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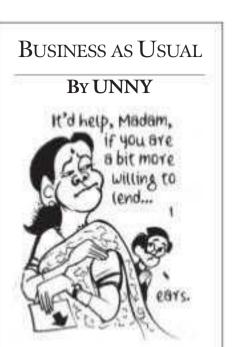
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### Day after Bajaj spoke up, BJP and ministers hit back



'Bajaj remarks, response by Shah show democracy alive'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

THE DAY after Bajaj Group chairman Rahul Bajaj expressed concern over the lack of confidence among corporates to criticise the central government, several BJP ministers scrambled to respond to what one of them claimed were attempts to "weave fake narratives" over the remarks.

While Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that seeking an answer was better than "spreading one's own impressions", Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the fact that Bajaj could "express himself & instigate others to join" was

"what democracy is all about". Commerce and Rail Minister Piyush Goyal referred to Home Minister Amit Shah's response to Bajaj's remarks, that there was no need for any fear.

Bajaj's remarks came Saturday in the presence of Shah, Sitharaman and Goyal at an event organised by The Economic Times in Mumbai, where the industrialist also expressed concern over the absence of effective action against lynchings, and the remark of Bhopal MP Pragya Singh Thakur **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

#### **THOSE WHO QUESTION**

Will government listen to Manmohan-Bajaj message, or read a conspiracy, create a spectre? PAGE 10

### WORLD



ISIS CLAIMS LONDON **KNIFE ATTACK PAGE 16** 

# His govt lays out agenda, Uddhav says 'still with Hindutva, can't be separated from me'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI. DECEMBER 1

ADDRESSING A special session of the Maharashtra Assembly Sunday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said he would never abandon the ideology of Hindutva, and that Hindutva could not be separated from him.

Days after the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress thrashed out a Minimum Programme (CMP) with a "preamble" mentioning "secular", Thackeray said, "I am still with the ideology of Hindutva which cannot be separated from me...

Our Hindutva was there vester day, it is still with us today and it will remain tomorrow as well. But my Hindutva includes keeping my word. My Hindutva is not of saying Jai Shri Ram and not keeping my word."

The Sena has accused former ally BIP of not keeping its "promise" of sharing the CM post between them, reportedly made before the elections. Addressing the session in

Marathi, Maharashtra Governor B S Koshyari said the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government was concerned about unemployment and would enact a law soon to ensure 80 per cent



CM Uddhav Thackeray, Speaker Nana Patole and Governor Koshyari at the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai Sunday. Express

no firing by the villagers; the vil-

lagers were assaulted and killed

from close quarters; security

forces may have fired "in panic";

and one of the victims was shot

in the morning, several hours af-

which came to power in the state

late last year, said the report was

first raised Saturday during a

meeting of ministers and MLAs

to discuss the urban body polls

and the Karnataka Premier

League (KPL) is on hold. Ganguly

was speaking on the sidelines of

the BCCI's AGM about the steps

being taken to curb alleged spot-

final between Karnataka and

Tamil Nadu was held on Sunday

and some of India's top cricketers, including R Ashwin,

Shikhar Dhawan, K L Rahul and

Manish Pandey, are among those

who participated in the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

fixing in cricket tournaments.

"It was pointed out that since

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

scheduled in December.

Sources in the Congress,

ter the encounter at night.

#### reservation in private sector jobs for "sons of the soil". The government would also come out with a white paper on the financial status of the state, as well as provide compensation to farmers.

The Governor's speech, to the joint sitting of the state legislature, indicated that the broad agenda of the Sena-NCP-Congress government would be in line with the CMP finalised by the three parties.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

**AAREY CASES TO BE** DROPPED PAGE 12

### Editor of MP paper that carried reports on honey trap case raided

**MILIND GHATWAI** BHOPAL, DECEMBER 1

DAYS AFTER Sanjha Lokswami, an Indore-based eveninger, carried reports and photographs regarding the 'honey trap' case and uploaded at least one video and transcripts of audio conversations on its website, police raided its office and other establishments owned by its editor

politicians and bureaucrats.

Singh's complaint, the Indore police had arrested five women and a driver in what came to be known as the honey trap case.

Jitendra Soni.

The raids, including on Soni's home, a hotel, a restaurant and a night club, started late on Friday and continued for hours. While Soni is missing, his son Amit, also an accused, has been detained.

After publishing stories on a former BJP minister and a powerful bureaucrat in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, the eveninger had in the past three days carried reports on the honey trap case complainant, Harbhajan Singh, and announced that more articles would follow, suggesting it was in possession of other videos of

In September, based on

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

# to be dearer by up to 40 pc

Seen as the return of 'sensibility' in industry stressed due to competition

from tomorrow

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

SETTING THE stage for a shakeup in the telecom sector, the country's three top service providers Sunday announced tariff hikes for the first time in around five years. While Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Limited announced rate hikes on prepaid packages by up to 42 per cent beginning December 3, Reliance Jio said it is introducing "all-in-one" or AIO plans, which will see tariffs marked up to 40 per cent higher than previous plans and will be effective from December 6.

While the move may impact over 900 million customers served by the three carriers, analysts hailed the move and termed it as "the return of pragmatism and sensibility" within the industry. Competition within the sector had forced the carriers to operate on low tariffs that were putting their bottomlines under stress and had rendered the business model unsustainable.

Though Jio did not provide more details about its new plans, it claimed that it was "determined to strengthen the telecom sector" and that it will take measures, including "appropriate increase" in tariffs, in a manner "that does not adversely impact data consumption or



### **Expected hike** was 10-20%

THE HIKES in tariffs would enable the telecom companies enough elbow room to get out of the financial mess that they are currently in. While the hikes are higher than the 10-20% expected by the market, these could help Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel significantly improve their bottomlines. Pre-paid packages of the two telcos cover almost 95% of their customers and around 75% of their revenues.

growth in digital adoption" and sustains investments.

Airtel raised prices across its plans. For example its bundled pre-paid plans offering unlimited calling and data, that were earlier priced at Rs 249 (28 days validity) and Rs 448 (82 days validity), will now cost Rs 298 and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

### **INSIDE**

**LEAST POLLUTED NOV** SINCE 2015 IN DELHI. **BUT AVG AIR QUALITY** STILL VERY POOR P8

IMPORT OF 11,000 TONS OF ONIONS CLEARED: **BJP FEARS STING IN** JHARKHAND POLLS P9

### Tremors within Chhattisgarh govt over encounter probe report: 'Cabinet misled' 2012, the one-member judicial commission found that there was

**DIPANKAR GHOSE** RAIPUR, DECEMBER 1

THE REPORT of the Justice V K Agarwal enquiry commission, which found no evidence to support claims by security forces that 17 people killed in an alleged encounter in Bijapur in 2012 were Maoists, will be tabled in the Chhattisgarh Assembly Monday — a day after its key findings were first published in The Sunday Express.

Sources told The Indian Express that the state government decided to table the report after a hurried Cabinet meeting

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

LIGHTER SCHOOL BAGS

IN RAJASTHAN

PAGE 15

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** 

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

AN ANALYSIS of utilisation pat-

terns of the Pradhan Mantri Jan

Arogya Yojana — the NDA gov-

ernment's flagship health pro-

gramme — shows wide variation

in average claims of states. States

with already functioning second-

ary/tertiary care programmes,

such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra

Pradesh and Maharashtra, show

2-2.5 times the average spend

per patient compared to tradi-

tional health laggards like Uttar

that of the total Rs 3,482.9 crore

given out to settle claims so far,

PMJAY data till July 9 shows

Pradesh and Jharkhand.



Key findings published in *The Sunday Express* 

late Saturday. During the meeting, sources said, at least two ministers claimed the Cabinet had been "misled" earlier about

**DEVENDRA PANDEY** 

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 1

Sourav Ganguly.

States with poor health

average PMJAY claims

systems show lowest

AT LEAST one player involved in

the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

was approached by bookies dur-

ing the latest edition of the pre-

mier national T20 tournament,

according to BCCI president

also said that two teams of the

Tamil Nadu Premier League

(TNPL) have been suspended

TOP STATES BY PMJAY

Madhya Pradesh ₹13,355

the highest share was of Gujarat,

with Rs 748.1 crore, for 4,37,774

hospitalisations. Chhattisgarh

came second with Rs 449 crore

of claims and 5,69,456 hospital-

isations, and Tamil Nadu third

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**Average** 

claim size

₹28,709

₹25,333

₹21,141

₹17,090

**CLAIM AMOUNT** 

Andhra Pradesh

Maharashtra

\*Till July 9, 2019

Tamil Nadu

The former Indian captain

the contents of the report.

Contrary to claims made by security forces about the alleged encounter in Sarkeguda in June

such a damning report has come, Ganguly says player approached

by bookies in top T20 tournament

**BCCI met Sunday.** PTI MORE REPORTS, PAGE 21

## Tiger's 1,300-km walk over six months strains population theory

#### **VIVEK DESHPANDE** NAGPUR, DECEMBER 1

IN WHAT may be the longest trek by a tiger in India, a subadult of the species reached Dnyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary in Buldhana district of Maharashtra on Sunday, walking 1,300 km over six months, from Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Yavatmal district.

What intrigues conservationists is that T1C1 appears to not have stopped anywhere for more than four-five days, and that too only when he made a kill, mostly of cattle. Maharashtra Chief Wildlife Warden Nitin Kakodkar said the tiger didn't travel in a linear fashion



T1C1 travelled between two Maharashtra sanctuaries. File

but moved back and fourth several times, overfarmlands, water bodies and highways, thus adding hundreds of kilometres to its journey. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

# Jailed for sedition after Pulwama, PM scholarship student struggles to put his life back together

Out on bail after 7 months, he is trying to get college suspension lifted, scholarship back

PAGE 1

**RITIKA CHOPRA** BENGALURU, DECEMBER 1

FEBRUARY 14, 2019, is an important marker in Haris Manzoor's

In the nine months since that day, Manzoor has become a changed man. He is religious and prays five times a day. He rarely steps out of his home. And, unusually for a 20-year-old, he's no

longer on any social networking

"My faith has taught me the patience to cope with what happened," says Manzoor, a Kashmiri nursing student in Bengaluru from Dahama village in Kupwara district and a recipient of the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme.

On February 16, two days after the terror attack in Pulwama, Manzoor was arrested on charges of sedition along with two of his friends, Gowhar Mushtag and Zakir Magbool, for an argument on Facebook with



Haris Manzoor's college in Bengaluru. Abhishek N Chinnappa

a classmate over the incident. After spending seven months in Bengaluru's Central Jail,

Manzoor was released on bail on September 20, and is struggling to get his life back.

He remains suspended from Spurthy College of Nursing, and his PM's scholarship has stopped. And, in between writing to the government to restore his scholarship and pleading with the college to revoke his suspension and marking attendance at a police station, Manzoor attends court hearings to prove he isn't guilty of sedition.

"When we filed a complaint with the police, we didn't know this would become a case of sedition," says Babu Dharmaraja, principal of Spurthy College of Nursing. Manzoor was studying in the second year of the BSc (Nursing) programme, and Mushtaq (22) was pursuing a CONTINUED ON PAGE 4