

Cong claims credit for govt decision to stay off RCEP

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THE CONGRESS on Monday claimed credit for forcing the Centre to put on hold its decision to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), hours after it rallied a group of 13 Opposition parties to mount a joint offensive against the government over its management of the economy.

Opposition leaders took on the BJP-led government for joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, before it became clear later that India has put on hold its decision to join RCEP.

"A forceful opposition by Congress and Rahul Gandhi has ensured that the BJP government backed down from bartering the interests of farmers, dairy producers, fishermen, small and medium businesses at the altar of political expediency. A victory for all fighting for protecting national interests," Congress communications department head Randeep Surjewala said.

"With rampant unemployment, a sinking economy and deep agrarian crisis emanating

from utter mismanagement of economy by (the) BJP government, signing RCEP would have been catastrophic," he said.

The Samajwadi Party, BSP, NCP and Aam Aadmi Party did not attend the meeting, while most other big parties sent second-rung leaders.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, who was to chair the meeting, stayed away, and it was left to Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and senior party leader Ahmed Patel to steer the discussions.

Opposition leaders said the Congress had informed them that Sonia would chair the meeting. After over 90 minutes of discussion, it was decided that the Opposition will hold a joint protest and raise issues such as economic slowdown, agrarian distress and unemployment in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

The meeting was attended by RSP chief Upendra Kushwaha, RJD's Manoj Jha, RLD's Ajit Singh, LJD's Sharad Yadav and JD(S)'s D Kupendra Reddy, besides Jose K Mani of Kerala Congress (M) and P K Kunhalikutty of Indian Union Muslim League, among others.

Decision result of PM's leadership: Shah

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

INDIA'S DECISION against signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "strong leadership and unflinching resolve to ensure national interest in all circumstances", Union Home Minister and BJP chief Amit Shah stated on Monday.

Even as senior Union ministers and party leaders hailed the decision as a show of India not conceding to global pressure, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said RCEP is against India's economic interests and national priorities.

"India has consistently stood its ground to uphold our demands particularly over controlling trade deficit, stronger protection against unfair imports and better market opportunities for Indian goods," Goyal tweeted. He added that Modi's decision shows his "concern for farmers,

dairy sector, MSMEs and domestic manufacturing", and that it would boost Make in India.

Incidentally, Goyal had on Saturday taken on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, tweeting that she has "suddenly woken up to RCEP and FTAs...where was she when the Govt opened 74% of its market to ASEAN countries but richer countries like Indonesia opened only 50% for India".

According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the decision is "a clear and decisive call in India's interest", as "significant" outstanding issues remain unresolved with the trade deal.

Shah also tweeted that PM Modi's "firm stand over the years of not going ahead with a deal if our interests are not taken care of, is a welcome break from the past, where a weak UPA government ceded precious ground on trade and could not protect national interest".

BJP national working president Jagat Prakash Nadda hailed the decision as a "historic" one.

Goa CM leads delegation to meet Javadekar over Mahadayi water diversion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, NOVEMBER 4

GOA CHIEF Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday led an all-party delegation to meet Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar over reports that the Karnataka had been given a clearance for constructing the Kalasa Banduri project on the Mahadayi river.

Goa and Karnataka are locked in a dispute over the sharing of Mahadayi waters, and Kalasa Banduri project aims at providing drinking water to three north Karnataka districts by diverting water from the Mahadayi.

The delegation accused the Karnataka government of misrepresenting facts.

It delegation presented Javadekar a memorandum stating three wildlife sanctuaries in Goa would be directly impacted by the water diversion. They also stressed that any diversion means an immediate impact to "42 per cent of the state's total geographical base". The sanctuaries mentioned are the Bhagwan Mahavir wildlife sanctuary, the Bhagwan Mahavir national park and Bundle wildlife sanctuary and the Dr Salim Ali bird sanctuary. The memorandum also said the diversion would have a massive impact on the "life and culture" of Goa.

"Factually, the water from Kalsa Banduri is proposed to be diverted into the Malaprabha project. The Malaprabha project is undisputedly as irrigation project. The said diverted water could be used in the Malaprabha Project for irrigation," it states.

- WITHPTINPUTS

Indian detained by rebels dies in Myanmar

Prime Minister Modi meets Suu Kyi, stresses cooperation against insurgent groups along borders

SHUBHAJIT ROY & VERENA HÖLZL
BANGKOK, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

A 60-YEAR-OLD Indian national has died in the custody of Arakan Army, ethnic rebels in Myanmar, after he and four other Indian nationals working on an Indian project in the northern part of Myanmar's Rakhine State were detained and questioned on Sunday. The four others were released on Monday along with the body of the deceased.

The incident took place on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in Bangkok on the sidelines of ASEAN and East Asia summits. The Prime Minister stressed the value India attaches to Myanmar's cooperation in ensuring that insurgent groups do not find space to operate across the India-Myanmar border.

According to a statement by Arakan Army, a translated version of which was accessed by *The Indian Express*, the Indian national who died has been identified as Vinoo Gopal, who was working as a "Construction advisor".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok on Monday. AP

Gopal, the statement said, developed laboured breathing and died in a short time despite "best medical care" provided by their medical staff. He had been suffering from heart disease and diabetes and was under medication, the statement said. The United League of Arakan (ULA) and Arakan Army (AA) expressed regret over his death.

The statement identified the Indian nationals released as Vijay Kumar Singh (48), Nangshanbok Suaim (47), Rakesh Sharma (64) and Ajay Kothiyal (50).

The Arakan Army said in its

statement, "We often take and check transportation vehicles going through the battlefield area...to know whether there are members of Myanmar army, weapons and persons related to Myanmar army on those vehicles."

"When two speedboats going along the Kaladan River were taken and checked at about 10 am on November 3, 2019, 10 people were found on them. Of them, five are Indian Citizens working at Paletwa C & C JV Camp, one supervisor, one MP, one translator and two speed-

EXPLAINED
E Fresh escalation in violence

THE LATEST incident comes amid an escalation of violence in the restive Rakhine State. Tens of thousands have been displaced across Rakhine since the clashes began in December. This brings a fresh chaos to the region from where more than 7,30,000 Rohingya Muslims fled a military crackdown in 2017.

outlet *The Irrawaddy*.

Sources told *The Indian Express* the Indian Embassy is monitoring the situation and will extend all necessary assistance to the Indian nationals and also arrange for repatriation of Gopal's body.

The Arakan Army said they "are not against international investments" in Rakhine area and welcome projects which can benefit the local people.

During the meet in Bangkok, Prime Minister Modi conveyed to Suu Kyi India's readiness to expand its socio-economic projects in Rakhine State, months after New Delhi implemented a housing project in the restive province.

He also emphasised that the speedy, safe and sustainable return of displaced people from Bangladesh to the Rakhine State was in the interests of the region, the displaced persons, and all three neighbouring countries — India, Bangladesh and Myanmar, the MEA said.

According to the MEA, Suu Kyi reaffirmed the importance her government attaches to the partnership with India and her appreciation of India's consistent support for widening democracy and deepening development in Myanmar.

Abe to visit India in Dec, 2+2 meet later this month

SHUBHAJIT ROY
BANGKOK, NOVEMBER 4

JAPAN'S PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe will come to India in December this year, and before that, the Foreign and Defence ministers of the two countries will meet for the first 2+2 ministerial meeting later this month.

Sources said the two sides are looking at the possibility of scheduling the meeting in the later half of December.

This was discussed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Abe on Monday on the margins of India-ASEAN and East Asia Summits. The two leaders have met each other thrice in the last about four months.

An MEA statement said the two Prime Ministers "...agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, including in third-world countries, for achieving the shared objective of peace, prosperity and progress of the Indo-Pacific region." It also said the two leaders deliberated on the inaugural 2+2 Indo-Japan foreign and defence ministerial dialogue later this month in India, noting that it will



PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe in Bangkok on Monday. PTI

help provide impetus to the security and defence cooperation between the two sides.

After the meeting, Modi said it was always wonderful to meet "my friend PM Abe". "Our meeting today was very good. We exchanged views on multiple subjects including further boosting the economic partnership between our countries," he tweeted.

"...The leaders also reviewed the progress on Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project and reaffirmed their commitment to advance mutual efforts to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project," the MEA said.

Delhi proposes new initiative to conserve Indo-Pacific region

SHUBHAJIT ROY
BANGKOK, NOVEMBER 4

ON A day the US said India plays a critical role in the future of the Indo-Pacific region and described the Quad foreign ministers' meeting as a "milestone", New Delhi proposed an Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative to conserve and sustainably use the maritime domain.

Delhi's proposal was articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday when he addressed the East Asia summit. The officials of Quadrilateral grouping met on the sidelines on Monday.

The Ministry of External Affairs' secretary (east) Vijay Thakur Singh said, "Prime Minister proposed an Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative to conserve and sustainably use the maritime domain, and to make meaningful efforts to create a safe, secure and stable maritime domain."

Singh said focus areas will include "creating partnerships" among interested countries in several pillars, ranging from "enhancing maritime security to preserving and sustainably using marine resources, building capacity, disaster prevention and management, as well as working together in trade, and maritime transport".

In a statement on the Quad meeting, MEA said, "The officials reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific Region based on shared values and principles and respect for international law."

Earlier, the US State Department released a progress report on the implementation of the US whole-of-government strategy for Indo-Pacific region. In the report, the US said its strategic partnership with India is "reaching new heights".

"India plays a critical role in the future of the Indo-Pacific region," the report said.

ED seeks dismissal of Chidambaram bail plea: 'tried to influence witness'

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 4

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate on Monday sought dismissal of Congress leader and former Union minister P Chidambaram's regular bail plea in a money-laundering case related to the INX Media corruption case by submitting that three witnesses in the case were pressured by Chidambaram and his family to not cooperate with the investigation.

The ED submitted that the manner in which the high office of the country was misused by Chidambaram for personal gain disintitiles him from seeking relief, and giving bail to Chidambaram would be against "zero tolerance policy in corruption" and set a wrong precedent.

The ED also submitted, "The petitioner and his co-conspirators have tried to influence and pressurise the witness, firstly not to cooperate with the investigations and secondly not to disclose/divulge any incriminating fact (which is in their personal knowledge) to the investigating agency". The ED said that these three witnesses were different from the CBI case. The ED has not revealed their names in its affidavit, but their statement will be placed before the court during the bail hearing.

The arguments on Chidambaram's bail plea were supposed to take place on Monday, but due to the strike called by the Delhi HC Bar Association in the aftermath of the Tis Hazari district court violence, the matter was deferred to November 6. The ED also submitted that Chidambaram's son Karti was involved in destruction of evidence. The agency made this allegation on the basis of a co-conspirator's statement.

The ED told the court, during search and scrutiny of digital data, it was revealed that directors and shareholders of M/s Advantage Strategic Pvt Ltd, belonging to Karti, later on in 2013 transferred the entire shareholding of the company to Chidambaram's granddaughter by way of a will and the original copy of the will was destroyed at Karti's instance.

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EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

	(₹ in Lakhs)		
	3 months ended 30.09.2019 UNAUDITED	6 months ended 30.09.2019 UNAUDITED	3 months ended 30.09.2018 UNAUDITED
1 Total Income from operations	4,747.67	9,695.17	4,889.67
2 Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)#	(355.96)	(102.76)	85.22
3 Net Profit after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)#	506.15	685.10	53.00
4 Total Comprehensive Income for the period	427.41	603.52	55.09
5 Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	3,046.81	3,046.81	3,046.81
6 Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) in the audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2019			29,309.61
7 Earnings per Equity Share on net profit after tax (fully paid up equity share of ₹ 10):			
(a) Basic	1.66	2.25	0.17
(b) Diluted	1.66	2.25	0.17

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Statements of Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Unaudited Financial Results and this extract were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at the meeting held on 4th November, 2019. The full format of the Statements of Unaudited Financial Results are available on the Company's website (www.eihassociatedhotels.in) and on the websites of the National Stock Exchanges of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).
- The Company has adopted Ind AS 116 'Leases' effective April 1, 2019 and applied the standard to lease contracts existing on that date by using modified retrospective approach by giving effect of the cumulative impact in the opening balance of retained earnings. Accordingly, previous period information has not been restated.

The Company does not have any Exceptional/Extraordinary Items to report in above periods.

VIKRAM OBEROI
Managing Director
DIN : 00052014

Mumbai
4th November, 2019

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