

**EXPRESS NETWORK**

**HRD MINISTRY ASKS IIMs TO IMPLEMENT QUOTA IN FACULTY POSTS**

**SC TELLS KERALA GOVT TO FRAME SEPARATE LAW FOR SABARIMALA**  
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**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

By UNNY



**WEEKS AFTER SC SNUB OVER SAMPLE RE-VERIFICATION**

## Assam rejects NRC, Shah says will do it afresh across nation

Wrongful exclusions and inclusions, need one cut-off for country: Himanta

**ABHISHEK SAHA & ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20



Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

WEEKS AFTER the Supreme Court rejected the Centre and Assam government's pleas for re-verification of a sample of names included in the draft National Register of Citizens and the final list excluded over 19 lakh people, much to the dismay of the BJP given that many were

## Bengal to Kerala, faultlines deepen: Mamata says never, Opp slams pan-India NRC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

WITHIN HOURS of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament Wednesday that the NRC for Assam will be repeated whenever the exercise is conducted nationwide, Opposition-ruled states and parties spoke out against any

pan-India NRC move. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has been taking on the BJP-led central government over the Citizenship Amendment Bill, said her government will not allow the NRC to be implemented in the state. Addressing a public meeting at Sagardighi in Murshidabad district, Banerjee said nobody

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## Divestment kicks in: Stake sale in major PSUs announced

BPCL, Concor, SCIL to be privatised, nod to paring govt stake in select PSUs

**SUNNY VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE NDA government Wednesday decided to privatise three big PSUs—downstream oil major BPCL (excluding Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Ltd), cargo mover Container Corporation of India Ltd and shipping company Shipping Corporation of India Ltd—through strategic sale and transfer of management control.

It will also offload its entire stake in power companies THDC India Ltd (74.23 per cent) and NEPCO (100 per cent) and transfer management control to state-owned power producer NTPC Ltd.

Briefing mediapersons after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the CCEA also gave in-principle approval to pare down government stake in select Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to below 51 per cent while retaining management control.

In her Budget for the current year, Sitharaman set a divestment receipt target of Rs 1,05,000



Numaligarh to be moved out of BPCL: Sitharaman. P77

crore compared with Rs 80,000 crore in 2018-19. Market analysts said it will be a challenge for the government to complete the strategic sale of the three companies before the financial year ends on March 31, 2020.

In BPCL, the government will sell its 53.29 per cent holding, and in Shipping Corporation of India the stake sale will be 63.75 per cent. In CONCOR, the government will sell 30.8 per cent out of its total stake of 54.8 per cent. Sources said the Centre wants to retain 24 per cent stake in CONCOR given its importance in the railway sector, but will transfer entire management control to a

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## DHFL board superseded, RBI initiates bankruptcy process

**GEORGE MATHEW**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 20

THE RESERVE Bank of India Wednesday superseded the board of directors of crisis-ridden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL), which has liabilities of close to Rs 84,000 crore, and initiated the bankruptcy proceedings "owing to governance concerns and defaults by DHFL in meeting various payment obligations".

The RBI, which stepped in after the banks and DHFL failed to agree on a resolution plan to bring the firm back on the rails, has appointed R Subramaniakumar, former MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank, as the Administrator to run the affairs of the company. The immediate fallout of the move is that banks will have to declare DHFL loans as non-performing assets (NPAs), adding to the bad loan worries of the banking system.

The RBI announcement came after market hours. The DHFL stock which closed at Rs 20.15 Wednesday had touched a 52-week high of Rs 252.20 on December 31, 2018.

The central bank said it would take the company to the National Company Law Tribunal

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## Govt in RS: 5,161 preventive arrests in Valley after Aug 4

**DEEPTIMANTI WARIYAR**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs (MHA) told Parliament on Wednesday that 5,161 preventive arrests were made in the Valley after August 4, a day before the government announced its decision to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories.

"With a view to prevent commission of offences involving breach of peace and activities prejudicial to the security of the state and maintenance of the public order, 5,161 preventive arrests, including stone pelters, miscreants, OGWs, separatists and political workers, were made since 4th of August, 2019, in Kashmir Valley, and, out of these, 609 persons are presently under detention, out of which approximately 218 are stone-pelters," Minister of State (Home)

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At Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Wednesday. Shuaib Masoodi

## Told couple of days, kept for 3 months: RTI activist

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN**  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 20

WHEN THE area SHO knocked on the door of Raja Muzaffar Bhat at 3 am on August 5 and told him that he had orders to detain him for "a couple of days" at the local Chadoora police station in Budgam, the RTI activist

told his wife and parents to tell his two children that he had gone on a trek and would be back soon.

It would be nearly three months before he returned from the "trek". Bhat was released on October 28 from detention at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

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NCP chief Sharad Pawar in Parliament, Wednesday. Anil Sharma

## Pawar meets PM, his party and Congress say stable govt soon

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

ON A day when NCP chief Sharad Pawar injected an element of intrigue into the fluid political situation in Maharashtra when he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the latter's chamber in Parliament, top leaders of both the Congress and NCP on Wednesday expressed confidence that they would form a "stable" government in the state soon.

Speaking to reporters after a marathon meeting of Congress and NCP leaders at Pawar's residence here, NCP leader Nawab Malik said: "A stable government cannot be formed in Maharashtra without the NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena coming together. We will form the government soon. We discussed all those aspects."

Former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan said "some aspects of the alliance are still to be discussed."

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## First fixed income ETF of bluechip PSUs may be launched next month

**SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to launch India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising debt securities of about a dozen state-owned companies by mid-December 2019. The ETF is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore.

Government sources said roadshows are currently on for the Fund, which could be launched as early as December,

and that there is significant interest in the market. The fund will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies.

The debt ETF provides a new option to conservative investors to own securities of government-owned companies along with the facility of overnight liquidity as ETF units will be listed on exchanges. Compared with bank fixed deposits that generate a post-tax return of around 5.5 per cent, this product could generate a return of over 7 per cent for the investors.

The debt ETF can comprise

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## EXPLAINED: New route for safe investment

INDIA'S FIRST fixed income ETF will provide a safe investment option, alongside high liquidity. Apart from deepening the corporate bond market, such ETFs will allow PSUs to borrow from the market. Investors can expect higher yield than on fixed deposits.

## WhatsApp: Govt admits to breach alert, House panel votes for scrutiny

**KARISHMA MEHROTRA & LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

ON A day the government admitted in Parliament that WhatsApp had notified it in May and September of a breach in some accounts in India via spyware Pegasus, sharp differences emerged at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on discussing the issue of "citizens' data security and privacy".

With the BJP members objecting and citing jurisdiction issues, the committee is learnt to



The Indian Express report on October 31

have been split down the middle, with 12 members for a discussion, and 12 against. Finally, Shashi Tharoor, who heads the panel, cast his tie-breaker vote, supporting the demand for a discussion.

A group of 17 activists, whose WhatsApp in mobile devices was

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## Finally, ISRO makes it official: Vikram made a hard-landing

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**AMITABH SINHA**  
PUNE, NOVEMBER 20

TWO-AND-A-HALF months later, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has finally admitted publicly that the Vikram lander on Chandrayaan-2 mission made a "hard-landing" on the moon.

In a written answer to a question posed to the Department of Space in Lok Sabha, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh said



Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22

the "reduction in velocity" of the Vikram lander during the final phase of its descent on the moon's surface "was more than the designed value". As a result, Vikram "hard-landed" on the

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