



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

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

THOSE WHO QUESTION

Will government listen to Mammoohan-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 Common Minimum Programme (CMP) with a “pre-amble” mentioning “secular”, Thackeray said, “I am still with the ideology of Hindutva which cannot be separated from me...

Our Hindutva was there yesterday, 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 BJP 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 Koshiyari 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 Koshiyari at the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai Sunday. *Express*

Tremors within Chhattisgarh govt over encounter probe report: ‘Cabinet misled’

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



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

the contents of the report.

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

Ganguly says player approached by bookies in top T20 tournament

DEVENDRA PANDEY
 MUMBAI, DECEMBER 1

AT LEAST one player involved in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy was approached by bookies during the latest edition of the premier national T20 tournament, according to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

The former Indian captain also said that two teams of the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) have been suspended



BCCI met Sunday. *PTI*
 MORE REPORTS, [PAGE 21](#)

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-fixing in cricket tournaments.

The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 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

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



T1C1 travelled between two Maharashtra sanctuaries. *File*

but moved back and fourth several times, over farmlands, water bodies and highways, thus adding hundreds of kilometres to its journey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FIRST HIKE IN 5 YEARS

Call, data rates to be dearer by up to 40 pc from tomorrow

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

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

SETTING THE stage for a shake-up 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 pre-paid 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

EXPLAINED
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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 [P 8](#)

IMPORT OF 11,000 TONS OF ONIONS CLEARED; BJP FEARS STING IN JHARKHAND POLLS [P 9](#)

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
 ANCHOR

RITIKA CHOPRA
 BENGALURU, DECEMBER 1

FEBRUARY 14, 2019, is an important marker in Haris Manzoor’s life.

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 sites.

“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 Mushtaq and Zakir Maqbool, 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