

For Congress, defence sector was about brokering deals and helping friends: Modi in Tamil Nadu

India Today

New Delhi, Feb 10: Addressing a BJP rally in Perumanallur, Tamil Nadu today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lashed out at the Congress saying it did nothing for the defence sector during the time it had the "opportunity to rule the nation for years".



"From the seas to the skies, the Congress has several scams associated with the defence and in the process the party did not allow the modernisation of defence forces for long years that they were in power. Those who had got opportunity to rule the nation for years did not bother about India's defence sector. For them, this sector was only about brokering deals and helping their own set of friends. We dream of an India that is self-sufficient in defence production and where our forces have all the possible support they require in keeping our nation safe," PM Modi said.

Modi said the NDA government had a different approach to national security and that it was the country's

dream to be self-sufficient in defence production and ensure "our forces have all possible support they require in keeping our nation safe."

He referred to the "pathbreaking step of creating two defence corridors, one of which is in Tamil Nadu."

The Prime Minister said a corridor in Tamil Nadu will bring industry and investment

options and opportunities for the state's youth.

He said Congress never left an opportunity to belittle the BJP and that a few days ago, one Congress leader had used inexcusable language against the Army chief. PM Modi said the Opposition's political culture of abusing him may have got them some publicity on television however elections were fought on a person's vision for the nation and not on slander and attack.

"The agenda of the so-called alliance is only 'Modi' and no vision for development. The opposition is only good at spreading panic. Time and again they have tried to mislead the farmers, poor and youngsters of the nation," PM Modi said.

Rahul Gandhi a failed student who is jealous of topper Narendra Modi: Arun Jaitley

New Delhi, Feb 10: Senior BJP leader and Union minister without charge Arun Jaitley on Sunday said Congress president Rahul Gandhi will be remembered for "singularly damaging" the institution of Parliament. He said of late the Opposition has started a talk of "institutions being under pressure" in India. Jaitley said this charge comes from "none others than those who have a history of having subverted institutions all their lives".

In a blog, Arun Jaitley said: "History will record that Pt Jawaharlal Nehru's great grandson [Rahul Gandhi] has singularly damaged India's Parliament as an institution more than anyone else. Attempts are made at 11.00 am every morning by the Congress party to disrupt both houses [of Parliament]. The



Rajya Sabha, once known for the quality of its debates, has become non-functional."

Jaitley said if one analyses the speeches delivered by Rahul Gandhi on the Rafale deal, one will find that "they are based on personal hatred". He said this hatred for Prime Minister Narendra Modi "emanates from envy". "A failed student always hates the class topper," he

said.

Jaitley said the level of Rahul Gandhi's speech resembles more to "college-level lumpenisation in content".

In his blog, Jaitley hits out at the Opposition and accuses him of starting several "fake campaigns" against the Modi government. "Each one of them has failed to cut much ice. Falsehood doesn't have longevity. The 'compulsive

contrarians' continued to jump from one falsehood to another," he said.

Jaitley rubbished the Congress's allegation of wrongdoings in the Rafale deal. He said: "Rafale deal not only strengthens the combat ability of the Indian Air Force but saved thousands of crores for the exchequer."

On the question of the Opposition's demand to scrap use of EVMs in election, he said this attack on the EVM is "not merely to allay defeat, it is an attack on the Election Commission".

"The EVM were introduced into the election process when BJP was nowhere close to power. Multiple parties have won and lost elections held through the EVM. Why attack EVM without evidence?" he asked.

Abu Dhabi includes Hindi as third official Court language

PTI

Dubai, Feb 10: The Indian community in the UAE, numbering 2.6 million, constitutes 30% of the total population and is the largest expatriate community in the country.

In a landmark decision, Abu Dhabi has included Hindi as the third official language used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English, as part of a move designed to improve access to justice.

The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department on Saturday said it has extended the adoption of interactive forms of statement of claims filed before courts by including the Hindi language alongside Arabic and English in labour cases.

This is aimed at helping Hindi speakers to learn about litigation procedures, their rights and duties without a language barrier, in addition to facilitating registration procedures via unified forms available through the ADJD website, the judicial body said.

According to official figures, the UAE population is estimated to be around nine million of which 2/3rd are immigrants from foreign countries. The Indian community in the UAE, numbering 2.6 million, constitutes 30% of the total population and is the largest expatriate community in the country.

Yousef Saeed Al Abri, undersecretary of the ADJD, said the adoption of multilin-

gual interactive forms for claim sheets, grievances and requests, aims to promote judicial services in line with the plan Tomorrow 2021, and increase the transparency of litigation procedures.

"This is in addition to facilitating registration procedures to the public through simplified and easy forms and raising litigants' legal awareness via interactive forms of the statements of claims, to ensure access to the legal materials related to the subject of the dispute," Al Abri was quoted as saying by the Khaleej Times.

He indicated that the extension of the adoption of interactive forms in several languages comes under the directives of Sheikh Mansour

bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs and ADJD Chairman.

Al Abri explained that the adoption of new languages comes as part of the bilingual litigation system, the first phase of which was launched in November 2018, through the adoption of procedures requiring the plaintiffs to translate the case documents in civil and commercial lawsuits into English, if the defendant is a foreigner.

"The foreign investor receives the case files translated, thus contributing to the provision of a global judicial service that meets the requirements of residents in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi," he added.

Parties indulge in blame game after hooch claims scores of lives in Uttarakhand

PTI

LUCKNOW, Feb 10: The hooch tragedy that claimed scores of lives in Uttar Pradesh took a political hue on Sunday, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recalling the hands of Samajwadi Party (SP) in "such mischievous acts" and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati seeking a CBI probe into the matter.

Mr. Adityanath, from his home turf Gorakhpur, warned of stern action against all those found involved in illicit liquor trade even if they were associated with any political party.

"In the past too, such type of mischievous acts by SP leaders had come to fore. In Azamgarh, Hardoi, Kanpur and Barabanki, SP leaders were found to be involved in past hooch tragedies. We can't deny conspiracy this time too," Mr. Adityanath told reporters on February 9 night.

Akhilesh, Mayawati slam BJP

SP president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party government on February 10 over the deaths in the tragedy.

He said, "The Opposition has been notifying the government about such activities, but they did not act as some of its leaders are involved. The truth is that without the backing of the government, such businesses cannot be carried out. The BJP should accept the fact that they cannot run the State."

The BSP, the SP's alliance partner for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, also blamed the BJP governments in U.P. and Uttarakhand for the deaths.

Ms. Mayawati in a statement said that both the State governments were "callous" in their approach towards banning sale of spurious liquor and demanded a CBI probe into the tragedy.

She said till the CBI probe was complete, Excise Ministers of both the States should be asked to step down to ensure free and fair inquiry.

Ms. Mayawati said bootleggers who are running a parallel administration right under the nose of the authorities and selling spurious liquor.

Over 60 dead
Over 60 people have died in the hooch tragedy that hit two adjoining districts in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh with more people dying of the spurious liquor they drank at a Haridwar village, officials said.

More than 20 victims died in Balurpur and its neighbouring villages in Haridwar district and around 40 had died in U.P.'s Saharanpur district.

In an unrelated incident, nine people have died over the week in eastern Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district, allegedly after drinking spurious liquor.

Mr. Adityanath said he had spoken to his Uttarakhand counterpart Trivendra Singh Rawat and asked him to share details as the spurious liquor was served to the natives of Uttar Pradesh in a Haridwar village.

Adityanath seeks details "A racket of spurious liq-



uor was being operated there in Uttarakhand. Therefore, I have spoken to the CM seeking details," Mr. Adityanath said.

Mr. Adityanath said action has been taken against the excise officer, the excise inspector, SHOs and beat constables in Saharanpur and Kushinagar districts of U.P.

Taking serious note of the deaths due to spurious liquor in Kushinagar as well as Saharanpur districts, the State government has ordered a 15-day joint drive by excise and police officials against those involved.

The U.P. government has announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and help of ₹50,000 each for those undergoing treatment in hospitals.

Boeing delivers first 4 Chinook helicopters for IAF

PTI

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: American aerospace major Boeing on Sunday announced the arrival of first batch of four Chinook military helicopters for the Indian Air Force at the Mundra port in Gujarat.

A statement from the company said the CH47F (I) Chinooks will be ferried to Chandigarh, where they will be formally inducted into the Indian Air Force later this year.

The Chinook is a multi-role, vertical-lift platform, which is used for transporting troops, artillery, equipment and fuel.

It is also used for humanitarian and disaster relief operations and in missions such as transportation of relief supplies and mass evacuation of refugees.

India had finalised a mega contract with Boeing to procure 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinooks for the Indian Air Force in September 2015.

"Boeing has strengthened its supply chain with over 160 partners in India, and a JV to manufacture fuselages for Apache helicopters. Annual sourcing from India stands at \$1 billion," it said.

CBI questions Kolkata Police chief, former TMC MP in Saradha chit fund case

PTI

SHILLONG, Feb 10: Kolkata police commissioner Rajeev Kumar and former TMC MP Kunal Ghosh are being questioned at the CBI office here in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam.

The questioning of Kumar, as per the directions of the Supreme Court, continued for the second day on Sunday.

The Kolkata police chief was quizzed for nearly nine hours on Saturday by three senior CBI officers about his alleged role in tampering of crucial evidence in the case, officials said.

Kumar had led the special investigation team (SIT) formed by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee to probe the Saradha scam before the case was handed over to the CBI by the apex court.

Ghosh, who arrived here shortly after 10am, sought blessings of goddess Saraswati at a pandal, barely 100 meters from the CBI office, before entering the highly secured office of the investigating agency at Oakland.

"I have no comments (to make). I have been asked to attend a hearing at this office. All along I have been cooperating with the investigating agency. So I came to attend it," he told mediapersons before entering the CBI office.

The former Trinamool

Congress MP was arrested in 2013 in the Saradha ponzi scam and has been out on bail since 2016. The CBI is likely to confront him with Kumar.

Ghosh had implicated BJP leader Mukul Roy, who was once the right hand man of Banerjee, and 12 others in the Saradha scam.

The Supreme Court had directed Kumar on Tuesday to appear before the CBI and "faithfully" cooperate in the investigation of cases arising out of the Saradha chit fund scam. The court chose Shillong as the neutral meeting place "to avoid all unnecessary controversy" and made it clear that Kumar would not be arrested.

The CBI had moved the Supreme Court after its officials were thwarted by Kolkata Police when they had gone to Kumar's official residence in Kolkata to question him on February 3.

Banerjee had rushed to the spot and had staged a three-day 'Save the Constitution' sit-in against the CBI move and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah of plotting a 'coup'.

The central investigating agency had said that its officials had wanted to question Kumar to plug the holes in the Saradha investigation case as he was supposed to be in possession of certain key documents as a member of the SIT.

Govts keep changing, we'll keep an eye on you: Kapil Sibal warns Govt officials

India Today

NEW DELHI, Feb 10: Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Sunday issued a warning to all government officials working under the Modi administration that they are being watched for their excessive "loyalty" towards PM Modi.

Addressing the media, Sibal said, "Officials should know that elections come and go, sometimes we are in Opposition and sometimes we are the ruling party.

We will keep an eye on all government officials who are over enthusiastic and are trying to show loyalty to the PM.

They should remember that Constitution is bigger than anything."

Over the past several months Congress and other opposition parties have time and again accused the Modi government of destroying India's democratic structure and the institutions that make it a democracy, like the CBI, RBI and Supreme Court.

On Friday, Sibal has said that several institutions, including the Governor's office, vice chancellors of universities and the media,

have come under attack under the NDA regime led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Reacting to the controversy over veteran actor-director Amol Palekar's speech at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) being cut short, Sibal told ANI, "Someone is slapped with sedition charges, someone is stopped from speaking.

This is the new India. The country is changing like how Modiji had promised 'achhe din'."

Amol Palekar, who was last week interrupted during his speech by some members of the NGMA in Mumbai, said on Sunday that he was only trying to seek reasons behind the cancellation of retrospectives of two senior artists.

Retrospective is an exhibition or compilation showing the development of an artist's work over a period of time.

At the opening of an exhibition in the memory of artist Prabhakar Barwe on Friday evening, Palekar was repeatedly interrupted during his speech by some NGMA members.

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2nd	Rs. 12.00	2000	Rs. 24000	Rs. 2100	Rs. 500	Rs. 26600
2nd	Rs. 12.00	1500	Rs. 18000	Rs. 1600	Rs. 400	Rs. 20000
1st Rej.	Rs. 11.50	2000	Rs. 23000	Rs. 2100	Rs. 500	Rs. 25600
1st Rej.	Rs. 11.50	1500	Rs. 17250	Rs. 1600	Rs. 400	Rs. 19250
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