



FB faces record US fine
Privacy breach penalty may top \$22m Google payout **P 20**

Zakir Naik case
4 flats worth ₹16cr attached by ED **P 11**

Halep cruises past Venus
Sets up Oz Open last 16 clash with Serena **P 21**

Let Pandya and Rahul play while probe is on: BCCI prez

BCCI acting president CK Khanna on Saturday urged the Committee of Administrators (CoA) to immediately lift the suspension on Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul for their sexist remarks and refused to convene a special general meeting on the matter as the Supreme Court is due to take up the issue next week.

"They made a mistake... they have already been suspended and called back from the series against Australia. They have also submitted an unconditional apology," Khanna wrote in a letter to the CoA, which is running the BCCI. "I suggest we allow them to join the team in New Zealand at the earliest," he added. **P 21**

2 exec directors of PNB sacked in Nirav case

Two executive directors of Punjab National Bank, K Veera Brahmaji Rao and Sanjiv Sharan, have been dismissed by the government for not exercising proper control of operations leading to the Rs 14,000-crore Nirav Modi scam which came to light in January 2018.

Rao has been sacked just days ahead of his retirement on January 22. The notification is subject to the outcome of a writ petition filed by Rao in the Delhi HC. The government had sent show-cause notice to the two, asking why they should not be removed for "failing in exercising proper control over the functioning of PNB." **P 10**

Rally chorus: Oust Modi, but need to prove we can deliver

'Must Focus On Stability And Strong Policies'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: As they put up another show of unity against the Modi government, opposition parties also took a reality check of the need to buffer themselves against the criticism that they were a ragtag assembly glued together only by dislike for BJP.

FULL COVERAGE: P 12

At a mammoth rally hosted by West Bengal CM and Trinamool boss Mamata Banerjee at the historic Brigade Parade Ground and attended by 23 parties, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda seemed to recognise that the proposed anti-BJP front would be severely hamstrung if the potential components did not move beyond accusing BJP of arrogance and divisiveness to hash out a common plank. "People are ready to respond to our oust BJP call. They will be asking us who after Modi. We have to work together to create an impression among the public that this coalition can provide a stable government. The task is less easy than said," said Deve Gowda whose prime ministerial innings came to an end just after 10 months due to withdrawal of Congress' support.

"Next comes seat-sharing. There are two or three parties in each state. Senior national-level leaders should get involved and decide over seat-sharing. After this, we need to form a small team of



Let all oppn parties support the strongest BJP opponent in each seat. The Modi government has reached its expiry date
— Mamata Banerjee

We should work together to create an impression that we can deliver a stable government
— H D Deve Gowda

The Modi government did in five years what Pakistan couldn't do to destabilise India in the last 70 years
— Arvind Kejriwal

Narendra Modi has allies like CBI and ED; we have announced our allies
— Akhilesh Yadav

This PM is a publicity PM. We want a performing PM
— Chandrababu Naidu

Let us get set for the second battle of Independence
— M K Stalin



'OPPN SCREAMING BACHAO': PM Modi (seen here at Mumbai's National Museum of Indian Cinema) scoffed at the Kolkata rally. "They have gathered to save themselves from BJP. I can hear screams of 'bachao, bachao, bachao'," he said at a rally in Dadra & Nagar Haveli **P 12**

experts and draft a policy document," said the former PM in what appeared to reflect a recognition to solidify the mutually shared anti-BJP sentiment into a programme-based platform. "We have only two months for the entire process," he stressed.

BJP has mocked the gathbandhan challenge by seeking to tap into fears of instability and by claiming that the motley combination of its opponents was too disparate to be a viable alternative with a clear leadership.

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge also seemed to appreciate Deve Gowda's concern, but struck an optimistic note that opposition parties have travelled some distance just by coming together. "Our destination is far off. Even if there is not a marriage of hearts, let us walk hand in hand," said Kharge.

Mamata Banerjee, however, chose to focus on a more pragmatic concern: the need to split anti-BJP votes in each LS constituency.

► Related report, P 12

Thousands of taxpayers get notices for minor defaults

I-T Move Vitiates Promise Of Non-Adversarial Regime

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Mumbai: Mridula stood shivering outside the magistrate court in central Mumbai. It wasn't the drop in temperature, but the thought that she could land in jail owing to a rigorous income tax provision, which did not look into the severity of her tax default, that led her to draw her shawl more tightly around her. She had defaulted by 30-odd days on depositing TDS collected from her employees' salary.

Her two-year-old content

► I-T lens on property dealings over ₹20k, P 15

company, which manages websites of several small business entities, has six full-time employees and deals with freelancers when there is a spike in work. Mridula was

MAX 7 YRS JAIL

Typical offences

Failure to deposit TDS with govt
Penalty: Up to 7-yr jail, fine

Tax evasion
Below ₹25,000: Up to 2-yr jail, fine
₹25,000 or above: Up to 7-yr jail, fine

Failure to file I-T returns
Penalty: Up to 7-yr jail, fine

What next?

Respond promptly to notice, explaining reasons for default. Can also approach high courts to get notices quashed

shocked to get a notice from the I-T department saying "to show cause as to why prosecution under Section 276B, read with Section 278B of the I-T Act, should not be launched".

The sections deal with failure to deposit TDS with the government, and the imprisonment ranges from three months to a maximum of seven years. According to Mridula (name changed), only four of her employees earned salaries above the exemption limit of Rs2.5 lakh, and the delayed TDS (an insignificant sum) had been deposited by her with the government within the financial year itself.

Meant mainly to tackle the menace of black money, I-T officials have lately been using the punitive provisions widely. TOI has examined many such notices issued over the past months. According to a collation of RTI replies, the number of notices served in 2018 runs into thousands.

► Continued on P 15

50% of ₹59k cr Rafale price already paid

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New Delhi: India has already paid more than half of the Rs 59,000 crore owed to France under the contract inked in 2016 for the 36 Rafale fighter jets, which will be delivered between November 2019 and April 2022.

The 13 India-specific enhancements will, however, become fully operational only by September-October 2022 because they will require another six months to undergo "software certification" after all of them have reached

Sitharaman smells corporate rivalry

Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman suggested on Saturday that "international corporate rivalry" could be behind the "artificial storm" being unleashed against the Rafale deal. **P 13**

India. Defence ministry sources say "around Rs 34,000 crore" has been paid in "milestone-linked instalments".

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Flogging, food cuts rampant in child homes

Corporal and coercive punishment was reported in nearly half of 9,500 child care institutions and homes across India in 2016-17, reports Ambika Pandit.

Hitting and spanking, restrictions on movement, withholding food, rough language and intimidation being forms of chastisement of inmates — in violation of norms — were rampant, according to a government report on children homes. It also shows nearly 4,130 child care institutions and homes admitted to using such measures. **P 15**



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