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Hong Kong protesters defy police ban, demand real autonomy
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Rohit Sharma-led India takes on Bangladesh in the first T20I today
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S. Africa wins rugby World Cup for the third time
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NEARBY



Wind helps improve air quality in the Capital
NEW DELHI
The national capital remained under a thick blanket of smog on Saturday, even as the air quality improved slightly due to an increase in wind speed.

CITY PAGE 5
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New Indian map shows UTs of J&K and Ladakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Survey of India has redrawn the map of India to depict the newly formed Union Territories (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh. Areas such as Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilas and the Tribal Territory of 1947 that have been occupied by Pakistan are included in the Ladakh UT.
Other areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) such as Mirpur and Muzaffarabad have been included in the J&K UT. The President of India issued a notification on Saturday to define the districts in the two UTs that came into being on October 31 as per the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

DETAILS ON PAGE 10

No light down the rabbit hole of online political advertising

Despite a code of ethics, sources of three top-spending Facebook pages, with ads backing the BJP and the Shiv Sena, remain unclear

P.J. GEORGE CHENNAI
While Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey has said his company would no longer accept political advertisements, the online ecosystem of such advertising is dominated by Facebook and Google. Facebook gets much more advertiser interest because of the level of targeting available, and the possibility of engagement through comments, likes, and shares.
However, as more and more advertisers, including politicians and political parties, embrace this advertisement platform, keeping tabs on election spending be-

comes an issue. In India, since February, when the data became available, advertisers on social issues, elections or politics have spent ₹39.1 crore on Facebook; political advertisements on Google amounted to ₹29.3 crore.

SPECIAL
Despite the Election Commission and web platforms, including Facebook, Google and Twitter, agreeing to a "voluntary code of ethics", analysis of data on online advertising for the recent Maharashtra Assembly election suggests that identifying the

sources of such campaigns is not easy. The accompanying table shows some of the top spenders who targeted Facebook users in Maharashtra from August 1 to October 29. Three of the entities — Shiv Sena, BJP-Maharashtra, and Indian National Congress-Maharashtra — have verified pages, and the communication agencies working for them or the party behind the pages are listed as the advertisers.

However, the identities of the other three entities are not clear, with inactive phone numbers. For the top spender, the page 'Distoy Fa-

rak Shivshahi Parat', loosely meaning 'Can see the difference, Shivaji-style rule is back', the phone number given is inactive. The address is also incomplete, mentioning just a street in Nagpur, and the website does not exist.

While 'My First Vote For Modi' has a functioning website, the phone number listed is inactive. Interestingly, the address given is that of the BJP's headquarters in Delhi. There were no responses to emails sent to listed ids of the advertisers of these two pages.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Paying for clicks

The battle for Maharashtra was fought not only at the booths but also online



Table shows top spenders who targeted ads at Facebook users from Aug. 1 to Oct. 29

Page name	Amount spent	Paid by
Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat	₹20,42,841	DFSP 2019
Shiv Sena	₹15,50,211	Indian Political Action Committee
My First Vote For Modi	₹15,59,249	myfirstvoteformodi.com
Aghadi Bighadi	₹12,54,743	aghadibighadi.com
BJP, Maharashtra	₹8,73,688	BJP, Maharashtra
Indian National Congress, Maharashtra	₹8,00,000	Golden Rabbit Communications Pvt Ltd

Table provides information about the level of interaction generated by the advertisements

Page	Followers	Ads	Total interactions	Interaction rate
Distoy Farak Shivshahi Parat	4,68,948	1,518	4.76 million	4.25%
Aghadi Bighadi	3,23,338	928	3.25 million	5.82%

Two CPI(M) workers held in Kerala over pro-Maoist notices

Police say the two are suspected of maintaining contact with Maoists

STAFF REPORTER KOZHIKODE
The police here on Saturday arrested two Communist Party of India (Marxist) activists, accusing them of having circulated notices criticising the alleged encounter killing of four Maoists in the Manjakkatt forests in Kerala's Palakkad district.

Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fazal were taken into custody from Pantheerankavu on Friday night. They were charged under Sections 20

(punishment for being member of a terrorist gang or organisation), 38 (offence relating to membership of a terrorist organisation) and 39 (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

'Solid evidence'

The police said the activists, who are studying law and journalism respectively, were suspected of maintaining contact with Maoist func-



Alan Suhaib and Thaha Fazal being taken to a court in Kozhikkode on Saturday. ■ K. RAGESH

tionaries. The arrests were made under the UAPA on the basis of "solid evidence", they asserted. The police also claimed to

have recovered "suspicious pamphlets", which they allege were aimed at propagating Maoist ideology. Searches were carried out in the

houses of the two activists to get "more documentary evidence". The police said they had intensified the search for another youth who reportedly fled from the spot on seeing the patrol squad.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan sought a report from the State police chief Loknath Behera after the arrests triggered widespread criticism. The parents and relatives of the arrested men met the Chief Minister at the government guesthouse here and sought his intervention.

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PARENTS MEET PAGE 11

Man lynched for killing wife in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

A man, who hacked his wife to death, was lynched by villagers in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district, the police said on Saturday.

On October 30, Nasir Qureshi, who had gone to the house of his in-laws in Semor, had an argument with his wife and hacked her to death. His wife's sister and mother, who went to her rescue, were injured. As Qureshi, who lived in Chhattisgarh, came out, a mob attacked him, and he died of injuries, said Jafarganj Circle Officer Sripal Yadav.

THREE ARRESTED PAGE 10
CM

Delhi police, lawyers clash at Tis Hazari Courts

Violence broke out after an argument over a vehicle parked by an advocate outside a lock-up

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A major clash broke out between Delhi police officers and lawyers inside the Tis Hazari court premises on Saturday allegedly over a parking issue. Police officers and lawyers sustained injuries in the incident and several vehicles were damaged.

Former president of the Delhi Bar Association advocate Sandeep Nasiar, who claimed to be present at the spot, said that around 2.45 p.m., an advocate parked his car outside the lock-up on the court premises, a space where mostly police vehicles which bring prisoners to the court for appearances are parked.

"An argument between



A police vehicle was set on fire during the clash at the Tis Hazari Courts on Saturday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

the advocate and the police officers over parking the vehicle turned violent. Police officers took him inside the lock-up and started

thrashing him. Meanwhile, word spread about the incident," he said, adding that the "rumour" was that at least four advocates, who

had come to their colleague's aid, were also taken inside the lock-up and were ill-treated.

Firing incident

The Delhi police, in a statement, however, said that the officers of the third battalion posted outside the lock-up had requested the advocate to park the vehicle in the designated parking as it would have hindered the movement of police vehicles.

"In protest, a large number of lawyers assembled near the lock-up. CCTV shows that the lawyers forcibly entered the lock-up and manhandled the officers on duty," the statement read. Mr. Nasiar claimed that the police fired from inside

SEE ALSO PAGE 4

Maharashtra waits for Shah to resolve crisis

Amid uncertainty, Shiv Sena adopts a tough stand

SHARAD VYAS MUMBAI

Maharashtra BJP leaders on Saturday said they were awaiting the arrival of party president Amit Shah, who is likely to begin talks with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray over government formation next week.

The party, however, has started preparations for a swearing-in ceremony possibly at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium between November 5 and November 7, by which time it would have two days left to install a government, sources said. A new government must be installed before November 9.

Sena impatient

However, the Sena has warned that it could drop the 'wait and watch' approach if there is no end to the ongoing crisis.

Reacting to the BJP's statement on the looming constitutional crisis, Sena leader Sanjay Raut asked if the alliance partner was threatening the democratically elected legislators of its party.

"If there is a delay in the formation of government in a State and a Minister from the ruling party says President's Rule will be implemented in Maharashtra if a government isn't formed, is this a threat to the MLAs who have been elected?" Mr. Raut said on Saturday.

Former Finance Minister and senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar had on Friday said Maharashtra was headed for Presidential Rule if a



Courtesy call: Mahayuti allies, including Ramdas Athawale, with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari in Mumbai. ■ PTI

government was not installed by November 7.

Commenting on the situation, Mr. Raut said that due to the kind of situation prevailing in Maharashtra, all political parties are talking to each other. "Except for the Sena and the BJP, all parties are talking to each other," he said.

Cong., NCP clarify

Meanwhile, both the Congress and the NCP clarified they were not in touch with other parties. "We are not in contact with anyone. We have got the mandate to sit in the Opposition, we are ready for it," NCP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said. His comments came a day after rumours were rife of NCP chief Sharad Pawar having a telephone conversation with Mr. Uddhav Thackeray.

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge also clarified that the party would sit in the Opposition. "I would like to

make it clear that we have not held discussions with anybody to form the government," he said.

Mr. Ajit Pawar confirmed that Mr. Sharad Pawar would meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday. "Sharad Pawar will visit Delhi on Monday. I have information that he and Sonia Gandhi had spoken on the phone recently... He will speak to her [in Delhi]... A lot depends on what they discuss," Mr. Ajit Pawar told reporters.

NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said alternatives could become available if the Sena took any decision in this regard in the interest of the people.

"The NCP will definitely take a positive view if the Sena is ready to form the people's government, minus the BJP. An alternative will be available if a decision is taken in the interest of people to form a government," he said.

Naga groups pushing for separate flag: Deputy CM

Peace deal to take more time: Patton

VIJAITA SINGH NEW DELHI

Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton has said that the signing of the Naga peace accord will take a few more days and that the Naga groups, including the NSCN(IM), will keep negotiating for a separate constitution and flag.

Mr. Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, said Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and he were seeking an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to get clarity on their future role. "The signing of the final Naga agreement will not

take much time as major groups are on board. We want to know what will be the role of the present government after the accord is sealed. This is the issue we want to discuss with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister," Mr. Patton, who reached Delhi on Friday, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Rio is also in Delhi.

'More talks required'
Mr. Patton said they would have to speak to the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh amid the possible creation of autonomous councils in Naga-populated areas.