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THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

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**DELHI ISSUES HEALTH ADVISORY; ODD-EVEN STARTS TODAY**

## Capital air crosses severe level, PMO steps in, Centre to monitor

Delhi, Punjab and Haryana asked to send enforcement teams: Top official

**ESHA ROY**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

WITH AIR pollution levels increasing to 'severe levels' in the National Capital region and Air Quality Index measuring an alarming 494 Sunday, with at least 37 flights diverted between 9 am and 1 pm because of poor visibility, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Sunday called a review meeting on air pollution in Delhi and its surrounding areas.

A statement released by the PMO said that the Cabinet Secretary will be monitoring the situation with these three states on a daily basis. Chief Secretaries of the states have also been asked to monitor the situation in various districts round the clock.

The Delhi government, meanwhile, issued a health advisory



Headlights in daylight in Dhaula Kuan on Sunday. Renuka Puri

urging residents to reschedule outdoor activities and use certified N95 masks. On Monday, the state is rolling out the third edition of its odd-even road rationing measure for a 12-day period.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Environment Secretary CK Mishra said: "The three state governments have been asked to take special steps to counter the air pollution from tonight."

**MORE REPORTS**  
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## Ground Zero Sangrur: Farmers battle gaps in govt's subsidy cover

**SHIVAM PATEL**  
SANGRUR, NOVEMBER 3

TO KNOW why the National Capital is choking, visit Sangrur in Punjab — the district that recorded the highest number of farm fires in a single day this year.

One of Punjab's largest paddy producing districts, Sangrur witnessed 2,157 farm fires from September 23 to October 30, the third highest district-wise figure in the state. Compared to the same period last year, the fire counts in this district increased by 943. In a single day, October 30, it recorded 550 such fires.

And yet, the mood on the ground is a mix of denial and helplessness.

**EXPLAINED**

### Shadow of stubble burning

STUBBLE BURNING in Punjab and Haryana is a key contributor to pollution in the National Capital. Data shows that particulate matter (PM 2.5) released from crop residue burning in the two states had a 44% share — the highest till date — in Delhi's air pollution on October 31.

## Cong claims Priyanka phone among hacked, WhatsApp texted her

Have contacted users we have reason to believe were targeted: WhatsApp

"When WhatsApp was sending messages to others, she received a similar message. WhatsApp did not say that the phone was hacked in this fashion by illegal Pegasus software. The nature of the message is already available in public domain and she received a similar message," he said.

Sources familiar with the developments, however, said there were no politicians in the list of 121 Indian individuals affected by the hacking which was shared by WhatsApp with the Indian government.

While neither confirming nor denying Congress claims, a WhatsApp spokesperson said, "WhatsApp cares deeply about the privacy and security of our users. We have already contacted the users directly we have reason to believe were targeted. Users can contact us within the

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

## CJI says NRC cures a wrong, 'critics are playing with fire'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3



CHIEF JUSTICE of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi Sunday strongly defended the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in Assam, calling it "a base document for the future", which is not yet final.

Criticising "armchair commentators" who had raised objections to the drive, the CJI said they were far from ground realities and had presented a highly distorted picture, due to which Assam and its development agenda had taken a hit. "They launch baseless and motivated tirades against democratic functioning and democratic institutions," Justice Gogoi said, at the inauguration of the book *Post Colonial Assam (1947-2019)*, written by veteran journalist Mrinal Talukdar.

**Assam victim of motivated tirades: CJI. Abhinav Saha**

The CJI, who belongs to Assam, heads the apex court bench that is monitoring the process of the NRC in the state. After he retires on November 17, the NRC case will be heard by a bench headed by the next CJI, S A Bobde.

"The NRC is not without contentions. Let me take this occasion to clarify," Justice Gogoi said.

## RCEP delay likely as last-minute talks on



**EXPRESS IN BANGKOK**  
SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NOVEMBER 3

Piyush Goyal, the Indian team is among those from 16 countries who are trying to break the deadlock ahead of the 3rd RCEP summit Monday.

However, speaking to reporters, Thai government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat said: "We don't have a conclusion yet. Once there is one, it would be announced. Commerce ministers are still discussing outstanding issues. The signing is expected around February next year."

On Saturday, Philippine Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez had said that "one country" was getting "some consultations and

**MORE REPORTS**  
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## GURDWARA DARBAR SAHIB

A photo of the Kartarpur shrine tweeted by Pakistan PM Imran Khan Sunday, six days ahead of the inauguration of the corridor to it from India, saying the gurdwara was ready to receive pilgrims, a task achieved in "record time". Via Twitter

## Fadnavis heads to Delhi, Shiv Sena says tying with NCP, Cong 'in state interest'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, PUNE, NOVEMBER 3

WITH TALKS with ally BJP stuck over chief ministership, the Shiv Sena Sunday said joining hands with the NCP, Congress and others to form a government was "in the interest of Maharashtra".

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said he would meet the Maharashtra Governor on Monday. "I will ask him to invite the single largest party and then

give a chance to other parties," Raut told *The Indian Express*, adding that there would be a Sena CM and the oath-taking ceremony would take place at Shivaji Park in Mumbai.

The action is also set to move to Delhi, with incumbent Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis travelling to the Capital on Monday to meet BJP chief and Home Minister Amit Shah. This will be his first visit to Delhi since the election results, which gave the BJP fewer

seats than it expected.

Monday will see a meeting between NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi as well.

Asked by mediapersons in Aurangabad if the Sena would form the government alone or join other parties, Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray Sunday said, "You will get to know in the coming days."

In his column *Rok Thok*, published in Sena mouthpiece

## India Inc opposes Sebi directive on separating owner from management

**INDUSTRY BODY WRITES TO FM: 'Role of family important'**



**Against it: Rahul Bajaj; can't import blindly from West: Venu Srinivasan**

**PVAIDYANATHAN IYER**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

and ensure the two are not related, top industrialists Rahul Bajaj and Venu Srinivasan have said that India's joint family system distinguished it from European businesses — and Western concepts should not be imported blindly.

"I am completely against it for Indian conditions where other than foreign companies and PSUs, even the top 200 companies in the private sector have over 90 per cent identified

**BREAKING THEIR silence on a Sebi-stipulated deadline of March 31, 2020, for the top 500**

listed companies to separate the post of Chairman and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer,

# Cleared in terror case after 11 yrs, they brace for new fight

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**  
**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 3

ACQUITTED AFTER spending 11 years behind bars for the 2008 attack on a CRPF camp in Rampur, Mohammad Kausar and Gulab Khan say they are not sure if the court order would prove enough to rid them of "terrorist" tag.

Before they were arrested, Kausar (48) ran an electronics shop near his house in Kunda area of Pratapgarh while Khan

(41) owned a welding shop at Baheri locality in Bareilly. With their families having sold their shops as well as spent their savings fighting their case, the two said it wouldn't be easy for them to pick up the pieces.

On Saturday, a Rampur local court awarded death sentence to four accused, including two Pakistani nationals, for the 2008 attack, in which seven CRPF jawans and a rickshaw-puller were killed. A fifth accused was sentenced to life. Khan and Kausar, who were accused of

hiding weapons used in the crime at their residences before the attack, were acquitted for want of evidence.

Kausar was arrested on February 9, more than a month after the attack, from his shop in Pratapgarh, 486 km from Rampur. "A senior police officer asked me two-three questions and then put me in a room. Two days later, I was produced before a court, which sent me to jail. In the two-minute interaction with a senior police officer, I maintained I was innocent," Kausar



**Khan, Kausar were held for 2008 CRPF camp attack**

told *The Indian Express* over the phone.

Kausar, who studied upto

Class 9, said he worked for 10 years at an electronics shop in Saudi Arabia before returning to India in 2005. After his arrest, he said, there was no one in the family to run the shop he opened in Kunda and it was shut down. "Because of financial crisis, my three children had to drop out of school. My wife Salma Bano started stitching clothes for a living. Relatives stopped coming to my house. To raise money to fight the case, the family later sold the shop."

Released from Bareilly

Central Jail on Sunday, Kausar said he feared that his ordeal was not over. "People don't easily believe a person who has spent over a decade in jail. The court has acquitted me but people will not accept me as innocent. I have to fight once again to get their trust."

Khan's wife Naajara told *The Indian Express* from their home in Bareilly, that she thanks god for his return. "We did not lose hope that he would return home one day because we knew he had been implicated falsely. Our hard work has finally paid off."

Khan was arrested from his shop in Bareilly, around 70 km from Rampur, on February 10. A day later, police produced him in court and he was sent to judicial custody.

Khan said his family was forced to shut the shop as none of them knew iron welding work. "Naajara started stitching clothes but that was only enough to arrange food for the family. Even power connection to my house was snapped because of non-payment of bills," said Khan.

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**  
**THE CHALLENGE FOR INDIAN BUSINESS**  
BY VIKRAM MEHTA  
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**WORLD**

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