VIKAS VASUDEVA
SULTANPUR LODHI
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said he would take up with Prime Minister Narendra Modi the issue of persuading Pakistan to grant Indian devotees open access to more historic gurdwaras across the border.

Expressing his gratitude to Mr. Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for helping realise the Sikh community's dream of visiting the Kartarpur Gurdwara, Capt. Amarinder hoped this would be followed by more such gurdwaras in Pakistan, such as Panja Sahib and Nankana Sahib, being opened to Indian devotees.

He said he would personally take up the matter with Mr. Modi and urge him to raise the issue with Mr. Khan. Capt. Amarinder acknowledged the support given by the Union government in making the historic celebrations a success and expressed happiness at the participation of people from different political parties, as a befitting tribute to the first



Devotees at Gurdwara Ber Sahib in Sultanpur Lodhi on Tuesday on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. ■ AFP

Sikh guru.

President Ram Nath Kovind, who attended the celebrations, said Guru Nanak Dev tried to free people from caste and creed and ritualism by teaching them lessons of equality, brotherhood, kindness and morality. "True followers of Guru Nanak Dev Ji work for the welfare of all, live in harmony and do their job with diligence and honesty," he said. Mr. Kovind paid obeisance at Gurdwara Ber Sahib and then went to the stage set up by the Punjab government

for the celebrations. Later, he went to the other stage set up by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee.

Two stages

However, the setting up of separate stages for the celebrations didn't go down well with the pilgrims, many of whom felt that the Guru's message of 'oneness' was unheeded by political parties.

Forty-five-year old Baljinder Singh from Patiala, who had come to the holy town

for the first time, said that he was peeved at the two stages.

"They [SGPC and the State government] should have joined hands and set up only one stage. Guru Nanak Dev Ji's idea and message of 'oneness' has been disregarded by them," he said.

"I'll pay obeisance at the gurdwara and return. I'll not go any of these stages," he added.

A group of youngsters from Jalalabad in Fazilka expressed similar sentiments. "How will they [political parties] preach the message of the Guru, when they seem to be involved in their advertising through these stages and events?" said 32-year-old Daljeet Singh.

Seventy-five-year-old Darshan Singh from Amritsar said: "Such division is not good for humanity. The message of unification and integration should have been sent, instead an opposite message has been conveyed."

Guru Nanak Dev had spent 14 years of his early life in Sultanpur Lodhi.

Farmers 'gherao' Agriculture Department officials in Punjab

Small, marginal farmers are being harassed, alleges BKU(U)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

A four-member team of Punjab's Agriculture Department, which has been tasked with taking action against stubble burning incidents, was allegedly 'gheraoed' by angry farmers in Sangrur district, even as officials refused to comment on the issue.

Farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ugrahan) held a protest on Monday evening after they came to know that the officials were going to take action against a farmer for violating the ban on stubble burning in Gharachon village.

Given assurances

"We staged a protest against the officials," BKU leader Manjit said, adding that they were allowed to go after assurances were given that farmers will not be harassed again.

Among those who were gheraoed included an official of the rank of Chief Agriculture officer, the BKU leader claimed.

The protesting farmers alleged that small and mar-



Paddy stubble being burnt in fields at Mehal Kalan in Barnala district of Punjab. ■ FILE PHOTO

ginal farmers were being harassed by the government officials.

They lamented at being forced to buy expensive farm equipment for the management of paddy straw.

When contacted, the Agriculture Department officials refused to comment on the issue.

48,155 incidents

Meanwhile, farmers in Punjab continued to defy the ban as the State reported 48,155 incidents of stubble burning between September 23 and November 11, officials said. Sangrur and Bathinda districts continue to be the worst-affected dis-

tricts, they added.

In the corresponding period last year, the State had witnessed 42,112 incidents of stubble burning.

On Monday, a total of 794 incidents of farm fires were reported from Sangrur, Mansa and Bathinda districts witnessing 178, 162 and 158 cases respectively, an official of the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre said.

SC orders

Paddy growers continue to set paddy straw afire despite the Supreme Court directions for the government to pay ₹100 per quintal to those farmers who do not burn crop residue.

'Aakrosh March' against Centre, State today: RLSP

Leaders from all five coalition partners of the Grand Alliance will participate, says Upendra Kushwaha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

The five-member Grand Alliance along with the Left parties will take out a march across Bihar on Wednesday to protest against the "anti-people" policies of both the Central and the State governments, Rashtriya Lok Samta Party chief Upendra Kushwaha said on Tuesday.

Mr. Kushwaha, former Un-

ion Minister, also rubbished rumours that some of the Alliance leaders may not participate in the protest and said leaders and workers of all the five coalition partners will join the 'Aakrosh March' aimed to give voice to the people's concern, issues and problems gripping them.

"All preparations have been made for tomorrow's programme which will be

held at all the district headquarters. There should be no confusion over participation of the Grand Alliance leaders. Leaders from the alliance will be present there tomorrow," Mr. Kushwaha said.

Begins at 11 a.m.

The march will begin at 11 a.m. in the State capital from Gandhi Statue at Gandhi Mai-

dan and culminate at the Collectorate, which will be attended by leaders of alliance and Left parties, he added.

All alliance partners have come out with official statement that they would participate in the march, he said.

Education, law and order, healthcare facilities, women's security have turned from bad to worse because of the faulty policies of both

the Central and the State governments, Mr. Kushwaha said.

"People are fed up with both the governments and want that opposition must give voice to their problems," he said.

The Grand Alliance in Bihar comprises RJD, Congress, RLSP, HAM(S) and VIP, while the Left parties include CPI(ML), CPI and CPM.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

An 18-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Tuesday.

Paroshotam Kumar was killed by the wild animal while returning to his residence in Ramkote area late on Monday, a police officer said. He said the mutilated

body was recovered from the bushes and handed over to his family.

The incident has caused panic among residents who took to the streets on Tuesday morning along with the victim's body. Senior police and civil officers rushed to the area and persuaded the protesters to disperse, assuring necessary measures, the officer said.

DELHI
Timings

Table with weather timings for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, showing rise and set times for the sun and moon.

Table with Delhi weather forecast for max and min temperatures at Delhi City, Safdarjang, and Palam.

Delhi Palam Today
28°C Shallow fog/mist during cool morning is likely. Day will be slightly warm with sunny sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
28°C Dry weather with shallow fog/mist would persist during morning. Day will be slightly warm. A mainly clear sky.

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U.P. police on constant alert, says DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh police are on constant alert mode "as long as required" and also keeping an eye on various social media platforms to quell rumours and fake messages in the wake of the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case, DGP O.P. Singh said on Tuesday.

He added that 70 people have been arrested for rumour-mongering in the State and more than 270 social media accounts reported for further action. Mr. Singh said despite the verdict coming out last week, every district is on a "high state of preparedness" and no untoward incident has been reported so far.

He said a special team has been tasked to check messages and contents being published on various social media platforms in order to quell rumours and counter them with facts.

Medium-intensity quake jolts parts of Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN

A medium-intensity earthquake shook parts of Uttarakhand on Tuesday morning, the State Emergency Operation Centre here said.

The quake measuring 4.5 jolted Pithoragarh, Almora, Champawat and Bageshwar districts at 7.30 a.m. Its epicentre was near Raura-Nachni in Pithoragarh district and was at a depth of 10 km, the SEOC said.

16 killed as SUV falls into gorge in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Sixteen people, including five women and three children, were killed on Tuesday when a passenger vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, police said.

Doda Senior Superintendent of Police Mumtaz Ahmad said one more person was rescued from the accident site near Marmat area in a critical condition and admitted to hospital. Twelve people were killed on the spot and four more succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment, the SSP said.

Officials said the SUV was headed for Gowa village of Marmat from Kleeni when its driver lost control while negotiating a blind curve and the vehicle fell into the 700-metre-deep gorge around 3.25 p.m.

The condition of the only survivor is critical, they said.

Meanwhile, a minor boy was crushed to death by a speeding truck near Miran Sahib at the outskirts of Jammu on Tuesday. Sumit Kumar was crossing a road outside when he was hit by the truck, police said.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/E.C.Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:
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4. MADRAS FERTILIZERS LIMITED: Invites applications for Welfare Officer - E2.
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# TMC MP Mahua Moitra violated model code: BJP

False, misleading complaint, says Trinamool in letter to CEO

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA**  
The West Bengal unit of the BJP has alleged violation of the model code of conduct by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, who, it claimed, was being accompanied by a police officer while campaigning for the Karimpur Assembly bypoll scheduled for November 25.  
In a complaint filed on Monday with the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, it said, “Officer-in-charge of Thanapara Police Station, Nadia District, Sumit Kumar Ghosh has been seen regularly going for



Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra. ■ FILE PHOTO

door-to-door campaigning with the MP [Mahua Moitra]. This is a blatant violation of the model code of conduct which is in force in the entire district.” The party has attached a photograph to sup-

port its charge and demanded action against the officer.  
In response, the Trinamool Congress leadership wrote to the State CEO on Tuesday claiming it to be a “false, misleading complaint based on a classic case of fake news, which is a criminal offence under the IT Act”. The party claimed that the photo dated back to August 18, 2019, [well before the model code came into effect] and was uploaded on the MP’s official Facebook page that day.  
Ms Moitra was an MLA from Karimpur before being elected to the Krishnanagar Lok Sabha seat.

# Odisha announces award in name of youth whose organs saved 6 lives

CM allots land, house, ₹5 lakh relief to Suraj Sethi’s parents

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BHUBANESWAR**

To encourage organ donation, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that an annual award will be instituted in the name of a youth from Ganjam district whose organs were transplanted in six persons following his death in a road accident.  
Mr. Patnaik made the announcement after parents of Suraj Sethi, father Babuli Sethi and mother Gitanjali, met him at the Lok Seva Bhavan here on Monday.  
Suraj, a bachelor who was working in Surat, met with an accident on October 29.

After struggling for about five to six days in hospital, he was declared brain dead on November 2.  
**Six organs transplanted**  
The parents of Suraj were contacted by a Surat-based non-government organisation. They decided to donate their son’s organs to save the lives of others. Accordingly, his heart, liver, two kidneys and both eyes were transplanted in six different persons.  
While his heart was carried by plane to Fortis Hospital in Mumbai and transplanted into the body of a woman, his kidneys and liv-

er were transplanted into three persons in Ahmedabad, and the two eyes given to two persons in Surat.  
Appreciating the noble act of Suraj’s parents, the Chief Minister announced allotment of a homestead land and a house under the Biju Pucca Ghar scheme for them. He also announced an assistance of ₹5 lakh from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund as recognition for their inspiring act.  
The award to be instituted by the Odisha government will be given to persons and organisations working for promotion of organ donation in the State.







**Congress leader K.J. George on ED's radar**

**BENGALURU**  
Congress leader K.J. George is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here for probable violation of provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act. The agency has started a probe into the offshore investments made by the former Minister.

**Probe death of Maoists, says Kerala HC**

**KOCHI**  
The Kerala High Court ordered to probe the circumstances under which the death of Maoists Karthik and Manivasakam had occurred. It also ordered to find if the police officers, who had participated in the encounter, committed any offence in relation to the death of the duo.

**Mother of Walayar victims moves HC**

**KOCHI**  
The mother of the Walayar girls, who were found dead after being sexually assaulted at Walayar in Palakad in 2017, has approached the Kerala High Court to reverse the trial court judgement acquitting two accused in the case.

**Judgment day for disqualified legislators**

**BENGALURU**  
The political uncertainty around disqualification of rebel Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) legislators is expected to see a closure on Wednesday with the Supreme Court listing the case for order in the morning.

**TTD plans to introduce barcoded laddu tokens**

**TIRUMALA**  
To check the black marketing of laddus, the TTD has resolved to introduce barcode system in the issuance of laddu tokens. The main intention behind the move is to ensure that the laddus reach genuine pilgrims.

# Andhra Pradesh shelves Amaravati start-up project

Government had forged a collaboration in 2017 with a Singapore consortium

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA**

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to refrain from proceeding further in the Start-up Area Development Project of 6.84 sq. km and to wind up the Amaravati Development Partners Pvt. Ltd. (ADP) by voluntary liquidation on a mutual consent basis.

A GO said the decision was arrived at after careful examination of the project.

## 'No longer feasible'

The Singapore government acknowledged on Tuesday the termination of the project in Amaravati awarded to a consortium of its companies by the then Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The government in 2017 had forged a collaboration to de-



**Massive structure:** The 125 feet tall Dhyana Buddha statue in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. ■ FILE PHOTO

velop the project, with the consortium holding the majority stake.

The project envisaged development and marketing of the available land in the start-up area for offices and other commercial activities to companies and institu-

tions across the globe.

A statement issued by the Singapore Amaravati Investment Holdings (SAIH) said following a change in the scenario, it was no longer feasible to develop the proposed project as originally planned and therefore it was

mutually agreed to terminate it.

## Opportunities in A.P.

Singapore Minister in-charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran, in a separate press statement, said: "We note that the newly elected government of A.P. has decided not to proceed with the start-up area given its other priorities for the State."

Mr. Iswaran, however, said that Singapore companies remained interested in opportunities in Andhra Pradesh and other Indian States because of the size and potential of the market.

He said the project had cost the Singapore companies a few million dollars and that its closure would not impact their investment plans in India.

# Human error suspected in Hyderabad train collision

Loco pilot critical; booked for endangering public safety

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HYDERABAD**

The train collision that left 17 people injured here on Monday occurred due to "human error" on the part of a loco pilot, now in a critical condition, and he has been booked on charges including endangering public safety, railway and police officials said on Tuesday.

A day after the accident involving two slow-moving trains at the Kacheguda railway station, an official said according to the preliminary information, suspected human error appeared to be the cause as the MMTS train had overshot the signal.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety will dig deep and inspect all the available records and evidence, the official said.

In every inquiry there



**Back on track:** Workers restoring the power lines at the Kacheguda station in Hyderabad on Tuesday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

were different angles. The Commissioner would hold the statutory inquiry on Wednesday and public can give evidence, the official said adding notices in this regard had been put up at the Secunderabad and the Kacheguda railway stations.

The loco pilot was being treated for multiple problems and had been put on ventilator at a private hospital, a doctor told reporters here.

He has suffered multiple injuries, including rib fractures.

# Maradu flats: HC recalls interim bail of realtor

**MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S. CHENNAI**

The Madras High Court on Tuesday recalled an interim inter-State anticipatory bail granted by it on October 18 to Sandeep Mehta, Managing Director of Jain Housing and Constructions Limited, in the Maradu illegal apartments construction case.

His multi-storey building Jain Coral Cove is one of the four to be demolished in January in compliance with Supreme Court orders for violation of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) norms.

Justice C.V. Karthikeyan recalled his order after State Public Prosecutor (SPP) A. Natarajan accused the petitioner of having suppressed

certain crucial facts before the court while obtaining the interim anticipatory bail for a period of four weeks.

The SPP claimed that the petitioner ought to have approached the High Court of Kerala seeking a regular anticipatory bail since he had a branch office over there and had been frequenting the place for business purposes. The petitioner was not entitled to seek inter-State interim advance bail from the Madras High Court, he said.

The realtor's counsel did not dispute that his client's firm had a branch office in Kerala but asserted that the petitioner did not have any permanent residence in Kerala.

# Armless hero conquers Kerala Chief Minister's heart

He hands over funds collected through foot paintings

**ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA PALAKKAD**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan shared a fascinating Facebook post on Tuesday, leaving an interesting note along with half a dozen pictures with a differently abled youngster from Alathur, near here.

For people who did not know Pranav M.B., the armless B.Com undergraduate from Government College, Chittur, it was an amazing post by the Chief Minister which would move any human heart.

But those who know the



**Rare post:** Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in a Facebook post shared a photo of Pranav M.B. taking a selfie with him.

youth say he is a hero.

Mr. Pranav met Mr. Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram along with his parents on his birthday and handed over the funds he collected through the foot paintings he did in reality shows to the

Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund.

The Chief Minister was touched by the cheque Mr. Pranav 'handed over' to him with his right foot.

"It is an invaluable contribution," Mr. Vijayan wrote in

his FB post. The post has gone viral on social media with people eulogizing the Chief Minister for sparing time to meet Mr. Pranav.

Two pictures stood out, though. One showing Mr. Vijayan 'shaking legs' with Mr. Pranav by extending a hand to touch the youth's toes and the other portraying the armless man taking a selfie with the smiling Chief Minister.

None else would have a taken a selfie with a foot along with the Chief Minister.

Mr. Vijayan has gleefully mentioned the selfie in his post. Mr. Pranav told the Chief Minister that his father Balasubramaniam and mother Swarnakumari were his arms in life.

The Chief Minister's post

quoted Mr. Pranav as reposing confidence in the government.

## Youth icon

Mr. Pranav was in the news when he polled his maiden vote using the second toe of his right foot in the Lok Sabha elections held on April 23 this year. The social media had called him a hero then.

The district administration had roped him in as the youth icon representing the differently abled for the Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme conducted by the Election Commission.

He had also contributed to the CMDRF the funds he collected through foot paintings soon after the floods in 2018.

# India-U.S. disaster relief exercise from today

Interoperability for conducting operations is the aim

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM**

In tune with the growing partnership between India and the U.S., the maiden India-U.S. joint tri-services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise named "Tiger Triumph" is scheduled on the Eastern seaboard from November 13 to 21.

Naval ships Jalashwa, Airavat and Sandhayak, troops from 19 Madras and 7 Guards, MI-17 helicopters and Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT) would be participating in the exercise. The U.S. would be represented by US Navy Ship Germantown with troops from US Third Marine Division.

The exercise is aimed at developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations.



**Joint exercise:** Landing craft sailing to the shore with USS Germantown in the background.

The harbour phase is scheduled in Visakhapatnam from November 13 to 16.

The opening ceremony along with a joint flag parade and media interaction will be held on board INS Jalashwa on November 14.

Personnel from both navies would also participate in training, visits, subject

matter exchange, sports and social interaction.

On completion of the harbour phase, the ships, with troops embarked, would sail for the sea phase and undertake maritime, amphibious and HADR operations. On reaching the HADR area at Kakinada, the landing of relief forces would be undertaken to the exercise scenario.

## Enhancing productivity



Workers loading power tiller machines, manufactured by the Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation Ltd, into a goods wagon at Palakkad Junction on Tuesday. The product will help small farmers in Assam in mechanised farming. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

# Sabarimala all set for 2019-20 season

Elaborate facilities for devotees

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Elaborate arrangements have been made at the Sanidhanam, Pampa, Nilackal and at the key transit points of Ettumanur, Erumely, Chengannur and Pandalam for Ayyappa devotees proceeding to Sabarimala during the ensuing Mandalam-Makaravilakku season.

Replying to a submission by O. Rajgopal (BJP) in the Kerala Assembly on Tuesday, Minister for Devaswom Kadakampally Surendran said the Travancore Devaswom Board and various government departments had made elaborate arrangements for the 2019-20 season beginning November 17.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had made a final review of the arrangements on November 9.

The repair and maintenance of 17 roads leading to Pampa will be completed by the Public Works Department before November 15. The restrictions on heavy vehicles in the Nilackal-Pampa corridor and the ban on parking of vehicles in Pampa are on the basis of an High Court order. Light vehicles will be allowed on the stretch and they will have to return to Nilackal after dropping the pilgrims.

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation will operate chain services on the stretch.

# Western Ghats still home to a rich stock of butterflies

Three-day survey finds 191 species, 12 of which are endemic to the biodiversity-rich region

**E.M. MANOJ KALPETTA**

The Western Ghats is still home to a rich stock of butterflies, a survey that ended in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) on Monday has found.

There were sightings of 191 species of butterflies, 12 of which are endemic to the biodiversity-rich region. The first-time sighting of Silver forget me not, Common three ring, and Brown onyx was also recorded. The sighting of Silver forget me not was reported only from Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary in Idukki district of Kerala.

The three-day survey was done jointly by the Forest and Wildlife Department in association with Ferns Nature Conservation Society (FNCS).



Brown onyx, Common three ring, Peacock royal, and Tamil lacewing sighted at the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary during a butterfly survey that concluded on Monday.

The survey was conducted in all the four forest ranges under the sanctuary, including Muthanga, Tholpetty, Kurichyad and Sulthan Bathery forest ranges, simultaneously.

The survey was aimed at assessing the butterfly diversity in the region, which is vulnerable to climatic changes. It was also to assess the availability of nectar plant and larval host plant, essen-

tial for the survival of butterflies. As many as 18 camps were set up in the way of the annual migration of butterflies. Four researchers, V.C. Balakrishnan of Society for Environment Education, Payyannur; Balakrishnan Vappil and V.K. Chandrasekharan of Malabar Natural History Society; and C. Sushanth of Warblers and Waders, a Thiruvananthapuram-based Nature lovers forum;

as well as 70 butterfly enthusiasts, including students, took part in the survey.

## Low diversity

"The diversity of butterflies was very low in the forest areas where the alien invasive plant like Senna spectabilis invades other endemic plants, whereas the diversity was very rich in areas where plants like Mikania micrantha and Lantana camera re-

mained dominant, the researchers said. The team reported 60 species of Nymphalidae; 49 Lycaenidae; 45 Hesperidae; 21 Pieridae; 14 Papilionidae and 2 species of Riodinidae, P.A. Vinayan, president, FNCS, said.

"The sighting of 191 species of butterflies is an evidence of a healthy butterfly habitat in the region, but the degradation of riparian forest in many parts of the region may adversely affect the habitat in the near future," said Mr. Vinayan, who coordinated the survey.

Warden P.K. Asif supervised the programme. The survey would help the Forest department to prepare forest management plan in the region," Assistant Conservator of Forests Ajith K Raman said.

# 'Akshaya Patra took govt. nod to keep off onions in meal'

**STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU**

While the new midday meal menu stipulated by the Department of Public Instruction specifies that onion should be included, the Karnataka government has given an exemption to the Akshaya Patra Foundation. The non-governmental organisation, which provides midday meals to lakhs of students, does not use either garlic or onion in its food preparations.

At a press conference on Tuesday, K.G. Jagadeesha, Commissioner for Public Instruction, said one of the clauses in the order states that if NGOs wish to make any changes to the menu, they need to approach the government.

"The foundation has already taken permission from the government for their menu," he said, adding that the National Institute of Nutrition has stated that the food the foundation provides is in compliance with the nutritional guidelines mandated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

According to MHRD norms, each serving supplied to lower primary students should have 450 kcal energy and 12 gm protein. For upper primary classes it should be 700 kcal with 20 gm protein per serving. Mr. Jagadeesha added that the menu was revised only to break the monotony for students.

The controversy over the inclusion of onion and garlic had reared its head in November 2018, after the department had issued a notice urging the foundation to include both items in its midday meals.

Although the Karnataka government had initially refused to sign a contract with it, it later relented.



IN BRIEF



Delhi High Court judge appointed CCI member

NEW DELHI  
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal for the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Sangita Dhingra Sehgal as a member of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Justice Sehgal will serve as a member of the CCI for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the age of 65 years. She joined the Delhi High Court as an additional judge on December 15, 2014, and became a permanent judge on June 2, 2016.

ED opens probe into U.P. mining lease renewal case

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has opened a money laundering probe into the alleged illegal renewal of 13 sand-mining leases at Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The case involves two IAS officers posted as District Magistrates then. The CBI had registered an FIR against 12 persons, including Ajay Kumar Singh, a 1998-batch officer, and Pawan Kumar, a 2008-batch officer. The others were the alleged beneficiaries.

Abir Lavasa, linked firm under ED scanner

NEW DELHI  
Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's son Abir and a firm linked to him have come under the radar of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for alleged violations of forex regulations, officials said on Tuesday. They said the agency had filed a case under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to probe Abir Lavasa and about ₹7.25 crore funds raised early this year by a firm — Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd — linked to him. PTI

Pneumonia, diarrhoea still a big threat

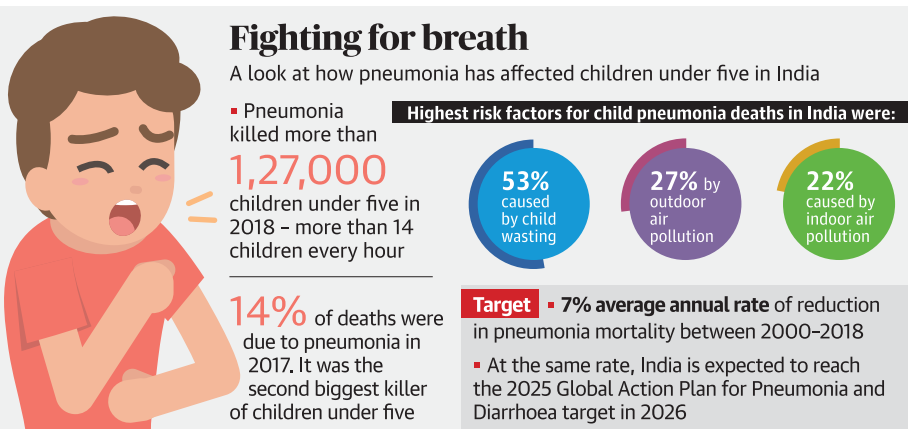
Progress short on ensuring children have access to prevention and treatment services, finds global study

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

The 10th pneumonia and diarrhoea progress report card has found that health systems are falling short of ensuring the world's most vulnerable children access to prevention and treatment services in the 23 countries that together account for 75% of global pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths in children under five.

India, which is home to a large population of under-five children, accounts for a major portion of these deaths, notes the report.

“Rollout of rotavirus vaccines, beginning in 2016, and the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, beginning in 2017, helped India's scores improve. India's exclusive breastfeeding rate, at 55%, is among the highest of the 23 countries. However, the proportion of children receiving important treatments, as



with many other countries, remains below targets. Half of the children with diarrhoea receive ORS (oral rehydration solution) and 20% receive zinc supplementation – to help protect against, prevent and treat pneumonia and diarrhoea,” notes the report.

This report analyses how effectively countries are deli-

vering 10 key interventions, including breastfeeding, vaccination, access to care, use of antibiotics, ORS, and zinc supplementation.

Additional reports from organisations like Save the Children and UNICEF have noted that, in 2017, the highest risk factors for child pneumonia death in India were: 53% caused by child

wasting, 27% by outdoor air pollution, and 22% caused by indoor air pollution from solid fuels.

Pulmonologist Prashant Saxena from Max Hospital, Saket noted that children are the worst hit by sustained high levels of air pollution.

The report card concludes that the global community must increase investment

Centre likely to release data on drinking water, sanitation soon

It will give an idea of the performance of Swachh Bharat

SUVOJIT BAGCHI  
KOLKATA

By the end of November, the Centre is expected to release the data on drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing conditions, which will provide a comprehensive idea about the on ground success or failure of the Swachh Bharat campaign, Pravin Srivastava, Chief Statistician of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), said on Tuesday at the sidelines of a two-day

conference of Central and State statistical organisations here.

The 76th round of the countrywide survey of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the MoSPI was conducted between July 2018 and December 2018. “We are looking at the results and hopefully, I think, within this month it should get out,” Mr. Srivastava said.

The survey will formally indicate how the Swachh Bharat campaign performed over the last half a decade.

So far, private agencies have done such surveys and acknowledged the achievements of the campaign.

“Achievements of the campaign are not only in completion of toilet construction. The campaign will be considered successful when it would be able to influence other indicators like outbreak of disease or access to clean water. This round of survey is important as it would provide information on those indicators,” said a public health expert.

Chhattisgarh moots law to protect journalists

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOPAL

A committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Aftab Alam has sought public comments on a draft Bill to safeguard mediapersons in Chhattisgarh from harassment, intimidation and violence.

“Justice Alam will visit Raipur, Ambikapur and Bastar from November 16 to 18 to take suggestions from local journalists, media groups and the general public,” Ruchir Garg, a member of the committee and the Chief Minister's media adviser, told *The Hindu*. Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel was committed to introducing a pro-journalist law, Mr. Garg added.

The committee was set up in March to draft a law to foster an atmosphere wherein journalists could perform their work fearlessly, the State government said in a statement. The draft Chhattisgarh Protection of Mediapersons Act proposes that within 30 days of enactment of the law “the government shall constitute a Committee for the Protection of Mediapersons to deal with complaints of harassment, intimidation or violence, or unfair prosecution and arrests of media persons”.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** No weather warning issued by IMD

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala.....	0.6	29.1	20.8	Kozhikode.....	—	33.0	25.0
Ahmedabad.....	—	—	21.7	Kurnool.....	—	32.4	22.7
Aizawl.....	—	22.2	—	Lucknow.....	—	29.4	14.7
Allahabad.....	—	32.3	15.8	Madurai.....	—	32.7	24.3
Bengaluru.....	—	28.6	18.8	Mangaluru.....	—	30.9	23.5
Bhopal.....	—	29.9	17.8	Mumbai.....	—	34.3	22.8
Bhubaneswar.....	—	31.6	19.6	Mysuru.....	—	28.2	21.0
Chandigarh.....	—	24.1	12.7	New Delhi.....	—	28.0	11.7
Chennai.....	—	32.3	25.2	Patna.....	—	29.6	17.0
Coimbatore.....	0.2	31.4	23.2	Port Blair.....	—	31.1	24.4
Dehradun.....	—	28.6	11.5	Puducherry.....	—	32.6	22.8
Gangtok.....	—	16.0	13.5	Pune.....	—	30.7	17.4
Goa.....	—	34.2	23.6	Raipur.....	—	29.5	18.7
Guwahati.....	—	30.1	19.5	Ranchi.....	—	27.2	14.0
Hubballi.....	—	28.0	19.0	Shillong.....	—	20.5	11.0
Hyderabad.....	—	30.8	20.2	Shimla.....	—	20.6	10.4
Imphal.....	1.4	27.9	18.1	Srinagar.....	—	—	0.6
Jaipur.....	—	31.0	19.5	Thiruvananthapuram.....	—	32.9	24.2
Kochi.....	12.3	31.0	24.4	Tiruchi.....	—	32.8	24.0
Kohima.....	13.8	24.2	10.5	Vijayawada.....	—	32.4	23.5
Kolkata.....	—	30.1	22.5	Visakhapatnam.....	—	31.7	25.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad.....	—	294	33	227	175	■	
Bengaluru.....	12	—	96	—	102	■	In observation made at 4 p.m., Panipat, Haryana, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 458, indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Eloor, Kerala, recorded a healthy AQI score of 42
Chennai.....	10	18	07	62	81	■	
Delhi.....	22	78	75	462	428	■	
Hyderabad.....	06	56	35	141	118	■	
Kolkata.....	09	59	38	224	166	■	
Lucknow.....	04	25	39	386	—	■	
Mumbai.....	—	41	35	171	131	■	
Pune.....	78	11	64	133	102	■	
Visakhapatnam.....	04	46	34	57	91	■	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

C-295 transport plane clears cost negotiations

Tata-Airbus aircraft will replace the Air Force's ageing fleet of Avros



A file photo of the C-295 transport aircraft.

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry has concluded cost negotiations with Tata and Airbus for the purchase of the Airbus C-295 transport aircraft as part of the long-delayed Avro replacement programme of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

“Cost negotiations for the C-295 deal have been

completed. It is now being processed to put it up for clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). It is expected to be signed in the next few months,” a senior Defence official said.

Initially, after the completion of cost negotiations, it was felt that a waiver from the Defence Acquisition Council would

be needed on some technical issues. But Defence sources said the issue “has now been resolved.”

The IAF has 56 Avro transport aircraft which are in urgent need of replacement. A further six aircraft for a maritime mission role for the Indian Coast Guard have been added taking the total number required to 62, esti-

mated to cost upwards of \$3 billion. While sources expressed optimism that the deal would be signed in this financial year, it is contingent on the availability of funds. The IAF has a situation where committed liabilities for this year are more than the capital allocation in the budget and few big ticket deals are on the agenda.

YMCA in T.N. barred from receiving foreign funds

FCRA registration of over 1,800 NGOs, educational institutes has been cancelled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

More than 1,800 NGOs and academic institutes found to be violating laws pertaining to foreign funding have been banned by the government from receiving overseas funds this year, officials said on Tuesday.

Among those whose registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act has been banned include the University of Rajasthan,

Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Young Men's Christian Association, Tamil Nadu, and Swami Vivekananda Educational Society, Karnataka.

“With the cancellation of the FCRA registration, all NGOs and academic institutions were prohibited from accepting foreign contribution,” a Home Ministry official said. The FCRA registration of these organisations was cancelled mostly due to

their failure to submit annual income and expenditure statement on foreign funding for up to six years despite repeated reminders.

As per FCRA guidelines, registered associations are required to submit electronically an annual report with scanned copies of income and expenditure statement, receipts and payment account, and balance sheet within nine months of the closure of the financial year.

Associations which do not receive foreign contribution during a particular year are also required to furnish a ‘NIL’ return.

Other associations whose FCRA registration has been cancelled include Institute of Pulmocare and Research, West Bengal, National Geophysical Research Institute, Telangana, National Institute of Virology, Maharashtra, and Baptist Christian Association, Maharashtra.

Proposed relocation of ‘killer’ jumbo leads to protest in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Shutdowns and protests are dime a dozen in Assam. The latest is over the reported relocation of a “killer” elephant from a jungle in western Assam to another in the central part of the State, 300 km away.

A large number of people in central Assam's Luming took to the streets on Tuesday to protest against the State Forest Department's alleged move to relocate the elephant that was captured on Monday.

Padma Hazarika, a BJP legislator, whose family has a history of taming wild elephants and keeping them as



The rogue which was captured in western Assam's Goalpara district.

pets, had helped a team tranquillise the rogue from the Rangjuli area of western Assam's Goalpara district.

“What does the govern-

ment want by sending a killer elephant to our part of the State? Are we expendable?” asked P. Dutta, a Luming resident among the protestors.

Wildlife officials said no decision had been taken to send the elephant to the Luming Reserve Forest, as rumoured.

“The elephant bears injury marks and needs treatment. We are not thinking of relocating it now, as the priority is on providing treatment,” Chief Conservator of Forest Akashdeep Baruah, who headed the committee to catch the elephant said to have killed five people, told *The Hindu*.





Betrayal of the mandate

The Sena overplayed its hand in Maharashtra, and a fresh poll seems the best course now

The political drama in Maharashtra that continued unabated since the Assembly election results on October 24 has been brought to an end, albeit temporarily, by the imposition of President's rule. The Maharashtra verdict was unambiguous and in favour of the BJP-Shiv Sena pre-poll alliance, but the partners could not agree on the terms of power sharing, leading to prolonged haggling between them. The Sena's claim for the Chief Minister's post initially appeared to be brinkmanship to extract a hard bargain with the BJP but it tripped over its greed and intrigues. The Sena is the BJP's oldest ally and both are bound by a competitive adherence to Hindutva. The Sena's claim was also not justified by the verdict – it got 56 seats of the 288, while the BJP won nearly double that figure. The BJP, ensconced at the Centre and ever willing to use power to constrain its adversaries, did not relent. The Sena overplayed its hand by parting with the BJP and quitting the Union government. It miscalculated the alternative scenario of leading a State government with the support of the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

The idea of a Congress-NCP-Sena coalition government is toxic. The NCP and Congress fought in alliance, and as Sharad Pawar said, got a mandate to sit in the Opposition. Post-poll coalitions are a legitimate route to government formation when the legislature is hung but the situation in Maharashtra is far from it. There were two pre-poll alliances, one got a clear majority and the other clearly lost. If the Congress and NCP want to keep the BJP out of power for ideological reasons, handing over power to a more virulent strain of Hindutva would be disingenuous. The formation of an NCP-Congress-Sena government, whatever may be its facade, will not only be a betrayal of the mandate but also be indefensible in ideological terms besides being suicidal tactically. Such an alliance, if at all formed, would not be stable or sustainable. All these parties will be rightly blamed for being opportunistic and devoid of political convictions. The BJP will be the sole beneficiary of such a thorough delegitimisation of the entire Opposition spectrum in Maharashtra. In the inevitable mid-term election that will happen sooner rather than later, opportunists will pay a price. The Congress and the NCP would be better off losing this opportunity and leave the birds of the same feather to potentially flock together again. That said, it was inexcusable of the Governor to not give the Sena or the NCP adequate time to explore the possibility of an alternative government. While a government without the BJP might lack moral or political legitimacy, the Governor should have exhausted all avenues before recommending President's rule. The BJP must be hoping to pressure the Sena back into the alliance, but the best course now seems a fresh election.

Anarchy in Bolivia

Both Morales and his opponents failed to ensure a peaceful, orderly transition

The forced resignation of Bolivian President Evo Morales has thrown the poorest country in South America into its biggest political crisis in 13 years. As Bolivia's first indigenous President, who rose to the top office through left-wing unionism, he presided over one of the most stable governments. But cracks began to appear in his Movement for Socialism party when he sought a fourth consecutive term earlier this year. He was declared winner of the October 20 election. But the Opposition contested the results and launched widespread protests, demanding a fresh election. After the Organization of American States alleged widespread poll fraud in an audit report, the military forced Mr. Morales and his allies to resign. In asylum in Mexico, he has vowed to fight the "coup". According to the Bolivian Constitution, if the President steps down, the Vice-President should take over. The heads of the Senate and chamber of deputies are the other leaders in the hierarchy who could assume acting presidency. But in this case, all four officials, all Socialists, have resigned. And it has left a vacuum, which the military could exploit.

Mr. Morales came to power, in 2006, riding South America's so-called "pink tide", and promising economic development and equitable wealth distribution. Under his fairly good track record, Bolivia has seen a drop in extreme poverty, from 33% of the population in 2006 to 15% last year. His government also stepped up public investments, opened more schools and health clinics. The economy has also seen a steady growth rate. Mr. Morales made some major political mistakes as well. Primarily, he failed to bring up a second-rung leadership in the Movement for Socialism to whom he could pass the baton of his "21st century socialist revolution". In 2016, his push to end presidential term limits through a referendum failed. He then said he accepted the verdict. But later, a constitutional court lifted the term limits, allowing the President to seek re-election. This had galvanised the Opposition, which claimed that the President's electoral participation itself was unconstitutional. This was followed by allegations of electoral fraud, which further weakened him. Facing protests, Mr. Morales had offered another election. That should have been the way forward. A free and fair election being held under the supervision of international electoral monitors would have allowed the Bolivians to choose their legitimate leader. But the violent protesters who insisted on Mr. Morales's resignation, the police forces who rebelled against the government, and finally the generals who forced the President to go all destroyed the possibility of a peaceful transition. They threw Bolivia into anarchy and chaos. And more violence could be awaiting the country.

The problem with re-basing GDP estimates

Introducing a new series without any changes will only entrench methodological problems and affect data credibility



R. NAGARAJ & RAJESWARI SENGUPTA

In the next few months, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) proposes to replace the gross domestic product (GDP) series of 2011-12 base year with a new set of National Accounts using 2017-18 as the base-year. According to the chief statistician, this will be done as soon as the new consumer expenditure survey and the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) results become available. Normally, re-basing is a routine administrative decision of any national statistics office.

**Background to the dispute**  
But these are not normal times in India for users and producers of the national accounts. For the past four years there has been a raging controversy over the current GDP figures on account of questionable methodologies and databases used. According to official data, the annual economic growth rate has sharply decelerated to about 5% in the latest quarter, from over 8% a few years ago. The reality may, however, be far worse. Independent studies using multiple statistical methods to validate the official GDP estimates by the former Chief Economic Adviser, Arvind Subramanian, and Sebastian Morris of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, have suggested that the annual GDP growth rates during the last few years may have been overestimated by 0.36 to 2.5 percentage points.

Why is there such distrust in the official GDP figures? To understand the origins of the dispute, one has to go back to early 2015 when the CSO released a new se-

ries of GDP with 2011-12 as base-year, replacing the earlier series with the base-year 2004-05. Periodic rebasing of GDP series every seven to 10 years is carried out to account for the changing economic structure and relative prices. Such re-basing usually led to a marginal rise in the absolute GDP size on account of better capturing of domestic production using improved methods and new databases. However, the underlying growth rates seldom change, meaning that the rebasing does not alter the underlying pace of economic expansion.

The 2011-12 base year revision was different, however. The absolute GDP size in the new base year 2011-12 contracted by 2.3% (compared to the old series), and the annual GDP growth rate went up sharply from 4.8% in the old series to 6.2% in 2013-14. Similarly, the manufacturing sector growth rate for 2013-14, swung from (-) 0.7% in the old series to (+) 5.3% in the 2011-12 series. Such large variations in growth rates for the same year may be justified if the material conditions of production warranted. But the higher growth estimates recorded by the new series did not square with related economic indicators such as bank credit growth, industrial capacity utilisation or fixed investment growth. Thus began the questioning of the new GDP series.

**Demonetisation as shock**  
The suspicion of official output estimates became particularly intense after the demonetisation of high valued currency notes in November 2016. By most analyses, the economic shock severely hurt output and employment. For example, the Ministry of Finance's Report on Income Tax Reforms for Building New India (September 2018; convenor: Arvind Modi), provided data on fixed investment in the private corporate sector



based on actual corporate tax returns. It shows that the fixed investment to GDP ratio in the private corporate sector fell sharply from 7.5% in 2015-16 to 2.8% in 2016-17 (suspected to be on account of demonetisation). However, surprisingly, the ratio in the national accounts went up from 11.7% in 2015-16 to 12% in 2016-17.

Similarly, chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, Gita Gopinath's academic research paper (co-authored) published by the highly regarded National Bureau of Economic Research in the U.S. in May 2019 showed an adverse effect of demonetisation on growth rate. Yet, the official GDP for the year 2016-17 grew at 8.2%, the highest in a decade.

**The root of the problem**  
The source of the problem, according to many economists, is the underlying methodologies for calculating GDP (in the 2011-12 series) which they claim are deeply flawed, as well as the new dataset used in estimating the private corporate sector's contribution. Some of the recent, prominent criticisms are as follows.

In a first, the CSO estimated value addition in the private corporate sector using the statutory filing of financial results with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The private corporate sector accounts for about a third of GDP, and spans all production sectors, and roughly about half of the private corporate sector output originates in

A partnership for stability, security and growth

Russia backs the core point that BRICS, as a pillar of a fairer polycentric world order, has the same approach to key issues



SERGEY LAVROV

On November 13-14, 2019, Brasilia will host the 11th BRICS Summit. In the run-up to this key event of the year for our group, I would like to share Russia's vision of the BRICS strategic partnership.

The current Brazilian BRICS Chairmanship managed to achieve serious progress in all main pillars of cooperation – political, economic and humanitarian. Russia supports its Brazilian friends in their efforts to improve the practical impact of our multifaceted interaction on the prosperity of our states and people.

**Aligning to global changes**  
We welcome the statement made by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in Osaka about the importance of strengthening the dialogue within BRICS, which will enable the BRICS countries to make the best use of ongoing global changes.

Today, alignment of efforts of our countries is particularly important. Global politics continues to reel. Various regions of the planet still retain significant conflict potential. The arms control architecture is deliberately undermined – the U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was a rather dangerous

step. Structural imbalances in the world economy are yet to be overcome. A serious threat to global economic growth is posed by such unfair competition practices as unilateral economic sanctions, trade wars and flagrant abuse of the U.S. dollar status as the world reserve currency. The international community is yet to find effective responses to a whole number of critical challenges of our time – from terrorism to climate change.

It got to the situation when there are attempts to replace the international legal system, established after the Second World War with the UN Charter remaining as its main source, with the so-called "rules-based order", where "rules" were being invented in secret, in "small groups", and then, depending upon a political situation, imposed on the whole world.

Multipolarity is not a recipe for competition and chaos in international relations, as some of our critics say. On the contrary, this is the only order attuned to present-day realities, which should promote the comprehensive development of all states – both big and small – and enhanced mutually beneficial cooperation among us on the basis of shared interests.

**Common goals**  
Russia, as other BRICS countries, rejects diktat and pressure, blackmail and threats, let alone the use of force without the UNSC's decision. In contrast, it proposes to follow the path of a mutually respectful dialogue aimed to reach the consensus that takes into account the interests of all actors in interstate relations. We are convinced



that any agreements on most important issues on the global agenda should be reached with the widest and equal participation of all stakeholders and be based on universally recognised legal norms. The BRICS countries are firmly committed to democratisation of international life and its development under the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the principles of respect for cultural and civilisational diversity of the world, and the right of peoples to forge their destiny themselves.

It is of fundamental importance that our approaches to key global and regional issues are the same or rather similar. We have consistently called for a peaceful and politico-diplomatic settlement of crises and conflicts in various regions of the world. We continue to be engaged in a comprehensive dialogue in such fields as counterterrorism, international information security and the fight against organised crime and corruption.

We can state with confidence that having entered the second decade of its activity, BRICS, being one of the pillars of the emerging fairer polycentric world order, plays an important stabilising role in global affairs, for which it has all the necessary capacity. The group

manufacturing. The database of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been criticised by many as unreliable; hence it is possible that the private corporate sector output has been overestimated. For example, the Ministry's database on "active" companies – that is companies claiming to have submitted audited financial results regularly for three years – seems to contain many companies that are actually inactive (not producing output on a regular basis). Last year when the National Sample Survey Office (the government's premier, independent, data-gathering agency), used the Ministry of Corporate Affairs list of active companies to canvass a sample of companies in the services sector, it found that up to 42% of the sample companies were not traceable, had failed to provide the information for the survey, or had failed to provide audited accounts.

For estimating GDP of the private corporate sector, questionable methods are also used for blowing-up unverified "sample" estimates for the unknown and varying inverse of "working" or active companies.

State domestic product (SDP) estimation uses many of the same databases and methodologies used in all-India GDP estimation. The methodological changes made in the 2011-12 base-year revision have adversely impacted the quality of SDP estimates on two counts. First, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs data does not have factory identifiers (that is, location of production units, but only has the location of the company head office); it has distorted distribution of the SDP estimates across States. Second, for estimating value-added in the informal or unorganised sector, State-specific labour productivity estimates are unavailable in the 2011-12 series. Hence the method used distorts output estimation.

The CSO has denied the claim that the underlying methodology is flawed and that there are serious problems with the new database being used. The official response throughout the debate has been that the 2011-12 GDP series follows global best practices (meaning, following the latest United Nations System of National Accounts guidelines) and applies better methods using much larger datasets; hence the official estimates are blemish-less. This ignores the fact that India has always followed UN guidelines, and that larger data sets are not necessarily better.

**Need for a review**  
The proposed change over to a new base-year of 2017-18, is, in principle, a welcome decision. However, considering the methodological disputes and data related questions relating to the current national accounts series, as illustrated above, what would the rebasing potentially accomplish? Doubts will persist so long as the underlying methodological apparatus remains the same; feeding it with up-to-date data is unlikely to improve its quality.

In view of the problems with the current series, a chorus of academic and public voices has proposed setting up an independent commission of national and international experts to review the GDP methodology. The ideal time to do this would be now so that solutions could be found and incorporated into the new GDP series. Conversely, if a new rebased series is introduced without any changes it will only entrench the existing methodological problems, and ensuring that the debate will continue for the next half decade. And as the debate continues, so will the loss of credibility.

R. Nagaraj and Rajeswari Sengupta are with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai

the systematically increased density of humanitarian exchanges – cooperation in the areas of culture, education, sport and youth policy is gaining momentum and people-to-people contacts are developing.

**Russia's turn next**  
In 2020, Russia will take the helm of BRICS. We intend to ensure continuity and harmonious transition from the Brazil chairmanship to the Russian one. We will continue the policy of progressive and comprehensive enhancement of the strategic partnership of the BRICS countries. Certainly, we are interested in increasing financial and economic cooperation among the participating countries, effective industrial interaction and practical cooperation in developing and implementing new joint energy, telecommunications and high-tech projects. Our priorities include enhanced foreign policy coordination within leading multilateral fora, primarily in the UN, which will turn 75 next year.

I am confident that in the storming ocean of world politics, the BRICS 'ship' will steer a steady course and further contribute significantly to maintaining international stability and ensuring global economic growth. The Brasilia Summit is aimed to be another important milestone in pentilateral cooperation and on its way to new prospects.

In conclusion, I would like to wish peace, health, well-being and all the best to readers and to all nationals of the BRICS countries.

Sergey Lavrov is Russia's Foreign Minister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

**Ayodhya verdict**  
By upholding and validating the claims of the Hindu party over the disputed land, the judiciary has, in its Ayodhya verdict, given the impression that it is also amenable to political factors. The triumph of majoritarian politics is antithetical to the principles of constitutional liberalism and democracy. As a country, we need to move ahead of the judgment, which can be done best by investing our energies on substantive national issues such as poverty, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment and climate change. This is even more

applicable to Faizabad district where Ayodhya is located. A glimpse of the human development indicators of the district is an eye-opener. The verdict should be the first step towards the equitable development of the district and the region.  
NAYAKARA VEERESHA,  
Bengaluru  
■ The judgment is strange. It leaves us wondering whether the verdict would have been different had the Babri mosque not been demolished. It is inconceivable that the court would have given possession of the mosque to 'Hindu parties', for construction of

the Ram temple. Having declared the demolition illegal, the court has allowed the violators of the law to get the benefit of possession. One hopes the ruling does not result in further disputes.  
A.V. KRISHNA MURTHY,  
Bengaluru  
■ Even before the dust has settled after the verdict comes news that the Ministry of Home Affairs has begun forming a trust for the temple's construction (Inside pages, November 12). While it is not a surprise for those who have followed the statements of the present government, one wonders whether people's issues have ever been attended to with

such speed and interest, as shown now in temple construction. It will not be a wonder if the government completes construction in record time, probably diverting all resources at its command.  
D. SETHURAMAN,  
Chennai  
■ The five-judge Bench has unanimously delivered a judgment and has solved a vexed issue. The Central government deserves praise for its steps to prevent any bid to trigger violence, almost like the steps that have been taken after the dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The court has assuaged the

feelings of the Muslim community by ordering the allotment of land. The problem now is with those who want to keep the issue alive with their articles.  
K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH,  
Hassan, Karnataka  
T.N. Seshan  
T.N. Seshan once said his native Palakkad is known for 'Cooks, Crooks and Civil Servants'. But as the Chief Election Commissioner of

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
A report headlined "Finance Secretary, CEA admit to slowdown" (Nov. 9, 2019) had erroneously referred to *Hasmukh Adhia* as the Revenue Secretary and *Ajay Narayan Jha* as the *Expenditure Secretary*. The current Revenue Secretary is *Ajay Bhushan Pandey* and the post of Expenditure Secretary is vacant.

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India, he showed the country, and importantly our politicians, what the post of CEC means. He had a great sense of humour too. Once a reporter asked him whether he would accept the post of Governor. His reply: "I don't want my wife to be called as Governess."  
V. NARAYANAPPA,  
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh